



SHAFFER NABS DFL ENDORSEMENT FOR CITY COUNCIL

By Marty Carlson

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor. He lives in Kenwood.

In a nail-biter finish, Park Board Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer scored the coveted DFL endorsement for Ward 7’s City Council seat at the party’s May 10 ward convention, held at Anwatin Middle School. All City Council seats, along with the mayor, are up for election this November.

On the second ballot, Shaffer cracked the 60% endorsement

threshold, with 60.49% of the vote. In reaching her goal, Shaffer ended the campaign of first-time candidate Paula Chesley and dealt a major setback to incumbent Council Member Katie Cashman, who came just shy of the 40.01% mark necessary to end the convention with no endorsement.

Why are DFL conventions always on the nicest days of the year?

Per longstanding tradition, the convention took place on one of the most gorgeous weekend days of the

spring, but the call of the wild did not deter hundreds of faithful DFLers from packing into the middle school auditorium for over six hours to advocate for their preferred candidates. Enthusiasm was high, and virtually no one left early.

For the uninitiated, ward conventions (there are 13!) determine who, if anyone, receives the DFL endorsement for City Council. Endorsements for mayor, Park Board and Board of Estimate and Taxation are decided at the DFL city convention, which will be held in July. For City Council races, the endorsement is significant because candidates who receive the endorsement typically go on to win in November.

The convention itself was called to order at 11 a.m., but after convention chairs, the parliamentarian, and ward delegates were elected, and rules agreed on, the main action didn’t start until shortly before 2 p.m.

First up, speeches! Each candidate was allowed 10 minutes, followed by a 30 minute question and answer panel, at which point the convention moved to the actual voting. All three candidates were introduced by surrogates before they spoke.

Paula Chesley

Chesley’s surrogate was Will Stancil, a noted online political commentator and recent Minnesota House candidate. Stancil said Chesley would be a strong advocate for revitalizing neighborhoods and local business districts, would take initiative, and be a good listener.

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Campaigns took to the stage during the Ward 7 DFL Convention. Pictured: top left, Paula Chesley; top right, Katie Cashman; bottom left, Elizabeth Shaffer. (Image: Kittie Fahey)

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RESTORE THE BERGER FOUNTAIN!

By Susan Lenfestey

Susan Lenfestey is a regular contributor. She lives in Lowry Hill.

A crowd of neighbors, bigwigs, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board commissioners (and a few who would like to be) gathered recently at the Woman’s Club to help raise funds to restore Loring Park’s iconic Berger Fountain, aka the Dandelion fountain.

Two other local icons, Dan Chouinard and Kevin Kling, opened the program with sublime music and words that celebrated the fountain and the maligned little flower that inspired it.

Due to the wear and tear of age, the fountain has run dry, but affection for it runs deep.

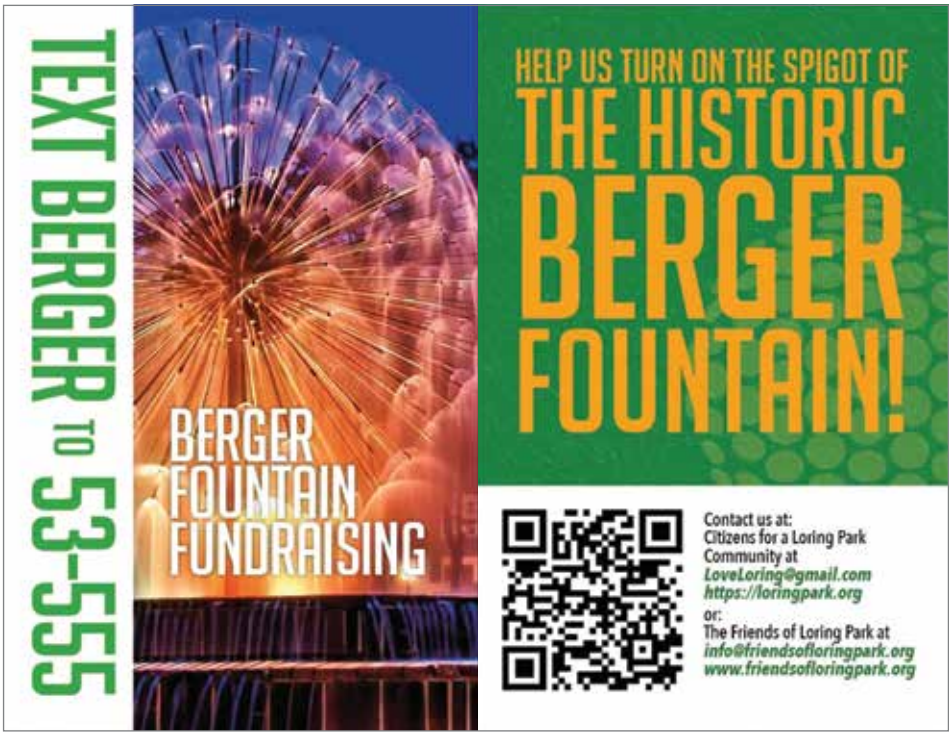
When it appeared that the fountain, inoperative since 2018, would have to be permanently shut down, neighbors stepped up and created the Berger Fountain Task Force, a coalition of representatives from Citizens

for a Loring Park Community, Friends of Loring Park and the Loring Greenway Association, and formed a partnership with the Park Board.

Repairing a 50-year-old fountain is no small thing. For starters, an entirely new infrastructure is required to pump the water with enough force to create the magical rays of the dandelion, but with enough efficiency to conserve water, a concern not in play in 1975.

The task force has committed to raise \$1.5 million of the \$2.6 million that will be required to bring the fountain back to life. To date they have secured \$1.2 million towards that goal.

As Kevin Kling noted in his tribute, the dandelion is a symbol of resilience, hope and love, and as Dan Chouinard reminded us in song, that’s the only thing that there’s just too little of.



(Images: Citizens for a Loring Park Community)



Hill & Lake Press

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

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Our goal is to offer readers diverse perspectives on newsworthy events or issues of broad public concern to the Hill & Lake community. Our copy limit is 300 words (750 words for a commentary or space permitting) and we reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

Miigwech

On May 10, I attended the DFL endorsement meeting for the first time as a first alternate. I sat all day but was never called, because the 30-plus people ahead of me committed themselves to staying throughout.

As a Turtle Mountain Ojibwe tribal member, I appreciated the land acknowledgment by Craig “Ka’aukai” Wilson, editor of the Hill & Lake Press, who convened the meeting with a personalized reflection and a traditional Hawaiian chant, “E Hō Mai,” which roughly translates to “give us knowledge.”

He learned the art form from his father and from his time as a young person in Kamehameha cultural schools. He was not a delegate to the convention and made a special appearance at the request of the committee.

Minnesota is a better place when people give of themselves and share their culture.

Miigwech, Ka’aukai, for carrying the traditions of your homeland and sharing your truly beautiful and resonant voice.

Angela Erdrich
Kenwood

Save Our Soil

I can force myself to be patient with the frequent noise from leaf blowers in my neighborhood, but I can’t ignore or accept the blowing off of precious soil.

Leaf mulch can be left to decompose around plants. If you must remove it (for planting or

fertilizing etc.), it can be gently removed with a narrow rake away from boulevard plants or gardens. If raked onto sidewalks or lawns it could be blown from there into piles to remove.

Soil is a valuable sequester of carbon! It is full of necessary microorganisms and holds water. (Lunar soil is practically worthless because it lacks biology.)

We have such wonderful soil in Minnesota. Much of our earth can’t claim having good or any soil. Please speak to your yard crew (if you employ them) to not blow soil off your boulevard or other gardens.

I often wish we still hung laundry outside on clotheslines, but I wouldn’t want any drying near a yard crew with leaf blowers.

Nancy Rand
Lowry Hill

Uptown Renaissance

I live just a few blocks from the corner of Hennepin and Lake and, for the first time in many years, I am feeling optimistic about Uptown. I attended both meetings described in Terry White’s article. In addition, I met with Andrea Corbin to learn more about the Uptown Business Association’s strategies for continued revitalization of the neighborhood. I cannot be more impressed with Andrea.

As an owner of a small and unique flower shop on Lyndale, Andrea, who previously had little interest or involvement in politics, became alarmed when she learned of talk that Lyndale Avenue might be “Hennepin-ised” with a new design that would greatly contribute, as it has on Hennepin Avenue, to the decimation of the local businesses.

Andrea took it upon herself to learn everything she could about how city government works, how elections work and what businesses need to survive. She has remarkable energy, an eye for what is needed, and an ability to garner the resources needed to revive this area.

As president of the Uptown Business Association, she has

connected with residents, business owners, workers, landlords, bankers and investors to implement the excellent strategies outlined in White’s article. In addition, she started We Love Minneapolis, which has done ward-by-ward grassroots organizing to inform people about the importance of attending their precinct caucuses, no doubt playing a role in this year’s big turnout, the highest in 10 years.

She is a true leader. She is brilliant in her ability to grasp the complexities of how the city works, including the machinations of the political process and what businesses — both owners and workers — need to succeed. Her vision, her relentless positive energy, her willingness to put her shoulder to the wheel and her commitment to collaborating with others who share her concerns and want to contribute their time and other resources to help implement her vision all make her a true gift to our local neighborhoods and to the city at large.

Tamara Kaiser
East Bde Maka Ska

The “L” in DFL

The “fractious road to November” Marty Carlson calls out in “Rough Caucus Night for Cashman” is due in part to the abandonment of the Hill & Lakes Press itself to any critical reporting on the presence of outside interests rather than local interests on caucus night and the convention process. It is the normalization of it that surprises me.

We Love Mpls was created in 2024 by Andrea Corbin, a one-time donor to the GOP and recent supporter of local moderate Democratic candidates like Mayor Jacob Frey and Council Member Michael Rainville.

The photo adjacent to the article — showing cheerful, engaged workers at the We Love Minneapolis table during the Ward 7 DFL Caucus — appears without caption or context, omitting any mention of the organization’s influence or financial backing. To

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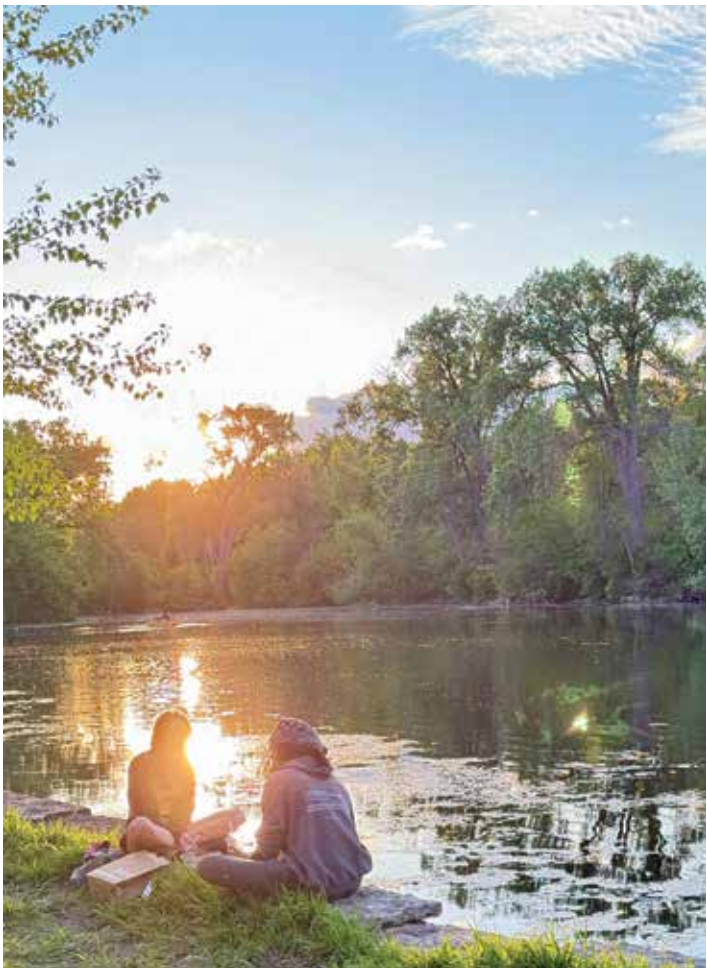
me, it feels like yet another attack on labor.

To be clear, Katie Cashman is the only DFL candidate in Ward 7 to secure labor’s endorsement. Katie has admirably stuck her neck out in a hostile labor environment and served the entire ward and its working constituents, as well as businesses.

During the Park Board’s historic 2024 labor strike, Cashman and Mayor Frey were needed to urge Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board back to the table to bring an end to the strike. Labor felt and has endorsed Cashman’s support.

It is our duty as a party to support labor and its candidates. If the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party chooses to endorse a candidate whom local labor unions have not as well as fails to affirm labor’s chosen candidate, I declare it will have abandoned not only workers, but itself.

Mary Longfellow
Lowry Hill



Enjoying the afternoon on the bridge between Bde Maka Ska and Lake of the Isles; Th sun setting over Bde Maka Ska
(Images: Courtney Cushing Kiernet)

KENWOOD FOURTH GRADERS PLANT WILD STRAWBERRIES AT THE BEACH

By Karin Olson



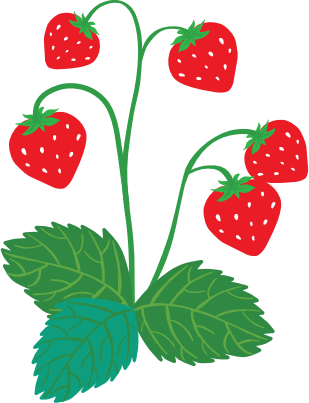
Karin Olson is a regular contributor and lives in Kenwood.

In May, Mrs. Demery’s fourth grade class from Kenwood School planted wild strawberries in their school forest near the oriole feeders at Cedar Lake East Beach.

Neighbor and Kenwood School parent alum Angie Erdrich, along with the team at Birchbark Books, gifted starter strawberry plants to the school. Erdrich also taught the children about the 67 species of moths and butterflies that depend on wild strawberries.

Parent volunteers Elyse Colpitts of Lowry Hill and Amy Sanborn of East Isles taught the kids how to plant. For the kids, a favorite element was using an auger to dig the holes.

Said Colpitts, “It was a great day! We are so lucky to have an amazing community that finds ways to expose our children to the natural world. And come next year, visitors to the beach area can watch for berries in early summer — if the forest critters don’t get them first!”



Fourth graders from Kenwood School plant strawberries near East Cedar Lake Beach . (Images: Natalie Quinn)

THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT LITTER IN OUR CITY

By Tom Hoch

Tom Hoch is a highly active volunteer and avid gardener. He lives in Lowry Hill.

We’ve all seen it, and it’s disgusting.

I’m talking about litter. You can spot it along our interstates, along curbs on residential streets, in parking lots and parks and around our lakes: it’s everywhere!

Litter is an eyesore we can live without. Litter undermines our sense of security, degrades our environment, creates hazards to humans and animals alike and hurts our economy. Litter has no redeeming qualities.

Spaces that are littered undermine our sense of well-being. Most of us do not want to be surrounded by discarded plastic bags, bottle caps, newspapers or cigarette butts. These items make areas look and feel uncared for and, at times, scary. And the persistence of litter encourages additional irresponsible behavior.

If there is litter blowing around (think plastic bags) or piled up in corners, others may feel that they have license to litter as well — what does one more plastic bottle, cigarette butt or food wrapper matter when it simply adds a little bit to the heap of trash that already exists?

And litter is not benign.

Large amounts of litter negatively impact surrounding property values and create a feeling of neglect in those areas; it can even foster a sense of lawlessness.

Litter breaks apart and slowly decomposes (although frequently not in our lifetimes) or, as is the case along many highways, is chopped into tiny pieces by lawnmowers before finding its way to our waterways.

Take a drive in early spring along I-94 between Minneapolis and St. Paul for a shocking revelation of the vast amounts of litter that surfaces as the snow melts away, only to be hidden by growing grass before being pulverized into tiny pieces.

That trash (whether floating in the water or strewn along a highway) poses a threat to wildlife, too. Animals can become entangled or lodged in it, ingest it (with dire consequences) or become injured by it, leaving them unable to forage or escape predators. In some instances,



Litter lines the shoulder of I-94, revealing the environmental toll of careless disposal and a need for renewed civic responsibility. (Image: Tom Hoch)

an animal will die, but only after considerable suffering such as from starvation.

Finally, litter hurts our economy.

Litter negatively impacts the perception of our city by visitors. I invite you to take a hard look at the roadside on your next trip to or from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport and you’ll see what visitors see: it isn’t pretty.

A bad impression becomes part of what guests take home. Will they want to return?

But there are things we can do to fight back against the scourge of litter.

First, each of us can make a commitment to not litter. If we can

stop people from littering, we can solve 90% of the problem. Get your kids to make a “No Litter” pledge.

You can also commit to taking direct action. In our neighborhood, you can adopt a storm drain, committing to ensuring that the drain is clear each week.

I was surprised when I learned last year that all the storm drains in our neighborhood empty into nearby bodies of water: in particular, Lake of the Isles. There is no filtration system between the storm drain and the lake, so those bottle caps, single use plastic water bottles, cigarette butts, zip ties and all manner of trash find their way into our lakes. Just take a look at the shoreline of a city lake and you’ll see plenty of little pieces of trash!

You can be part of the storm drain solution by adopting a drain at mn.adopt-a-drain.org. Once you sign up, or if you need more information, send me an email (Tom.Hoch2100@gmail.com) so that I can get you any equipment you may need as well as communicate with you throughout the season.

Minneapolis can be a cleaner, more beautiful city, but it will take all of us to make this a reality. Let’s do this together.

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EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO MY OPINION: PUBLIC FUNDING SHOULD PRIORITIZE MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE NOT THE RISE UP CENTER

By Susan Lenfestey



Minneapolis College, located on a scenic campus next to Loring Park, prepares students for a wide range of careers — from nursing and HVAC to bicycle repair — while also offering a strong liberal arts foundation in subjects such as creative writing and chemistry. (Image: Susan Lenfestey)

Susan Lenfestey is a regular contributor. She lives in Lowry Hill.

For decades I’ve driven and biked past Minneapolis College, which fronts onto Hennepin Avenue and backs onto Loring Park, but to my shame I was never curious enough to poke my nose in the door to learn more.

That changed when my friend Bryce Hamilton invited me to tour the college with a group of people from Plymouth Church. While the Hennepin entrance to the campus has a somewhat chilly facade, the Loring side is all windows and light, spilling a warm welcome out onto the park.

When we entered the building, we received an equally warm welcome from Pashell Johnson, Alumni and Constituent Relations Manager, who gave us some background information before showing us around the campus.

The college formerly known as MCTC

The college has had several names over the years, most recently MCTC (Minneapolis Community and Technical College) but is now simply Minneapolis College, one of 33 colleges and universities in the Minnesota State system. It offers more than 100 associate degrees, diplomas and certificates, which can lead directly to careers, or be transferred to four-year colleges and universities.

Minneapolis College works closely with Metropolitan State University and Augsburg University so students who want to go on for a four-year degree have a smooth transition. “It’s nice to know that someone is looking out for you, that someone wants you to continue,” said a former student, now an instructor in the nursing program.

A Remarkable Tour

Our first stop was the bicycle workshop where 34 workstations allow students to assemble bikes that arrive in boxes and to repair the ones already in use. It is one of two such programs in the nation, the other one being near the Walton family hub in Arkansas. The field pays a livable wage, and the program has a 100% placement rate, likely due to Minneapolis being such a bike-friendly city.

Next was the HVAC lab, full of, no surprise, furnaces, vents, ACs, walk-in freezers and even a dummy house ready to be heated or cooled, every semester. From there we went to a large

“And I questioned why a consortium of nonprofit groups received \$9 million from the State Legislature last year to convert the former YWCA building in Uptown into the Rise Up job training center, when this affordable, open-to-all college, with accredited instructors, transferable credits and job placement services, has been training, teaching and transforming lives all along, right around the bend on Hennepin Avenue, and unnoticed by the likes of me.”

nursing classroom where a dozen medical manikins lay unblinking in tidy beds, awaiting catheters and intubations or post-partum care.

Nursing students graduate with an RN, but to be accepted into the program they must have passed several science prerequisites with a B or higher average and demonstrated a proficiency in English. Those who struggle are given more time and instruction and may apply again.

The college also offers a full range of classes that would be found in any liberal arts college, from creative writing to chemistry. We dropped in on students in a drawing class, whose work we’d seen on display in the fine arts building, and a fashion design class, where students were preparing final projects for their year-end fashion show — a celebratory display of creativity and cultural flair.

Our last stop was the TREC home-room. TREC, which stands for transformation and reentry through education and community, provides “college degree programs to incarcerated and justice-impacted students as pathways to sustainable careers, community engagement, prison reduction and lifelong freedom.”

TREC was started in 2021 and is a partnership between Minneapolis College and Metropolitan State University, offering in person classes at three Department of Corrections facilities — Lino Lakes, Faribault and Stillwater — and on the Minneapolis campus for those reentering society. The TREC Partnership offers an associate degree track through Minneapolis College and a bachelor’s degree track through Metropolitan State University.

One student, who received two master’s degrees while “inside” and is now “outside” and studying for his Ph.D. in psychology at Metropolitan State, described the challenges of finding housing and employment when you have a criminal history. “We’ll make that final interview, even be shown an office, and then a Google check shows our record and the job offer is retracted with no reason given. Pretty soon that internal narrative kicks in — no one wants me — and you give up.” TREC offers education, hope and a lifeline to stability.

Sharon Pierce, president of the college, joined us for a few final words. We wondered if ICE has had an impact on the college. ICE has not been on the campus, she said, but she noted its chilling effect on students and community. “We have tried to be proactive, educating our community on what their rights and responsibilities are,” she said.

“All of our students deserve the best that we can give them and we meet them where they are and get them to where they want to be. The work we do is absolutely transformative. It transforms lives.”

Questions Remain

On the way home I questioned why I knew so little about this remarkable college where students who deeply want an education can get one, and thanks to affordable tuition, Pell grants and scholarships, can do so without going into lifelong debt.

And I questioned why a consortium of nonprofit groups received \$9 million from the State Legislature last

year to convert the former YWCA building in Uptown into the Rise Up job training center, when this affordable, open-to-all college, with accredited instructors, transferable credits and job placement services, has been training, teaching and transforming lives all along, right around the bend on Hennepin Avenue, and unnoticed by the likes of me.



FACTS

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE:
The college is the result of a 1996 merger between the Minneapolis Technical College, founded in 1914 as the Girls Vocational School, and Minneapolis Community College, founded in 1965.

- 10,000 students enrolled annually.
- 100+ degrees, diplomas and certificates offered.
- 70% of students are from under-represented groups.
- 61% of students receive financial aid.
- \$500,000 in scholarships awarded every year.
- 19:1 average faculty-to-student ratio.
- 70% of students identify as being Indigenous or members of communities of color, international, low income or first generation.

TREC PROGRAM:

- Currently 175 enrolled students “inside” prison and 65 students “outside” on the campus.
- 95% inside prison graduation rate.

Gateway College –
to Metropolitan State University.

Food Pantry –
Free food basics are offered on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students put in advance orders and are able to access the food pantry up to two semesters past their last semester of enrollment.

SHAFFER NABS DFL ENDORSEMENT Front page

Chesley herself spoke of her history as a neighborhood organizer and advocate, and said she would work to promote economic vitality, promote public safety and affordable housing and provide prompt and attentive constituent services. Chesley made no bones about wanting the job — she stressed that no one had to ask her to run — and said she would bring a collaborative mindset and strong analytical skills to the job.

Katie Cashman

Cashman was introduced by Rep. Jamie Long, DFL floor leader for the Minnesota House. Long said his support for Cashman was driven by their shared concern about climate change, and that he had been impressed by Cashman’s work during last year’s legislative session, where she advocated for tax credits for commercial-to-residential building conversions and tax increment financing for small businesses, and supported ending a lawsuit challenging the Minneapolis 2040 plan.

Cashman said Ward 7 needed a council member who could unify, listen and deliver, and said she had met the moment. Cashman said she consistently advocated for “people-first” policies, and that public safety was her number one concern. She also touted commercial revitalization, particularly her championing of the council’s “vibrant storefronts” initiative, along with her support for renters’ rights and dignified housing for the unhoused. She concluded her comments by noting she was the only labor-endorsed candidate, and said she honored the “L” in “DFL.”

Elizabeth Shaffer

Shaffer was introduced by Andy Luger, who served as United States Attorney for Minnesota under Presidents Obama and Biden. Luger said that public safety was the top issue in this election, as it was during his tenure as U.S. Attorney. Having devoted much of his second term to fighting local violent crime, Luger said that collaboration was key to a multi-jurisdictional effort, but he described the City Council as the weak link in the chain. Luger was blunt in his

assessment that Minneapolis needs a new City Council, and said Shaffer embodied the pragmatism and cooperation needed in that group.

When her turn came, Shaffer said that public safety and adequate police to allow for community policing was foundational. She also said that core city services needed to be prioritized, which included supporting both workers and businesses, as well as providing stable and supportive housing for all. Shaffer cited her work on revitalizing the Overlook Gardens, in Stevens Square, as an example of hands-on, collaborative leadership.

Q&A

The question-and-answer session covered a wide range of topics, including preferred bus and bike routes, business district revitalization, affordable housing, how to say no to allies, abortion access and support for labor. The three candidates were composed and direct, and the moderator kept the discussion moving at a brisk pace, packing considerable content into a relatively brief 30 minutes. The first question, by protocol, was whether the candidates would drop out if another obtained the endorsement. Chesley and Shaffer said they would, while Cashman said no.

The Voting

Then, at around 4 p.m., the votes finally began. In the first round of voting, with 370 delegates participating, the results were: Cashman, 142 votes (38.4%); Chesley, 23 votes (6.2%); Shaffer, 203 votes (54.9%), and “no endorsement,” 2 votes (0.5%). At the vote’s conclusion, Chesley — consistent with her answer during the Q&A — promptly announced that she was suspending her campaign, as she had failed to meet the required 15% viability threshold. She encouraged her delegates to stay and vote their conscience.

The second round of voting was narrow but decisive, with Chesley’s delegates appearing to shift almost entirely to Shaffer. With 367 delegates voting, Cashman stood pat at 142, while Shaffer’s vote increased to 222, putting her just above the 60% threshold required for endorsement. The auditorium prompt-

ly erupted in cheers from Shaffer supporters, which drowned out the final report that “no endorsement” had grown from 2 votes to 3.

A Mostly Peaceable Kingdom

From a decorum standpoint, the convention was a mostly peaceable kingdom. The crowd was highly energized and motivated, and there were the expected cheers and jeers, but the substantive work was largely driven by the agenda, “points of order” and “points of personal privilege.”

There were only two notable departures that I observed, one involving a heckler during the Q&A, and a more significant dust-up after the floor was frozen for the second vote, when a heated argument apparently developed between a Cashman supporter and at least one Shaffer supporter over floor access. In this latter instance, convention co-chair Natasha Docktor left no doubt as to her middle school teacher credentials, issuing the sternest of reproaches that such behavior was not acceptable and would not be tolerated.

In closing, I’ll invoke a point of personal privilege, having spent a beautiful spring day taking reams and reams of notes in a windowless room. Great credit is due to co-chairs Tom Nordyke and Natasha Docktor, parliamentarian Kay Lewis, and the other volunteers who made this event happen.

It was a gathering of high energy and passion, and these volunteers managed it with good humor and firmness, allowing the messy business of democracy to proceed. And, finally, to the candidates: While they may not all receive our support, all deserve our thanks. Running for office is an act of real courage, and these candidates deserve respect for giving us a meaningful choice. Thank you.

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WARD 10 DFL CONVENTION ENDS WITHOUT ENDORSEMENT

By Terry White

Terry White is a regular contributor. He lives in Field.

The final competitive DFL convention for this year’s City Council races concluded Saturday, May 31, without an endorsement in Ward 10 after more than seven hours of contentious debate and procedural wrangling.

Incumbent Council Vice President Aisha Chughtai led the single round of balloting with 181 votes, or 52 percent, falling short of the 60 percent threshold required for endorsement. Challenger Lydia Millard received 163 votes, and three delegates voted for no endorsement.

With neither candidate able to secure the supermajority needed, delegates voted to suspend the rules and adjourn the convention shortly after 5 p.m. Supporters on both sides acknowledged that further balloting was unlikely to change the outcome.

What ‘No Endorsement’ Means for Ward 10

Following Saturday’s Ward 10 DFL convention, both campaigns claimed some measure of victory. But the outcome suggests potential vulnerabilities for Chughtai, who was unable to secure the 60 percent support typically expected of incumbents. Falling short of endorsement may signal broader dissatisfaction among party activists.

Millard, a first-time candidate with no prior political experience, drew 163 votes to Chughtai’s 181 — demonstrating notable traction in a relatively short campaign. Her platform, focused on public safety and support for small businesses, appeared to resonate with nearly half the delegates.

Without an endorsement, both candidates move forward on equal footing within the DFL. Each will have access to the party’s voter database, but neither may use the “DFL-endorsed” label in campaign materials. The close convention result may serve as a signal to donors and voters that the race is highly competitive, potentially drawing increased financial support as both campaigns shift toward the broader electorate.

Highlights from the Convention

Millard’s entrance stood out as the most energetic of the DFL convention season. Before she appeared, African drums filled the Ella Baker School auditorium. She took the stage



Pictured at left: incumbent candidate and Council Vice President Aisha Chughtai. Pictured at right: challenger and first-time candidate Lydia Millard. (Images: Candidates)

with a procession of drummers and dancers in white, drawing loud cheers. The performance served as a bold expression of her African heritage and a statement of the spirit she brings to the race.

That energy carried into the Q&A session. When asked if they would exit the race if their opponent received the endorsement, Chughtai said yes and Millard said no.

On George Floyd Square, Chughtai emphasized its role as a memorial to the pain felt by the community and the world, while Millard called for a resident-driven plan with more flexibility.

On labor endorsements, Chughtai said yes and expressed pride in that support, while Millard said she was not endorsed.

On collaborating with political opponents, Chughtai cited her work with Council Member Michael Rainville on the Safety Ambassador program. Millard countered that, unlike her opponent, she would work with whoever is elected mayor.

On police accountability, Chughtai voiced support for a comprehensive services approach and use of specialists to reduce property crime. Millard stated she supports staffing the Minneapolis Police Department to the level required by the city charter.

Crowd Control and Convention Chaos

The event began late as DFL volunteers struggled to check in a record number of delegates: Ward 10 had the highest turnout in the city. Delegates were issued green wristbands reminiscent of a music festival, and crowd management quickly became an issue.

The convention chair urged attendees to remain respectful after a person was ejected for harassing Chughtai — one of several removals that day. The Millard campaign denounced the behavior. Campaign manager Alicia Gibson said the individual was neither a delegate nor a supporter, and that Millard’s team had worked to de-escalate the situation and asked the person to leave. Chughtai later claimed on social media that the person was a Millard supporter.

Moderators faced repeated challenges, including being shouted down and overwhelmed by points of order and disputes over rules. Much of the tension stemmed from the fluid nature of delegate status. Both campaigns pushed to upgrade alternates to delegates, creating ongoing shifts in participation. The day began with 304 credentialed delegates and about 70 alternates. By the final vote, 347 delegates cast ballots. The constant adjustments revealed how loosely caucus outcomes predict final delegate counts.

Voice votes proved particularly contentious. These often devolved into shouting matches, with louder factions swaying close decisions — especially during debates over rule changes affecting alternate priority. Several delegates questioned the fairness of this method. Regardless of who wins in November, the DFL would benefit from modernizing its credentialing and voting procedures. With better systems in place, these conventions could be more efficient. Notably, counting paper ballots for the final vote took nearly an hour.

What’s Next?

The turbulence at the Ward 10 convention may carry over to the citywide DFL convention on July 19–20, where endorsements for mayor, Park Board and the Board of Estimate and Taxation will be considered. If Ward 10 is any indication, delegates may be sharply divided, with more procedural disputes and vocal confrontations likely.

Candidates emerging from the convention — endorsed or not — face a grueling campaign ahead as they work to win over voters door to door and at neighborhood events. Residents should expect a wave of campaign outreach including donation appeals, phone calls and postcards.

Minneapolis politics, like much of the national landscape, remains deeply polarized and high stakes.

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THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM IS HAPPENING!

By Elyse Erickson

Elyse Erickson is a parent and volunteer at Kenwood Community School. She lives in Lowry Hill.

The Outdoor Classroom is happening! We’ve raised enough funds to break ground this summer.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated to make this excellent addition to the Kenwood campus a reality. We still need to close the final gap on fundraising for things like the trees, furniture, planter boxes and much more!

Any amount helps, so if you haven’t donated yet but wanted to, or want to help make sure we can make it magical, please donate using the QR code below or Venmo @KenwoodPTAMpls.



Conceptual renderings of a proposed outdoor classroom at Kenwood Community School. (Images: Kenwood Community School)



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UPTOWN FARMERS MARKET

Neighbors in the Uptown area have come together to re-imagine and take action in the revitalization of Uptown.

Led by long-time East Isles resident Dan Sutton, volunteers with wheelbarrows and power tools in hand cleared the empty lot on Lake Street behind Seven corners.

They removed trash, including drug paraphernalia to construct a stage for live music and space for vendors and food trucks.

The new Uptown Farmers Market will open Thursday, June 12 and run through the summer on Thursday from 4-8 p.m. (Images: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)





A photograph of a liquor store interior, showing shelves stocked with various bottles. A sign with the word 'BEER' is visible in the background. The image is overlaid with a large, stylized text graphic that reads 'WE ARE open DURING CONSTRUCTION'. The right side of the image is a solid red vertical band containing white text about shopping options and the website. The bottom left corner features the 'LOWRY HILL LIQUORS' logo, and the bottom right corner displays the website address.

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CELEBRATING FRAN DAVIS – A REMARKABLE CAREER



After nearly 40 years of dedication, excellence, and leadership in real estate, Fran Davis is retiring from Coldwell Banker Realty's Minneapolis Lakes Office. Real estate has been more than just a career for Fran; it has been a calling rooted in relationships, trust, and a deep love for the Minneapolis community. From classic turn-of-the-century homes near Lake of the Isles to new development condos in what became the North Loop, Fran brought market acumen and exceptional client service to more than a thousand career transactions.

Fran's impact on the real estate industry, and the Lowry Hill community is nothing short of extraordinary. Fran not only advanced the REALTOR profession in her volunteer work, but causes near to her heart in arts and civic and political affairs which helped build an extraordinary network of friendships and connections. You may have met her through the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre, MinnPost, womenwinning, Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, or the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, to name a few. For example, her legendary New Year's Brunch at her Lowry Hill home on Douglas allowed guests to mingle and meet as new friends and neighbors. These relationships enriched both her professional work and the community around her.

Along with trusted colleague Jonna Kosalko, and Fran's sister Barb Davis, this dynamic group has served clients across the Twin Cities with warmth, integrity, and care together for nearly two decades. Although Fran is stepping back from day-to-day business, the team they built remains strong and ready to help you.

As they say, old Realtors never retire, they just go "out of commission." Fran, thank you for your passion, leadership, and heart. Honoring that legacy with gratitude and admiration as we carry on our Commitment to Community and Customer Service. Cheers!



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LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS HELP SAVE BEES THROUGH MISSION-DRIVEN DOG TOY AND TREAT COMPANY

By Craig Wilson, Editor



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

Jim Schiffman and Melissa “Lissie” Rappaport Schiffman — a husband-and-wife team who live in the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood — always had separate careers. He’s in retail sales and marketing; she’s in finance and sustainability. But they share a love of nature and food, and they believe business can be a force for good. With Jim’s decades of experience in the pet industry, he saw an opportunity to launch a mission-driven company that could help improve the planet. He also recognized a need for more innovative dog toys and treats. When he brought the idea to his wife a little over five years ago, she agreed — with one condition: the products had to be made in the U.S., as sustainably as possible. That’s how Project Hive Pet Company was born. Their mission to save bees was sparked by a 2008 article in The Guardian declaring bees the most important species on the planet. Bees pollinate about a third of our food, including berries, apples, and almonds. Inspired, Jim and Lissie converted most of their lawn into a perennial wildflower garden and have seen the benefits of bee activity firsthand, year after year.

Why do bees need saving?
“It’s like many broader sustainability issues,” Lissie said. “Their mission to save bees was sparked by a 2008 article in The Guardian declaring bees the most important species on the planet. Bees pollinate about a third of our food, including berries, apples and almonds.”

widespread use of harmful insecticides and herbicides and the impacts of climate change all play a role. But one of the biggest problems is habitat loss.” That’s why Project Hive donates a portion of every purchase to plant-

ing acres of healthy wildflower habitat — a measurable, achievable goal that supports not only bees but also other critical pollinators like butterflies, hummingbirds and insects. While their goal is to protect all bee species — honeybees and native bees alike — the honeybee aesthetic lends itself well to their brand. Their Hive Chew Toys resemble beehives, the Hive Fetch Stick is shaped like a honey dipper, and the underside of the Hive Disc features a hexagonal honeycomb pattern and doubles as a lick mat for dogs. Their Hive Chew Treats are beehive-shaped as well, and each treat contains a small amount of honey to reinforce their mission. In 2023, they launched the Hive Scented toy collection, featuring aromas of vanilla, lavender, wild berry, coconut and mango — scents inspired by plants that feed or rely on bees. “They smell great to humans, too, and are especially engaging for dogs with poor eyesight,” Lissie noted. **Beyond product design, Project Hive promotes bee conservation through blog posts and social media.** “Climate change and biodiversity loss are the two greatest threats to planetary health,” Lissie said. “Transforming lawns into wildflower

gardens helps with both. It also reduces water and fertilizer use and improves air quality — less lawn means less mowing.” Jim is particularly excited about their latest innovation: the Hive Zoomer Collection, a patented, U.S.-made dog toy launcher he describes as “the easiest, most accessible fetch toy ever invented — so much better than the competition.” The Hive Zoomer recently received the Blog-Paws Best Award for Innovation. To date, the company has planted about 35 million square feet of wildflowers across the U.S. through its partnership with The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund. They’ve also launched a similar habitat-planting program in Canada to support their Canadian sales. Jim is proud of what they’ve accomplished — but he’s not stopping here. His mantra? “The more dog toys and treats we sell, the more bees we save!” Project Hive Pet Company is B Corp Certified and a member of 1% for the Planet. Their products are available on their website, Amazon, Chewy, and at many local retailers.



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Lowry Hill Update

Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting in May! Thanks to the First Unitarian Society for hosting us, and to The UPS Store on Hennepin for co-sponsoring and printing signs that say *Support Hennepin Ave through 2025 Road Work*—remember to support your local businesses!

Did you know storm drain street trash pollutes our lakes and rivers? Debris breaks down in the elements, then drains into our waters. But adopting a drain is free, and takes only a few occasional minutes to maintain: mn.adopt-a-drain.org

And our new website is now live! Check out the sleek local events calendar, neighborhood news, and more.

♦♦ Stay cool out there as summer heats up! ♦♦



Lowry Hill Board Meetings

June 3 • July/Aug off • Sept. 2 1st Tues. 7 – 9 PM

Searle Mansion: 1915 Logan Ave S

All residents are welcome! Meetings are held Sept–June. If you have questions or want be on the agenda, please email us: lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org

Lowry Hill Happy Hour

June 19 Thurs. 5 – 8 PM

Searle Mansion: 1915 Logan Ave S

Gather with your neighbors for happy hour in a historic space! Bites, beverages, and live music provided.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Walks

June 21 • July 19 3rd Sat. 10 – 11:30 AM

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

Join us for friendly walks around Lowry Hill! Get outside, meet neighbors, pick up litter, and build community.

Ice Cream Social

July 13 Sat. 2 – 4 PM

Kenwood Rec Center: 2101 W Franklin Ave

Free Sebastian Joe's ice cream for Lowry Hill residents!

2025 Neighborhood Super Sale

Save the Date: Sept. 13 Sat. 9 AM – 3 PM

100+ yard sales will sweep Lowry Hill and nearby neighborhoods. Sale registration opens June/July online!

lowryhillneighborhood.org

for full details, newsletter sign-up and more

Let's reimagine Uptown together

Uptown Futures Forum

Wednesday, June 25

6:30 P.M. - Doors open

7:00 P.M. - Program begins

Granada Theater
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Join this dynamic gathering of residents, business & property owners, public officials and other key stakeholders as we shape our shared vision for Uptown's revitalization.

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Bluegrass at the Beach

2 PM The Eclectics
3 PM LaPlant Road
4 PM Chris Silver

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East Isles Summer Update

Celebrate the season at our Summer Social, Wed. June 25! This annual party is a great time to meet neighbors and enjoy live music, good food, bounce houses—and, of course, free ice cream!

The Uptown Farmers Market's first full season runs June 12–Sept. 25! Thursday evenings drop by Seven Points to enjoy 25+ vendors, live music, and occasional art events. Full scoop and volunteer signup at uptownmarket.org.

Lake of the Isles Cleanups and Safety Walking Club continue monthly. Get to know your neighbors, and put presence in the neighborhood while picking up debris. Any amount of time helps, and all area neighbors are welcome!

And the Neighborhood Super Sale will fall one week later than in past years: Sat. September 13. Join the wave of 100+ yard sales across several nearby neighborhoods. Sale registration opens June/July on our website—sellers, start stocking up your wares!

Mark your events calendar using the list at right, and learn about all our efforts at eastisles.org.



Visit eastisles.org/join to:

Donate to support neighborhood events, resources and opportunities.

Subscribe to our news and follow our social media to get updates on events and resources.

Join a Committee e-list to help address green issues, safety, and more!





East Isles Safety Walking Club

June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6 1st Sat. 10–11:30 AM
Meet at Levin Triangle Park: 26th St & Irving Ave S
Get outside, meet your neighbors, pick up litter and contribute to community safety and spirit!

East Isles Board Meetings

June 10, July 8, Sept. 9 2nd Tues. 7–9 PM
Grace-Trinity Community Church: 1430 W 28th St

Uptown Farmers Market

Thursdays, June 12– Sept. 25 4–8 PM
W Lake St & Girard Ave S (beside Seven Points)
Support a new farmers market and make a night of it in Uptown! Live beats, fresh eats, good vibes.

Lake of the Isles Cleanups

June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 20 Sat.
9:30 – 11:30 AM • Euclid Pl & E Lake of the Isles footpath
All Lake of the Isles neighbors are invited! Cleanup gear and supplies are available at check-in.

East Isles Summer Social

June 25 Wed. 6–8 PM (rain date Thurs. June 26)
Levin Triangle Park: 26th St & Irving Ave S
Celebrate summer with neighbors over live music, food trucks, fun and free ice cream!

2025 Neighborhood Super Sale

Save the Date: Sept. 13 Sat. 9 AM – 3 PM
100+ yard sales will sweep East Isles and several nearby neighborhoods. Sale registration opens June/July online!

Dates subject to change—visit eastisles.org for the latest.

CALLING ALL KIDS!
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It's time for the Kids' Issue again!
Share your artwork, poems, jokes, games, stories, and articles
in the Hill & Lake Press. All entries must include name, age,
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① Submit them on your own by emailing
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FROM WÍTA TÓPA BDE TO LAKE OF THE ISLES: THE INTERPLAY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND NATURE

By John Erlandson



Above - A sublime view of Lake of the Isles, where still waters reflect the surrounding trees and sky, capturing the harmony between nature and landscape architecture. (Image: Carly Ettinger)

At left - An 1885 map of Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles showing the original four islands of Wíta Tópa. The orange areas indicate where land was filled to accommodate railroad expansion, with each date marking when tracks were laid. (Image: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)

John Erlandson graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine on May 25 with a major in biology and a minor in Mandarin. A graduate of The Blake School, he grew up in East Isles and was recently awarded a Fulbright scholarship to teach in Taiwan.

What we now recognize as Lake of the Isles — with its distinctive twin islands, curving shape, and connecting canals — once looked entirely different.

Known as Wíta Tópa (“Four Islands”) by the Dakota people, the area was a shallow lake and marshland with none of today’s picturesque features.

From the late 19th to the early 20th century, this natural wetland — shaped by centuries of ecological succession — was radically transformed by landscape architects as part of the City Beautiful movement.

The first major alteration came with the decision to increase the amount of land between the marsh and nearby Bde Maka Ska to accommodate a railroad. This involved filling in the south end of the lake, merging two of its original islands with the shore.

Led by Horace Cleveland, the first phase of development replaced native marsh and forest vegetation with groomed lawns and ornamental plantings. Open water replaced wetland, and over time walking, carriage and driving paths were laid out along the newly defined shoreline.

In 1911, Theodore Wirth — often called the dean of the American parks movement and namesake of Wirth Park — oversaw a second major intervention. This phase involved dredging more than half a million cubic yards of fill from the lake, carving out canals to connect Isles with Cedar Lake to the

west and Bde Maka Ska to the south. Fill was also used to enlarge the southern of the two remaining islands.

The redesigned shoreline was lined with woody plants, while the islands were reforested with trees and shrubs to give the illusion of a natural landscape. Over time, the islands were designated as protected wildlife refuges and left largely undisturbed. This allowed ecological succession — nature’s original sculptor — to resume its quiet work.

For the past century, these semi-manufactured islands have evolved into diverse, densely vegetated woodlands. The trees first planted have matured, but the canopy has not yet grown thick enough to prevent the rise of understory growth.

As a result, the islands are now filled with short juvenile trees and shrubs, and relatively

pockets of natural regrowth have emerged — especially near the bridges and in the median between the walking and biking paths on the lake’s south end.

A century ago, these spaces were mowed and maintained. Today, they’ve been largely left alone, allowing succession to again shape the land. The result is striking: side by side, you can now observe the difference a hundred years of natural growth can make.

So the next time you admire the refined beauty of Lake of the Isles — the elegant bridges, the curving shoreline, the graceful plantings — take a moment to appreciate the equally remarkable work of nature. Succession has quietly reclaimed parts of this landscape, and the result is every bit as sculpted and sublime.

“The first major alteration came with the decision to increase the amount of land between the marsh and nearby Bde Maka Ska to accommodate a railroad. This involved filling in the south end of the lake, merging two of its original islands with the shore.”



Horace Cleveland, the visionary 19th-century landscape architect who designed Minneapolis’ Grand Rounds park system. (Image: Minnesota Historical Society)

few grasses or forbs — hallmarks of a forest in the later stages of succession.

The current stable deciduous forest is a testament to the resilience of the landscape and the power of succession to recover even from extreme human disturbance.

In contrast, the lakeshore continues to reflect the hand of the landscape architect. Along the paths, sparsely planted juvenile trees and short-lived nonnative species like weeping willows still dominate. However,



Meleko Mokgosi’s monumental work, Bread, Butter, and Power, is a central feature of Mia’s special exhibition, “Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys. (Image: Minneapolis Institute of Arts)



Ebony G. Patterson's piece "they were just hanging out... you know... talking about... (...when they grow up...)" (Image: Minneapolis Institute of Arts)

A GRAND, IMPORTANT EXHIBIT OF CONTEMPORARY BLACK ART

GIANTS: ART FROM THE DEAN COLLECTION

OF SWIZZ BEATS AND ALICIA KEYS

By Josie Owens

Josie Owens is a regular contributor. She lives in Lowry Hill.

“Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beats and Alicia Keys” is the special exhibit currently at Mia.

The July 13 end date should not let you postpone your visit but instead be a reminder that it will be your last time to revisit the exhibit. You will want to look at this artwork more than once.

These titans of the music industry have been collecting art, specifically contemporary Black artists, for decades with the mantra of collect, protect and respect.

The Deans collaborated with the Brooklyn Museum to share over 100 pieces from their important art collection with others. Minneapolis now has the good fortune to host Giants.

The exhibit at Mia has been beautifully curated and installed by Casey Riley, chair of Global Contemporary Art and curator of Photography and New Media, and her team with superb lighting and color.

Mia’s large Target exhibition space facilitates the viewer’s movement through the collection and offers opportunities to connect with each piece.

For example, Mia has located the 20-panel installation of “Bread, Butter and Power” by Meleko Mokgosi in its own room. The Botswana artist “interrogates the theme of feminism in the context of southern Africa, and considers the consequences of dividing labor practices by gender.”

Another room is dedicated to the photographs of Gordon Parks, who started as a staff

photographer at the St. Paul Recorder and the Minneapolis Spokesman, local Black-owned newspapers, and became the first African American staff photographer for Life. The Deans own the largest private collection of work by Parks.

The Dean Collection contains very large and important artwork that can be enjoyed simply for its beauty and composition. However, the artists have important meanings embedded in the pieces that address issues like colonialism, slavery and racism. For example, Ebony G. Patterson’s “...they were just hanging out you know... talking about...(...when they grow up...)” is a whimsical assemblage of toys, beads and photographs of Black children, but when one looks closer the viewer sees the bullet-like holes that speak to what Deborah Roberts, another artist in the exhibit, calls “the criminal lens through which society often views young Black boys.”

Derrick Adams’s “Floater 74,” which depicts Black people at leisure on pool floats, “claims space for community, connection, and everyday pleasures as enjoyed by Black communities” as it hints at the history of segregated swimming facilities.

As a guide, I would recommend a three-step approach for visiting Giants.

First, view the artwork on your own, perhaps on a quieter weekday. You should bring your phone and earbuds to listen to the soundtrack that the Deans have created for the show.

Take a public tour (2 p.m. daily and 7 p.m. on Thursdays) and learn more about these important artists, their techniques and the deep-

er meaning in the art.

Last, bring friends on a Thursday night and enjoy the entertainment that Anna Dilliard and Lynn Farmer have organized to enhance the experience. June 19 and July 10 will include music. There will be an artist talk by Meleko Mokgosi on June 1.

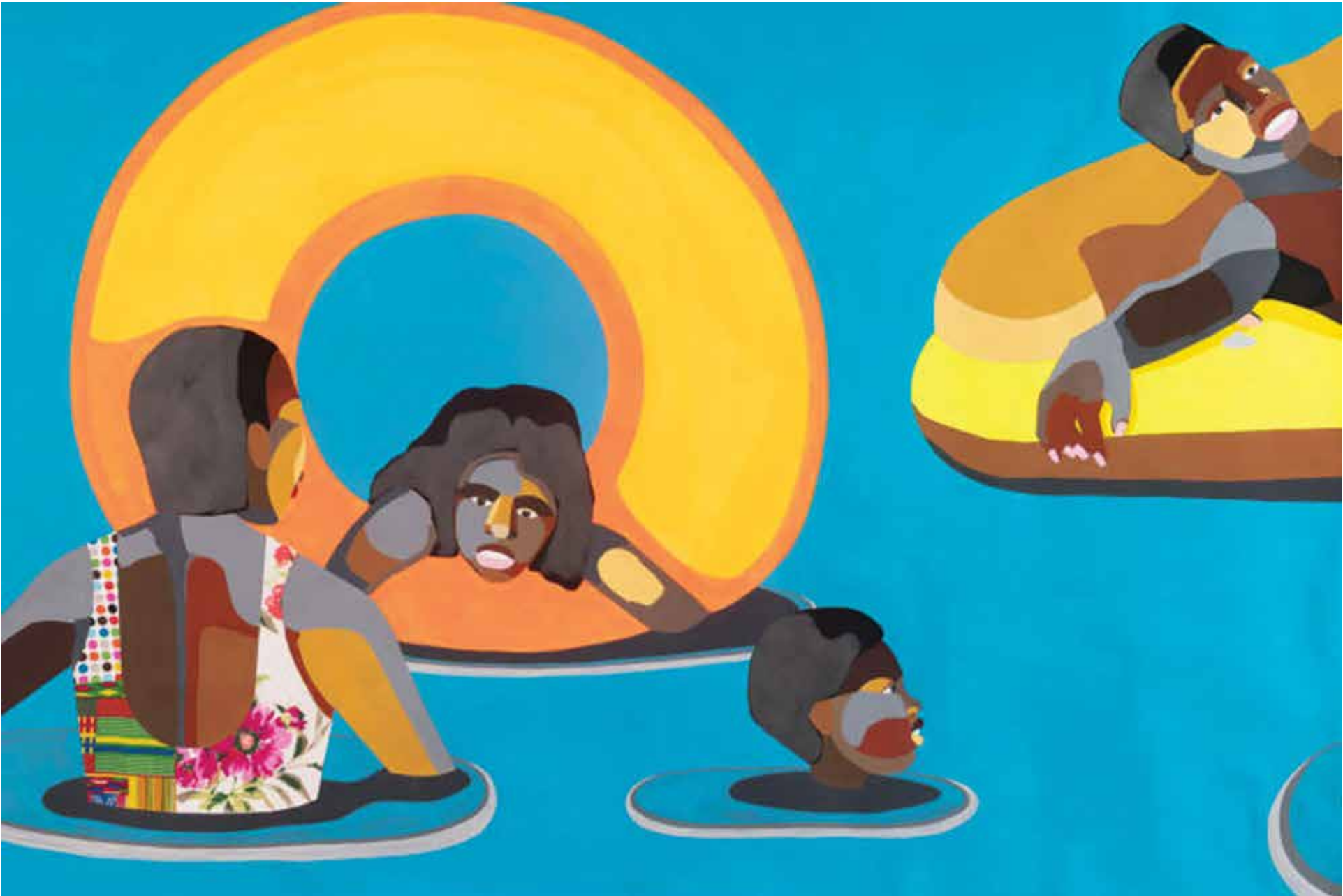


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Derrick Adams's "Floater 74" (2018). Acrylic paint and fabric collage on paper. (Image: The Dean Collection)



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- Join people of all ages — kids are welcome too!
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Save the following dates:

June 14 – 10 a.m. to noon

August 9 – 10 a.m. to noon

September 13 – 10 a.m. to noon

Look for us in the park, introduce yourself, and we will find some good earthly task for you to do. If you have any questions you can contact either —

Kathy Gaskins at kathygaskins1@gmail.com or

Mark Tierney at tierneymark55@gmail.com.



DONATE TODAY!

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

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

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

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

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



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)


WHY GO?: L2 AT TII CUP

By Jason Suss



L2 at Tii Cup, located at 2645 Hennepin Ave., invites you to follow the smiling cat to its rooftop speakeasy. (Images: Craig Wilson)

Jason Suss spent 15 years in tech before leaving the corporate world to pursue his passion for proper cocktails. He's spent the last 12 years on both sides of the bar at many local restaurants. This month he's launching a new column called "Why Go?" to highlight interesting reasons to visit and support our neighborhood bars and restaurants. Jason lives in Lowry Hill and owns @AProperPourJason.

There are plenty of lists and apps and maps telling you where you can go to eat and drink. I'm here to tell you why you should go there.

We're going to start with L2 at Tii Cup. Tii Cup has several locations around the metro area, all family owned. They sell those fun and fruity teas. You can add popping bubbles or jellies, creams or syrups, make it hot or cold, whatever you can imagine.

But the location at 27th and Hennepin is a bit different. You enter what appears to be a normal tea shop. Then, head back to the unmarked door on the left, under the red light. Go in and follow the neon pointing characters up the stairs to "L2."

Welcome to the adorable and very unexpected craft cocktail and snack bar. Grab a seat at the bar or a table or outside on their rooftop deck, which provides a great view of the always entertaining Walgreens parking lot.

The Drinks

They've collaborated with the Earl Giles distillery. That means they have access to the giant laboratory that Earl Giles has created to design bespoke drinks.

Together, they have created interesting and well-executed Asian riffs of classic cocktails. There's a Thai tea infused gin Negroni and an old fashioned with black tea and Japanese Kokuto sugar.

No cocktail menu would be complete without some version of an espresso martini: theirs uses Vietnamese coffee. The cocktail geek in me loves the use of unique and premium spirits such as Thai rum and Vietnamese gin.

The value seeker in me loves that they're all priced around \$13 each. They'd easily be \$17 or more in the North Loop. Other interest-

ing ingredients like ube (a sweet purple potato), dragon fruit, yuzu and lychee are used as well.

The Food

Taiwanese street food. Crispy juicy popcorn chicken in a variety of flavors. Being a non-native Minnesotan, I like spicy food.

The spicy chicken is no joke. Face melting, mouth numbing heat. Don't worry, there are non-spicy options, too. There's also crispy tofu for your veggie loving friends.

The garlic noodles are sure to keep the vampires away. Wings, fries, green beans and a few other items round out the savory options.

Finish the meal with a sweet-topped bubble waffle or Biing (Taiwanese shaved ice). I should note that my wife, who was born in Taiwan, and rivals Mikey from Life cereal when it comes to Asian food in America, gives an enthusiastic two thumbs up to the food.

Just like the cocktail menu, the food prices are very reasonable, with most items being under \$10.



Pictured at left: Jungle Blossom with Mango Boba. Pictured at right: Tii Cup Old-Fashioned Thai Tea Negroni (Images: Grace Chou)

ODD MART

By Molly Mogren Katt



Odd Mart is located at 2520 Lyndale Ave. S. in the Wedge. Pictured are artist and owner Brad McGinty and his son Landis. (Images: Molly Mogren Katt)

Molly Mogren Katt is a writer, entrepreneur and mom who launched HeyEleanor! on Substack to document facing her fears. She lives in the Wedge.

Every birthday or Christmas, or after every chore completion, my kids request quarters. Why? The same reason every kid wants money: candy and fun junk.

I lived for biking to Brook’s market, a convenience store on the edge of our subdivision, blowing my allowance on Cherry Nibs and Dr. Pepper.

I worry kids don’t get enough of that kind of freedom, one of many reasons I’m grateful for Odd Mart at 2520 Lyndale Avenue South and its wall of vintage gumball machines.

My six- and eight-year-olds beg to walk there, where they’ll crank away quarters for tiny fish-shaped hard candies, globs of Tootsie Rolls covered in colorful shells, and classic gumballs that turn tongues green and taste great for about six seconds. One machine even dispenses dry lentils, a 25-cent mistake they made only once.

The brainchild of artist Brad McGinty, Odd Mart’s offerings — tees, stickers, mugs, pins — marry his love of vintage comics, bright colors and irreverent humor.

There’s a hefty helping of classic monster imagery, some funny and others more campy guts and gore, as well as nostalgic nods to 80s and 90s pop culture icons like Bart Simpson and Garfield.

When I asked where he finds inspiration, McGinty shrugged. “I just like making stuff I know most stores would never sell.” I nodded thoughtfully, examining a tee featuring a happy, anthropomorphic corn cob strolling through a pink intestine, emblazoned with the words: Just Passin’ Thru!

McGinty grew up outside Atlanta, a kid who doodled in his notebook in lieu of paying attention in algebra.

After barely graduating high school, he skipped college and landed at “Sideshow,” a now-defunct Atlanta free weekly paper. Businesses enlisted him to draw ads for anything from vintage shops to wrestling schools.

Later, he took a job at a tech company, animating projects for clients like Adult Swim. He drew everything by hand, including lettering, a method he still favors nearly two decades later.

In 2009, McGinty moved to Minneapolis, focusing on freelance illustration work. To market his business, he launched Glorp Gum,

a website selling his quirky tees with an even quirkier offer: Buyers received a free tee shirt with every gumball purchase. (The cost per gumball? \$28.)

A few early designs went viral, leaving McGinty and his partner Cate to turn their Minneapolis apartment into a makeshift warehouse and shipping company. Though they eventually moved into a larger home, the business continued to eat up square footage.

McGinty knew it was time for Glorp Gum to move.

Northeast, with its robust arts community, seemed like the answer until he realized that even a crummy basement studio came at a huge premium.

And now, as a father of two, he didn’t like the short but not insignificant commute from his Wedge home. When the Lyndale space popped up in 2023, it just felt right. He can walk the kids to school before heading to work.

“...My six- and eight-year-olds beg to walk there, where they’ll crank away quarters for tiny fish-shaped hard candies, globs of Tootsie Rolls covered in colorful shells, and classic gumballs that turn tongues green and taste great for about six seconds. One machine even dispenses dry lentils, a 25-cent mistake they made only once.”

McGinty’s artistic output is prolific, with his unique fingerprints on every last detail, from the shop’s hang tags to original artwork on all 34 gumball machines.

Gotta go while shopping? Commemorate the experience with an “I Peed at Odd Mart” pin, dispensed from the bathroom’s vending machine.

The shop also showcases offbeat works from local artists. Six-inch plastic carrots fashioned into earrings; a skeleton reading a newspaper on the toilet which happens to also be a nightlight; a can koozie with a squishy realistic tongue dangling off the side.

Throw in a selection of ‘zines, independent comic books, mid-century vintage items, and you’re bound to find something you love. If you can’t, sorry, you’re probably not very fun.

Every Saturday morning, Odd Mart hosts Cartoon Cabaret in the shop’s backroom. Anyone can show up and draw while watching vintage cartoons.

It’s free, though they sell coffee and scones with profits going to MIRAC, Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee. For a small materials fee, you can partake in the weekly craft, like a DIY deconstructed My Little Pony sculpture.

On Sundays, you’ll find a market featuring nine local vendors selling anything from screen printed bandanas and greeting cards to handmade jewelry. Once, I perused a selection of magnets made of tiny animal bones procured from literal roadkill.

Odd Mart reminds me of why I fell for South Minneapolis decades ago, spending afternoons browsing Saint Sabrina’s and Sister Fun.

It fostered my love of small businesses with a vision, often pushing boundaries and celebrating weird.

They say you can find anything on Amazon, but Jeff Bezos can’t replicate this. I’m happy to save my quarters, encouraging my kids to seek out meaningful experiences, one gumball at a time.





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FROM A SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT >



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HIDDEN CEDAR AND HIDDEN MPLS TOURS

Interview by Amanda Vallone



Tim Sheridan, pictured above, is the owner of Hidden Cedar and Hidden MPLS Tours. (Images: Tim Sheridan)

Amanda Vallone is the owner of ARTrageous Adventures, a full service art studio in the Kenwood Neighborhood. Their mission is to unleash the creative power within people of all ages by creating programs that connect people to themselves, their community and the diversity of the world.

Let’s start with your Hidden Cedar Lake walking tour. What is The World Walks Free initiative all about?

The World Walks Free is about authentic hospitality. It’s my way of saying: you’re welcome here. The Hidden Cedar Lake tour is open to all — but here’s the twist: If you’re visiting from another country and have a non-U.S. passport, your walk is free. No strings. I did that because I’ve heard from travelers that America feels unwelcoming these days, and I want to break that stereotype. Minneapolis is actually more like a European city than people realize: world-class bike trails, beautiful walking paths, quiet urban nature. It’s a place for reflection, art, culture and conversation. The World Walks Free is about opening that space up — showing visitors from around the world that this city — and this country — still has heart. And to make that experience truly meaningful, I limit each Hidden Cedar tour to just six people. It keeps things intimate, easy to communicate, and allows for real conversation. We’re not just walking — we’re connecting.

What makes the Hidden Cedar Lake tour different from a typical nature walk?

It’s more than a stroll by a lake or through the woods. It’s a guided journey through forgotten stories, natural beauty, and sometimes,



your own thoughts. I bring in the hidden history of the land — Indigenous roots, local legends, bohemian artists who lived here — and blend it with moments of silence and reflection. It’s not about rushing or checking things off. It’s about slowing down and remembering that freedom and beauty can be right under our noses.

And the name — “Hidden Cedar” — what does it signify?

Cedar Lake has always been a kind of quiet gem in the city. Not as flashy as Lake of the Isles or Lake Harriet, but maybe more soulful. “Hidden” refers not just to the geography but to the stories we uncover — things most people walk right by without knowing the history under their feet. It’s that sense of discovery, like opening a time capsule just beneath the surface.

Let’s pivot to Hidden MPLS. What is Hidden MPLS, and how did it come to be?

Hidden MPLS started as a storytelling experiment. I’ve been collecting oddball facts, secret places and almost-forgotten people that shaped this city. It’s a private, customizable tour where I take you into the real Minneapolis — jazz-era hideouts, old speakeasies, literary landmarks, murals in back alleys. The kind of

stuff the brochures don’t tend to tell you. It’s a living, breathing story of the city.

Each Hidden MPLS tour is private and fully tailored to the participants’ interests?

Yes, whether you’re into art, music, architecture, history, politics, or a mix of everything, I’ll build the experience around what lights you up. It’s not one-size-fits-all. It’s you-sized!

What kind of things can people expect to see on a Hidden MPLS tour?

Expect the unexpected. You might find yourself inside a historic freight elevator or sipping coffee in a place where Prince once performed unannounced. One tour might focus on Minneapolis’ radical political roots, another on its unsung artists. It all depends on what you’re curious about. It’s part improv, part archaeology and totally local.

Why do you say it’s the coolest tour going in Minneapolis?

Because it’s not a lecture — it’s an experience. I don’t hand you a script or guidebook. I hand you access. You’re hearing stories from people who have seen the city evolve from the inside. I’ve been telling stories professionally for over 40 years, and I tailor the tour for each group or individual. Locals end up seeing their own city in ways they hadn’t before. Tourists walk away feeling like insiders. Plus, it’s fun! And sometimes a little weird. That’s the best combo.

How do you see Hidden MPLS and Hidden Cedar working together?

They’re like city and soul. Hidden MPLS is the heartbeat—the jazz, the rebellion, the secret staircases. Hidden Cedar is the breath — the stillness, the green space, the deep roots. Together, they show you both the grit and the grace of Minneapolis.

What do you hope people take away from your tours?

I hope they leave with their eyes wider and their hearts a little lighter. I want people — especially international guests — to feel that this city welcomed them, that it has depth, and that it’s more than just what’s on the headlines. Whether you’re walking a quiet trail by the lake or ducking into a hidden downtown passageway, I want you to think: That was unforgettable.

Last question, where can people find out more information or sign up for these tours?

All the information can be found on the website: HiddenMPLS.com



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond

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

Dear Neighbor,

It’s June and, like so many Munchkins, we emerge dazed into the unfamiliar familiar — the neighborhood, overjoyed in the knowledge that the wicked winter weather has departed, and we can all be out and about, bumping into one another. At least for a few months.

So, let’s talk about neighbors. Given the title of this three-plus-year-old column, I’d say it’s time.

Neighbors are important people in our lives. We didn’t choose them, and they didn’t choose us.

What we did choose is to live in a neighborhood, casting our neighbors in the de facto role of our extended safety nets; each of us has a responsibility to get along. This doesn’t mean aiming to be besties with everyone in your precinct — that would be exhausting and unreasonable.

There’s a cable TV show called “Fear Thy Neighbor” that I watch from time to time. The plot is always the same: New people move in and either they bring havoc with them or some established homeowner provides an anti-Welcome Wagon. The acrimony usually involves noise (barking dogs, revving engines, non-stop construction or rowdy parties).

Less frequently, the disputes involve property lines or general sloppiness (junk lying about, unkempt yards, trash, or acrid smells) that bring ugliness to what can be beautiful.

You don’t have to be Frederick Law Olmstead, but don’t be a Porky Pig. Each episode always circles back to a control freak whose chosen form of arbitration is murder.

I’ve had only one “bad neighbor” (many, many

years ago) whose Rottweiler, Roscoe, spent untold hours outside, barking to get back in. (Apparently, his owner didn’t see Roscoe’s charm, either.)

I’ve had my share of “nonpracticing neighbors” — people who bought the house to live in, not as a springboard for comingling with anyone whose name wasn’t on the deed, and that’s okay — you do you.

Getting along with neighbors boils down to not pissing people off. If you can manage that, everything else is gravy.

Over the years, I’ve had countless great neighbor experiences, but one stands out.

Her name was Peggy, and we lived next door to each other some 40 years ago in a bungalow-filled section of St. Paul’s Mac-Groveland area.

Peggy was a little older than I, single, friendly, tidy, and also had a cat. That’s about all we had in common, but it was plenty.

We had keys to each other’s houses, and when either of us traveled the other kept watch and tended to particular needs. We didn’t socialize beyond over-the-fence chit-chat: Her friends were of the hard-core granola set — I’d see them coming and going and wonder, do these people even own shoes?

Mine were of a distinctly different pack, arriving shod and bearing treats not scooped from co-op bulk bins. But these were surface differences and mattered, really, not one whit.

When my father died, I got the call early Saturday morning in late May, and did exactly and only what one needs to do in this situation: I packed a suitcase with a black dress and anything else deemed necessary, then called Peggy, telling her I’d be gone for several days and why: Would she take in my mail and feed my cat? Of course.

As I left the house to drive to my parents’ (now my mother’s) house in Northfield, I noticed that the lawn needed mowing. No time to do,

much less think about, that.

A week later I returned. A few blocks from my house, coming out of the dome of deep and busy grief, I remembered my yard and what a disaster it surely was. Pulling up to the front, I saw not just a freshly cut lawn, but trimmed bushes, watered flowers in their planters: Peggy.

No casserole dropped off or flowers sent to the funeral home could have been so apt.

I began to cry, but for the first time in a week sadness didn’t provoke the tears, rather gratitude and the realization that I wasn’t alone in the world in this neighborhood, my neighborhood.

I thanked Peggy profusely in both written and spoken word, but none of it seemed to express what her gesture meant to me.

Several summers late a neighbor in my current neighborhood had a death in the family. I got along well with him and his family, but we didn’t keep company beyond our shared-alley nattering.

After a few days of their absence I noticed that their normally well-tended lawn was looking shaggy. Peggy! I knew just what to do.

May you have many Peggys in your neighborhood. And if you’re lucky enough, be one.

— Dorothy



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EAST CEDAR LAKE BEACH AREA: A VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN EFFORT

By Courtney Cushing Kiernat and Will Stensrud, Photos by Courtney Cushing Kiernat



Courtney Cushing Kiernat and Will Stensrud are volunteers at East Cedar Lake Beach. They live in Kenwood.

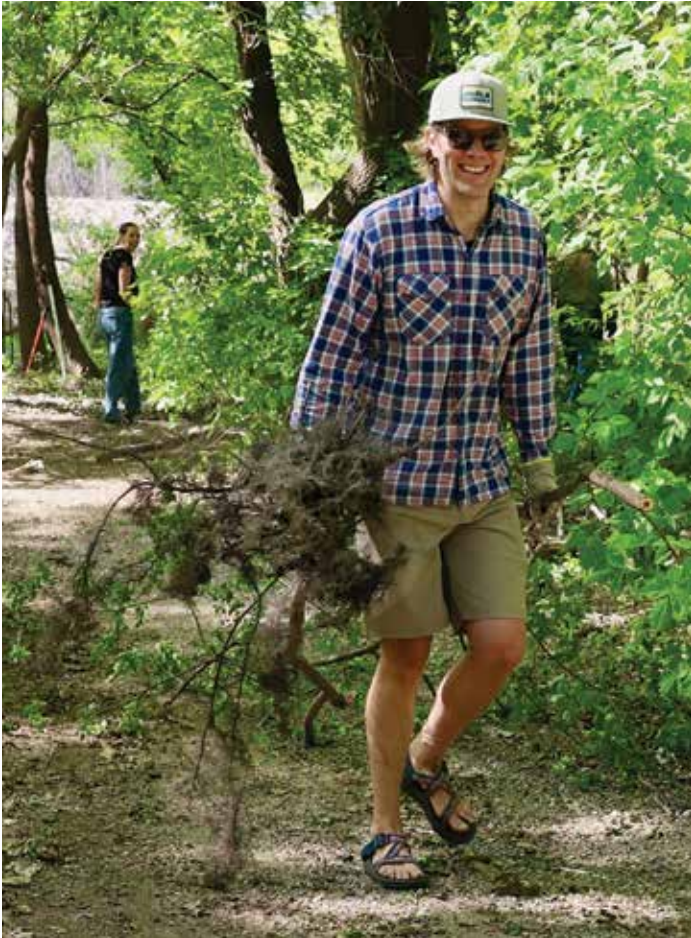
Over the past eight years, East Cedar Lake Beach — affectionately known by many as “Hidden Beach” — has undergone a significant transformation. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of community volunteers from the Cedar Lake Park Association (CLPA), Kenwood School, the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO), and the team at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and Park Police, East Cedar Lake Beach has seen a marked decrease in crime and an increase in families from across the Twin Cities enjoying the natural beauty just a few miles from downtown Minneapolis. Like the beach’s nickname, many of the stewardship efforts are hidden or unknown to area visitors. CLPA volunteers have envisioned, created and stewarded the sur-

rounding Cedar Lake Park land since 1989. Their work has allowed the area to flourish with native species and recreation trails that now connect with the award-winning trail system throughout the metro area. In 2019, another important milestone took place: The land surrounding East Cedar Lake Beach was designated as a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources School Forest. For years, Kenwood School teachers have taken advantage of the area’s natural beauty, venturing with their students to learn and explore near the beach and Cedar Lake Park. Now it is an official School Forest. This designation was made possible through the vision and collaboration of CLPA, the Kenwood School PTA and teachers. The plan for the five-acre area includes walking paths through distinct habitats — mesic forest, prairie, marsh and wet meadow — that can serve as an educational

and wellness space for people of all ages. The School Forest plan aligns with the recently approved MPRB Plan for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, which is set to receive funding in the near future. It also helps address the critical need for proactive community engagement to mitigate the environmental and public safety risks associated with the opening of the Southwest LRT Green Line Extension and the 21st Street Station in 2027. Complementing these milestones, KNO has continued to focus on stewardship and community engagement efforts at the beach to create and maintain a safe and welcoming area for all. To kick off a summer of yoga, concerts and family events at the beach, KNO hosts an annual spring beach cleanup. This year, KNO expanded its efforts by partnering with the Kenwood School PTA, CLPA and MPRB. On May 10, nearly 100 volunteers of all ages came together to

embrace stewardship of the beach and the surrounding School Forest’s expanding vision. They groomed heavily used areas, outlined walking paths with logs to protect natural habitats, and removed invasive buckthorn to prepare the land for native species revival. The collaboration helped raise awareness about the School Forest, highlighted ongoing stewardship efforts in the area and recruited volunteers to continue the critical work started by dedicated volunteers and MPRB staff to make the area a safe, welcoming and accessible park and beach for all. Stewardship efforts are ongoing thanks to many hidden volunteers who dedicate their time, energy and effort for the betterment of us all. If you’re interested in joining this ongoing stewardship effort, contact KNO at kno55405@gmail.com.







A NEW FEATURE
FOR READERS,
IN WHICH WE GIVE
SHORT ANSWERS TO
“SIMPLE” QUESTIONS.



Q. What the heck are the deep, fenced-in pits on the sidewalks of the completed portion of Hennepin Avenue?

A. According to Adam Hayow, project engineer on the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction project, they are stormwater boxes, part of a green stormwater initiative designed to capture runoff and reduce the amount of stormwater entering lakes, streams and sewer systems. The pits will eventually be filled with soil below grade level and planted with trees and other vegetation, which allows the water to be filtered naturally on site. While bunnies might find them to be suitable nesting spots, they are not designed for that purpose. The city has installed ramps to help trapped wildlife escape from the pits if they fall in.



Susan Lenfestey wondered “what the heck” those deep pits along Hennepin are. Her investigation has sparked a new column exploring some of the Hill & Lake community’s most puzzling mysteries. (Images: Craig Wilson)