



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 49 / Number 1 www.hillandlakepress.org January 2025

LAKE OF THE ISLES ICE RINK MAY CLOSE NEXT WINTER

By Marty Carlson



Skaters glide on the Lake of the Isles Ice Rink. (Photo: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor and lives in Kenwood.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is considering permanently closing the skating rink on Lake of the Isles, starting with the 2025-26 skating season, according to District 4 Park Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer. The rink and its warming house have been winter activity fixtures in the Hill and Lake area for decades, but may fall victim to MPRB budget constraints and a warming climate. Last year’s winter was the warmest in the recorded history of Minneapolis. The skating season lasted eight days, and cost the park board over \$750,000. At that time, the board announced the closure of two rinks, at Powderhorn and Weber parks. Those rinks will remain closed this year, while the board walked back a proposal to close the Windom Park rink after com-

munity outcry. Shaffer says rinks being considered for closure in the 2025-26 season include Lake of the Isles, Matthews Park and Lynedale Farmstead Park. While the park board points to climate change as one factor driving its closure decisions, budget constraints are a more immediate cause. On December 10, the board passed its first-ever two-year budget, for the years 2025-26. The budget approved by commissioners for 2025 totals \$155 million, and relies on a maximum 8.27% tax levy approved by the Board of Estimate & Taxation. However, that maximum levy still left a \$1.5 million projected shortfall in the budget, which the board ascribed to inflationary pressure. While the 2025 budget is larger than last year’s, Commissioner Shaffer says the levy increase was applied almost exclusively to employee wage increases,

and the board says it added over \$3 million to the new budget due to recent labor settlements. One way to close that shortfall? Rink closures. According to park board staff, closure of the five rinks initially proposed would yield annual cost savings ranging from \$70,112 to \$86,636 per site. By contrast, the cost associated with the Lake of the Isles rink is \$116,656, with warming house installation and removal accounting for \$15,000 of that total. In addition, the new budget makes reductions to operating hours for recreation centers, and also found savings by closing the North Commons Water Park for the year, which the board plans to demolish and replace with a new \$45 million recreation center (see Hill & Lake Press, September 2024).
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DRY JANUARY: NOT A CHOICE FOR MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY

By Courtney Cushing Kiernat and Lynne Redleaf



Lynne Redleaf and Courtney Cushing Kiernat. (Photo: Unknown)

Courtney Cushing Kiernat, of Kenwood, and Lynne Redleaf, of Lowry Hill, are co-chairs of the Hennepin Healthcare Addiction Medicine Campaign. To learn more please contact Courtney at courtneyck@comcast.net.

It’s Dry January, and many have embraced the month-long

challenge to abstain from alcohol. For some, it’s an entry point into understanding the broader realities of addiction and an opportunity to reflect on their relationship with alcohol. For others it’s more personal. The experience may spark a deeper realization: the need for professional help to address drug or alcohol addiction. And still for many others who are in recovery, Dry January is not a choice made for only one month. As friends and neighbors with loved ones who have struggled with addiction, some now in recovery and others no longer with us, we are committed to expanding, improving and drawing attention to evidence-based addiction recovery services available in our own backyard at the Hennepin Healthcare Addiction Medicine Clinic. Whether it’s your own

child, parent, partner, friend or colleague, addiction touches us all. Author William Cope Moyers wrote in his memoir *Broken*, "Addiction doesn’t discriminate. It affects people of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It’s not about weakness or morality—it’s a chronic disease... [it] doesn’t just affect the person using substances; it impacts entire families and communities. Healing requires a collective effort." We have chosen to lean into that collective effort, chipping away at the surrounding stigma, and we invite you to join us.
The Facts on Addiction and an Evidence-Based Approach
Fueled by skyrocketing opioid use, 750,000 people in the U.S. die every year from drugs and alcohol. In 2022, there were 1,002 opioid-involved overdose deaths

in Minnesota. People of color are disproportionately impacted by addiction, with American Indian Minnesotans ten times and Black Minnesotans three times as likely to die from an overdose than their white counterparts. Minnesota is known for having prominent rehabilitation centers, but many of them focus on private pay insurance, are in-patient, or exclude evidence-based medical treatments. In Minnesota alone, 350,000 residents currently need but are not receiving treatment. Hennepin Healthcare has found itself in the middle of this addiction health crisis. As Minnesota’s largest safety-net provider, Hennepin Healthcare serves a population disproportionately affected by addiction with limited
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Hill & Lake Press

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

HILL & LAKE PRESS
P.O. Box 50052
Minneapolis, MN 55405
www.hillandlakepress.org

Staff

Craig Wilson, Editor
craig@hillandlakepress.org
Barb Davis, Advertising
barb@hillandlakepress.org
Carla Pardue, Outreach
carla@hillandlakepress.org
Christopher Bohnet, Production
Photographers:
Ryan Jandl
Courtney Cushing Kiernat
Tim Sheridan
Jill Field, Copy Editor
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Kathy Low, Copy Editor

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U.S. Postal Service

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Next issue —
February 2025
Reservation deadline —
January 10, 2025
Materials due —
January 17, 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.

Parking Shouldn't Be Free

Since certain frequent contributors to the Hill & Lake Press have chosen to focus so narrowly on the issue of parking — truly, I cannot imagine looking around at the post-election civic landscape and concluding that the best response is to redouble my efforts against local bike lanes in last month's opinion piece "Life in the Red Lane," but maybe that's just me — it would be great to better ground the discussion in fact.

I recommend Susan Lenfestey & Company read "The High Cost of Free Parking" by Donald Shoup or "Paved Paradise" by Henry Grabar. Both are available through Hennepin County public libraries, and both take an evidence-based approach to parking and related policy issues, in contrast to the more emotional appeals favored thus far by the Hill & Lake Press.

For example, Grabar explains that metered parking near business corridors on the whole helps businesses by incentivizing shorter-term parking, so multiple customers can use a single parking space that may otherwise have been occupied for hours.

Hopefully facts like these can assuage some of the anxiety surrounding the changing uses of our publicly owned city streets!

*Jennifer Barnes
East Isles*

Crime: Income Inequality

I enjoyed reading the various perspectives on the state of the city in the most recent issue of the Hill & Lake Press.

Crime, disorder and the city council's agenda — it does seem to me that the city I've called home since 1985 has changed for the worse. Just a few years ago, I don't recall panhandlers at every intersection or the levels of property crime we're now experiencing.

I'm not sure why income inequality wasn't mentioned as part of the discussion, but it seems plausible that a lack of resources to address issues like housing insecurity or public safety stems, at least in part, from the widespread notion of taxes as a "burden" rather than a tool for collective action.

It may amuse tech billionaires to ride rockets, but their extravagant flexing is, in the end, funded by the rest of us. I can hardly wait to see what Elon Musk has in store over the next four years — we already know what the grifter accomplished the last time he was in office.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economics clearly play a significant role in the challenges Minneapolis is facing. I wonder to what extent our City Council members consider this. If they do, I'd love to hear their thoughts — or those of your astute readers — on how we might begin to address these problems.

Thank you for the work you're doing.

*Bob Walser
East Isles*

Crime: Same White Kia

In response to Craig Wilson's editorial, "Where We Are Now: Seeking Solutions to Crime and Disorder," I want to share a recent experience that supports his observations.

My security camera recorded a person driving a white Kia that looks exactly like the one pictured on last month's cover. Just as Wilson described, this individual got out of their vehicle, checked the door handles of our contractor's car, opened the door, stole his wallet and drove away.

It's clearly a pattern throughout the neighborhood. Thank you for your reporting on this important issue.

*Lisa Haines
Lowry Hill*

Crime: It's Time for Balance

I read your article in the Hill & Lake Press, December 2024, and your frustration with crime and queries about solutions remind me of raising children. After observing parents repeatedly telling their kids what to do — counting to ten, pleading, and still being ignored — I developed what I call "get off your butt" parenting.

When a child didn't respond the first time, I immediately got up, guided them by the hand, and ensured the task got done. They quickly learned that ignoring me wouldn't work. I raised my children this way with good results; they became well-mannered adults.

When I consider the litany of crime in our neighborhoods, I ask: Why does the "stick" of law enforcement feel abstract, inadequate or inappropriate? Perhaps we've lost sight of what policing used to accomplish before the militarization of departments after Sept. 11, 2001.

Back in the 1970s, I recall being downtown on Block E. An old man, extremely drunk, fell and hit his head on the curb. Two beat policemen arrived immediately. They knew his name, spoke kindly and said they would take him to the emergency room and then to detox.

These officers were part of the community — they knew the business owners, employees and "players" in the area. There was no criminalization of the man who needed help; he was simply cared for appropriately.

One of Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms was freedom from fear. I feel we've lost that in Minne-

apolis. Carjackings, theft and even murders are common. A tree down my block commemorates a girl who was shot there.

Meanwhile, patrol cars are a rarity — sightings, we call them. We need a steady police presence in the neighborhood, not to target or beat anyone, but to keep order, deter crime and help the vulnerable find proper resources.

It's time for balance — policing that restores safety, trust and freedom from fear.

*Peter Frenz
East Isles*

Crime: Sharing Humanity

Regarding the editorial "Seeking Solutions to Crime and Disorder," you ask, "What's the solution? A carrot? A stick? Something new?" Likely, all of the above, to varying degrees.

Perhaps we need to step back and ask a different question: Why?

Why do theft and violence seem to be occurring at a greater rate, at least in certain areas of the city?

The City's difficulty in hiring police officers underscores the under-enforcement of laws and ordinances and the lack of deterrence against crime.

But I would like to see much more public and political discourse about the social and economic inequities that persist in our city — inequities that sustain poverty and foster conditions where individuals may not think twice about stealing a car, burglarizing a work van, or resorting to physical violence.

We must look beyond the acts themselves and see the people behind them. I believe I was one of the neighbors referenced in your editorial who recently fell victim to an attempted armed robbery outside my home. I was unharmed. The scrappy gay kid in me, who instinctively fought back when cornered growing up, shouted loud words instead of retreating. The two young men — and they may have been just boys — fled in a car.

What stayed with me most wasn't the fear or anger but the split second of eye contact I made with one of them. In that moment, everything stopped. I saw his humanity, and he saw mine. I could feel it. For that brief instant, neither of us felt fear.

So I ask again: Who are our neighbors? How do we care for them? How do we right these wrongs? This, I believe, is the beginning of "something new."

*John Stumme
Lowry Hill*

Barbershop Buzz

I am the owner of Kenwood Barbers, located at Franklin and Hennepin in Lowry Hill, and I want to share how much my customers and I appreciate your excellent local news coverage.

Every month, my customers eagerly grab the newspapers you deliver, sparking interesting conversa-

tions in the barbershop. Many have commented that your publication provides the best local news coverage they have access to.

Thank you for supporting small businesses like mine and for strengthening our greater community.

Paul Trott
Lowry Hill

I don’t always agree, but...

I appreciate your coverage of local issues. I don’t always agree, but it’s important to start the discussion and present the facts.

Janet Nelson
Lowry Hill



Lowry Hill Poet James Lenfestey to Perform Feb. 3

The American School of Storytelling, a new venue at 1762 Henne-

pin Ave., will host Lowry Hill poet James Lenfestey on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at 7 p.m. Lenfestey will perform selections from his latest poetry collection, “Time Remaining,” published by Milkweed Editions.

Founded by Twin Cities storyteller Loren Niemi and partner Christine Mounts, the intimate, 40-seat space at the corner of Douglas Avenue and Hennepin offers performances of storytelling, music, comedy and poetry.

Lenfestey’s “Time Remaining,” subtitled “Body Odes, Praise Songs, Oddities, Amazements,” features 50 poems that span 100,000 years of human speech, 10,000 years of written language, and a decade inspired by Chilean Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda. With humor, insight, and a deep appreciation for the rhythms of language, Lenfestey celebrates the complexities of the body and life itself.

Lenfestey, a founder of the Hill & Lake Press and a celebrated local poet, turned 80 this year. If you missed his standing-room-only book launch at Plymouth Congregational Church in November, this event offers a second chance to see him live.

Tickets are available at 651-271-6349 or americanschoolofstorytelling.com/events.

Walter Whitman (who lives on Emerson), Lowry Hill



Frankie is ready for snow! (Photo: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

"WHERE WE ARE NOW" CALLS FOR ACTION ON CRIME AND DISORDER

Commentary by Jim Graves

Jim Graves is a developer and entrepreneur and lives in East Bde Maka Ska.

Editor Craig Wilson’s poignant editorial last month, “Where We Are Now: Seeking Solutions to Crime and Disorder,” echoes a question on the minds of so many Minneapolitans: What has happened to our beautiful city?

His words recall Jane Jacobs’ seminal 1960s book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, where Jacobs observed that “cities are judged by their streets — the feeling of safety and trust.”

“...cities are judged by their streets — the feeling of safety and trust.”

– Jane Jacobs

But how do we regain safety and trust, a shared vision of amity?

The answer begins with us: walking the streets, shopping at local establishments and simply being present. This is our community, after all. To city and county leadership, the message is clear: There is no greater local government calling than ensuring safety. The following are suggestions that I would like to put forward for improving crime and safety in our city.

Secure Youth Treatment Centers

Young offenders, particularly those committing carjackings and other crimes, need support and resources to turn their lives around. We must go beyond simply relying on courts to release them overnight. Many of these youth lack

the leadership, love and mentorship that others have been fortunate to receive.

Add Police with Better Training

Increasing police presence is a proven deterrent to crime, but it must come with improved oversight, enhanced training and mechanisms to remove the small number of bad actors. “Feet on the street” remains a critical part of the solution.

Support Violence Prevention Groups

Organizations such as “We Push for Peace” play a key role in proactive conflict resolution, particularly in areas where police are less effective. These groups offer cost-effective, impactful alternatives when working in coordination with law enforcement.

Create an Entertainment Zone

Late-night establishments and nightclubs should be confined to a dedicated entertainment district, reducing the strain on police resources and minimizing risk across the city after midnight.

Eliminate Homelessness

Street encampments are neither safe nor humane for the homeless or the community. Programs like Avivo Village, which have successfully moved 40% of their clients into permanent housing, are part of the solution. When necessary, well-managed tent cities in appropriate locations can address capacity issues while providing dignity and care for those experiencing homelessness — provided that they have onsite services to work on people’s underlying conditions to help them find stability and success.

Work Together for Change

There are no silver bullets to solve these challenges, but progress is possible. It’s up to us — as a community — to work together, build trust and support solutions that make our city stronger, safer and more vibrant.



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.

ISLES ICE RINK MAY CLOSE NEXT WINTER, Front page

News of the proposed closure of the Lake of the Isles rink has left some local residents surprised, particularly those paying attention to the recent Cedar-Isles master planning process, which wrapped up just last year.

The resulting plan document sets out the MPRB’s 20-year vision for the park areas surrounding Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles.

Prominently featured in the early concept discussions was a proposal to construct a permanent warming house for the Lake of the Isles rink.

That vision was subsequently scaled back to an improved, seasonal warming house that would replace the deteriorated current structure, but it remained a prominent feature. While adapting to cli-

mate change was a regular subject of discussion, at no point did the MPRB mention permanent closure of the rink as an imminent possibility.

Reached for comment, Commissioner Shaffer said she hopes Lake of the Isles and other rinks can still be saved, preserving lake skating as a community tradition: “If we close Lake of the Isles next

year, it will be the end of lake rinks in our Minneapolis park system. I am glad residents are becoming aware now and am hopeful we still can find a way to provide this regional amenity in our supplemental budget work next year. I would also support taking a second look at reopening some rinks that were shuttered this season, particularly Powderhorn.”

NOT A CHOICE FOR MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY, Front page

treatment options available to them.

Hennepin Healthcare’s current Addiction Medicine Clinic is just under 3,500 square feet of space, smaller than many of this paper’s readers’ homes. It has just six chairs in the waiting room and two exam rooms. In this inadequate space, the clinic and its team of top tier providers treat nearly 400 people per day with proven, holistic, medical-based, out-patient treatments that are accessible to all.

People, some our neighbors, go to the Addiction Medicine Clinic because they were prescribed opioids after surgery, tried a friend’s ADHD prescription to get through college exams, smoked marijuana to calm their anxiety, or drank alcohol to numb themselves from the stresses of life.

The clinic provides best-in-class medical treatment for addic-

tion, which includes the use of medications such as buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone, the latter for alcohol use disorder, along with therapeutic and peer support groups.

Gabe Keller, East Isles resident, PKA Architecture co-founder and Hennepin EMS paramedic shared, “Every one of my EMS shifts, from the streets of Minneapolis to the shores of Lake Minnetonka, involves responding to overdose calls. It is heartbreaking to witness the devastation this disease inflicts on my patients, their families and our communities.”

Moving Forward

Whether you participate in Dry January or not, we encourage you to reflect on the impact addiction has had on your own circle of family and friends as well as our city that has seen an increase in addiction-related crime, homelessness and disorder.

Evidence-based, proven and compassionate treatment options are available for individuals living with addiction. Dr. Charlie Reznikoff, addiction medicine physician at Hennepin Healthcare, summarized his work this way: “My day-to-day professional experience is helping people who are trying to be sober, many of whom are succeeding. I go to work, and I talk to people who want to be there, who want help, and it’s just an amazing experience.”

We invite you to join us in taking action to expand, improve and draw attention to this important resource in our city, the Hennepin Healthcare Addiction Medicine Clinic. Together, with compassion, understanding, and action, we can make recovery an option for everyone who needs it in our community.



RESOURCES:



If you or a loved one is struggling with addiction, Hennepin Healthcare can help. Speak with an intake coordinator at (612) 873-5566. The Addiction Medicine Clinic also accepts walk-in patients.



Nationwide, SAMHSA’s helpline is available 24/7 at (800) 662-4357 to connect you with local treatment facilities and support groups.

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EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO MY OPINION: THINK GLOBALLY, KVETCH LOCALLY

By Susan Lenfestey



Questions remain about how businesses will adapt to reduced and metered parking, narrowed streets and limited turn lanes — only five intersections between Douglas Avenue and Lake Street permit left-hand turns, with a concrete median separating the two directions of traffic. Can Bus Rapid Transit, dedicated bike lanes and increased pedestrian amenities sustain local businesses, such as hardware stores where customers purchase heavy items like paint, tools, plants and snowblowers? Or will only businesses with off-street parking survive? Could some relocate to more car-friendly suburban areas? Time will tell. (Photo: Craig Wilson)

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

In the December issue I wrote about post-election gloom and my decision to focus on local issues, including the proliferation of bike lanes. In a pleasantly civil letter to the editor, Jennifer Barnes of East Isles chided the Hill & Lake Press for focusing so narrowly on the issue of parking and jabbed me specifically for reacting to “the post-election civic landscape by concluding that the best response is to redouble my efforts against local bike lanes, but maybe that’s just me . . .”

I took the jab to heart.

I know that cars are carbon bombs, so why am I opposed to something that promotes an alternative? While others wrote lists to Santa, I wrote a list of my answers. Because bike lanes work well in some parts of the city for the 4% of riders who use them, but they are overbuilt, often empty, and in some cases detrimental to the neighborhood businesses that are the lifeblood of our economy and the sustenance of community. Because bikes are an unrealistic transportation alternative, especially in a cold city that lacks the density of New York and the cultural sensibility of Amsterdam. They cater to the healthy few (mostly white and male) while incon-

veniencing everyone else, especially the old, the disabled and those requiring cars to haul kids to appointments, or trucks to haul tools to jobs. We can get rid of carbon without getting rid of the car. Because they harm businesses and do bupkis to reduce carbon. Anna Koenning wrote in Southwest Voices about Tom Thomson, owner of Guse Hardware on 46th Street. and Bryant Avenue South. Thomson saw his business plummet 30% during the conversion of Bryant Avenue into a “bike highway” that narrowed the street, took away parking and prohibited turns onto 46th Street. His customers, especially contractors with larger trucks, could

“Because bike lanes work well in some parts of the city for the 4% of riders who use them, but they are overbuilt, often empty, and in some cases detrimental to the neighborhood businesses that are the lifeblood of our economy and the sustenance of community.”

no longer access the store. His business is now closed. “If people can’t access these local shops for stuff like this, it’s defeating their [bike lanes] alleged purpose of people not driving so much,” Tom said. “Better that they drive . . . 10 blocks to get here than 10 miles to go to Home Depot, plus the money stays in the city. Home Depot’s money goes to Atlanta.” Because using data to back your belief that removing parking boosts businesses, as the authors referenced by Ms. Barnes do, despite the experience of owners and customers who see them failing, doesn’t create believers, it creates distrust.

Data can be found to support almost any belief. As reported by David Feehan in the Minneapolis Times, a recent study conducted in Fort Collins, Colorado, found that a single parking space was estimated as being worth more than \$300,000 in annual sales to the block. Loss of even a single on-street parking space can be devastating to a small business. Because building redundant bike lanes adds to the sense that the far-left members of the City Council cater to the ideological desires of the few over the needs of the many and are oblivious if not hostile to the business community. The recent budget process reinforced that sense, with some Council members doling out millions of dollars to nonprofits

and unproven pet projects in their own wards, while chiseling away at funding for city-wide services, including the Minneapolis Police Department. Because building more bike lanes, some just blocks apart, or running parallel to the beautiful Greenway, now beset with crime, is emblematic of the tone-deaf actions of our Democratic Socialists of America-led City Council. As David Schultz writes in the Minneapolis Times, “What happens at the local level has a far greater impact on our lives than what happens in Washington, D.C. What the 2024 election was about was that people wanted the basics.

“They wanted to feel safe and secure. They wanted a decent quality of life for their children in schools that delivered for them. What we saw across the country, regardless of race and class, was that people wanted better government, a government that addressed their basic needs.” I don’t see how building more unused bike lanes addresses the basic needs of most city residents, but maybe that’s just me. My New Year’s resolution is to stop kvetching about bike lanes and to start harping about caucuses. They’re a lousy way to select candidates, but if you don’t show up at your caucus on April 8, 2025, you won’t have much of a choice when you vote in the fall.

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PARKING METERS IN UPTOWN PART II

By Susan Lenfestey



Lonely parking meters line a snowy Lagoon Avenue.
(Photo: Craig Wilson)

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

As promised, the investigative reporting team of the Hill & Lake Press, although non-existent, did some follow-up on the sightings of parking meters in the neighborhood and came up with about as much information as New Jersey has about the drones.

What we know.

There are new meters installed on 26th Street and 27th Street just west of Hennepin, as reported in the December issue, and there

are new meters installed on the newly completed stretch of Hennepin Avenue, between the parking bays and the bike lane. (Caution: Do not stand in the bike lane while feeding the meter.)

What we have heard.

That meters have been installed on East Bde Maka Ska Parkway near the intersection with Lake Street, and that the park board is considering installing meters on other parkways around the lakes. And that neither of those things appears to be true.

According to Park Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, no one on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff has heard anything about putting parking meters on the parkways. A city staff member also said that there is no city plan to do so.

What we have learned about meters.

They make real money! There are 8,700 parking meters in the City of Minneapolis. Combined with city-owned lots and ramps, they brought \$55 million into the city’s coffers in 2023.

Income from the impound lot boosted that number to \$64 million — although much of that extra \$9 million most likely comes from those who live in apartments and depend on on-street parking, a burden not shared by homeowners like me with garages.

Meters are allegedly a benefit to businesses because they create turnover and prevent one person from holding a space all day that could be used by other shoppers.

No, wait. Meters are allegedly a detriment to businesses because people who are willing to pay for parking at special events are not

willing to pay for parking when running routine errands.

The days of keeping a few coins in the car to plunk into meters are long gone. Modern meters require a phone app or a credit card, making them a challenge for those who have neither, or for reasons of age of ability, have difficulty using the app.

Some parking stations do take larger coins and bills, but they require a schlep to an automated machine and patience to learn their cues.

What we have learned about signs.

Signs that limit parking in front of a business to a specific amount of time are a freebie for customers, but not for the business owner.

Tom Thompson, former owner of now-closed Guse Hardware at 46th Street and Bryant Avenue South, paid the city \$500 for signs that limited parking to 30 minutes in the three parking spots in front of his store.

What we don’t know.

How many more meters are planned for the city, and where they will be installed. As bus lanes and bike lanes remove parking from retail corridors, will meters move onto adjacent streets, as they have on Hennepin?

One last thing we do know.

That there is abundant free parking in the suburbs surrounding the city. And yes, bikes park for free.



**O BLESSINGS INFINITE!
O GLAD NEW YEAR!
SWEET SIGN AND SUBSTANCE
OF GOD’S PRESENCE HERE.**

Mary Baker Eddy,
Miscellany – pg 354:15

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MINNEAPOLIS BUDGET BATTLE RAISES QUESTIONS OF PRIORITIES AND TRANSPARENCY

By Carol Becker



In a challenge to the so-called strong mayoral system, City Council members overrode the mayor's veto of the 2025 budget to implement their amendments. The move has faced criticism for redirecting funding from essential city services to projects and organizations favored by the council. (Photo: City of Minneapolis)

Carol Becker is regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press and Minneapolis Times. This piece originally ran in the Minneapolis Times on Dec. 15 and has been edited and reprinted with permission. Carol lives in Longfellow.

I have been watching the Minneapolis budget since Don Fraser, who left office in 1994, was mayor. In all that time, I don't remember a mayor ever vetoing a budget. But Mayor Jacob Frey just did. He vetoed the budget that the City Council passed, and the Council promptly overrode him. Now the echo chambers will start. Minneapolis for the Many will vilify the mayor. All of Minneapolis will vilify the City Council. People on one side will only hear from their side.

What is the truth?

The City Council offered 73 amendments to the budget. One was for technical changes, and one included some fixes Frey wanted, leaving 71 proposals from the Council. Frey had proposed an 8.3% property tax increase. Four Council proposals were for property tax reductions. Payne, Koski and Cashman offered an 8.2% increase, presumably so they could claim to have reduced the budget in their reelection campaigns. Three serious proposals ranged from 7.32% to 7.03% to 6.41% increases, offered by Koski and Rainville. In the end, the City Council passed a 6.8% tax increase, which still means double-digit increases for most homeowners because of declines in commercial and apartment values.

What does this mean for taxpayers?

I, for example, own about a median-priced home in Minneapolis and am facing a \$600 increase in property taxes — money I honestly do not have. The city is projecting similar increases into the future.

Where is the money going?

That leaves 67 amendments proposed by the City Council that deal with spending. By far the biggest number of proposals is what I like to think of as “giving money to your friends.” Thirty-three proposals, about half, were to give money to nonprofits. These include funds for Latino Business Week, the Trans Summit, façade improvements on Bloomington Avenue and Mercado Central, and the Indigenous Wealth Building Center. The largest, \$1 million, was for building improvements for unnamed nonprofits in North Minneapolis. The list goes on. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were allocated to nonprofit “safety” programs, with only vague explanations of what will actually be done. Another \$25,000 was for stipends for people serving on the Safe and Thriving Communities Work Group — essentially paying anti-police activists. There was \$500,000 for a group to tell us how to stop producing garbage and \$50,000 for a group to tell us how to implement free phone charging stations. Much of this is being done to curry favor before an election year.

Another big group of proposals involves duplicating what other government agencies are already doing. These include teaching people how driver's licenses work (something the state DMV does), transportation for seniors (covered by Metro Transit), and a navigation line for seniors (provided by the state Department of Human Services). One \$25,000 proposal would have a group tell us how to implement mental health services for LGBTQ residents, which the Department of Human Services already provides. Another would fund post-incarceration services, which are the domain of the state Corrections Department.

The biggest duplication involves taking over homelessness ser-

vices from Hennepin County. It is baffling that the city would spend millions duplicating existing efforts instead of working with other jurisdictions. It is equally baffling that the City Council believes Minneapolis can somehow outperform larger, more experienced and more established programs. These programs are typically handled at the state or county level because many of the populations they serve are transient, and would leave Minneapolis to shoulder the region's burden.

Budget Chicanery

Another major theme is budget chicanery, a word meaning deception or trickery. Each of the three

“At least 11 of the proposals use one-time money for ongoing costs. For example, one proposal cuts planning staff for a year to fund grants for senior housing, only to add the planning staff back later. What those unfunded staff would do during that year is unclear.”

reasonable property tax reduction proposals relies on \$5 million in one-time savings, meaning the property tax levy will need to increase, or services will need to be cut by \$5 million next year. At least 11 of the proposals use one-time money for ongoing costs. For example, one proposal cuts planning staff for a year to fund grants for senior housing, only to add the planning staff back later. What those unfunded staff would do during that year is unclear. Several proposals cut funding for community police stations, which signed leases in November. At least six proposals simply move an activity from one department to another, like moving the Crisis Response Teams from the Neighborhood Safety Department to the Fire Department. It is unclear what expertise the Fire Department has in mental health crisis response. Multiple proposals appear to cut the same civil attorney position. Perhaps the most egregious chicanery is the proposal sponsored by Council Member Osman for \$150,000 from the federal opioid settlement to fund an Indigenous and East African Communities Opioid Response Program. The problem is that federal law clearly states responses based on


race or ethnicity are not legal. This was brought up in the meeting, but Council Member Chavez said the city would blatantly violate the law because he wanted to. He then dared the state to stop the city. Saying this on television is ... unusual ... given the number of fraud investigations happening at the state level.

Lack of Transparency

Maybe you didn't hear about these proposals. That's not because you missed anything — it's because these proposals were hidden from the public. This was done deliberately to prevent people from organizing against them. This City Council has used this tactic before. For example, they initially passed the Labor Standards Board by adding it to the Council agenda at the last minute. People didn't know it was coming and couldn't provide public input or organize against it. The mayor was able to later veto it.

A Call to Action

There is nothing that reflects the values of an organization more than its budget. I ask you to think about whether these proposals and actions align with what you believe a City Council should be doing. And vote accordingly next year.



BIG-TICKET ITEMS:

There are also some big things the City Council's proposals would do:

- Fund permanent homeless encampments, including bathrooms, water, garbage removal and other needs.
- Start the process to replace the 4th Precinct police station in North Minneapolis, costing \$19 million over five years.
- Spend \$1.8 million for emergency housing vouchers, a program run and funded by Hennepin County.
- Provide \$50,000 for a study showing the benefits of socialist housing.
- Include \$275,000 for a program to charge downtown businesses for providing heat to their employees.
- Allocate \$500,000 for a nonprofit to explain how Minneapolis can stop producing garbage. Note that Minneapolis currently recycles only 18% of its garbage, a figure that has been declining since China stopped accepting American recyclables.
- Fund enforcement of the Labor Standards Board, which was successfully vetoed by the mayor.
- Cut \$2 million from the police budget while adding \$1.3 million for non-sworn public safety responses.
- Include \$1.5 million for anti-car roadway changes.
- Allocate \$500,000 for early education teacher training, something the city has no involvement in.

A CITY BUDGET BATTLE RAISES BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT UPTOWN'S RISE UP CENTER

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.

In a dramatic and unprecedented move, the Minneapolis City Council’s progressive majority passed over 70 amendments to Mayor Jacob Frey’s proposed budget, prompting the mayor’s veto.

The Council, however, overturned that veto — a rare political rebuke that underscores growing tensions over spending priorities, public safety and the use of public funds.

According to Mayor Frey, his veto was driven by concerns over amendments funding what he described as “pet projects.” Uptown Council Members Katie Cashman, Ward 7, and Aisha Chughtai, Ward 10, sponsored a combined 17 of these amendments. Chughtai voted in favor of all the amendments, while Cashman supported all but one.

Controversial Budget Decisions

One controversial amendment is the Rise Up Center Development Project, an initiative championed by Cashman and Chughtai.

While the project aims to train thousands of young people for green jobs, its ties to social justice organizations, union organizing and ongoing funding challenges have raised red flags about transparency, financial sustainability and ethical conflicts.

The Rise Up Center amendment, or Motion #53A, allocated \$100,000 for construction and development costs. The nonprofit groups involved in this effort are under the Tending the Soil umbrella and have missions that seek to fundamentally change the relationship between workers and businesses in Minneapolis.

Unidos MN: Structure and Purpose

Unidos MN is one of those groups. On their website, they de-



Rep. Frank Hornstein and Sen. D. Scott Dibble chat before convening the May 10 meeting of the conference committee for HF5242 – the transportation, labor and housing supplemental budget bill. The committee funded the Rise Up Center. The bulk of the labor finance spending in the House bill — \$10.7 million — would go to Tending the Soil to help construct the Rise Up Center in Minneapolis. Located in a former YWCA, it would be a workforce development hub serving and training about 3,000 workers annually. (Photo: Michele Jokinen)



Uptown City Council Members Katie Cashman (Ward 7) and Aisha Chughtai (Ward 10) spearheaded efforts to establish a Labor Standards Board, as highlighted at a media conference in November. Both have also been key proponents of the Rise Up Center in Uptown, leading funding allocation efforts through the city. (Photo: Fox9 News)

scribe themselves as an “intersectional, intergenerational, feminist, Latinx-led organization committed to social justice.”

Unidos MN consists of two entities: 1) Unidos MN Action, a 501(c)(4) organization, focusing on lobbying, community organizing and candidate endorsements; 2) Unidos MN Education Fund., a 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated

to nonpartisan civic engagement and public education.

The Ethical Concerns

While the two entities claim to operate independently, their website doesn’t clarify which activities fall under each group.

A 501(c)(3) organization is a tax-exempt nonprofit focused on charitable, educational or religious purposes, and donations to

it are tax-deductible.

In contrast, a 501(c)(4) organization promotes social welfare and civic advocacy, allowing it to engage in lobbying and endorse political candidates, though donations are not tax-deductible.

While 501(c)(3)s face strict limits on political activity, 501(c)

“This structure creates a circular cycle of funding: public money supports groups that train organizers, who then mobilize voters for the very officials approving the funding. Regardless of one’s stance on the mission of these groups, this dynamic raises legitimate concerns about conflicts of interest and the appearance of vote-buying.”

(4)s have more flexibility. When these closely aligned entities share leadership or goals, concerns arise about transparency and the ethical use of public funds, particularly if advocacy efforts influence the very officials approving that funding.

Unidos MN supports several initiatives, including the Rise Up Center, the Work and Opportunity Act (expanding wage replacement benefits for undocumented workers), and clean energy pilots powered by unionized green jobs.

On their jobs page, Unidos MN is recruiting 10 full-time organizing apprentices.



“The Cream of Twin Cities classical musicians”

Rob Hubbard, Minneapolis Star Tribune

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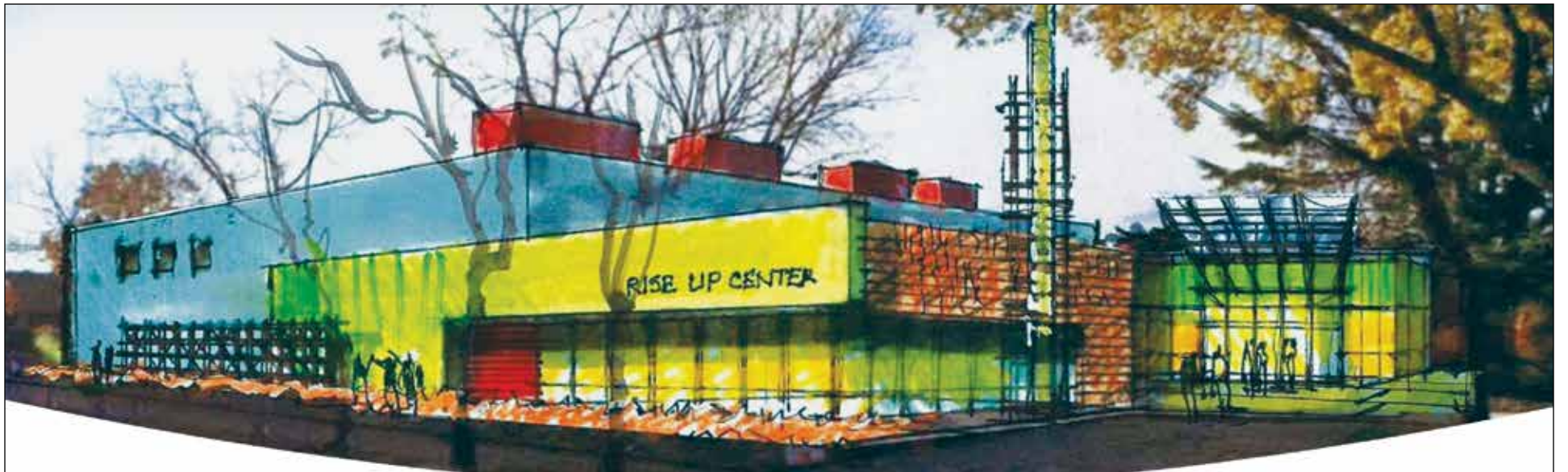


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Collaborative Efforts

- Unidos MN collaborates with other organizations for the Rise Center, including:
- SEIU 26
 - Unite Here! 17 Local – Minnesota’s Hospitality Union
 - The New Justice Project
 - UFCW Local 663
 - The Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council
 - Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL)
 - Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia (Renters United for Justice)
 - Minnesota Training Partnership

A Commune of Social Justice and Union Organizing

These groups plan to occupy the former YWCA Uptown building at 2808 Hennepin Ave. S., forming what could be seen as a “commune” of social justice initiatives, union organizing and job training. However, funding remains a significant challenge.

To date, the group has been allocated \$100,000 in the city’s 2025 budget, \$250,000 from the city in June 2024, \$250,000 the

previous year and \$9.6 million from the State Legislature in May for construction — despite the Legislature being unable to pass a bonding bill.

The \$9.6 million is state funding was secured through the efforts of Hill & Lake elected officials, Representative Frank Hornstein and Senator Scott Dibble, who co-chaired HF5242, the transportation, labor and housing supplemental budget bill, and advocated for the allocation from their committee.

Yet, no building has started, and much of the money has been spent on pre-development work. The group still needs to raise over \$11 million to complete the project, but its focus on union organizing makes donations from the private sector unlikely.

Concerns and Critiques

- Susan Lenfestey's Hill and Ke Press May opinion piece highlighted several key concerns about the Rise Up Center:
1. **Redundancy:** The job training programs overlap with existing initiatives.
 2. **Future Funding:** Without a revenue stream, the project will likely continue draining public resources.
 3. **Location:** The YWCA Uptown building was reportedly not their first choice for the site, with a prefer-

ence for the eastern part of the city closer to stakeholders.

The Legal Concerns of Closely Aligned 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) Organizations

Beyond concerns over funding and project redundancy, the mix of closely aligned 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations involved in the Rise Up Center raises legal questions.

Moreover, the ethics of public funds being directed to groups that lobby elected officials deserves scrutiny.

The differences between the two entities are clearly delineated on their website.

This structure creates a circular cycle of funding: public money supports groups that train organizers, who then mobilize voters for the very officials approving the funding.

Regardless of one's stance on the mission of these groups, this dynamic raises legitimate concerns about conflicts of interest and the appearance of vote-buying.

A Call for Transparency

ta has experienced enough fraud in recent years to warrant stronger safeguards.

The Fragile Idealism of Communes

T.C. Boyle's "Drop City" pro-

vides a cautionary tale about the challenges of communal living. The novel follows a couple who joins a California commune only to see it fracture due to internal conflicts. They later attempt to live off the grid in Alaska but struggle against harsh winter realities.

This narrative feels strikingly relevant when imagining nine dif-

ferent social justice groups sharing space and relying on public funding to sustain operations. If grants dry up, the training ends, the groups disperse, then the city could be left with a defunct fitness center — a financial liability sold for pennies on the dollar for a prime site that could have been redeveloped into much-needed housing.

Conclusion

While the Rise Up Center is rooted in noble goals, it raises serious questions about financial responsibility, redundancy and ethical conflicts.

Transparent oversight, a sustainable funding plan and an honest reassessment of its viability are essential before committing more public resources.



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2024 IN REVIEW: CELEBRATING PROGRESS IN DISTRICT 4

By Elizabeth Shaffer, District 4 Commissioner

Elizabeth Shaffer is the District 4 Commissioner for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. She lives in Lowry Hill.

As we close out 2024, it's a fitting time to reflect on the accomplishments and hard work of the District 4 community, park board staff and board members.

This year has been marked by significant projects, thoughtful planning and meaningful investments in the Minneapolis park system.

Together, we've poured out our effort, love and best ideas to make our parks stronger, more vibrant and more accessible.

Parkland and Community Projects

The past year brought exciting developments for District 4 parklands.

In Lowry Hill East, plans to purchase new parkland for Wedge Point Park represent an important step forward for this densely populated corner of the neighborhood that lacked access to green space.

Bryn Mawr Meadows celebrated its grand opening, adding a new community asset to the park system.

Planning for a new North Loop park is also underway, aiming to bring much-needed green space and recreational opportunities to this thriving part of the city.

Meanwhile, the redesign of Elliot Park was approved, with construction set to begin next year. The new design prioritizes safety while enhancing usability for parkgoers.

Restoration efforts also commenced at the west Cedar Lake peninsula, ensuring this beloved area remains a community gem.

A community-led effort has resulted in the installation of a trash boom on the east side of Lake of the Isles, designed to capture debris and prevent pollution in the waterway. This new feature supports ongoing initiatives to enhance water quality and protect the lake's ecosystem.

Trails, Gardens and Restorations

Investment in trails and green spaces remained a priority throughout 2024.

The Luce Line Trail saw \$500,000 in designated funding provided to preserve its condition and accessibility.



Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer at the Bryn Mawr Meadows ribbon cutting ceremony. (Image: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)

Planning and soil remediation are underway at the Soo Line Garden, while discussions with MnDOT continue over securing a long-term lease or land purchase for Overlook Gardens, with the goal of naming the space in honor of Robert Skaft.

The redesign process for Franklin Steel Park is progressing, and Loring Park saw significant improvements, with half of its current paths fully reconstructed this year.

Environmental Improvements

In northeast Cedar Lake Woods, contracted buckthorn removal and restoration efforts will begin this winter, funded by Southwest Light Rail easement fees. This multi-year project will ensure the area's long-term ecological health.

The Integrated Pest Management policy was also revised this year, allowing for targeted pesticide use in specific areas to address invasive species like buckthorn.

Additionally, the park board joined forces with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of Minneapolis, forming a joint committee to explore water quality improvements in Cedar Lake,

Lake Nokomis and other parts of South Minneapolis.

"I introduced an amendment that allocated \$363,326 toward repairing and reconstructing neighborhood park paths, improving accessibility across the district. It is critical that we are good stewards of our existing infrastructure."

Budget Wins and Key Investments

The 2025 budget brought meaningful progress for park infrastructure.

I introduced an amendment that allocated \$363,326 toward repairing and reconstructing neighborhood park paths, improving accessibility across the district. It is critical that we are good stewards of our existing infrastructure.

Other highlights include a 2025 levy increase, nearly all of which will go toward employee wage increases. Additional budget reallocations funded new seasonal staff positions for environmental management and \$50,000 to address copper wire theft, a persistent issue in public spaces.

State funding also supported historic preservation efforts, including \$200,000 secured for the restoration of Berger Fountain, a cherished Minneapolis landmark.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

District-wide community engagement remained a cornerstone of this year's success.

Two community meetings held in August included a Q&A session with Superintendent Bangoura in Thomas Lowry Park and a tour of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, where attendees learned about state-funded research on the cutoff wall.

Partnerships also flourished, particularly with Owámmniyomni Okhódayapi, as the park board continues rethinking the future of the St. Anthony Lock and Dam to better reflect its cultural and ecological significance.

Other Notable Actions

I put forward an amendment for the Midtown Greenway Regional Trail plan which removed warming houses as a proposed amenity, ensuring future designs align with community priorities and safety. The downtown plank sidewalk repairs are recently completed, improving walkability and accessibility in heavily used areas.

Looking Ahead

This year's progress reflects the collective energy, vision and dedication of our park leaders, staff and community members. From restoring critical green spaces to securing funding for beloved landmarks, District 4 has much to celebrate as we look toward 2025.

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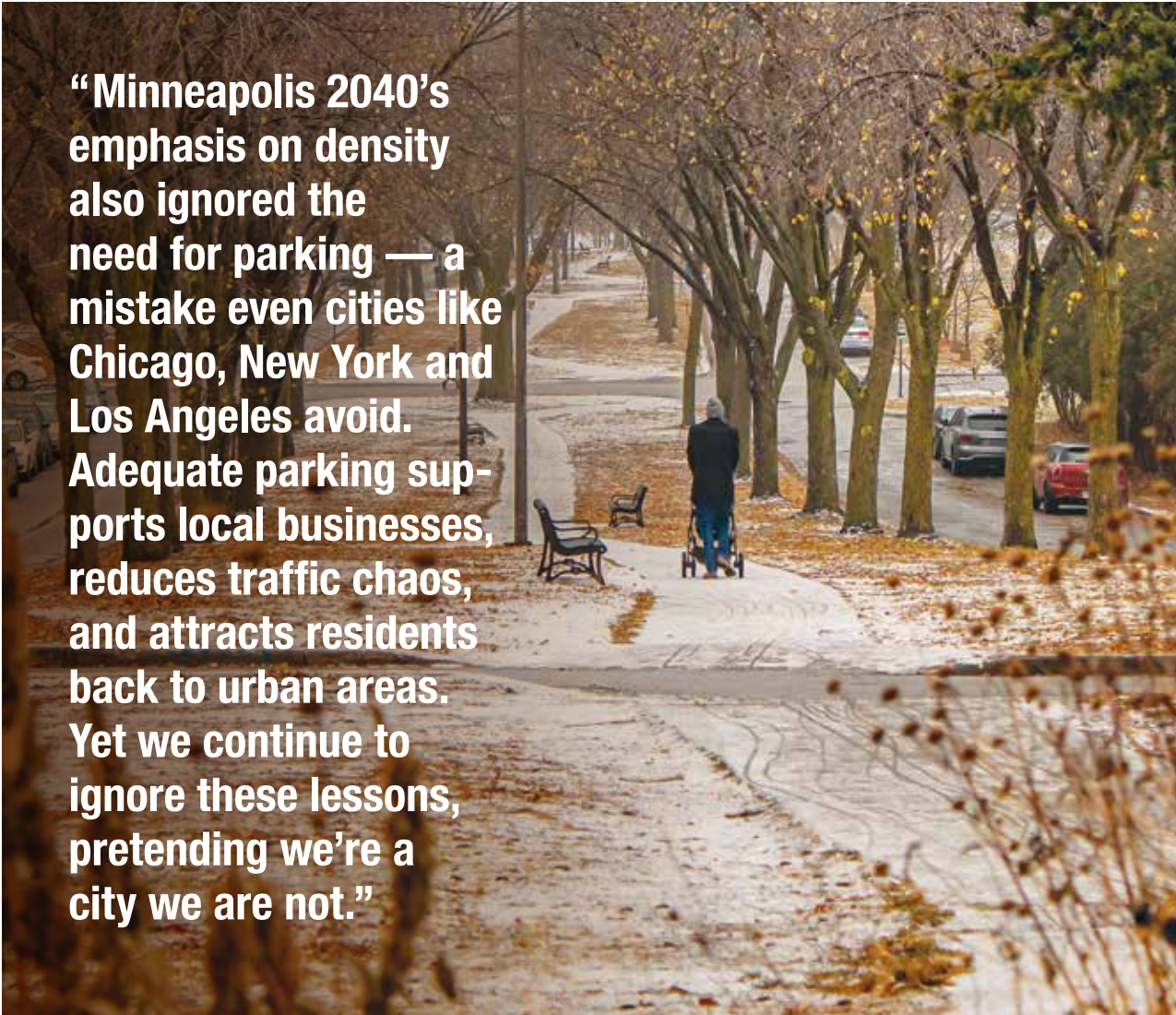
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IT'S TIME TO FOCUS ON MINNEAPOLIS 2050

Opinion by Becka Thompson, District 2 Commissioner



“Minneapolis 2040’s emphasis on density also ignored the need for parking — a mistake even cities like Chicago, New York and Los Angeles avoid. Adequate parking supports local businesses, reduces traffic chaos, and attracts residents back to urban areas. Yet we continue to ignore these lessons, pretending we’re a city we are not.”

Winter settles over The Mall in Uptown, where vacancy rates are climbing amid deteriorating commercial corridors and increasing crime. (Photo: Ryan Jandl)

Becka Thompson is an educator and serves as the District 2 Commissioner on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, representing North Minneapolis. She lives in the Victory neighborhood.

When I was young, my uncle, Bob Cowgill, transformed a blighted space in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood into a retro movie theater called The Cedar Theater (now the Cedar Cultural Center).

Later, during my college years, he revitalized another space into the Oak Street Cinema in Stadium Village (now, sadly, demolished). Watching these spaces evolve taught me the value of preserving history and using art to improve a city.

In a recent exchange in the Hill & Lake Press, two thoughtful voices — Carol Becker, a former elected official on the Board of Estimate & Taxation, and Charlie Zelle, the chair of the Metropolitan Council — debated the city’s direction. Their insights remind me of my father’s saying: “God gave us two eyes for a reason.” I would add: “Actually, it’s three.” Let me offer a third perspective, one rooted in evidence and the realities of Minneapolis today.

Sidney Lumet’s classic film *Twelve Angry Men* offers a powerful metaphor for confronting biases and assumptions. The story unfolds in a jury room where 12 men deliberate the fate of a young defendant accused of murder. Henry Fonda’s character, Juror #8, stands alone at first, questioning the seemingly clear-cut case.

Through careful reasoning and courage, he challenges the other jurors to reexamine the evidence and confront their own prejudices.

Similarly, Minneapolis must address its own biases and flawed assumptions to move forward. Like Juror #3 — whose judgments in the film were clouded by personal trauma — we risk clinging to harmful narratives instead of facing facts and seeking meaningful solutions.

The Metropolitan Council’s Magical Thinking

One glaring example lies in how the Metropolitan Council predicts regional growth. In his opinion piece, Charlie Zelle reported that “Min-

neapolis is projected to grow from its current estimated 434,000 to about 514,000 in 2050, or about 18.4%.” There is absolutely nothing in historic data, or current population trends, to support that statement. So where does it come from?

Met Council projections are based on city comprehensive plans — plans required by state law. Meanwhile, cities base these plans on the Metropolitan Council’s forecasts. This circular logic — where each reinforces the other without questioning underlying realities — creates an illusion of growth.

As a mathematician and statistician, I was shocked when I first realized this obfuscated jurisdictional conundrum. Like many of you, I thought more mathematics and “boots on the ground” data went into these projections. The answer is no.

No one seems to notice or discuss the half-empty buildings with tax abatements or problematic zoning that prevent development. The result? Policies detached from reality, with no one tending the store.

As Becker points out, Minneapolis is not growing as projected. In fact, over the last five years, if we were to lose just the Ecuadorian immigrants who have settled here recently, our population would almost certainly shrink. Many are leaving due to high taxes, an unfriendly business climate and increasingly unsafe streets.

Minneapolis’ Decline

Downtown, once vibrant, is now in a critical state. City leaders are scrambling to lure businesses back, but efforts to revitalize Uptown or Downtown often fall flat. Without a sense of safety — whether from police or other measures — businesses hesitate to invest, and residents stay away.

The illusion of density has led to empty red lanes and empty storefronts, not vibrancy. Advocates for bike lanes and reduced car dependency often overlook the unintended consequences of their efforts.

Consider Hennepin Avenue. The redesign may prioritize buses and bikes, but the red bus lanes sit empty while traffic backs up on Dunwoody, Lyndale and I-94. This is a carbon im-

pact that could have more than certainly been avoided.

Nearby businesses close, pushing shoppers to suburban malls like Ridgedale — or worse, to Amazon. This shift increases driving and emissions, undermining environmental goals. Does the city have power over Amazon’s fleet and carbon footprint? Of course not.

As a city, we’ve tried to position ourselves as pedestrian-oriented, but the results tell a different story.

The Fallout of Minneapolis 2040

The 2040 Plan relies on a utopian vision of urban life. Former officials who promoted the plan insisted that adding density would lead to more vibrant streetscapes and a bustling city full of pedestrians, bicyclists and thriving small business storefronts.

The exact opposite has happened. Uptown was ground zero for densification and implementing their vision, and clearly, it’s failed.

Minneapolis 2040’s emphasis on density also ignored the need for parking — a mistake even cities like Chicago, New York and Los Angeles avoid.

Adequate parking supports local businesses, reduces traffic chaos, and attracts residents back to urban areas. Yet we continue to ignore these lessons, pretending we’re a city we are not.

Minneapolis Is Losing Taxpaying Residents

Whether they’re moving to Minnetonka (like our former City Council President), Sioux Falls or Scottsdale, the truth is undeniable: Minneapolis is growing at a much slower pace than expected, and at a much slower pace than outer ring suburbs. For example, Lakeville grew by 5,727 residents from 2020 to 2023 while Minneapolis grew by just 3,677, according to the Metropolitan Council (2023 Final Population and Household Estimates, Published July 2024).

The likeliest cause of this isn’t the pandemic or declining birth rates, but bad fiscal policy and a Midwestern ‘aw-shucks’ attitude on many social problems; we are — as of now — putting the “passive” in passive aggressive. To reverse this, we need honest conversations about what’s working and what isn’t.

The next comprehensive plan — Minneapolis 2050 — must acknowledge the realities of slower than expected population growth, faltering infrastructure and unmet safety needs. It also needs to create a tax structure where long-time Minneapolis residents can “age in place,” should they desire, not have the rug cut out from under them with tax codes.

The repercussions of what happened four years ago are still playing out. We are just beginning to face these challenges, let alone solve them.

To solve them, we must acknowledge the flaws in our projections, the gaps in our procedures and the biases in our thinking. Only then can we start to rebuild trust and restore community.

Looking Ahead to 2050

I believe we need policies that prioritize restoration over quick and cheap construction. This means preserving what works, revitalizing what doesn’t, and fostering safety and vibrancy in every neighborhood.

A city named for its water and renowned for its parks should strive for livability — drawing people back to safely walk, bike, ride, drive and park conveniently to support local businesses, venues and community spaces.

As we plan for the future, let us not mirror Juror #3—whose inability to confront his trauma nearly led to devastating consequences. Instead, let us grieve, heal and embrace clarity.

With collective resolve and a renewed commitment to community, we can build a Minneapolis that inspires hope, fosters growth and thrives as a city for everyone.

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE INVESTIGATE DEFACING OF JEWISH TEMPLE

By Sgt. Garrett Parten

Sgt. Garrett Parten is a public information officer at the Minneapolis Police Department.

The Minneapolis Police Department is investigating the defacing of Temple Israel, located at 2323 Fremont Avenue South, after swastikas were spray-painted on the synagogue early morning Dec. 16.

According to Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara, surveillance footage shows a suspect arriving at approximately 7:19 a.m. in a silver Honda Civic.


The individual, described as wearing a white hoodie with the hood up, a black face covering, black jogger pants and tan boots, spray-painted swastikas on the Temple's doors and a pillar facing Emerson Avenue South. The suspect spent less than two minutes at the scene before leaving.

Chief O'Hara emphasized the seriousness of the crime, stating, "Hate crimes and crimes against our houses of worship are particularly troubling because they can result in real widespread fear and can contribute to potential division among our residents. MPD has no tolerance for these types of crime and will be investigating this as a bias-based crime."

Mayor Jacob Frey also condemned the incident, saying, "When hate is embraced or tolerated, it is emboldened and spreads. I've seen blatant antisemitism increase dra-

matically over the last year, yet too few have had the courage to speak out against it, opting for the safety of silence. These Nazi symbols were placed on my synagogue, where Minneapolis Jews congregate and deserve to feel safe. We don't back down to fear. We stand strong, proud of who we are, and I know that Minneapolis — a city of inclusivity and love — stands with us."

MPD is working closely with Temple Israel, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and other Minneapolis synagogue to address safety concerns. Investigators are monitoring area cameras and pursuing leads.



ANY INFORMATION:

The case number for this incident is GO# 24-356137. No arrests have been made at this time. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact:

Sgt. Garrett Parten
at (612) 673-5800 or
PolicePIO@minneapolismn.gov



The suspect spent less than two minutes at the scene before leaving. and drove this Honda Civic. If you have any information about this crime, please contact Sgt. Garrett Parten at (612) 673-5800 or email PolicePIO@minneapolismn.gov. (Photos: MPD)

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SMART SALTING TIPS FOR A SAFER, CLEANER MINNESOTA

By Ryan Jandl



“ Just one teaspoon of salt can pollute up to five gallons of water, contributing to groundwater contamination and harming aquatic life.”

Excessive salting pollutes downstream waterbodies. (Photo: Ryan Jandl)

Ryan Jandl is a regular photographer for the Hill & Lake Press. This is his first article. He lives in East Isles.

As winter settles in, Minnesotans often rely on deicing chemicals to ensure safer driveways, sidewalks and roadways.

Using these substances responsibly can minimize environmental harm and preserve infrastructure.

Proactive Maintenance Reduces Salt Use

One of the most effective ways to reduce reliance on deicing chemicals is through proactive maintenance. Regular shoveling, scraping and sweeping can remove snow before it turns to ice. By keeping surfaces clear, you’ll need far fewer deicers.

If deicing salts are necessary, apply them correctly and sparingly. For every 1,000 square feet — roughly the size of a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares — just a coffee mug’s worth of salt (12 ounces) is sufficient.

Spread it evenly, leaving about three inches between each grain. Be sure to sweep up leftover salt to prevent contamination of local waters.

Environmental Impact of Over-use

Excessive salt use can cause significant environmental and infrastructure damage. Just one teaspoon of salt can pollute up to five gallons of water, contributing to groundwater contamination and harming aquatic life.

Chloride in deicing salts can also damage concrete, asphalt, natural stone and metal surfaces. By minimizing salt use, you can protect both the environment and your property.

In Sum

Minnesota’s most sustainable deicing solutions include Calcium Magnesium Acetate and Potassium Chloride, both of which are safer for the environment than traditional sodium chloride.

Sand is a great non-toxic option for traction, though it doesn’t melt ice.

By applying these alternatives responsibly and following smart salting practices, you can help preserve the environment, and our beloved water bodies downstream, while ensuring a safe, clean winter.



ALTERNATIVE DE-ICING PRODUCTS:

If you need to use de-icing products, consider these eco-friendly alternatives —

Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA):

- Derived from limestone and acetic acid, CMA is safer for plants and aquatic life than traditional road salt and works well in lower temperatures.
- Downsides: CMA is more expensive but offers significant environmental benefits.

Potassium Chloride (KCl):

- Less toxic to plants and aquatic life, potassium chloride also provides nutrients for plants.
- Downsides: Less effective in extremely cold temperatures and more expensive than sodium chloride.

Sand:

- Sand provides traction on icy surfaces without melting ice. It is environmentally neutral and avoids contamination.
- Downsides: Requires cleanup after snow melts and doesn’t melt ice.

Beet Juice Mixtures:

- A blend of beet juice and salt brine lowers the freezing point of water, reducing salt use. It is biodegradable and safer for vegetation.
- Downsides: Requires special equipment for application and may leave a sticky residue that can stain vehicles.

Urea:

- An organic compound found in fertilizers, urea is less harmful to the environment than sodium chloride when used in moderation.
- Downsides: Excessive use can contribute to nitrogen pollution, harming water quality and ecosystems.

Smart Salting Tips for Sustainable Use:

- Apply salt carefully: Use salt only when necessary, applying small amounts when temperatures are above 15°F. Salt is less effective in extreme cold.
- Pre-Treatment: Consider using brine (a mixture of water and salt) before a storm to prevent ice from bonding to pavement, reducing the need for salt later.

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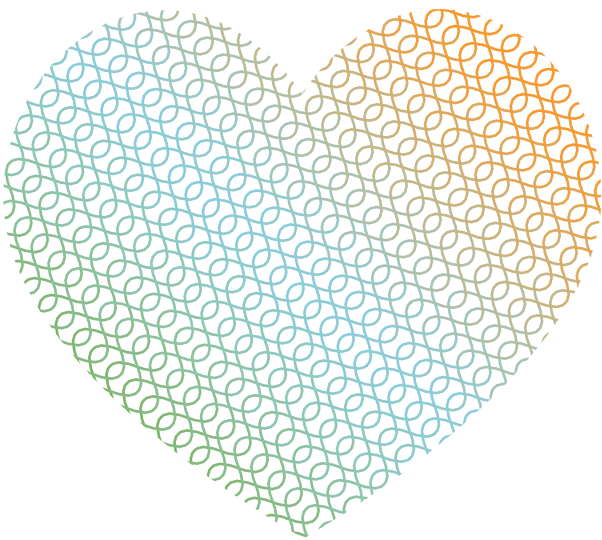
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Annual Winter Party

Chill out with lakeside neighbors! Bundle up and join neighbors from Cedar-Isles-Dean, East Bde Maka Ska, East Isles, Kenwood, Lowry Hill, and West Maka Ska for a cozy outdoor party. We'll bring good vibes, crackling fire pits, hot cocoa and Isles Bun & Coffee's legendary puppy dog tails.

If the ice cooperates, we'll have *free ice skating rentals* so you can glide into the fun. Whether you're skating or sipping cocoa, this is a winter party you don't want to miss!

Saturday, Jan. 25 • 1–3 PM
Lake of the Isles Ice Rink & Warming House
2500 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy

We're also looking for volunteers to help keep the event running smoothly—from setup and take down to helping skaters hit the ice. Interested? Email info@eastisles.org.

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP



Lowry Hill Update

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? Winter can be especially bad, as debris breaks down in the elements. But adopting a drain is free, easy to do, and takes only minutes to maintain: mn.adopt-a-drain.org

And our website will be getting a facelift soon—the sleeker, more user-friendly site will go live later this winter.

Wishing you a happy, healthy 2025!



Lowry Hill Board Meetings

Jan. 7 • Feb. 4 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

Jan. 18 • Feb. 15 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.

Neighborhood Safety Meeting

Jan. 23 Thursday, 6:30 PM
Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church: 2020 W LoTI Pkwy
Residents of Lowry Hill, Kenwood, East Isles and Cedar-Isles-Dean will get updates from the City and MPD on safety issues and improvements in the area.

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

Meet Your Neighbor

Interview by Craig Wilson, Editor – Photos by Bridget Fury

Grant Snyder, Retired MPD Commander & Co-Founder of Involve MN



Grant Snyder serves lasagna with a garlic roll, salad and Christmas cookies for dessert.

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

Grant Snyder, a retired MPD commander and co-founder of Involve MN, has dedicated his career to supporting vulnerable populations. After years of addressing human trafficking and homelessness during his time with MPD, he now leads Involve MN full-time, preparing and distributing 14,000 chef-crafted meals weekly to individuals facing poverty and housing instability. With a vision to create welcoming, service-rich spaces like the Food Center and a planned “pay as you can” café, Snyder emphasizes dignity, connection and holistic support for those in need.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Woodbury, as a farm kid before it was a suburb. My wife and co-founder, Melanie, grew up in Minneapolis and Frankfort, Kentucky.

Why did you want to become a police officer?

I was recruited out of graduate school at the University of Minnesota, where I studied the social factors leading to criminality, particularly those impacting women.

While I enjoyed research, my passion was solving real problems for real people, working directly with affected populations.

What did you focus on in your work?

During my first 20 years with the MPD, I worked with people exploited in prostitution and trafficking — first as a street crimes officer in North Minneapolis, later as a nationally recognized expert on human trafficking. In 2018, I became MPD’s first liaison dedicated to homeless and vulnerable populations, emphasizing hands-on, relational work.

You co-founded Involve MN, a nonprofit that provides 14,000 meals weekly to people living in poverty and homelessness. What motivated you, and what is your mission?

Our mission is to combat hunger, food insecurity and the numerous indignities of being unhoused. We provide meals, basic needs, mentoring and navigation.

Currently, we prepare and distribute 14,000 meals weekly to shelters, drop-in centers, withdrawal management centers, re-entry facilities, encampments, and the streets across the metro area.

The vision for Involve MN emerged from my work as a human trafficking detective, where I saw that many people impacted by trafficking also experienced homelessness.

I noticed significant gaps in professional engagement with these people. Outreach was inconsistent, and support systems often weren’t flexible enough to meet the dynamic needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Food services for unhoused people were also lacking. Community interest was strong, but professionally prepared, safe, and consistent meals were rare.

Many in need couldn’t access meals that were available due to schedules, transportation, or barriers like sobriety requirements. Involve MN was created to fill these gaps, meeting people where they are, whatever their circumstances.

You retired from MPD and now work full time with Involve MN, operating kitchens at the Woman’s Club of Minneapolis and the Food Center downtown near HCMC. What types of meals do you prepare, and who is your clientele?

Our clientele are primarily individuals facing homelessness, food insecurity and housing instability.

We are dedicated to providing chef-prepared, nutritious meals tailored to meet their needs in a warm and welcoming environment.

To enhance this experience, we recently hired Mary Henrikson, our new head chef for the Food Center, who brings her expertise from Mucci’s Italian and In Bloom.

The Food Center has long provided meals in downtown Minneapolis. What is your vision for its future?

We want the Food Center to be a welcoming haven for all — a place to gather, enjoy warm hospitality and a delicious meal, and a space where anyone can return to find someone or to be found.

The Food Center is ideally located due to its proximity to key services, healthcare, housing and transportation.

Beyond the three meals currently served daily, we are committed to making the center a welcoming, warm navigation hub where community, case managers, social workers and healthcare professionals can connect.

Finding and connecting with clients is one of the main barriers to connecting people with healthcare, housing and mental health services.

We want to maintain an open door for everyone. Just last week, neighbors affected by an encampment fire came to the center, found connection with the community and access to services, and had a safe, warm place to stay by evening.

Looking ahead, we will reopen the food shelf in January 2025 with an expanded vision to provide not only food but also essentials such as hygiene products and clothing. The Food Shelf will be open on weekends to accommodate working people.

We are also excited about our plan to open a small café or diner in the building street front on Park Avenue across from HCMC. This diner will serve delicious, creative meals under a “pay as you can” policy, fostering community, where everyone is welcome, and no one is turned away.

What do you think is missing from the currently available services for people living in poverty and homelessness?

While emergency and long-term shelter and housing are critical, other needs often go unmet. People need consistent access to quality, nutritious food provided with dignity and care. Except for the Food Center, downtown Minneapolis is a food desert for those in need.

Additionally, many shelters require people to leave during the day, which creates significant challenges for those with limited



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mobility or transportation. There’s a need for safe, service-rich and dignified spaces where people can spend their days.

How does your work now relate to your work with the Minneapolis Police Department?

My time at MPD, particularly in encampments, profoundly shaped my approach. It underscored the importance of building relationships and being present with people to effectively serve those in need.

I developed a clear understanding of the systemic gaps in our response to poverty and homelessness.

While these challenges are significant, small gestures — like remembering a name, offering support or providing a meal prepared with care — have profound impacts.

What can people do to help support your mission?

Like anything, this work comes at a cost, as it prioritizes high-quality service, premi-

um ingredients and professional preparation to ensure every individual is treated with dignity.

We deeply appreciate financial support, as we receive no external funding for our work at the Food Center.

We also invite supporters to join us for a meal and experience the hospitality we cultivate firsthand.

Witnessing our mission in action is the best way to understand the difference Involve|MN makes in individuals’ lives daily.



Grant and guest Loren reconnect before dinner, reflecting on their long-term friendship with "food" benefits.



Reginald Denson, Dana Jordan and Susan Du enjoy each other's company lingering after dinner.



Chefs Mary Henrikson, formerly of Mucci's Italian and In Bloom in St. Paul, Ethan Snyder and Lizzy Diehl prepare dinner.



Theresa Fjelsted serves Coltrane DeWalt and Grant Snyder. Coltrane, pictured with Grant, faced homelessness while attending school. Involve MN connected him with resources, and he is now housed, back in school and pursuing a career as an electrician.



Melanie and Grant Snyder, co-founders of Involve MN.

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LOWRY HILL RESIDENT HELPS TURN NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS INTO FITNESS GOALS FOR LIFE

By Brian Lucas



“Aging is tough. So for me, it’s important to make people aware, women and men, that there are things we can do to help. Functional training uses movements you see in life every day... We’re building the muscle movements that help you get up off the floor, put something up in an overhead bin or improve your stability.”

Robyn Bruggeman (Photo: Brian Lucas)

Brian Lucas is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press and a board member. He lives in Kenwood.

It’s a familiar story: On New Year’s Day, people make resolutions about “getting in shape.” They join a gym, or they dust off their basement treadmill only to grow frustrated or bored weeks later as their fitness dreams fade. This year, Lowry Hill resident Robyn Bruggeman wants to help people break that cycle, putting them on a sustainable path to enhance their fitness and quality of life.

Last May, Bruggeman opened Vital Fitness in St. Louis Park, focused on strength and resilience through “functional training.”

“Functional training uses movements you see in life every day,” explained Bruggeman. “Things like squatting, lunging, overhead pressing. I don’t focus as much on single-joint exercises like bicep curls and things like that. We’re building the muscle movements that help you get up off the floor, put something up in an overhead bin or improve your stability.”

While Vital Fitness caters to all abilities and ages, with both group and individual sessions, Bruggeman says she is particularly interested in helping older individuals build strength and resili-

ence through exercise.

“One thing we don’t talk about enough is aging,” she said. “Even in your early thirties, you start losing bone density. You start losing lean muscle mass. You start losing ability in your fast twitch muscles that help you respond quickly when you need to sprint or keep your balance. This is why older people are more at risk for falls and broken hips, which can be devastating.”

Bruggeman often incorporates education about aging into her workouts, talking openly and honestly with people about issues like menopause and how age can impact your energy levels and the collagen in your joints, tendons and ligaments.

“Aging is tough. So, for me, it’s important to make people aware, women and men, that there are things we can do to help,” she said. “We’re here to jump on boxes to keep our fast twitch muscles going, lifting weights to keep your bone density high, and the work we do to build your lean muscle mass.”

Fitness is a long-term journey. If you’re just starting, you’ll usually see some immediate changes but then things will taper off and plateau for a bit. Don’t let that discourage you. Persistence pays off.

Bruggeman says visiting a gym offers benefits

over working out at home. A coach can help make sure you are using the proper form to avoid injuries. Gyms also offer a wider variety of equipment so you can vary your workout and progress with different weights as your fitness improves.

When you visit Vital Fitness, you’ll notice there aren’t mirrors everywhere and the atmosphere is supportive. People work hard, but you also see smiles and hear laughter as people move from station to station. Bruggeman says this kind of atmosphere is intentional. She wants people to feel comfortable and motivated, so they arrive ready to put in the work.

The motto at Vital Fitness is “Train for Life.” Bruggeman says by following some simple tips, you can make this idea a reality, and that fitness resolution could be the start of a healthier and more vibrant future.

For more information about Vital Fitness, visit: www.vitalfitnessmn.com

Bruggeman says the New Year is a perfect time to get into a new fitness routine, but she has a few tips to help make sure your resolution doesn’t fade with the snow.

- 1. Start where you are — not where you want to be.**

People often come into a gym and try to do too much, too fast. Don’t feel like you have to lift the same amount of weight as the person next to you or match them on the treadmill. Start where you are and slowly build.
- 2. Embrace the soreness.**

Even if you pace yourself, you will be sore. Don’t let that get you down. The soreness is a sign of progress. If you keep at it the discomfort will go away and you’ll start to enjoy the workouts even more.
- 3. Give yourself time to rest and recover.**

Going to the gym is just part of the equation. Make sure you are eating well, getting enough sleep, and allowing yourself time to rest and recover. That will make your sessions in the gym even more effective.
- 4. Choose the approach that feels right for you.**

Some people are motivated by solo classes to stay focused. Some people respond better to group lessons, working out with friends and keeping each other motivated. For beginners, signing up with a friend can be the best way to get over that hesitancy and commit.
- 5. Have patience.**

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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. We regret an error last month in which we reran her Thanksgiving letter. To make amends, we have included her December column in the December 2024 online edition of the Hill & Lake Press.

Dear Neighbor,

It's January — a new year filled with hope that this one will be better than all others. That means resolutions to be a better person, friend, parent or employee — an all-around improved specimen over last year. Where does it all go south? Possibly (and probably long) before February rolls around, but a person's gotta dream, right?

The vast majority of New Year's resolutions involve physical and mental health. That said, I have the perfect way to kick off 2025: Fitbit.

I got mine a few years ago when two things coincided. First, my watch died. For years, I had two watches: one fancy piece from a swanky jewelry store for parties and events and another, a cheapie, meant only to tell the time. By the grace of God, it was the Walgreens plastic timepiece that ticked its last tock. Around the same time, I was reading David Sedaris' essay "Stepping Out," which extolled the virtues of the fabled Fitbit.

If you're a Sedaris fan, you know it's what got him walking near his Rackham, England, home. He noticed all the trash on his walks, turned them into cleanup missions, and collected so much garbage that West Sussex named a truck after him: Pig Pen Sedaris. He also lost a lot of weight.

That was all the endorsement I needed. Aware of my increasing sluggishness, I hoped this would upgrade things — specifically

me. It did. What I wasn't prepared for, and was delighted to discover, was how it would improve my attitude.

If this sounds like an infomercial, well, it is — but unlike most hucksters, you can trust me. I always look askance at famous people who hawk things they clearly don't use. Do you really think Tom Selleck, with his estimated net worth of \$45 million, has a reverse mortgage? Maybe if he lived in Buckingham Palace or the Taj Mahal, but I digress.

Before Fitbit, entering a parking lot put me on red alert, desperately searching for a "good" spot. When I couldn't find one — or, worse yet, someone usurped what I thought was mine — I'd place silent hexes and curse every oversized car in sight. Now I shrug, park wherever there's space and think of all the extra steps I'm about to get in.

The grocery store, once a nightmare of navigation and shifting layouts, has become an adventure. APB for guacamole. BOLO for crackers. Where are the olives? It doesn't matter anymore. I treat these trips like Easter egg hunts, racking up steps while hunting down what I need. Smug satisfaction comes when I load my bags into the car, knowing I've chalked up hundreds of steps.

At home, it's the same abracadabra. When I misplace something, instead of cursing, I embrace the search as a step-boosting opportunity. Basement laundry? Who cares! That's more steps. From my second-floor desk to the basement and back: 123 steps. Each load of laundry involves three trips (loading, transferring to the dryer, bringing clean clothes upstairs), clocking a solid 369 steps — roughly 1/27th of the daily 10,000-step goal.

Ten thousand steps are about five miles, and whether you're inside or outside, a step is a step is a step. Of course, I could walk

around the lake — something I do often in the summer — but on brittle winter days, the jaws of life couldn't pry me from my house.

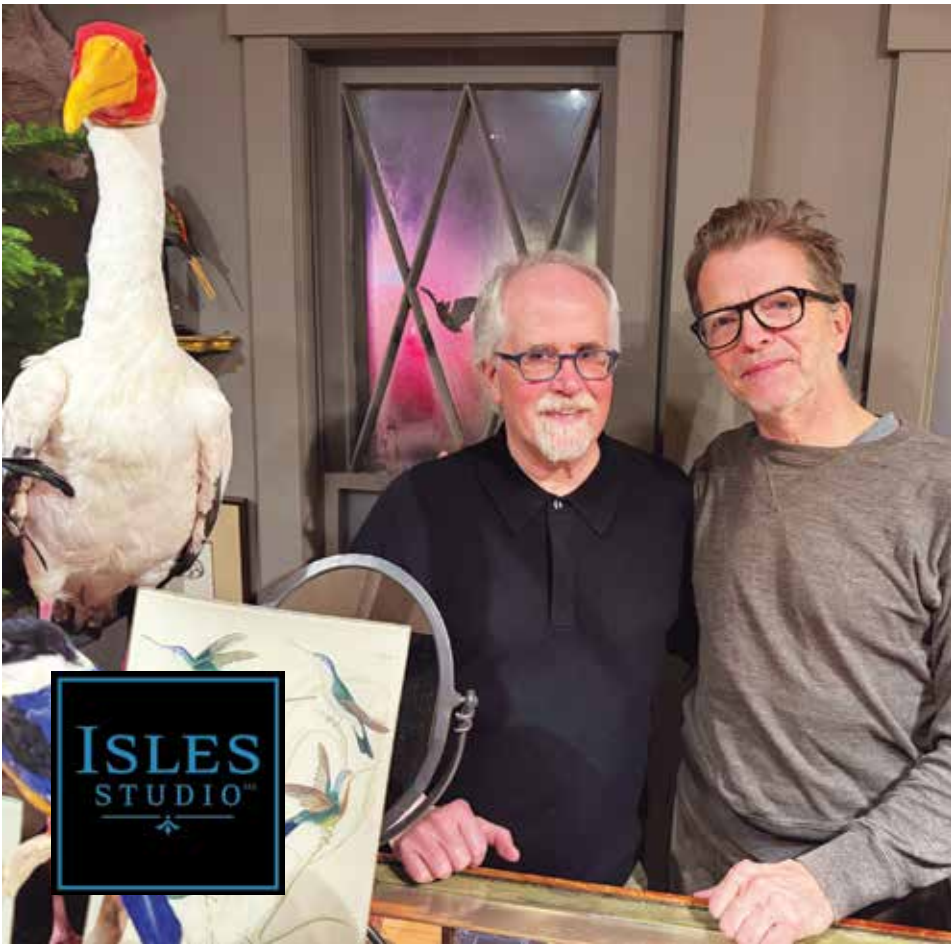
So the pilgrimage continues indoors. Unloading the dishwasher? That's 300 steps. Taking out the trash? Another 143. Shoveling snow or mowing the lawn can seal the deal.

And when I hit 10,000 steps, my wrist vibrates with a congratulatory tingle. Euphoria.

I don't always hit 10,000 steps, but I try. The first time I reached that goal, my Fitbit awarded me a Sneakers Badge and emailed me a commendation — as close to relating to Simone Biles as I'll ever get. I forwarded that email to my daughters, who printed it, framed it and presented it to me on Mother's Day. That treasured gift now takes pride of place in my living room.

Here's to 2025 — and to enjoying all the little parts of life.

— Dorothy



Store owner and designer Jeff Bengston and John Derian, share a moment at Isles Studio in East Isles, where Derian made an appearance to a store full of fans and devotees. John Derian is a celebrated artist and designer known for his exquisite decoupage creations. Based in New York City, Derian's work merges 18th- and 19th-century imagery with contemporary artistry, offering timeless designs for home decor. His pieces, crafted by hand in his East Village studio, are beloved for their vintage charm and artisanal quality. (Photo: Mike Erlandson)



The East Isles Neighborhood Association celebrates its "Adopt a Drain" program, part of a national initiative in which Minneapolis leads the way. The event featured awards for the most creative drain names, pizza and prizes, bringing the community together for fun and environmental stewardship. (Photo: Mike Erlandson)



MINNEAPOLIS' FIRST POET LAUREATE, HEID E. ERDRICH, CONCLUDES HER TERM

By Jim Lenfestey



The Asiganaak Singers perform at the celebration of Heid E. Erdrich's term as Minneapolis' first poet laureate. Left to right: Rona Minarik, Heid E. Erdrich, Diane Wilson, Maryanna Harstad, Louise Watson and Pauline Danforth. (Photo: 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.

Heid E. Erdrich, a Hill & Lake Press neighbor and Minneapolis' inaugural poet laureate, concluded her yearlong creative service on December 5 with a celebration of song and poetry collaboration at the newly refurbished Minne-

apolis American Indian Center on Franklin Avenue.

The evening featured remarks from Mayor Jacob Frey, who highlighted the vital role of the arts in city life, and City Council Member, and past President, Andrea Jenkins, herself a poet, who spent four years working to create the position.

City arts administrators praised Erdrich for setting a high standard during her tenure, and Arleta Little, executive director of the Loft Literary Center, returned from sabbatical to express her appreciation.

The Loft, one of the largest literary service organization in the country, administers the poet laureate program.

Erdrich, known for her collaborative approach to poetry and art, opened the celebration with songs by the Asiganaak Singers in the Anishinaabe language.

The event continued with readings from six poet collaborators and concluded with her "Poem for Minneapolis," which explores the city's four seasons in Anishinaabe, Dakota and English. The poem calls on the community to unite in a shared voice, ending:

*Listen to the city
dreaming,
calling us home
in many
languages.
Listen to the city
flowing,
dreaming,
moving toward
its chorus,
learning its
multiple and
singular voice.*

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