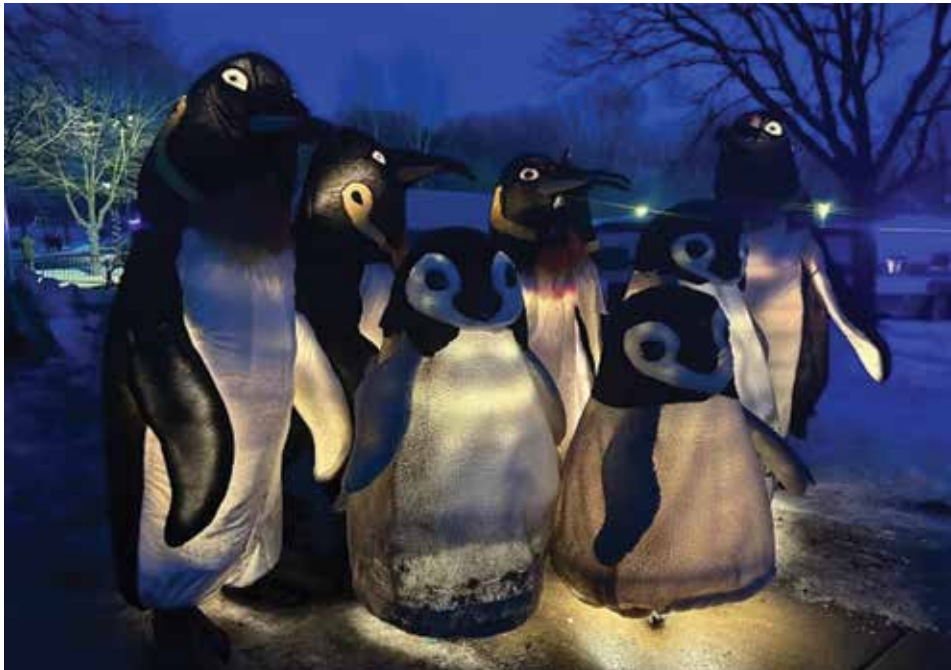




THE 2025 LUMINARY LOPPET DELIVERS A WINTER SPECTACLE!

By Susan Lenfestey



After two years of being confined to the shore by inconsistent weather and punky ice, the Luminary Loppet moved back on to a perfectly frozen Lake of the Isles, graced by a few inches of fresh powder snow.

The annual spectacle of fire and ice, produced almost entirely by volunteers, drew nearly 16,000 ticketed viewers and unknown numbers of other gawkers who walked or skied the luminary lit trail under a cobalt night sky. Geezers and grandbabies and everyone in between were dazzled by the antiquities in ice — Ice-Cropolis, Ice Henge, Ice Pyramid — and by the smaller works in the Enchanted Forest — shiny mushrooms with mycelium, fresh flowers in ice towers — and marveled under the dazzling canopy of ice lanterns swaying in Luminary Hall and Luminary Lane.

Lady polar bear lumbered across the lake as did a few of her penguin pals, reveling in the clear winter night with the rest of us. Old-timers and newbies agreed — this was the best one ever.

Besides being a magical night, the Luminary Loppet raised \$500,000 to support the work of the Loppet Foundation, whose mission is to connect people to the outdoors through experiences that build community. Their work focuses on underserved youth and families in the Minneapolis area.

See more photos of the 2025 Luminary Loppet on pages 20–21.
(Images: Kim Ford)

DEAR MINNEAPOLIS: UPTOWN IS DYING. HERE'S WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT IT.

(Spoiler alert:
Uptown is for the Olds)

Page 3

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING VIOLENCE INTERRUPTERS

Page 19

BRIDGEMAN'S: A Fixture of Hennepin Avenue for Over 40 Years



Page 24

The Mall Park & Lake of the Isles Ice Rink Update

Pages 7 & 8

Ward 7 Council Candidate Interviews

Pages 10 & 11

LIGHTS OUT FOR LAKE OF THE ISLES

By Marty Carlson

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Kenwood.

In “news” that won’t be news to many local residents, street lighting for large portions of Lake of the Isles has gone dark, and the (lack of) coverage appears to be steadily expanding. Copper thieves are to blame, and the lights won’t be going back on any time soon according to city officials.

Copper theft has reached epidemic levels throughout the Twin Cities, with parkways being particularly hard hit.

That epidemic hit Lake of the Isles in November, when thieves ripped out wire for a large swath of lights along the northern and northeast sections of the lake’s north arm, along with lights on Logan Ave. S., along the southeast boundary of Kenwood Park.

Since then, the lights have gone out on the southern end of the lake and along much of the western side

of the north arm as well, creating safety concerns for local residents and hazards for late-night and early-morning joggers.

How long will it take to repair?

The City of Minneapolis says repair times will be measured in months rather than weeks. Backlogs and seasonality are to blame, according to the city.

The rampant thefts have left the city with more than ten miles of wire to replace, and the city says it is difficult to pull replacement wire consistently through underground conduits while the ground is still frozen.

State and local officials hoped that the new law requiring scrap copper dealers to be licensed would address the problem when it became effective on January 1, but thus far the copper thieves don’t appear to have gotten the memo.

In the meantime, Fifth Precinct Inspector Christie Nelson has arranged for an MPD light trailer to be

parked at the tip of the lake’s north arm, at least on a temporary basis, weather permitting and when not needed elsewhere.

On the good news front, when the

wire is eventually replaced, the city plans to use aluminum wire, which has a much lower resale value than copper.

**"Copper thieves
are to blame,
and the lights
won't be going
back on any time
soon according
to city officials."**



(Image: Elizabeth Shaffer)



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
Jeanette Colby, Proofer
Kathy Low, Copy Editor

Board of Directors
Jackie Brown Baylor, Secretary
Barb Davis
Mike Erlandson, Chair
Susan Lenfestey, Vice-Chair
Brian Lucas
Dominic Saucedo
Andy Schwarm, Treasurer

Distribution
U.S. Postal Service

Advertising Deadlines
Next issue —
April 2025
Reservation deadline —
April 10, 2025
Materials due —
April 17, 2025
Interested in advertising?
Contact Barb Davis at
barb@hillandlakepress.org.
To donate to Hill & Lake Press
please visit www.hillandlakepress.org



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 Meters: I'll Take My Chance

When it comes to the new parking meters near Hennepin, I'm willing to roll the dice.
From living in other big cities, I know these meters aren't meant to rake in money but are a retail-friendly way to encourage quick stops and frequent turnover.
So I plan to zip in and out without paying. I've yet to be fined in other cities for parking on an errand, and I doubt enforcement will be any more severe here in Uptown.
That's the spirit of these meters. Keep it moving! If I need to linger, free parking is a block away.

Sean Murphy
East Isles
(License plate withheld)

Uptown: Let's Move On

Regarding the headline of the front page article from February: "City Decisions Force Change," [about the Uptown Art Fair moving to Bachman's] wouldn't it be nice if it were so simple?
The "blame" finger you point is unfair. Things changed since 1963. No profit in five years, declining residential support in over a decade and a plea for the taxpayer to fund an out of date venue for a quarter of a million dollars.
I've attended this fair for over forty years. It died a long time ago. It's a hangout for teenagers and I don't see many qualified customers.
We, as a community, have to move beyond the Hennepin Avenue construction whining.
I've traveled the Douglas Avenue to Lake Street corridor for fifty years. It was old and ratty as long as I can remember. You can't steer a ship that isn't moving.
In a few years, if the bus or bike lanes need amending, we'll address that. If we need to take down a few decrepit empty buildings to make safe parking ramps, we'll do that.
I moved back into this neighborhood and I've attended several Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association meetings. The loud voices come from preservationists.
Take a view from 20,000 feet. It ain't so pretty, so I'll embrace doing something. And that something was carefully crafted by professionals doing their best. Not old fuddy duddy whiners. The neighborhood changed and it will be re-purposed. Let's move on.

David Larson
Lowry Hill

Thank You Elizabeth Shaffer

A farewell to our Parks Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer. I enjoyed the summary in the last edition.
If you have not had the opportunity to deal with Commissioner

Shaffer, you missed a bright spot in our neighborhood. A fierce advocate for the residents and unafraid to put a blow horn behind their small voices. An inquisitive person who listened and learned.
Thank you Commissioner. Good luck on your next self inflicted challenge.
David Larson
Lowry Hill

Every few years I pen a defense of Uptown.

In the February issue Ms. Lenfestey is the most recent to prematurely announce the demise of Uptown.
In the same issue of Hill & Lake Press were other reports on the challenges of downtown revitalization, "The Myth of Placemaking," by David Feehan, and by Terry White, "The Uptown Vacancy Tour."
I appreciate the organizational effort of Andrea Corbin and the co-operation of the mayor in attending the walking tour, and I second the recommendations by Mr. Feehan for "place management."
The walking tour area, a two block circumference circle, is not large enough to encompass many of the businesses that operate here. These years of road construction have been hard on businesses on both Lake Street and Hennepin Avenue.
Some shops were small operations hanging on when I moved here three years ago.
They closed or moved rather than trying to survive the construction. The YWCA decided to close their building and move far to the east to serve families there and offer childcare. The decision was unfortunate for those who used it and for nearby businesses.
The Uptown Hennepin corridor still offers some unique retail and

services, if not in that two-block circle. Sebastian Joe's, a Frattalone hardware store, a UPS store, Magers and Quinn, the Walker Library (an important anchor,) Black Walnut Bakery.
We have the choice of several excellent restaurants in Brim, Bar-bette, Lake & Irving, and Pinoli, and some new ones along west Lake Street, Waterbury and Chilango. I hope readers will discover or rediscover these. The theater is offering live music performances.
As authors Dave Feehan and Terry White understand, Uptown is not moribund, but it does need professional downtown revitalization leadership. Often state and city grants have been made available for coordinating downtown management, marketing, facade improvement, and new businesses recruitment.
I hope the Minneapolis Development Department can do a better job with these programs, perhaps establishing an officer for neighborhood redevelopment. It is not in the City's interest to let neighborhoods and business centers like Uptown weaken. The choice not to help the Uptown Art Fair after 60 years, is a missed opportunity. The Art Fair brought in people from a wider area than Uptown. The city could have listened to input from the Art Fair Director on support the city could provide, whether security support or street design considerations that could have strengthened Uptown.
On a positive note, the February 2025 paper announced the return of a Farmers' Market on the Mall. I love walking along the mall and stopping at the booths for berries, vegetables and baked items. If you would like to support that plan you can email them info@eastisles.org.
Laura Haule
Cedar - Isles - Dean



A runner takes advantage of a warm February day in the 50s at Fremont Avenue South and Douglas Avenue in Lowry Hill after weeks of subzero temperatures. (Image: Susan Lenfestey)

DEAR MINNEAPOLIS: UPTOWN IS DYING. HERE'S WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT IT.

(Spoiler alert: Uptown is for the Olds)

By Molly Mogren Katt



Lake and Hennepin has seen better days. Is it time to grow up and become a playground for the "olds" like 50th & France? (Left Image: Craig Wilson; right image: DSM)

Molly Mogren Katt is a writer, entrepreneur and mom who launched *Hey Eleanor!* on Substack to document facing her fears. This article was originally published there in January and is reprinted with her permission. She lives in the Wedge.

I remember my first trip to Hennepin and Lake, circa 1995.

My mom took me back-to-school shopping at Urban Outfitters, the Gap and Heartbreaker. We ate mock duck curry at the Lotus, then drove around the lakes on our way back to the freeway. I couldn't believe a place this cool existed a mere 45 minute drive from my boring suburban neighborhood.

After returning to the Twin Cities post-college in 2005, I couldn't fathom living anywhere else.

I rented a one-bedroom in a 1930s brownstone on Lyndale, walking to and from Bde Maka Ska (the body of water Formerly Known as Lake Calhoun), probably listening to the Artist Formerly Known as Prince on my iPod shuffle. "Uptown," Prince's lead single on 1980's "Dirty Mind," proclaimed everybody was going to Uptown.

But sometimes when everyone wants to be in a place, real estate prices soar. The Uptown Bar can't resist selling to Apple (or was it North Face? Columbia?).

Figlio, home of a happy hour so iconic many could file it as their culinary Roman Empire, moved to St. Louis Park. (I will never forgive Parasole for this.) Bar Abilene, the only place allowing dancing (yes, really! Like in "Footloose!"), packed their tableside guac and margs and said hasta la vista, baby.

We (They? Someone?) neutered Uptown.

And it just got worse from there. The pandemic ripped a gash in the hull. The murder of George Floyd and its aftermath sank it. Whatever businesses remain get to see what happens when the main thoroughfare shuts down for two years to prioritize a road construction project a lot of neighbors don't fully understand (myself included). I'm trying to be open-minded, but right now, a walk through the neighborhood hurts my heart.

Forty-five years after "Dirty Mind," Uptown is a place Prince (and anyone else who ever loved it) wouldn't recognize.

People have attempted to save Uptown. Sorta, anyway.

We keep trying to force Uptown to be what it was — a hub for the young. For the artists, the punks, the musicians, the people who look at the time, see 10:21 p.m., and think, hey, it's almost time to go out!

But the artists fled to Northeast, and if we had a modern version of the Replacements, they'd live there, too, or maybe Powderhorn. And the young people? They're all signing expensive leases in a North Loop loft building named The Godfrey or The Jayne, making TikToks at one of Daniel del Prado's 827 restaurants. A lot of Uptown is in bed at 10:21pm.

“Young people don’t want to be here. How easily we forget that there’s nothing less cool than the olds telling the youngs what is cool. So can we stop trying to force Uptown back into what it was, and give it the renaissance it deserves?”

My fellow Gen Xers/Millennials, you might want to sit down for this: Uptown is no longer cool.

Young people don't want to be here. How easily we forget that there's nothing less cool than the olds telling the youngs what is cool. So can we stop trying to force Uptown back into what it was, and give it the renaissance it deserves?

It's time to make Uptown a place for the middle-aged.

Whenever I tell people I live in the Wedge (the neighborhood next to Uptown), I often hear, "I used to live there!" What many don't realize is that people...still live here? And a lot of them have kids! In fact, our community elementary school added 100 new families last fall.

Downtown will always serve as a regional hub for sporting events, concerts, commerce. Uptown doesn't need to fill that role. Instead, it should serve as a local hub. Geographically, it's central to everything south, east and west of downtown. It's walkable for many, and offers easy access via metro transit. And it's basically just sitting there, doing nothing.

I see an Uptown that serves the Millennials, Gen Xers and Boomers who love it.

These are the folks invested in the neighborhood. They have kids, or

grandkids. Or maybe they're empty nesters, or childless by choice. They do not need brunches with cheap bottomless mimosas, or another giant party bar. They need places for families and grownups.

You know what sucks about living near Uptown with kids?

You drive to the suburbs for almost everything. And that's if you can afford a car and the spendy extracurriculars. Did you know there isn't a single indoor play place in the City of Minneapolis? For that, you must drive to... you guessed it... the suburbs: Edina's Edinborough, Pump it Up in Eden Prairie, or the Eagles Nest in New Brighton.

Fun Fact: Nearly 30,000 kids are enrolled in Minneapolis Public Schools.

That doesn't take into account kids too young to enroll in high-five or kindergarten, nor those who attend a private school, or open enroll in the suburbs. Let's give these families a place to go.

So, imagine this: "Calhoun Square" (er... Seven Points. Come on, even North Loop lofts have better names!) with an indoor/outdoor play area, surrounded by a food hall serving great food, drinks and good coffee.

I'm dying to go somewhere to meet up with other families that isn't a brewery. Let the parents socialize while their kids play independently nearby. Make it enticing enough that people without kids want to go, too. Maybe it's a Malcolm Yards south. I don't know; this is a brainstorm, folks!

Could we create a community center at the now-defunct YWCA?

A place for swimming lessons, gymnastics, soccer, and maybe even pickleball courts? Because you know the only thing Americans can agree on right now is pickleball.

While we're at it, let's add retail, but in spaces compact and affordable enough that small businesses can make it work.

I'd love to see a mix of new and more established brands, because merchandising is a skill. The only thing more depressing than a vacant store space is one haphazardly thrown together. Could we enlist people who can offer assistance in creating nice window displays, lighting and fixtures?

And food.

Aside from a handful of places somehow managing to make it work (like Barbette, Lake & Irving, Amazing Thailand), there's not a lot of options in Uptown proper. Have restaurateurs just given up? I actually would like to understand the barriers to opening in Uptown. Is it rent prices? Crime/vandal-

ism? The perception of the neighborhood? Is it as basic as a numbers game — if enough good places open, will they help sustain each other?

Lastly, we need parking.

The city eliminated almost all the street parking in Uptown. This is great news for bus riders and the handful of folks who bike year-round, but it does create a challenge for supporting local businesses. It's hard to pick up takeout, stop at a salon or swing by the now-defunct Kitchen Window when parking is a pain in the ass.

“I see an Uptown that serves the Millennials, Gen Xers and Boomers who love it. These are the folks invested in the neighborhood. They have kids, or grandkids. Or maybe they’re empty nesters, or childless by choice. They do not need brunches with cheap bottomless mimosas, or another giant party bar. They need places for families and grownups.”

But you know what... there is a giant empty parking garage behind the Building Formerly Known as Calhoun Square. I guarantee people would be significantly more likely to shop and dine locally if the parking were free.

I'll give Edina credit where it's due: 50th & France is killing it.

It's a dense retail, dining and entertainment area (with some housing, too) that not only serves the local community, but draws people from all over the Twin Cities. Why can't we do something similar for Uptown? If you make it fun, enticing and accessible, people will come.

How will we pay for it? Guys, I don't know.

What I do know is there's plenty of money being spent outside of this community because there's little left in Uptown to support. I'm starting the conversation, and hoping the message makes it into the inbox or DMs of the right people.

EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO MY OPINION: THE COUP

By Susan Lenfestey



Elon Musk speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference. (Image: NBC News)

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

This isn't what I thought a coup would look like.

I pictured myself at the barricades, daring the tanks to run over me. "Shoot if you must this old gray head..."

Instead, I'm wringing my hands on social media, trying to find how to join the resistance, and calling my elected representatives, which in our district means three nearly powerless Dems who don't need my call to do the right thing.

Maybe I'm an alarmist, and it's just a takeover of the government by oligarchs and tech bros. No barricades, no guns, no blood. Or maybe the coup was on January 6, 2021, when armed MAGA-nuts stormed the Capitol, beating and killing some of the officers who bravely stood at those barricades.

Call it what you will, the ruling few are more heartless and brainless than I could have imagined, and our president thinks he's a king. No surprise there, given his loathing of government and love of pageantry. But he's in the wrong country. Or was.

The courts will decide if our legal guardrails will protect the Constitution, or if it's no more than a handshake written on parchment. If the courts do stand up for the Constitution, and the man who would be king refuses to abide by their rulings, what then? Thoughts and prayers y'all.

Meanwhile, there's plenty of angst for the mill right here in River City.

The City Council is having a very hard time getting its act together. The overwrought oratory of some members, and the occasional brickbats among others, can make for good theater, but does little to address the urgent issues facing our city — public safety, affordable housing and a shrinking tax base.

Instead of acknowledging the impact of crime on individuals, particularly in Uptown, some on the Council continue to fan distrust of the Minneapolis Police Department and limit the funding Chief O'Hara needs to rebuild and reform the force.

Instead of focusing on a city-wide approach to public safety, they move funding for pet projects around like a pea in a shell game.

Instead of accountability we get finger pointing, as we saw in the recent imbroglio between Council Member Robin Wonsley and Luana Nelson-Brown, the former director of the Neighborhood Safety Department (NSD), regarding potential mismanagement of public funds, questionable billing practices and a lack of oversight at the NSD.

Instead of working with business owners to create safe streets, and with developers to create retail and housing that will contribute to the tax base, they work with activists to create publicly funded community centers that will draw on that rapidly shrinking tax base. Or depend on federal funds which may

"Instead of working with business owners to create safe streets, and with developers to create retail and housing that will contribute to the tax base, they work with activists to create publicly funded community centers that will draw on that rapidly shrinking tax base. Or depend on federal funds which may no longer exist due to DOGE."

no longer exist due to DOGE.

And while fraud has yet to take a seat at the table, there's more than a whiff of it in the room. Sahan Journal and other publications have reported on the ties between Council Member Jamal Osman, his wife, and the Feeding Our Future scandal, but Osman and other members of the Council seem to shrug it off, and he continues to chair the Council's Business, Housing & Zoning Committee.

Well, as author Rebecca Solnit recently wrote, "You can feel terrible and keep going."

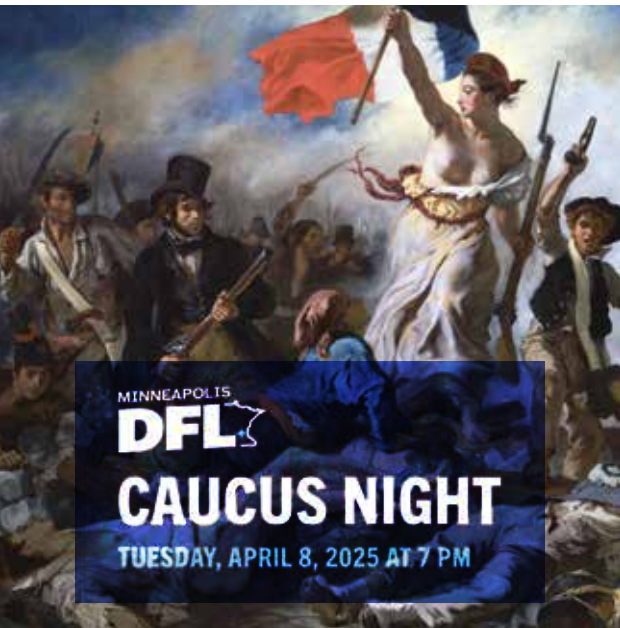
Whether it's survivors of the fires in L.A., the people of Ukraine or the immigrants whose lives are upended, they keep going. They focus on the very smallest parts of their lives, the things they can control.

One of the things we can control is who gets elected to the City Council and office of mayor in the fall. Voter turnout in the last city election was an anemic 31.7% of registered voters.

So, stop doomscrolling and plan to attend your DFL precinct caucus on Tuesday, April 8. In this one-party town, the candidate whose name appears on the ballot in the fall with the DFL endorsement almost always wins. The caucus is where we get to have a say in who that candidate is.

As Mayor Jacob Frey has been saying on the stump, "The opposite of extremism isn't the opposite extreme." It's the hard work of governance.

There may be no barricades in my immediate future, but there's a caucus. Aux armes, citoyens! Le jour de gloire est arrivé! Or at least the caucus will this April 8.



Tai Chi for Seniors & Beginners

Reduce Stress ~ Increase Vitality

A 6 week course at St Paul's Church on Lake of the Isles

Every Monday Starting April 14th ~ 10:00 to 11:30 a.m

Register now:
www.NaturalStepTaiChi.com
612 900 6755

Reduced rate for couples

Natural Step

Tai Chi for Wellbeing with Colin Snow

Founder Colin Snow has 40 years teaching experience in Europe & USA

THE STORE

This tax season, be unstoppable by securely shredding* your docs, receipts and invoices.

2801 Hennepin Avenue 612-822-0022

For over 20 years, your Uptown UPS Store has been a locally, woman-owned & operated small business!

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING VIOLENCE INTERRUPTERS

By Paula Chesley



A violence interrupter at a Stop N Shop gas station, featured in an MPR story from October 2020. The author hoped to find and photograph a team patrolling Uptown this past month, but despite multiple attempts, she was unable to locate one. (Image: MPR News)

Paula Chesley is a volunteer with the East Isles Neighborhood Association and Minneapolis City Council candidate for Ward 7. She lives in East Isles.

On Feb. 20, Ward 7 Council Member Katie Cashman sent an email to members of the Uptown community indicating that the We Push for Peace violence interrupter group would be working in Uptown starting the next day, Feb. 21.

The problem? They are nowhere to be seen.

Cashman stated they would start at 4 p.m. in the evenings and would have an end time that would “depend on what they see and what is going on.” And the violence interrupters would be in Uptown until March 31 or “until they run out of funding, whatever occurs first.”

Cashman stated that she directed We Push for Peace to work on Hennepin Avenue from Lake Street to 28th Street and surrounding side streets and said she would be “curious to hear... feedback on how this violence interrupter contract contributes to both real and perceived safety challenges in Uptown.”

It is unclear what precipitated this event, since there was not a recent uptick in crime in the area, and the winter months are typically lower in crime.

Residents and business owners are right to be frustrated at the lack of communication about the arrival of the violence interrupters.

Had there been planning efforts, the community could have clarified that a start time of 4 p.m. during winter months is the wrong time of day and year for any meaningful change concerning safety in Uptown. Furthermore, with planning, there could have been a coordinated effort between violence interrupters, the police, and the community to determine relevant areas to address, as opposed to having their location mandated by a City Council member.

“...how was this last-minute appropriation made, and where are the funds coming from? How does We Push for Peace determine when a shift is over? Will We Push for Peace be in the area every day? How could residents contact the group if needed?”

Several recipients took issue with the Katie Cashman’s language of “real and perceived safety challenges in Uptown.”

From 2019 to 2024, crime decreased in North Minneapolis and Downtown, but it in-

creased by 45% in the Fifth Precinct, which includes Uptown. The safety challenges Uptown faces are real, full stop.

Business owners I have spoken with describe having to spend up to a third of their time focusing on safety and cleanliness issues, and many have described the cost of private security as prohibitive.

From the email, several things were unclear: how was this last-minute appropriation made, and where are the funds coming from? How does We Push for Peace determine when a shift is over? Will We Push for Peace be in the area every day? How could residents contact the group if needed?

So where are they?

Cashman invited email recipients to say hello to We Push for Peace, so in a good-faith effort I attempted to catch up with them four times: on Friday, Feb. 21 at 10 p.m., I drove around the area. On Saturday, Feb. 22 at 5:30 pm, I biked around the area for 20 minutes. On Monday, Feb. 24, I walked along Hennepin from 27th Steet to 31st Street at 6 p.m. and again at 8 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 25 I biked around the area for 20 minutes, from 5:40 – 6:00 p.m. At no time did I see them.

I don’t know what the issue is but given the language of Cashman’s email (“evenings”), it seems as if the violence interrupters were supposed to be there during at least some of these times.

Were the times wrong? It is unclear but given the many recent issues around unarmed safety initiatives in the city, including lack of financial accountability, residents are right to ask how their taxpayer dollars are being spent and if the plans to keep them safe are meaningful or simply a veneer.

Let's set them up for success.

When violence interrupters were introduced in Minneapolis as an effective complement to police officers, I was excited and looking forward to this new chapter of public safety in the city. But violence interrupters are effective because they build trust with the community.

This cannot happen in one month and it cannot happen with poorly planned efforts such as this, which do not give these initiatives the chance to succeed. We need more oversight of violence interrupter programs and cogent efforts with community input as to their deployment.

SPRING IS HERE.
TIME FOR A SCOOP.

LINDEN HILLS 4321 UPTON AVE SO. MINNEAPOLIS, MN LOWRY HILL 1007 W FRANKLIN AVE SO. MINNEAPOLIS, MN
KINGFIELD 4301 NICOLLET AVE SO. MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Sebastian Joer



Life is meant to be lived.

Every stage of life is filled with possibility, and at Walker Place by Vivie, we’re here to help you find it. Whether you’re looking for a community where you can stay active and engaged or need a little extra support, we’re here to make this next chapter your best one yet. Because at Walker Place, you matter.

Limited-time offer: Join our community—we’ll waive your community fee and you’ll get your third month free*.

**Offer good until March 31, 2025. Guidelines apply.*

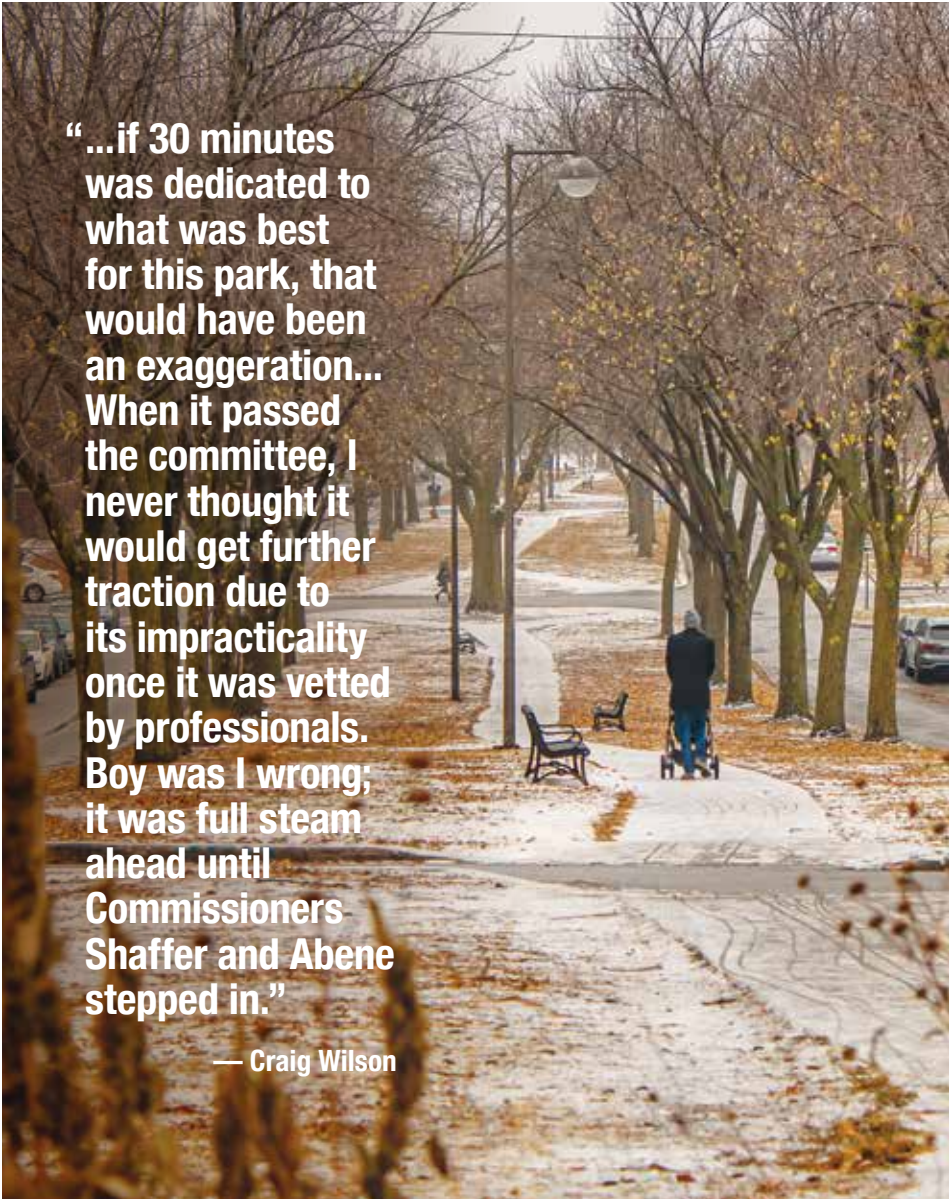


Scan QR code
to schedule a tour.

vivie.org/walker-place | (612) 827-8500
3701 Bryant Ave. South, Minneapolis

CONTROVERSY SWIRLS AROUND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MALL PARK IN EAST ISLES

By Mike Erlandson



“...if 30 minutes was dedicated to what was best for this park, that would have been an exaggeration... When it passed the committee, I never thought it would get further traction due to its impracticality once it was vetted by professionals. Boy was I wrong; it was full steam ahead until Commissioners Shaffer and Abene stepped in.”

— Craig Wilson

Winter at The Mall Park in Uptown. (Image: Ryan Jandl)

Mike Erlandson is the Board Chair of the East Isles Neighborhood Association and Board Chair of the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in East Isles.

The Mall Park, a quiet and symmetrical five-block green space nestled in the East Isles neighborhood of Minneapolis, has long been a hub for local events, from the Uptown Art Fair to the East Isles Farmers Market.

Today, the park is a peaceful retreat, framed by park benches and a looped road connecting the Walker Library on Hennepin Avenue to East Bde Maka Ska Parkway, which links Lake of the Isles to Bde Maka Ska.

The Threat

The Mall Park is now threatened by a proposal from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board that would drastically alter the park’s layout.

The changes are being pushed forward as part of planned storm sewer work by the Met Council, which is set to disrupt a significant portion of the park later this year.

The park board’s Master Plan for the area includes removing the westbound road between Irving Avenue South and the boulevard, as well as eliminating parking and part of the roadway on the eastbound road between the parkway and Irving Avenue South.

These adjustments would reduce the parking available for the nearby apartments and condos

along the south side of the park by eliminating 52 spaces.

They would also shift local traffic patterns in the larger area, forcing cars heading south from the neighborhood onto the already-congested Lagoon Avenue and Lake Street — two of South Minneapolis’ busiest streets with limited traffic control and bus lanes that complicate turning onto these roads.

The Community Reaction

The East Isles Neighborhood Association, along with hundreds of residents who participated in a community survey and attended association meetings, strongly oppose the proposed changes.

They believe the park should be restored to its pre-sewer work condition once construction is completed, without the alterations suggested in the park board’s master plan.

In a traffic and parking study presented to the community in February, the park board’s consultant on the project concluded that the changes would not significantly impact the neighborhood.

The study found that there “would be no significant impact on the community should these changes be made.” The study did show that parking on The Mall Park is currently at capacity in the evening and overnight. As a result, this study did little to quell concerns among residents, particularly regarding the traffic pattern changes and reduced parking in an area already struggling with

parking congestion.

Another pressing concern voiced by the community is the lack of emergency vehicle access.

The proposed changes would increase the distance and complexity for emergency services to reach the area, further compounding the public safety risks. The Mall already lacks proper access to fire hydrants.

These concerns, despite being raised in the park board’s public forums, have yet to be fully addressed, leaving residents unsettled.

“I don’t believe these changes will make our neighborhood safer or more livable,” said Jerome Ryan, a local resident, who spoke at a recent East Isles meeting.

“The alternative routes will be more difficult for everyone, especially those residents who will be

“The extra time the park board invested in the traffic study and dialog with the fire chief was helpful in pointing out eastbound flaws in fire access and the impact of losing parking.”

— Elizabeth Shaffer, District 4 Commissioner

forced to walk longer distances to their home or apartment when public safety in the community remains a concern.”

A Flawed Plan

The park board’s master plan was approved in 2020, but little attention was given to The Mall Park during the planning process.

In 2019, Craig Wilson, editor of this paper, served as a representative on the park board’s Southwest Service Area Master Plan Community Advisory Committee, which focused on new park plans for neighborhood parks south of I-394 and west of I-35W.

Craig remaked, “We were tasked with determining long-term plans for 42 neighborhood parks, six potential parks and three park search areas throughout Southwest Minneapolis over just a handful of meetings. The Mall Park was the last park I recall the committee discussing — if 30 minutes was dedicated to what was best for this park, that would have been an exaggeration.”

He clarified, “I did not support the concept to remove parking and alter the park, but others on the committee were convinced by an argument made by now State Representative Katie Jones that the

mission of the park board was to ‘provide a park versus a parking lot.’ When it passed the committee, I never thought it would get further traction due to its impracticality once it was vetted by professionals. Boy was I wrong; it was full steam ahead until Commissioners Shaffer and Abene stepped in.”

The lack of community consensus during the planning stage was called out by park board staff at their February community meeting.

What’s Next

As the Met Council’s sewer project moves forward, the debate to implement the proposed changes is front and center.

Some believe the modifications are necessary to align with the broader vision of the park system, while others suggest that the best solution is to simply restore The Mall Park to its original state, without the road and parking alterations.

This disagreement highlights the gap between the master plan’s objectives and the desires of the community.

With little support for the proposed changes, especially as they would add minimal green space while reducing parking for residents, it remains unclear whether the park board will proceed with the plan.

Later this year, the park board will take up the matter once again, potentially revising the Master Plan or opting for the alternative solution to restore the park’s existing layout.

For now, it’s evident that the proposed changes to The Mall Park face strong opposition from the East Isles neighborhood, with no clear community backing for the adjustments.

“The extra time the park board invested in the traffic study and dialog with the fire chief was helpful in pointing out eastbound flaws in fire access and the impact of losing parking,” said District 4 Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer. “I will continue to dialog with community around any next steps and am supportive of keeping The Mall roadway as is. The sewer work will hopefully begin this summer or fall.”

The Mall Park’s future may hinge on the ongoing conversation between the park board, the East Isles Neighborhood Association and the residents who call this area home.

As the debate continues, residents are hopeful that any significant change to this cherished space, long cared for by local volunteers who have planted and tended gardens along The Mall-Park, will earn the support of the community.

LAKE OF THE ISLES ICE RINK UPDATE

By Elizabeth Shaffer



Left: A couple holds hands while skating on Lake of the Isles in February. Right: A German-speaking family laughs together as they skate and push a sled across the ice. (Images: Craig Wilson)

Elizabeth Shaffer is the District 4 commissioner for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, representing most Hill & Lake neighborhoods and a Minneapolis City Council candidate for Ward 7. She lives in Lowry Hill.

In January, the Hill & Lake Press ran an informative article about the potential closing of the Lake of the Isles ice rink for the 2025-26 season. Since then, many Minneapolis and metro-area residents have reached out, expressing concerns and asking how they can help. In the past two weeks, my inbox and voicemail have been flooded with responses following a notice about the potential closure posted at the warming house, a new petition being circulated, and a recent news report. Thank you for all your input — I’m listening.

Background

During last year’s budget process, staff identified this skating location as a possible closure in winter 2025-26 due to budgetary pressures. At the time, I raised concerns and was told staff would reevaluate funding this year and address the issue in the upcoming budget process. Initial budget work is compiled by staff in April and finalized by commissioners in October or November. I am hopeful staff will reevaluate in favor of keeping this important community amenity open.

Lake of the Isles is the last lake ice rink in the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board system and sits in a regional park, providing free skating opportunities for many across the region. Additionally in the recently approved

Cedar-Isles master plan, the rink is slated to expand and include a skating “ribbon” path around the northern portion of the lake.

Community Voices

As I’ve read through your messages, it’s clear there is an unwavering connection to this place that goes back more than 45 years.

Jake spoke about this generational impact, sharing that his grandfather lived on the lake, his father and he both learned to skate there, and now he returns every season with his friends to play pickup hockey.

“As I’ve read through your messages, it’s clear there is an unwavering connection to this place that goes back more than 45 years.”

Ana, originally from a warm-weather country, was thrilled to send me a video of her young daughter embracing the cold and learning to skate.

Others wrote about the emotional, physical, mental, and social benefits of this space. Many appreciated the availability of free skates.

Emily, Aria, and Elizabeth, law students at the University of Minnesota, described the rink as their low-cost, fun way to spend weekends.

Bryce, who can’t afford a gym membership, shared that skating helps him stay active and fight the winter blues, describing “the inherent lightness of skating across a frozen surface that brings pure joy.”

Lastly, I’ve heard heartfelt stories of how the rink has allowed people to get to know their neighbors and become a natural place for relational connection. One person wrote that getting to know others is easy when you are “falling down on your butts and laughing your head off.” Connecting with one another and enjoying the beauty of the outdoors is what our park system is all about.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED:**

If you would like to advocate for this space, Lowry Hill resident Janet Hallaway and others have started a petition at www.change.org/LOTIskating

You can also email MPRB executive staff or sign up to speak during public comment time at MPRB board meetings.

YOUR UPTOWN AGENT

FOR HOME, AUTO & LIFE



Mention Hill & Lake Press & we'll make a \$20 donation to the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf when you call for a quote!

Steph Swanson, Agent
(612) 721-2248
stephanieswanson.com
steph@stephswanson.com



Bodywork and Massage Therapy

with Hannah



Offering:

- Swedish Massage
- Deep Tissue Massage
- Combination Massage & Facials

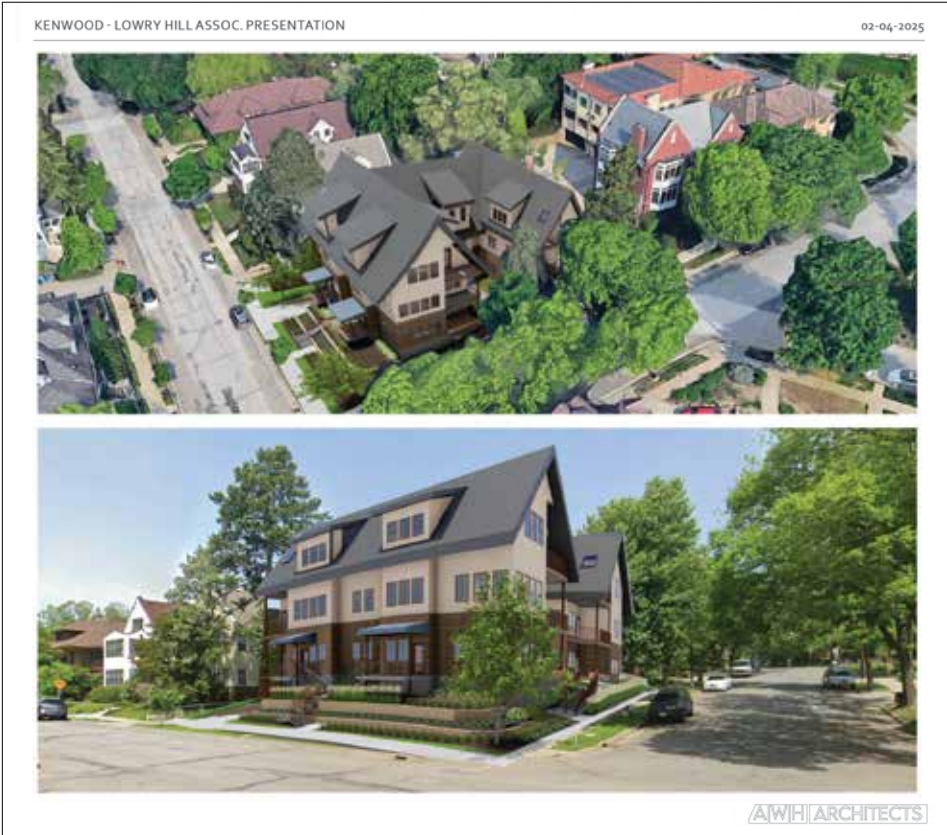
at The Uptown Wellness Center
2920 Bryant Avenue S, Suite 107
Office: 612-354-2928
Cell: 612-386-7499

 Around the corner from Bryant Lake Bowl and the Highpoint Center for Printmaking



“BAYLOR BOUTIQUE” PLAN IN LOWRY HILL CAUSES CONTROVERSY, SUFFERS SETBACK

By Marty Carlson



A rendering of the proposed Kenwood Boutique Condominium development, as submitted by the developer, with a floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.32. (Image: AWH Architects)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Kenwood.

Plans for a proposed eight-unit multiplex development in Lowry Hill, initially dubbed the “Baylor Boutique” and now called the “Kenwood Boutique” (see Hill & Lake Press, September - 2024), took a turn for the unusual in February, with the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA) endorsing the plan over objections from nearby neighbors, and Council Member Katie Cashman initially announcing her support for the plan, but then retracting it and asserting neutrality. The proposal reached the city’s planning commission on February 24, which sided with its staff recommendations and rejected one of two proposed variances, which would have allowed a structure in excess of 17,000 square feet on a 13,500 square foot lot.

The plan spearheaded by former Lowry Hill resident Tim Baylor and his company, JADT Development Group, LLC, envisions tearing down two existing, vintage triplexes at Fremont and Douglas, combining

the lots, and replacing the old structures with a building containing eight condominiums and 14 below-grade parking spaces, with a garage door facing Douglas. An earlier version of the plan was presented to the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole on August 1, 2024, but failed to win staff support at that time because it would have required either approval of five separate variances, or upzoning the lot or the entire area from Interior 2 (IN2) to Interior 3, which permits larger and more dense developments.

The latest version features a re-designed building that architects felt would blend better with the overall neighborhood yet would still require two variances. The first, and less controversial, was a variance allowing the structure to exceed maximum height limitations by just under seven feet, a request explained in part by the fact that the structure would be built into a hillside. The second, and more controversial, was a proposed variance that would have permitted the structure to exceed the maximum allowed floor area ratio

(FAR) by more than 60%. For reference, the maximum permitted FAR for an IN2 building is 0.8. The combined lots in question total 13,500 square feet, yielding a maximum gross floor area of 10,800 square feet for any building. The proposed square footage in the revised plan was 17,828, yielding a FAR of 1.32, an increase of 60.58% over the presumptive maximum.

On or about January 30, Mr. Baylor and his wife sent a letter to LHNA asking that the project be placed on the agenda for the association’s February 4 board meeting for “presentation, questions, and discussion.” Immediate neighbors say that they did not know about the presentation, nor were they provided with copies of the revised plan until later. After hearing from the developer at the meeting, the LHNA board voted to endorse the plan by sending a letter of support to the planning commission.

As word of the LHNA action reached immediate neighbors the next day, it sparked a robust email exchange, which included LHNA board members, Mr. Baylor and Council Member Cashman.

On February 7, Cashman sent an email to the concerned neighbor group stating that she had met with Mr. Baylor personally. She said her staff member had attended the LHNA board meeting, and emphasized, “The board unanimously voted to write a letter of support for the project.” In consequence, Cashman wrote, “I will be attending the planning commission meeting on Feb 24 and speaking in support [of the requested variances].” Cashman then listed her reasons, which included overall stalled development in the city, “increased tax revenue,” and “a new building [that] looks to be a beautiful addition to the neighborhood.”

Cashman’s email posed a significant problem, however. Decisions of the planning commission constitute a quasi-judicial proceeding and are appealable to the City Council, of which Cashman is a member. Those Council members also act in a quasi-judicial capacity, as both fact-finder and judge. In the words of the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust, “objectivity is key... [a]lthough elected officials need to be responsive to con-

stituent needs and opinions, actions or statements evidencing bias or a prejudging of a matter before a hearing could potentially result in a court reversing the decision of the board.”

Apparently realizing her error, Cashman sent a follow-up email to the neighbor group on February 18, stating, “My first email to you was about sharing the information I had on the current application process, as well as some thoughts on it... .” Cashman then stated that she was “listening to staff expertise on these applications,” and had reviewed the immediate neighbors’ concerns as well. Wrote Cashman: “I will of course not take a position on the development until it’s before me as a Council Member as is the proper conduct for a decision maker on a quasi-judicial matter. I would not like to expose the city to litigation.” Cashman then backtracked on her earlier promise to speak in favor of the development, stating “I will just be in the audience during the hearing [before the planning commission] next week... .”

Meanwhile, the planning commission staff report was not released until February 20. In that report, staff recommended granting the requested height variance (and an associated conditional use permit), but urged that the 60% FAR variance be denied. In their comments, staff asserted, “The applicants are not proposing to use the property in a reasonable manner that is keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance or comprehensive plan,” and “No challenges exist in complying with the ordinances based on circumstances unique to the property.”

At its February 24 meeting, the planning commission voted 5-1 to adopt the staff recommendations, denying the FAR variance. The developer now has choices that include appealing to the City Council or revising its plans in light of commission and staff comments.

Disclaimer: Because Editor Craig Wilson is an immediate neighbor of the proposed development, this article was edited by others, with oversight and final approval from the Hill & Lake Press Board Chair Mike Erlandson.



Frame Styles

Custom Framing
Gifts & Cards

Since 1986

2107 Penn Ave. S • Mpls, MN 55405
612-374-2420
framestyles.net

LAKE + IRVING

UPTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

Where classic American meets bold global-flavors that defy borders. Taste the unexpected, experience the unforgettable.

Monday - Thursday:
4 P.M. - 10 P.M.
Friday - Saturday:
11 A.M. - 10 P.M.
Sunday:
11 A.M. - 9 P.M.
612 354 2453



Free Estimates

Interior & Exterior Painting • Insurance Claims • Wood Finishing
Exterior Wood Restoration • Water Damage Repair • Patching • Enameling



greg@chileen.com
612-850-0325

30 years experience
Insured | References

INTERVIEWS WITH WARD 7 CANDIDATES COMPETING FOR THE DFL ENDORSEMENT:
ELIZABETH SHAFFER, KATIE CASHMAN AND PAULA CHESLEY

By Terry White



Elizabeth Shaffer (Image: Ryo Hamasaki); Council Member Cashman (Image: Peter Aehl Consulting); Paula Chesley (Image: Paula for Ward 7)

Terry White is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press and publishes the Better Minneapolis newsletter. He lives in Field.

These interviews were conducted from Feb. 14-16 and have been edited for purposes of clarity and space. Several questions asked of the candidates were omitted due to space constraints. Interviews with each were 45-60 minutes long.

Why are you running to be the next Council member representing Ward 7?

Paula Chesley: In March 2020 I moved close to Hennepin, behind the Walgreens. It was a completely different neighborhood than it is now. I've seen the decline firsthand. I've seen how it has impacted my neighbors. I'm a block captain so they contact me with issues. People have had their apartment buildings broken into three times in one month. I wanted to get more involved, so I joined the East Isles Neighborhood Association and formed a safety walking club. There are many issues in Minneapolis that need urgent support, and I don't think the current Council is prioritizing them. That's why I have stepped up, to do even more. I want to do more to revitalize Uptown and Downtown and focus on public safety.

Elizabeth Shaffer: The main reason I'm bringing my name forward is because I think there is a real need on the Council for a reset. We saw it on the park board in 2021-22. I feel like there's a disconnect from the governing that's happening with the practical on-the-ground impact for residents. I feel we need to cast an inspiring vision that is different from what we have now. It's a burden we all carry. Core city services are a strong police force and nonviolent responders.

Katie Cashman: I feel like I've made a lot of good progress in my first year on the Council. There's a lot of projects that I'm undergoing

that are multi-year projects that I want to see through. There's still a lot of work to do when it comes to public safety, Uptown revitalization, traffic calming and traffic safety in the city. Generally, just restoring pride in Minneapolis and recovering from the past few years.

What do you believe are the top priorities of Ward 7 voters?

Katie Cashman: I think things have shifted since Trump took office. I would've answered that question differently last year. But now I feel like things are a little bit more heightened as it relates to human rights and civil liberties and democracy in general. But still, the underlying priorities are improving public safety, improving housing development, improving economic opportunities and job opportunities in the city and improving our public spaces. Those tend to be the top issues for voters.

Paula Chesley: In the Lakes area, it is definitely public safety. Other top priorities are affordable housing and homelessness. Fixing Uptown and Downtown.

Elizabeth Shaffer: Number one is our safety. Yesterday I was at a community event with 25 people at Fox Alley coffee shop and a gentleman told me he just wants to be able to walk from his condo down Nicollet to the river, into the restaurants near the Guthrie, without being fearful. Residents want to be able to take advantage of this beautiful city and many don't feel as though they can because of safety concerns. Second, I would say it is for consumers and businesses to have engaging options. Right now, I know a lot of neighbors do not shop in Minneapolis; they go to Saint Louis Park.

What differentiates you from the other candidates seeking the DFL endorsement?

Elizabeth Shaffer: I know the voice of Ward 7. Over my last

three years [on the Minneapolis Park Board] I have based my representation on listening and trying to dialogue with all viewpoints. I do this and then make decisions based on the voice of the community. I'm not afraid to dig into complex problems that need to be solved, I don't hold them at arm's length. I follow up on issues. I keep people informed on issues about which they are concerned. I'm not saying there is only one voice for Ward 7, but I'd say my style of representation is based on listening and representing the community.

Katie Cashman: I'm the most experienced candidate. I've been in this role for a little over a year, and there is a pretty steep learning curve. It is not easy to get onboarded as a Council member. There was a big gap between when former Council Member Goodman left and when I came on. Even just transferring email accounts, phone numbers, office, and orienting yourself and being able to deliver for people. Having relationships at City Hall and knowing how to pass legislation are important. I authored over a hundred resolutions last year. I authored six ordinances, most of which passed unanimously. I've done the legislative work. I understand the role and have built strong relationships across the city and across the ward. I think Ward 7 values experience. The last Council member we had for a quarter century. It's nice to have a Council member who knows what they're doing. It definitely benefits constituents to have someone in this seat with experience.

Paula Chesley: Katie Cashman is the incumbent and has a voting record and a record of how she does things in the ward. I would distinguish myself in terms of how I would show up in the ward and different votes that I would take. My focus, energy and attention would be different. I would be more responsive when people contacted me. I would listen to all stakeholders. Sometimes Katie

has taken months to respond to people who have reached out to her, or not at all. My focus on businesses in Uptown and public safety would be different. The police contract is only a steppingstone. I would work with businesses that want to help promote recruitment for the MPD. I will encourage regular meetings between the community and police to build trust and foster a sense of community. I will bring fresh energy and perspective. I travel on Hennepin every day. I see what the issues are.

Uptown has seen a lot of businesses leave and vacant buildings. What is your plan to revitalize the area? Is there more the city could be doing to keep and attract business to the area?

Katie Cashman: Absolutely the city could be doing more. It's frustrating that the city doesn't do place-based economic development. Really, until this year when me, the mayor and Council Vice President Chughtai went in together on Uptown Investments in the 2025 budget. This year, I think there's going to be a lot of investment in this space. So Vibrant Storefronts is one program that I'm really excited about and hoping to get off the ground in Uptown. The vacant storefronts on the corner of Lake and Hennepin, those property owners have the opportunity to participate where an arts organization will be able to use their property. And the city pays for it for two years. I believe that Uptown really needs a broad stakeholder visioning process, which is why I budgeted for a technical assistance panel for Uptown, which is just a fancy way of saying that we'll create like a master plan for Uptown to guide development in the coming years. And it'll involve property owners. It'll involve residents, business owners, different stakeholders in the area to decide what is the future of Uptown going to be.

Paula Chesley: I would like to see a Business Improvement District created. There also needs to be in-

creased safety, more police presence and neighborhood ambassadors. A Business Improvement District would allow there to be curating of businesses in the area, similar to what you see in a mall. I would like to see state funds help get this started, at least for the first few years, to avoid any tax increases.

Elizabeth Shaffer: The Downtown Business Association has some things they could provide, it's worth exploring their model. A Business Improvement District for Uptown could be highly successful. I would also work with the business owners, people trying to make businesses work, and ask for their views. I want to know what I can do to support them. I don't think small grants for things like new outside awnings will be enough. The problem is more structural. We have to figure out a way to keep it from being more expensive to do business in the city than it is in the suburbs. Safety is key. It was the main reason the Apple store closed. They hardly ever close a store, and I was told they couldn't ensure the safety of their employees, they couldn't trust who was going to come into the store next with a weapon. I would leverage the expertise of community and business leaders to solve these issues. They often find it difficult to engage the City Council.

The Minneapolis charter requires that there be 1.7 police officers for every 1,000 people. That is approximately 730 officers. In January 2025, there were 579 sworn officers. Do you support increasing the number of officers to be in compliance with the charter? How does Minneapolis get there?

Paula Chesley: I would like to see more than the charter minimum, but that would be a good start. It's going to take time to build up. Additional recruitment is needed. I support methods like the one used at Colonial Foods, where they have created a little station in the store to encourage people to join.

Elizabeth Shaffer: Yes, I do support getting to that number and

some say it needs to be even greater. We cannot take money away from recruitment budgets like what happened in the budget cycle last year. I think we have to encourage outreach in various communities about the opportunity to be in this career. I show my appreciation for those that are protecting our community.

Katie Cashman: I support continuing to recruit. I think next year, this year, 2025 we're set to gain another 70 officers. At the end of last year, we ended up with like 11 more officers than we had at the beginning of the year, which was the first time in five years that we've had a net gain of officers at the end of the year. So, that's good news. And with more police officers, we can do more hot spot strategies where someone gets to know the community, gets out of their vehicle, it isn't like responding to 911 calls, but like doing an actual beat. That would be my vision for how, as the police department grows. Obviously, the Council doesn't have authority over operations of MPD, but we can support the budget asks that come before us. We can pass legislative directives to get information from them about certain programs. And with good relationships we can get targeted programs done. I'm also excited that we're expanding the civilian investigator non-sworn officers so that we have better case clearance on police investigations. Our case clearance rates are still low. I feel like it is important to restore trust in the police and that includes having an investigation followed through to completion. Cuts made to the recruitment budget were like those made in other departments. Recruitment efforts can be funded with existing budget dollars since the MPD has 200 roles budgeted that are not filled.

Do you feel Mayor Frey deserves a third term as mayor? Is there common ground you believe you can work with him on?

Elizabeth Shaffer: First, I don't think anyone deserves their role. I think it's something voters have to wrestle with and look at the records of candidates. I definitely respect Frey and will definitely be

able to work with him. However, I do not see myself as endorsing any mayoral candidate, maybe that will change. I'm trying to present who I am to the community and to bring people together. We need to be able to listen to each other in a better way than what we've been doing. I have demonstrated as a park commissioner the importance of seeing my fellow electeds as people, as mothers, fathers and sisters, within a broader context. I really believe our differences of opinion can be an asset.

Katie Cashman: The mayor and I have worked together on many, many things this year. One example, the office-to-residential conversions for housing downtown. The HERC [the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center, also known as "the garbage burner,"] resolution and getting closer to zero waste and shutting down the HERC is another. However, I would like to see new leadership in the mayor's office. I think generally people are ready for change. When you have the same person in the office for so long, it starts to feel a little stale and you want to get some new ideas and new energy into that position. I have met with all the mayoral candidates. I appreciate that all three of the new candidates value what Council members have to say, which is something that I don't feel like the mayor's office always does. I will be supporting Emily Koski's race. To what extent is still to be determined. I think the democratic process requires going out there and talking to people and pitching yourself and seeing what issues are on people's minds and what continues to come up. So, I wouldn't take a firm stance right now because like I said in the beginning of the interview, with Trump coming into office things are changing very rapidly. New issues are emerging. I would not be surprised if we had civil unrest again this year. And it's important for a mayor to be able to rise to the occasion during a crisis.

Paula Chesley: I've met with him, and he's been responsive when I have contacted him for constituent services. There is common ground where we can work together. I've

reached out to all the mayoral candidates and want to work with whoever is elected. I'm open to collaborating with anyone. One example of how I've collaborated with people who had very different opinions was in the neighborhood association. There was disagreement on when to start safety walks. I brought people together and got them started within a month or two. Those safety walks are still happening. They have built a community and now people are more familiar with when to call 911 or 311 and they have met their police inspector.

What do you like to do in the summer when you have free time? Are there any other facts about you that you'd like to share that will help voters understand who you are as a person?

Katie Cashman: I come from a large Irish Catholic family. I'm one of seven siblings and have like an infinite number of cousins. I really appreciate community and being together, gathering, finding ways to get together as much as possible, which is what I love about my job, is that I get to work with people every day. And in the summer, you can definitely find me on Cedar Lake. I love to kayak, canoe and paddleboard. And it's really fun going down the channel on Cedar Lake and running into constituents.

Paula Chesley: I like to go to beaches with friends and garden. Last year I transformed my entire backyard into a food garden. I try to do edible landscaping as much as possible. Sometimes my entire weekend would be like farming.

Elizabeth Shaffer: I like to spend a lot of time in the outdoors in the summer. Well, in the winter too, but anything that's a physical challenge kind of intrigues me. I'm a cyclist. I like to bike the Grand Rounds. I run and sign up for various races around the lakes. I'm also a long-distance hiker and have hiked the whole Superior Hiking Trail. I love spending time with my family.

SHOP
LOCAL
EAT
LOCAL
ENJOY
LOCAL
VOTE
LOCAL

Local elections affect where you live and work.





Real Estate,
Done Well

THE BUSCH GROUP

Tel 612-799-3639
Cell 612-799-3294
jennifer@thebuschgroup.com
Broker • Owner

RESIDENTIAL | ESTATE
INVESTMENT | COMMERCIAL

MEET CITY COUNCIL WARD 10 CANDIDATE: LYDIA MILLARD

By Marty Carlson



Lydia Millard (Image: Lydia Millard Ward 10 City Council)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Kenwood.

As profiled in last month’s issue of the Hill & Lake Press, the race for the Ward 7 City Council seat has heated up with the entrance of two challengers to incumbent Katie Cashman, who won her 2023 election by a razor-thin 177 votes.

Ward 10 is a different matter: Incumbent Council Member (and now Council Vice President) Aisha Chughtai won her 2021 and 2023 elections with approximately 60% of the vote both times, marking her as a formidable candidate.

Political newcomer and Uptown resident Lydia Millard says she’s up for the challenge and will seek the DFL endorsement.

So who is Lydia Millard?

With deep roots in Minneapolis, Millard says she’s all about hard work and organization. Her resume supports that contention.

Although still a relatively young 33 (albeit slightly older than both Chughtai and Cashman), Millard has worked corporate management positions since she was 21, currently working as a senior business partner of store operations at Target headquarters, and serving as executive director of the Stevens Square Community Organization, a position she assumed last August.

Born in Gary, Indiana, Millard moved to Minnesota with her family at the age of 2, growing up in North Minneapolis, while her mother worked as an accountant for the city. Schooling began with Head Start, then Harvest Prep, Willard Elementary and middle school at Ascension Catholic School.

Millard started high school at Benilde-St. Margaret’s, where she was a few years ahead of Cashman, but finished in Louisville, Kentucky, after her

family relocated in her junior year. Active in extracurriculars, Millard was a member of the inaugural Farview Park girls’ basketball team, and was a theater kid, appearing in performances at the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis.

After graduating from high school in Louisville, Millard promptly moved back to the Twin Cities and got to work.

By 21 she had worked her way up to a supervisor’s position at UPS in Northeast Minneapolis, the youngest supervisor in the facility’s history, the only woman, and one of only two people of color.

Millard says this was one of the most formative jobs of her life, a highly competitive position that reinforced the importance of open, honest communication and balancing competing interests.

Millard’s trajectory at UPS was interrupted an ailing grandmother in Louisville, and she moved back to Kentucky for four years to help care for her.

While there, she spent three years in a pre-med program at Kentucky State University, an HBCU, but ultimately concluded that a life in medicine wasn’t for her.

“From her Uptown apartment, Millard witnessed residents and businesses steadily leaving, crime increasing, chronic homelessness causing chronic problems, all while rents have risen and the affordability of the area has steadily declined.

Millard believes that the problems flow, in part, from a lack of leadership being present in the community, characterizing Ward 10’s current leadership as inattentive and combative.”

After moving back to Minnesota, Millard got a job as an operations manager for Marriott, a position she held until the COVID pandemic disrupted the hospitality industry and she was furloughed.

The furlough didn’t last long, though. Millard was actively recruited by Target, where she became an executive team lead for service and engagement, managing front-end services for the Target store on Nicollet Avenue, downtown.

In that position, Millard managed a team of over 80 people, with responsibility extending to

cashiers, checkout and customer service.

Millard also provided on-site training for more senior Target executive hires, and her skills in that area got her noticed and promoted to her current job at the company’s headquarters.

Millard says that her background in organization and planning means that when she sees a problem, she tries to jump in and solve it.

She serves as co-chair of Target’s Minneapolis Volunteer Chapter, and her volunteer efforts have included Boys & Girls Club, mentoring and job prep for young people, working with neighborhood organizations, and preparing refugee meal baskets.

Millard also serves on two nonprofit boards, chairing the Partnership in Property Commercial Land Trust, and serving as a board member for the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (which sponsors Art-a-Whirl, among other things). A contact through a networking group led to her current position leading the Stevens Square Community Organization.

Millard says her busy work and volunteer life didn’t leave much time for politics, but that changed after witnessing the decline of Uptown and the challenges faced by the Stevens Square and Whittier communities.

From her Uptown apartment, Millard witnessed residents and businesses steadily leaving, crime increasing, chronic homelessness causing chronic problems, all while rents have risen and the affordability of the area has steadily declined.

Millard believes that the problems flow, in part, from a lack of leadership being present in the community, characterizing Ward 10’s current leadership as inattentive and combative.

In particular, Millard says she’s heard from business owners and residents who regularly complain of unreturned phone calls and an overall lack of constituent services.

Since announcing her candidacy, Millard lists constituent services as her top issue, along with supporting small businesses, working with the Fifth Precinct to address the public safety crisis, and finding practical, affordable housing solutions.

As to this latter point, Millard is opposed to legalizing encampments, which she says are not dignified or safe, and she says the different branches of local government need to work together to address the root causes of homelessness.

Millard says that during her time managing the downtown Target store, she had regular, in-depth conversations with a number of individuals who were chronically homeless. The result of those interactions is a belief that homelessness has four major root causes: (1) substance abuse, (2) mental health issues, (3) post-incarceration transition problems, and (4) people who simply fell through the cracks as kids. Millard says that only by approaching these issues in concert will the problem be effectively addressed, and she hopes to work with existing, successful organizations to leverage their experience and expand their coverage so these critical needs can be effectively met.



insta:@combinempls

CITIZENS OF HUMANITY
[w + m]

HANNOH WESSEL
[w + m]

C.P. COMPANY
[m]

AEQUAMENTE
[w]

XIRENA
[w]

CLAIRE V
[w]

INIS MEAIN
[m]

THE GREAT
[w + m]

CYM WARKOV
[h o m e]

BALDASSARI
[m]



combinempls.com
1609 west lake street
612 • 353 • 5163
curated by mike pickart

MEET THE PARK BOARD DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE: CATHY ABENE

By Marty Carlson



Cathy Abene (Photo: Cathy Abene for Minneapolis Parks)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Kenwood.

With the mayor’s office and all 13 City Council seats on the ballot this year, city politics have largely dominated discussions of the upcoming 2025 election, but the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is on the ballot this year as well. All nine park board seats (six districts, three at large) are in play.

As of now, two commissioners, Elizabeth Shaffer and Becka Thompson, are giving up their seats to run for City Council, and newly-appointed at-large commissioner Charles Rucker (who replaced Alicia Crudup mid-term) is mounting a run for Thompson’s District 2 seat, opening up his current at-large position.

That’s a long way of saying there could be significant change in the composition of the next park board, and voters are well-advised to pay attention to these important races as well.

One commissioner who wants to keep her current job is Park Board President Cathy Abene, who represents District 6, covering all of southwest Minneapolis.

Abene (pronounced “ah-BEN-ne”) became known to many in the Hill and Lakes area after she took an active interest in the planning process for the Cedar-Isles Master Plan in 2022-23. Even though the specific park area was outside her district, Abene became a fixture at community meetings, and played an active role in formulating and revising the final plan document. Now, because of redistricting, the boundaries of District 6 are shifting to include both Cedar-Isles-Dean and East Bde Maka Ska, bringing Abene squarely into the circulation area of the Hill & Lake Press beyond West Maka Ska.

So who is Cathy Abene?

In addition to her current role as park board president, she’s a professional engineer with a long history of public service, an outdoor enthusiast who is deeply committed to her family.

Abene was born into a large Irish-Catholic family in Chicago, but her Minnesota roots run deep. Her grandmother was in one of the first classes at Washburn High School before the Great Depression forced a move to Chicago. Abene’s family moved back to the Twin Cities when she was in elementary school, and she grew up in Wayzata, graduated from Benilde-St. Margaret’s, then picked up a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota.

Abene began her professional engineering career in the private sector, but quickly shifted to public work in the in the 1990s. She worked first for Hennepin County transportation, followed by a brief stint with Seattle’s department of transportation, then moving back to the Twin Cities to work for the University of Minnesota, where she has remained for the past 17 years. Abene currently serves as the University’s principal civil engineer for water resources throughout the state, and she says this focus on natural systems and the need to work cooperatively with many branches of government helped her hit the ground running on the Park Board.

Abene currently lives in Lynnhurst. She and her

by millions the maintenance budget for deteriorating parkways, along with the board’s leadership role in managing stormwater runoff, and its recent decision to establish an endowment — something Abene believes could be transformative in future years.

Abene says this is all reflective of the board’s renewed focus on protecting natural areas and systems, and the need to re-prioritize the maintenance of its existing built structures, many of which have deteriorated badly over the years. These areas of renewed focus dovetail neatly with citizen concerns as well: Water quality, natural areas conservation and deferred maintenance all feature prominently in constituent feedback, and they mesh neatly with Abene’s own professional background. Sports fields are also getting attention.

Overall, Abene says the current board has learned to work well together, acting cooperatively on points of common interest, while keeping a respectful tone in areas of disagreement. Upcoming challenges include ensuring the system’s continued financial stability in an era of shrinking tax base

“Abene currently serves as the University’s Principal Civil Engineer for water resources throughout the state, and she says this focus on natural systems and the need to work cooperatively with many branches of government helped her hit the ground running on the Park Board.”

“That systems focus is evident in her work on the board, and Abene speaks with evident pride in the board’s recent accomplishments, particularly its agreement with the City of Minneapolis to increase by millions the maintenance budget for deteriorating parkways, along with the board’s leadership role in managing stormwater runoff, and its recent decision to establish an endowment — something Abene believes could be transformative in future years.”

wife, Maren, have been together for over 30 years. They have three kids, twin daughters Harriet (named after the lake!) and Antonia, and a son, Moritz, all in their 20’s. Running for park board was Abene’s first foray into electoral politics, and she says her urge to serve sprang from watching the city struggle during the early days of the pandemic and the George Floyd murder and riots. Always an engineer, Abene has a passion for systems, and says she ran for park board to ensure its public systems lived up to their promises and delivered results for all.

That systems focus is evident in her work on the board, and Abene speaks with evident pride in the board’s recent accomplishments, particularly its agreement with the City of Minneapolis to increase

and rising property taxes, and working to maintain a stable, trusted relationship with the City Council.

Abene is clearly excited for the future, but — with open seats and all positions on the ballot — she says she’s taking nothing for granted. At present, she is not aware of any challenger for her specific seat, but the filing period for this ranked-choice election doesn’t officially open until late July.

ART + DESIGN CLASSES FOR KIDS + TEENS

AT MCAD, KIDS AND TEENS GET TO COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES. EXPLORE A VARIETY OF ART MEDIUMS AND NEW IDEAS. ART CLASSES FOR AGES 6-18. SIGN UP NOW!

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE of ART and DESIGN

EXPERIMENT WITH ART THIS SUMMER

M CAD

La Grande Bande presents its 2024/25 Season

Supper & Songs

A night full of food, friends, and entertainment with delightful servings of Bach and Handel

Black Forest Inn

1 E 26th St, Minneapolis

Friday, March 28

6:15PM Doors Open

6:30PM Pre-concert talk/Dinner begins

7:00PM Concert performance

The celebration of Handel's 350th birthday continues with La Grande Bande's much beloved "Dine Out" series of casual concert performances. On the menu is Bach's famous comic cantata about coffee and a rarely-heard cantata by Handel celebrating musicians' favorite patron saint and muse, Saint Cecilia.

Rounding out the musical feast are instrumental works by Arcangelo Corelli and Georg Philipp Telemann, two colleagues and friends of Handel's. Be sure to plan and join us for delicious food, incredible music, and one of our favorite evenings of the Season.

Tickets

\$20 (advance), \$55 (with Dinner), \$10 (students)

Use discount code [HLP325](#) to save 10%

Online at www.lagrandebande.org/tickets or call 507-237-6539.
Please contact La Grande Bande directly with questions.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Legacy of
Lilith Fair
a celebration of women in music

pandora's
OTHER BOX

Created & performed
by **Pandora's**
Other Box



scan for
tickets &
more info



Saturday,
March 15

6:30 pm:
Open for cash bar

7:30 pm:
Concert in Theater



CLUB DAY
MONDAYS
with **Lori Dokken**

Twice a month, join local performer extraordinaire Lori Dokken as she tickles the ivories and welcomes different musical guests, joining everyone together for a special start to the week. Open to the public; everyone welcome!

First & Third Mondays

5:00 pm: Open for drinks & meal from our nonprofit partner Involve MN

5:30-7:00 pm: Concert

womansclub.org, 612.813.5300

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

Martinis & Meatballs

- MONDAYS -

CRAFT COCKTAILS AND A SPECIALITY MEATBALL MENU!

Tapas Tuesdays

ENJOY A SELECTION OF SMALL PLATES AT HAPPY HOUR PRICES

Cheap Date Night™

- WEDNESDAYS -

ROMAN PIZZA DINNER FOR 2
OR 4 COURSE DINNER FOR 2

plus A BOTTLE OF WINE, OR 2 DRAFT BEERS or ITALIAN SODAS

Lasagna Night

- FRIDAYS -

ENJOY OUR MANY-LAYERED LASAGNAS; VEGETARIAN OR BEEF BOLONESE!

Neighborhood Night

- SUNDAYS -

"BLUE PLATE SPECIALS" AND HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT LONG

pinoli

1601 WEST LAKE ST.
PROUDLY IN UPTOWN

PINOLI-MPLS.COM [PINOLI-MPLS](#) [PINOLI_MPLS](#)

“The cream of Twin Cities classical musicians”
Rob Hubbard, Minneapolis Star Tribune



THE ISLES ENSEMBLE



Exploring Passion: The Fire Within Us
Sunday, March 30, 2:00 pm
Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church

Passion originally meant “great suffering,” but today it is more often used to connote romantic love. This program will present great works of chamber music that depict both suffering and love, as well as other emotionally-charged works ranging from ecstatic fervor, to burning desire, to utter despair.

Admission at the door: \$25 or pay what you can (children & students free)



IslesEnsemble.org

JIM CONAWAY

HOMER’S ODYSSEY

MARCH 15-APRIL 19, 2025

Opening Reception | Saturday March 15 from 2-5pm



GROVELAND
GALLERY

25 Groveland Terrace | Minneapolis, MN 55403 | 612-377-7800
www.grovelandgallery.com | info@grovelandgallery.com



IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH – MARCH 2025

Join us in honoring MARY BAKER EDDY, a spiritual pioneer, educator, and reformer, alongside Minnesota’s trailblazing women whose transformative contributions have shaped history, reformed education, and inspired progress.

“This is woman’s hour, in all the good tendencies, charities, and reforms of to-day.” — MARY BAKER EDDY

Location

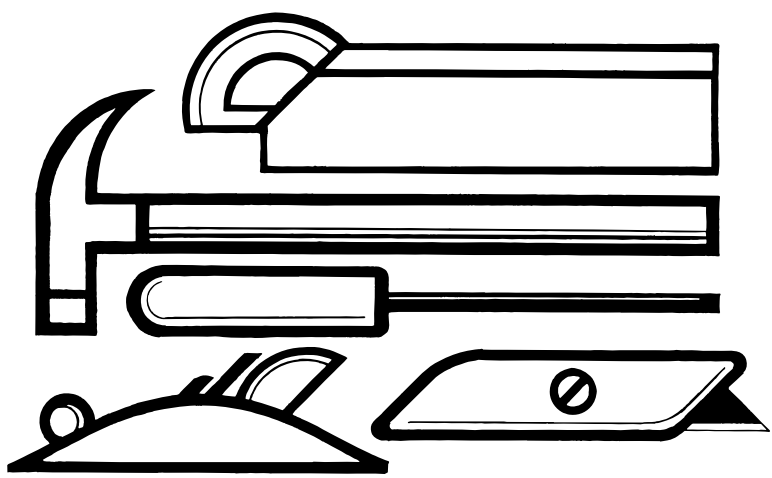
Christian Science Reading Room
More than a bookstore - an active hub of discovery, healing and inspiration

1822 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55403
secondchurchminneapolis.com • 612.377.5668

Exhibit open during Reading Room hours

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Sunday: | 9:30 am to 11:45 am |
| Monday: | 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm |
| Tuesday: | 10:00 am to 1:00 pm |
| Wednesday: | 3:30 pm to 8:45 pm |
| Thursday: | 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm |
| Friday: | 10:00 am to 1:00 pm |
| Saturday: | 10:00 am to 1:00 pm |

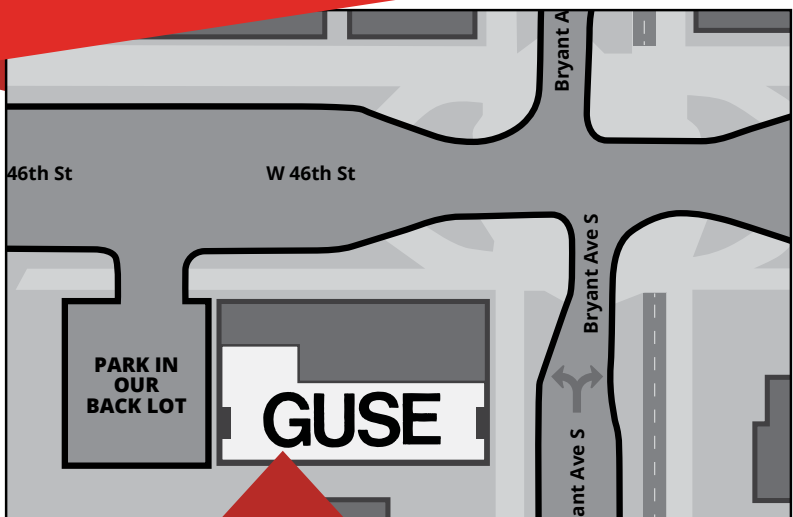
GUSE HARDWARE



- Paint & Sundries
– with color matching for all brands of paint
- Plumbing & Electrical
- Tools & Supplies
- Housewares
- Garden Supplies
- Pet & Bird Supplies
- Window & Screen Repair
- Winter Weather Safety Needs

Mention this ad for 5% off any purchase of \$30 or more.

Your neighborhood
HARDWARE STORE
for over 100 years!



Pronounced /GŌŌ ZĒĒ/
GUSE HARDWARE
4602 BRYANT AVE S
612.824.7655



Lowry Hill Update

A recording of our Neighborhood Safety Meeting is now available at our website! The Kenwood, Lowry Hill, East Isles and Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhoods co-hosted this to hear updates from the City and MPD on improvements in safety. More than 200+ people attended in-person and online.

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, and takes only minutes to maintain: mn.adopt-a-drain.org

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

♦♦ Stay warm out there! ♦♦



Neighborhood Walks

Mar. 15 • Apr. 19 3rd 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.

Lowry Hill Board Meeting

Apr. 1 1st Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8 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

Lowry Hill Annual Meeting

May 20 Tuesday, 5 PM social, 6–7:30 PM meeting
First Unitarian Church: 900 Mt. Curve Ave
Gather with neighbors to hear from local leaders, learn about LHNA's work and achievements, and elect our new board members. Consider running for the board!

Support Lowry Hill

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

lowryhillneighborhood.org
for full details, newsletter sign-up and more



Hill & Lake Press

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

- East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association (EBMSNA)



- East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA)



- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)



- Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO)



- Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA)



- West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council (WMSNC)



WEST MAKA SKA
neighborhood council

urban expedition

passport to adventure • 2025

Feb 23

Czech Republic & Slovakia

Mar 30

Guatemala

Apr 13

Venezuela

May 4

Ethiopia

Travel the world without leaving Saint Paul!™

LANDMARK CENTER

landmarkcenter.org • 75 Fifth Street West, Saint Paul, MN 55102

ICEHOUSE

MPLS. MINN.

LIVE MUSIC VENUE

FULL FOOD + DRINK MENU

JAZZ BRUNCH SATURDAYS + SUNDAYS

MARCH FEATURES

SUNDAY 9TH

SALSA DANCING MATINEE

FRIDAY 28TH

SPACE MONKEY MAFIA

SATURDAY 29TH

YEV ALBUM RELEASE

EVERY TUESDAY:

LIGHTER CO. RESIDENCY

CALENDAR + TICKETS

HTTPS://WWW.ICEHOUSEMPLS.COM

2528 NICOLLET AVE SOUTH | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404 | 612.276.6523

Hill & Lake Press

FRIDAYS AT KOWALSKI'S

By Susan Lenfestey



Nathaniel Harris (Image: Courtesy of Nathaniel Harris)

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

One of the delights of our neighborhood is proximity to, well, everything. And one of my favorite everything's is Kowalski's Market on Hennepin, because it's an easy stroll from our house and a very nice place to shop. And because of Nathaniel Harris, a street musician who you may have heard playing at various venues around town. Or at Kowalski's.

Harris grew up in Chicago, where his love of music was nurtured by his mother, a gospel singer, and by his older brother who taught him to play guitar. In high school he played in the orchestra but was drawn to the music of Motown, and to Chicago's own Earth, Wind and Fire, the band he says most influenced his own style. He moved to Minneapolis in 1995 and worked at a Christian-based recovery center and with vulnerable teens through the Strong Mind, Strong Body Foundation. In recent years, he's been able to support himself as a musician.

About four years ago he started busking on the sidewalk outside of Kowalski's, where his eclectic mix of blues, soul and funk, infused with his joyful spirit, caught the attention of customers like me. It also caught the attention of Ryan Wojciak, the manager of Kowalski's at the time, who invited Harris to play in the café on Friday evenings. His gigs were lively affairs, with Harris jamming with other musicians and holding an open mic for just about anyone who wanted to perform, including students and Kowalski's employees.

I'm writing in the past tense because while doing this interview, I learned that due to the downturn of businesses in Uptown and the continuing road construction on Hennepin Avenue,

Kowalski's has had to put the Friday evening programs on hold. Harris continues to play at three other Kowalski's stores and according to Dan Leitner, manager of the Hennepin store, they hope to have him play outside in the spring, and in the café once business picks up.

His temporary (we hope) departure from Kowalski's is a reminder of how vulnerable our local businesses are during the disruption of the Hennepin Avenue reconfiguration. Please do your part. Shop, eat and listen locally.



TO HEAR HIS MUSIC:

You can hear Nathaniel Harris play "upbeat music for an upbeat audience" at various locations, including the Midtown Global Market on March 20th, from 12-2 pm.

To find out other dates and locations, go to —

@nathanielharrislive

Nathaniel Harris Live




OUR DEVOTION makes YOUR SELECTION better.

What happens when two fashion-obsessed love birds run an optical shop? Amazing things! (And a few nights on the couch).

Stop by to view our current collection/labor of love.

4318 Upton Ave S. MPLS
owloptical.com
612-367-4106





ELIZABETH SHAFER
for CITY COUNCIL

WARD 7

Your Voice for Ward 7
elizabethshaffer.com

Stop by and Meet Elizabeth

Kowalski's Cafe at 2440 Hennepin Avenue
Thursday, March 6th, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Fawkes Alley Coffee at 1621 Harmon Place
Thursday, March 13th, Noon - 2 p.m.

Cuppa Java at 400 Penn Avenue S
Thursday, March 20th, 5 - 7 p.m.

Rustica at 3224 W Lake Street
Monday, March 24th, 10 a.m. - Noon



For more about Elizabeth, visit -
elizabethshaffer.com

Prepared and paid for by the Campaign for Elizabeth Shaffer, P.O. Box 50289, Minneapolis, MN 55403

BRIDGEMAN’S: A FIXTURE OF HENNEPIN AVENUE FOR OVER 40 YEARS

By Josie Owen



Left: the iconic Bridgeman’s facade on Hennepin Avenue. (Image: Bridgeman’s), Right: In honor of their 80th anniversary, Bridgeman’s revived the historic La La Palooza for the 2016 Minnesota State Fair.

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

How do you spot a longtime Minneapolis resident? They can say, “I ate a La La Palooza.” From 1938 to 1985, Bridgeman’s Ice Cream, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, stood at the corner of Hennepin Avenue and 25th ½ Street — where Dunn Brothers is today.

Bridgeman’s Ice Cream Shoppes traces its roots to 1883, when Henry Bridgeman began peddling fresh milk door to door from a goat cart in Duluth. He grew the business into the largest dairy operation in the Midwest. His two sons had their own vision. In 1933, Roy and Chester Bridgeman started making ice cream in Duluth, aiming to replace the corner drugstore soda fountain model. Instead, they sought to “transform the old-fashioned ice cream parlor into an ice cream palace, where tempting dairy products would be dispensed in modern, sparkling-clean surroundings.”

They opened three ice cream parlors near Duluth in 1936 and expanded to other cities, including Minneapolis, in 1938.

Growth and Challenges

Despite its popularity, Bridgeman’s faced many challenges as it grew. Roy Bridgeman died in 1940. In 1951, one of their Minneapolis stores suffered a large fire. In 1953, Chester Bridgeman, dealing with a serious illness, decided to sell the company to Land O’Lakes Creameries Inc.

When Land O’Lakes acquired the chain in 1952, they added an apostrophe (changing “Bridgeman” to “Bridgeman’s”) and expanded the menu to include food. In 1959, they opened the first freestanding soda grill at 37th Street and Lake Street in Minneapolis. The company continued to grow, eventually operating 54 locations.

The La La Palooza Challenge

The Bridgeman family remained involved and never abandoned its original ice cream vision. In 1956, Bill Bridgeman and two managers, Vern Willert and Del Klock, invented the La La Palooza.

“It had eight scoops of ice cream and double servings of butterscotch, pineapple and strawberry toppings. It was topped with nuts, cherries, banana slices and whipped cream. Customers who finished one earned a button

that read: ‘I ate a La La Palooza.’”

A Beloved Workplace

Sue Westerman, a Lowry Hill resident, worked at Bridgeman’s in 1979 as a junior at West High School. She recalls the fun of working dinner shifts with the mostly young staff, serving families, couples and groups of friends who loved the Bridgeman’s experience. The Hot Fudge Banana Sundae and Banana Split were the most popular orders, though many customers were intrigued by the La La Palooza — few, however, were brave enough to attempt it.

One perk of working there was a free ice cream at the end of each shift. “I got mine in a cup and took it home,” Westerman said. She kept doing this until her freezer had about 40 cups of ice cream.

“It was just too yummy to pass on!”

The Decline of Bridgeman’s Restaurants

By the early 1980s, Bridgeman’s faced financial difficulties and began closing unprofitable locations and remodeling others. In 1983, Land O’Lakes sold 26 corporate locations and 18 franchises to Wayne Thede, the chain’s largest franchisee at the time. However, Thede struggled financially and filed for bankruptcy. City Realty acquired the company to pull it out of bankruptcy.

The last Bridgeman’s location in Minneapolis — on Hiawatha Avenue — closed around 2015. The restaurant operations were sold to Embers, while the ice cream manufacturing business was sold to Steve Lampi. Bridgeman’s ice cream, however, remained available in grocery stores and restaurants.

A Revival of an Icon

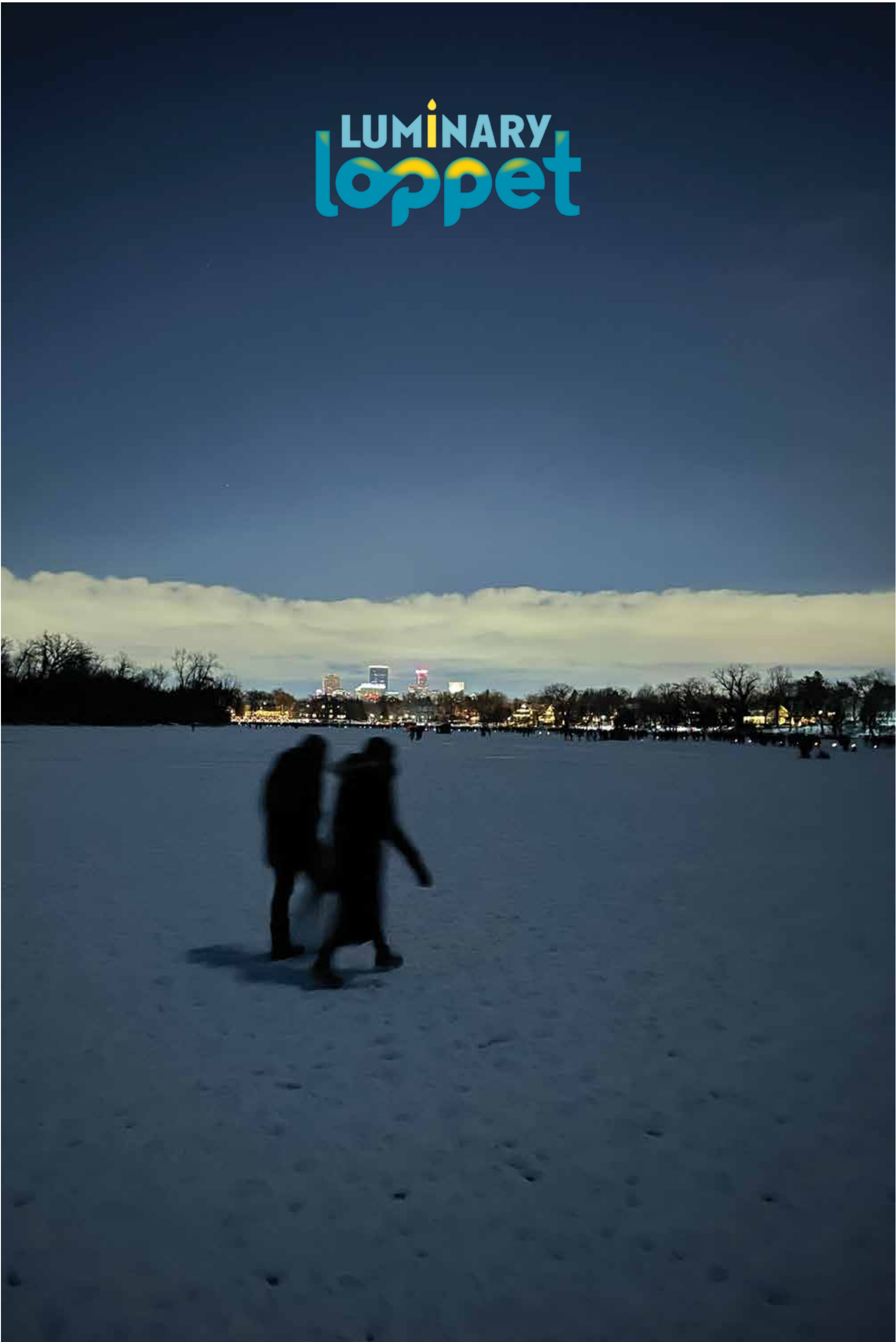
In 2015, Meggan Kerkenbush, Brian Appeldoorn and Crystal Bakker purchased the company, working to revive the iconic Minnesota brand.

“Bridgeman’s is proud to still be a family-run business! We are passionate about creating sweet memories for decades to come,” they state.

In 2020, they opened an old-fashioned ice cream parlor in Woodbury at 2110 Eagle Creek Lane, bringing back the classic parlor experience, complete with sundaes served in tulip glasses.

Perhaps we can entice Bridgeman’s to return to its original neighborhood. After all, one of our empty Hennepin storefronts is waiting.





Late evening stroll under cloud-limned skyline. (Image: Kristi Pearson)



Top row, left to right: Traffic jam in Luminary Lane. (Image: Kristi Pearson), Kristi Pearson in Luminary Lane. (Image: Scott Pearson); Middle row, left to right: Icy origami in Enchanted Forest. (Image: Joy Wagner), Icy Antiquity. (Image: Rich Harrison); Bottom row, left to right: Icy Urn in Enchanted Forest. (Image Brian Mogren), Mushroom field in Enchanted Forest. (Image: Kristi Pearson)

Meet Your Neighbor

Interview by David Piper

John Stumme



Artist John Stumme at his home studio in Lowry Hill.
(Image: David Piper)

David Piper is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Lowry Hill.

Tell us about yourself.

I was born in England and then landed with my family in Minneapolis in 1975. I graduated from Washburn High School, and I have primarily lived in the Twin Cities ever since, except for going to college in Washington State. Both my parents were Lutheran pastors, my mother later in her life. My sister also became a Lutheran pastor. I am married to Kyle, ironically also a Lutheran pastor. As you can tell, the Lutheran church has been very much a part of my life.

What was it like having a Lutheran pastor as the parent of a gay son?

My father was liberal politically — very much involved with the civil rights movement. However, he was homophobic — the “love the sinner, hate the sin” variety. When I finally came out later in my life, around 35 or 36, it was difficult for him and for my mom too. But over time he grew to love my husband, Kyle, and showed great love and care

for the two children that Kyle and I have together. He has reconciled some of his homophobic beliefs just through knowing and loving his gay son and the people who are important to his son.

Tell us about your family.

I was married to a woman at a very young age. I think I was 21, and I was just kind of starting to develop my identity as a queer person in the early 80s. But I didn't have the courage, and I didn't have the family support like many queer people, to come out at that time. My wife understood before we were married that I was gay because I had told her about those feelings and some experiences I had in college. And she encouraged me just to “be gay.” But she also, at about the same time, found out she was pregnant, and I always wanted to be a dad. I also got to avoid a very difficult choice of coming out and living as a gay man. We understood that there would be no guarantees in our relationship, and we committed to being together in a monogamous relationship. We had three great sons together and continue to be friends to this day. In addition to our three sons, we have three granddaughters from our oldest son.

Tell us about your marriage to Kyle and your family.

We met 22 years ago. He was singing in a cabaret and said, “I will go home with anybody who has air conditioning.” I raised my hand. We have been together ever since, marrying in San Francisco about 14 years ago. Soon after we met, we started talking about having kids. We adopted two kids through Lutheran Social Services, and our kids have the same biological parents. I have jokingly said that if I had known that when I met Kyle, a Lutheran pastor, that I would marry him and have two more kids I would have run the opposite direction. It has been a wonderful and amazing journey with Kyle, and it's been a lot of fun. So I've had a life that's been full of children and love, and I'm so grateful.

Tell us about your professional life.

For about the last 30 years I have worked for the Public Housing Tenants organization in Minneapolis. When I turned 50, Kyle gave me an art class, and I have not stopped since then. I use art as resistance to respond to what is occurring in our country. I paint, draw and sculpt. You can see my art at john-stumme.com.

What do you see as the future of our LGBTQ community?

Kyle and I have two non-binary kids who have benefited from gender-affirming care and whose lives have improved dramatically because of gender-affirming care. Trans people are being erased from monuments, language and documents. It breaks my heart to think about just growing up as a gay kid and never being told that I was okay and never being told that it was okay to have feelings for another boy. I see that happening now with trans people. Honestly, I'm scared, but I realize too that it's time to be courageous and figure out how to act and react and to do that in community. We need to do whatever we can to protect people and protect children and protect queer people and immigrants.



Great Egret
Acrylic on archival tissue paper on board
46 x 30 in.
(Image: Courtesy of john-stumme.com)



Friends.
Neighbors.
Architects.

2919 JAMES AVENUE SOUTH • 612.353.4820 • PKARCH.COM

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond

Dorothy Richmond is founder of the Dear Neighbor column and a longtime resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean.

Dear Neighbor,

Donald Trump is back in the White House and making deals all over the place. So, let’s talk about the Art of the Deal, but not Donald’s: After online investigation and asking my politically savvy friends, representatives on both sides of the aisle, I still have no idea what his grand design is and neither do they.

Instead, let’s talk about my mother’s deal-making strategy, which I learned when I was eight years old and have adhered to since.

My mother’s Aunt Grace died when I was in the third grade. She had no children, and Mom was named executrix of Grace’s and her deceased husband’s estate.

I didn’t know Aunt Grace well, as she and her husband whose name I can’t remember spent their time traveling like jet-setters, only by train. They had a beautiful house in St. Paul filled with mementos of their many junkets.

Shortly after the funeral, my mother and I drove to the house, as she said, “to deal with things.” I came to realize that Mom wanted my company but not my skirt-tugging companionship: She had hard work to do.

As she surveyed the scene, Mom said, “Dorothy, go look around; you can have anything you want.” Aren’t those words everyone loves to hear? And I embarked on a most delightful scavenger hunt.

But as intriguing an offer as it was, I quickly discovered there wasn’t much a rising fourth-grader would want: fancy dishes, fancy silver, fancy furniture, fancy paintings and tchotchkes.

Fancy, fancy everywhere, but not a drop of fun: “old people things.” Still, it was an

exciting adventure during which I learned more about Aunt Grace dead than alive, and I came away successfully with a porcelain-head doll which I treasured for years. I then settled in and watched Saturday morning cartoons while my mother continued to deal with things.

“Deal” being the operative word here, I was just beginning to understand my mother’s brilliant art of it. After a few hours, Mom said it was time to leave. What she didn’t say was that she was fried and overwhelmed, but it was all over her face.

We got in the car, the backseat loaded with everything she wanted, and started the hour-long drive back to Northfield.

Chatty Dorothy began pummeling her with questions, none of which she was having. “Dorothy, I need to think. You can listen to any radio station you want if you’re quiet.” Okay! On came WDGY — The Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, The Mindbenders, Paul Revere and the Raiders — I was in heaven and Mom was deep in thought.

As we pulled into the driveway, Mom looked at me and said “I’ve got it!” “What?” I asked. She said she’d tell me later — “Right now I have calls to make; do whatever you want.”

What I wanted to do was eavesdrop, and I’m so glad I did. She picked up the phone and began dialing all her friends. Each one got the same proposal: “I’ve inherited a house filled with nice things that need to go. I’ve taken everything I want and there’s tons more. If you come up next Saturday and help me clean out the house, you can have anything you want.” She added that husbands were welcome to have at the garage and basement workshop.

The following Saturday I rode up with my mother. By 9:00 there was a caravan of cars and trucks lining the front of Aunt Grace’s house. At noon Mom got Chinese food for the crowd, and by 3:00 the house was empty,

sparkling, and realtor-ready. So hard as we all worked (I was the designated “haul girl”), the whole day had a party atmosphere. Everyone went home well fed and happy, with dueling thank-yous all around. Mom and I drove home, chatting the whole way.

I don’t know if I’ll ever understand Donald Trump’s procedural, but I know well my mother’s: When you need something, create a situation where each party leaves feeling that he or she got the better part of the deal and is happy for participating. No one gets stiffed or exploited or feels used, and the ground is laid for future, mutual benefit.

Giving and getting in all of life should balance out. Whether you’re cleaning out a house or running a country, be fair to the other players. Sometimes compensation is money, sometimes goods; often sincere thanks and show of gratitude are all that’s needed to seal the deal.

A good deal benefits all involved and strengthens the relationship. Who doesn’t want that?

— Dorothy



“IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK...”



1807 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH
LOWRY HILL
7 Bedrooms | 6 Baths | \$1,495,000

Built in 1902 by T.P. Healy for the Lowry family, this house has had many lives and stories pass through its halls. But the most recent story of this terrific Lowry Hill residence is the restoration and transformation back to a single family home.

The current owners did extensive work to bring back cohesion of the floorplan to a single family home - restoring the main staircase of the home, using original elements that had been removed over time, and incorporating a main floor bedroom into the kitchen space, which is designed with high-end BlueStar appliances.

The third floor is still separately accessible for au pair/guest quarters. It's a great home, with so many creative living spaces to satisfy your needs. Continue its story with your family's memories as the next chapter... Call us for your private tour.





FRAN★BARB DAVIS
JONNA KOSALKO

 **COLDWELL BANKER** | **REALTY**

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

franandbarbdavis.com 612.554.0994 

WINTER ARTISTRY AT KENWOOD SCHOOL

Kenwood Elementary School students in grades K-5 spent a full week creating ice luminaries and sculptures with the help of parent volunteers and teachers. Students created hanging floral ice wreaths, water balloon orbs, ice lanterns out of buckets and sheet pan luminaries. “We wanted all kids to have a chance to create ice magic and build excitement for the Lake of the Isles Luminary Loppet since it is right in our backyard,” said Elyse Colpitts, a parent volunteer. (Image: Elyse Colpitts)

