



SHARPENING THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY: THE ANNUAL PENCIL PARTY

By Courtney Cushing Kiernat



(Image: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

Courtney Cushing Kiernat is a regular contributor. She lives in Kenwood.

More than 2,000 Minneapolis neighbors and visitors — some dressed in pencil-themed costumes — gathered to witness the Fourth

Annual Sharpening of the Lake of the Isles Pencil.

Once a 180-year-old oak tree that fell during a storm in the East Isles front yard of Amy and John Higgins, it has been transformed into a gigantic 20-foot No. 2 pencil.

The couple turned the loss of a beloved tree into a fun, community-building landmark — now officially recognized on Google Maps.

Sculpted by wood artist Curtis Ingvoldstad, the pencil is sharpened annually with great fanfare.

But this year’s event exceeded all expectations, drawing local and national media attention along with a documentary film crew.

The festivities opened with an alphorn performance by Edina musicians Mary and Ralph Brindle, playing the 12- to 15-foot-long horns most famously associated with the Swiss Alps and Ricola commercials.

DJ Jake Rudh, a regular on The Current and founder of First Avenue’s Transmission dance party, kept the energy high with a set that included Prince favorites in honor of what would have been the Minneapolis icon’s 67th birthday.

Costumed pencils entertained the crowd with dancing, antics and even a daring pencil trust fall — because who doesn’t trust a No. 2 pencil? Lowry Hill resident and Friends of the Hennepin County Library Executive Director Beth Burns used her language skills to ask the giant pencil questions and translate its responses via a special can phone.

If you missed this year’s sharpening, don’t worry — there’s always next year.

The Pencil also makes appearances throughout the year, decked out for Halloween and lit up for the holidays.

Given the Higgins family’s creativity and generosity of spirit, next year’s sharpening promises to be another unforgettable, community-building event.

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LAKE OF THE ISLES NEIGHBORS GET UPDATES ON WATER QUALITY EFFORTS

By Craig Wilson, Editor

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

About 20 neighbors gathered at the Kenwood Community Center on June 23 for an update from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff on water quality and aquatic plant management at Lake of the Isles.

The meeting, hosted by Park Board Water Resources staff and District 4 Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, covered shallow lake ecology, aquatic plant harvesting, and the challenges of maintaining water quality while balancing recreational uses.

“It takes dedication to spend a beautiful summer afternoon learning about water quality,” said Deb Pilger, Director of Environmental Management. “We appreciate the community’s engagement and thoughtful questions.”

Aquatic Plant Harvesting Plans for 2025

The Park Board outlined its goals for aquatic plant management at Isles this summer, including two full harvesting passes of designated areas. The first pass is nearly complete, with the second planned for late July or early August.

Over the past few years, the Park Board has improved harvesting efficiency across the Chain of Lakes. This year, changes such as relocating the milfoil storage site closer to the lakes have reduced downtime and allowed for more plant removal.

To maximize effectiveness, experienced machine operators have been brought in, and harvesting began earlier in the season than usual. Better coordination between harvesters serving Bde Maka Ska and Isles is also a focus.

Challenges and Limitations

High water levels at Lake of the Isles continue to create operational

challenges, limiting access to the primary offload site for harvested vegetation. The Park Board is evaluating alternative sites, though some are less efficient.

Staffing limitations also impact harvesting capacity. The Park Board is advocating for increased staffing hours and improved scheduling to better meet community expectations for water quality and recreational use.

Chemical treatments, such as herbicides for invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil, remain prohibited under the Park Board’s Integrated Pest Management Plan. Any policy change to allow limited herbicide use would require public support and approval from the Park Board, given past opposition to chemical treatments.

Information on water quality efforts can be found in the Park Board’s Annual Water Resources Reports at: minneapolis.parks.org/water_resources.

HOW HARVESTING WORKS

MPRB HARVESTING MACHINES OPERATE IN TWO MODES:

1. Cutting:

Removing upper portions of submerged aquatic plants, typically about 5 feet below the surface.

2. Skimming:

Collecting dense mats of filamentous algae from just below the surface. Skimming is limited by the heavy, waterlogged nature of the algae, requiring more frequent offloading.



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) and we reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

Paula Chesley Understands What Our Parks Need

I was so pleased to learn that Paula Chesley is running for the open Park Board seat in District 4. Although I supported Elizabeth Shaffer as a delegate at the Ward 7 City Council Convention, I was impressed with Paula’s message and her thoughtful approach as a candidate.

For the past six years, I’ve volunteered as a Park Steward with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, focusing on Cedar Lake — especially the Point Beach area.

My goal has been to help restore and maintain our parks as healthy, welcoming spaces — for both people and the natural environment.

That’s meant ecological restoration, removing invasive species, planting native vegetation, and, just as importantly, pushing the Park Board to address long-neglected public assets badly in need of repair.

A couple of weeks ago, my wife Jen and I had the chance to take Paula on a walk through the area we help care for.

The place was buzzing with ac-

tivity — a reminder that this is truly a regional park, drawing people from many diverse neighborhoods.

We talked about the importance of making Point Beach healthy and safe — from removing invasive buckthorn and restoring native plants, to improving beach sand quality, addressing pedestrian and e-vehicle safety on the paths, and fixing the hazardous crosswalk at the busy parking lot.

We agreed these concerns aren’t unique to Point Beach — they echo across our entire park system.

We even had a fun conversation about how to honor “Lumpy,” the massive cottonwood tree that recently came down near the parking lot.

Paula suggested turning the stump into a community sculpture — a playful nod to the LOTI Pencil — a sharp “point” for Point Beach. What a cool idea!

Like any candidate, Paula will have a learning curve. But she proved to be an attentive listener, genuinely curious, and full of thoughtful questions.

Jen and I came away confident that she will show up for this community — for both the natural spaces and the people who enjoy them.

Paula has the passion and energy to help advance the goals so many of us care about for our parks. We’re excited to support her in November.

Steve Kotvis
Bryn Mawr

So Glad to See Hill & Lake Press in Bryn Mawr

It was a great surprise to find the June issue of Hill & Lake Press

in my Bryn Mawr mailbox.

I lived in Lowry Hill for years and always appreciated the paper — smart, local reporting with actual depth. Since moving, I’ve missed it.

With local papers vanishing everywhere, it’s pretty incredible that this neighborhood still has two. Let’s not take that for granted.

I’m hoping this wasn’t a one-time delivery — my neighbors and I would love to keep seeing Hill & Lake Press out our way.

Keep it rolling. We’re paying attention.

Amber Senn
Bryn Mawr

Response from the editor:

Thank you for your feedback, Amber. We’ve also received several other letters to the editor from Bryn Mawr residents sharing the same mix of surprise, confusion — and excitement — about receiving the Hill & Lake Press.

The simple explanation is that we mail the newspaper through bulk mailing routes, and from time to time, those routes shift.

In order to cover our standard distribution area and ensure we reach all the households within it, the mailing sometimes extends into nearby neighborhoods like Bryn Mawr.

We’re thrilled to hear the positive response from you and so many of your neighbors.

Our volunteers work hard every month to put this paper together, and feedback like yours means a lot. Thank you for reading — and for reaching out!

Craig Wilson, Editor
Hill & Lake Press

UPTOWN FARMERS MARKET IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!



Dan Sutton, a Minneapolis community leader and founder of the Uptown Farmers Market, cuts the ribbon at the market’s grand opening as neighbors, families and friends cheer on. The new market brings fresh food, live music and lively community spirit to the heart of Uptown all summer long. The market takes place Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m. at Lake Street and Girard Avenue South. (Image: Carla Pardue)

Making Our Community Just a Little Better for Someone Else

By Courtney Cushing Kiernat

Courtney Cushing Kiernat is a regular contributor. She lives in Kenwood.

The last few months have been uncertain and challenging, to say the least. As we’ve ridden this rocky ship, I’ve been reminded of the incredible anchoring power of community.

The murder of Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman, her husband, Mark Hortman, and their dog, Gilbert, shocked, saddened and angered me.

I knew Melissa and looked up to her. I didn’t know what to do with my emotions until I read a statement from their adult children, Sophie and Colin — who are close in age to my own. Their words stuck with me:

“Hope and resilience are the enemy of fear. Our parents lived their lives with immense dedication to their fellow humans. This tragedy must become a moment for us to come together. Hold your loved ones a little closer. Love your neighbors. Treat each other with kindness and respect. The best way to honor our parents’ memory is to do something, whether big or small, to make our community just a little better for someone else.”

Their statement reminded me of how the small things — the quiet acts that make life just a little better for someone else — hold our community together.

I thought of Dorothy Richmond’s *The Good Neighbor* column from the June 2025 issue of Hill & Lake Press and her story about her helpful neighbor, Peggy.

Dorothy ended her column with, “May you have many Peggys in your neighborhood. And if you’re lucky enough, be one.”

My family and I are lucky to have many Peggys in our lives — people who do small and big things to make our days better.

They fix our bikes, let our dogs out on busy days and even offer a cold beer when our fridge is empty, but I could really use one.

Our neighbors are such an important part of our lives that we can’t imagine ever moving.

I’m also reminded daily that community stretches beyond my block. It includes people I know well, those I only know in passing, by their dog or by our shared routines.

Whether they know it or not, they do small things that brighten my life: the man on the 10-speed who waves as he pedals by blasting ’80s tunes I can sing along to, the Westie dog-walking crew who greet me from afar and noticed when we sadly lost one of our dogs too soon, or the Wal-

greens pharmacy tech who always asks how I’m doing.

I don’t know their names, life stories or political beliefs. But we acknowledge each other. We recognize our shared humanity. I consider them part of my community — and I miss them when they’re gone for too long.

I could go on about the people who make a difference in my day through small, ordinary acts of kindness. Whether they realize it or not, they create a sense of belonging and connection. I can only hope I do the same for them.

Nothing in life is certain. But as the world continues to change rapidly around us, I remain committed to working with and for my community — especially for those most impacted and unseen. We have countless Peggys among us, performing small and large acts of kindness every day. I encourage you to recognize them — and if you’re lucky enough, be one.



Kenwood volunteers doing their part to strengthen community at East Cedar Lake Beach through one of a number of Hidden Acoustic Bluegrass concerts and family events. (Images: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

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WHY 'CATS OF THE WEDGE TOUR' MATTERS & THE UNLIKELY STORY OF BUBB THE CAT

Photos and Article by Molly Mogren Katt

CATS OF THE WEDGE TOUR 2025



Neighborhood kids fundraise for cat welfare.

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

I loved the kittens I adopted after college, but I don’t miss the 16 years a litter box lived in our laundry room.

Still, when your last name is Katt and you live across the street from Mueller Park, the Cats of the Wedge Tour will knead its way into your dog-loving heart.

Now in its eighth year, hundreds of cat lovers descend on our block for this urban safari, touring the neighborhood in search of its feline residents.

There are planned stops, where people may hoist cats for a Lion King-style “Circle of Life” moment, but the real excitement happens when someone spots an unexpected cat lounging in a sunny window — the crowd erupts.

Last year, my kids set up a lemonade stand to coincide with the tour, raising funds for a local rescue. But this year, one particular Cat of the Wedge needed our help.

In early June, we discovered a black and white kitten beneath a tree at Mueller Park.

Tiny, unusually tolerant of children, and with a tongue permanently sticking out like a Mr. Yuk poison sticker, he was adorable — but clearly in need of medical attention.

Our neighbor Cate knew exactly who to call: Delaney Alexander. Within a half-hour, Alexan-

der arrived with a crate and a plan to take the kitten to MetroPet Animal Hospital at 2603 Hennepin Ave.

As it turns out, the “kitten” was actually a 3.5-pound, 2-year-old cat with dwarfism and a misaligned jaw. Now named Bubb, he’s officially a clinic cat at MetroPet, greeting every patient who walks through the door.

Alexander, a Stevens Square resident, is relatively new to cat rescue. Two years ago, she visited a dairy farm with a prolific feral cat population.

The property, teeming with sickly animals and no plan to manage the colony, left her deeply unsettled. She asked the farmers if they would allow her to spay and neuter the cats and seek rescue for those suitable for adoption.

Today, that colony is stabilized — no longer growing. Alexander returns every few weeks to fill gravity feeders and check on the animals.

She now applies these methods to urban cat colonies, trapping, fixing and releasing feral cats. She currently monitors colonies in Brooklyn Center and south Minneapolis, but gets calls about stray or found cats daily.

Most cats you see outside during the day are domesticated. They may nuzzle your leg, purr or let you pet them. Feral cats, however, are largely nocturnal, fearful or avoidant of humans, and unless very young, aren’t suitable for adoption.

While some stray cats accidentally end up on the streets, just as many are abandoned. Alexander notes she often sees an uptick in loose cats at the beginning of the month, when people move and leave their pets behind.

If you find a friendly, healthy cat (Minneapolis Animal Control typically only assists with the injured), best practice is to safely contain it and have it scanned for a microchip at a veterinary clinic. A crate or even a bathroom can work for temporary holding while you check for lost animal reports on websites like Nextdoor or Pawboost.

Keep the cat separate from your own pets. If you’re unable to contain the animal, post on social media to find a temporary foster. If no owner is found, the Animal Humane Society offers surrender appointments for adoptable cats, usually within two to three weeks. You can also contact local rescues for help.

Even if you’re not a cat person, feral cat management matters.

Just a handful of unaltered cats can quickly multiply — a female cat can reproduce as early as four months old and have up to three litters a year.

Feral cats face short, stressful lives filled with malnutrition, disease and injury. They also create problems for property owners, harm bird populations and often suffer slow, painful deaths.

If you find a feral cat, contact a group or an individual like Alexander who specializes in trap-neuter-release, or TNR. Many connect with her through her Facebook page, Delaney’s Feline Haven, or on Nextdoor.

During this year’s damp, chilly Cats of the Wedge Tour, our family raised \$230 for MetroPet’s stray cat fund — enough to cover three feline surgeries, including Bubb’s. Hopefully, there’s a little left over to buy him some catnip.

BEAT THE HEAT WITH A SWEET TREAT

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Sebastian Joe's



A neighborhood cat on display for the Cats of the Wedge Tour.



Above: Bubba now lives at MetroPet Animal Hospital with companion Wonky the cat.
Bottom: A large crowd gathers a Mueller Park for the annual Cats of the Wedge Tour.



RE-ELECT COUNCILWOMAN KATIE CASHMAN

LABOR-ENDORSED DEMOCRAT WITH A VISION FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Prepared and paid for by Katie Cashman for
Minneapolis City Council, katieforcouncil.org

MINNEAPOLIS MAYORAL HOPEFULS VIE FOR DFL ENDORSEMENT

By Terry White



Jacob Frey (Image: jacobfrey.org)



Jazz Hampton (Image: jazzformayor.com)



DeWayne Davis (Image: dewayneforminneapolis.com)

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

On Saturday, July 19, the Minneapolis DFL will hold its city convention. Five candidates are currently seeking the party's endorsement: Mayor Jacob Frey, Sen. Omar Fateh, Jazz Hampton, the Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis and Brenda Short.

Candidates who receive less than 10% of the delegate vote will likely face pressure to exit the race, with that percentage typically considered the minimum viability threshold at the convention.

While some may continue their campaigns regardless, a crowded debate stage can make it harder for voters to evaluate the field, especially those unfamiliar with ranked-choice voting.

Fundraising and volunteer recruitment also become more difficult for candidates who fail to gain traction at the convention.

This article focuses on the four leading candidates based on fundraising and campaign activity: Jacob Frey, Jazz Hampton, DeWayne Davis and Omar Fateh.

Brenda Short was not included, as public campaign finance records indicate Short's campaign hasn't approached the \$750 threshold needed for formal reporting on the City of Minneapolis portal and her campaign has not demonstrated the same level of organizational activity as the other candidates. Full interviews with the candidates are available at [BetterMinneapolis.com](https://betterminneapolis.com).

Potential evaluation criteria

Delegates and voters alike must decide which criteria matter most to them. Is it endorsements? The candidate's experience? Their positions on key issues such as housing, public safety, taxes and economic development?

After spending time with the candidates and reflecting on the current state of Minneapolis, I developed a personal set of criteria that may be helpful to others.

I considered which candidate is most likely to respond well under pressure or in a crisis, whose values most closely align with my own and who can be trusted to provide clear, accurate updates about city operations. Most important, I reflected on each candidate's vision for the city — whether they are preparing Minneapolis for the economic and social challenges ahead.

Jacob Frey

First elected in 2017, Mayor Jacob Frey's tenure has encompassed a period of significant challenges that would have tested any sitting mayor. These have included the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic im-

pact, the murder of George Floyd, rising concerns about crime, homelessness and opioid use, the transition to a strong mayor system, zoning law changes and debates over policies such as rent control and labor standards. He won reelection four years ago amid these challenges, demonstrating his ability to face adversity and lead.

“Frey positions himself as an experienced incumbent focused on pragmatic governance, citing his record on affordable housing and public safety. Hampton brings a legal and business background and emphasizes collaboration and neighborhood-focused economic development. Davis centers his campaign on values-driven leadership and equity, with strong support for rent stabilization and non-police safety alternatives. Fateh frames his candidacy around bold structural change and progressive policies, including new revenue tools and expanded renter protections.”

Frey pointed to his record on affordable housing, highlighting growth in both subsidized and market-rate units during his tenure. He opposes rent control, arguing that while the idea may be politically appealing to some, he believes it would harm the housing market.

On public safety, Frey noted increased police staffing and reductions in emergency calls related to homeless encampments. He emphasized the importance of connecting people to long-term, stable housing rather than relying on large encampments. Frey said visible improvements have been made but acknowledged ongoing challenges.

His campaign is supported by a network of elected officials, business leaders and

community advocates. Frey emphasized his ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and pointed to ongoing progress on police reform, housing and economic development.

On economic recovery, Frey expressed cautious optimism, noting that while progress takes time, small business activity is increasing in areas like Uptown.

Reflecting on his earlier terms, he said, “In virtually any other city in the entire country, I’d be considered quite progressive.” He added, “I’m not going to let ideology get in the way of good governance and truth.”

Jazz Hampton

Jazz Hampton brings a background that includes legal, business and nonprofit experience. He is the CEO of TurnSignl, a company that provides real-time legal guidance during traffic stops. He is a former public defender, corporate attorney and member of the Minneapolis Foundation board and he teaches finance for entrepreneurs at the University of St. Thomas.

Hampton, a lifelong Minneapolis resident, describes himself as a bridge-builder. “You have to sit at the table with people that disagree with your viewpoint,” he said. He emphasized diversity of thought and lived experience, noting his local roots compared with other candidates who moved to Minneapolis as adults.

Hampton identified affordable housing, public safety and neighborhood-focused economic development as key priorities. He pointed to his work with TurnSignl and his legal background as examples of how he has worked to promote safety and support communities.

As a Black man of biracial heritage, he brings a nuanced perspective to police-community interactions. He recounted a personal experience when police responded to his home after he forgot his alarm code. While grateful for their protection, he still felt apprehensive meeting them at his door. “I’m nervous for any police officers approaching my house and responding to something, and to pretend like only one [of these feelings] exists is wild to me. They both exist. We have to address both of them,” he said.

His campaign has earned endorsements from a growing coalition of business leaders, legal professionals and community advocates. Hampton emphasized his belief that addressing regulatory barriers, supporting small businesses and improving public safety require collaboration across sectors.

DeWayne Davis

The Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis, former lead minister at Plymouth Congregational Church, is running for mayor to address what he sees



Omar Fateh (Image: fatehformayor.com)

as stalled progress and deepening disparities in Minneapolis. A gay Black man, Davis moved to North Minneapolis 12 years ago, drawn by the city's reputation as “the most walkable city, the most livable city, with the greatest quality of life — a progressive oasis in the Midwest.”

But while working at NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, he quickly realized those qualities were not shared by all residents. He began to see the city’s inequities in a powerful way, which he believes must be addressed to get Minneapolis “unstuck.”

Davis highlighted his work in faith leadership, community health and advocacy as evidence of his ability to bring people together. He described his campaign as values-driven, focused on dignity, cooperation and inclusive governance.

On public safety, Davis supports increased investment in non-police alternatives, such as safety ambassadors and violence interrupters, along with improved 911 response times. On housing, he backs rent stabilization and stronger renter protections. For economic development, he supports zoning and permitting reforms while encouraging entrepreneurship.

Davis emphasized that his campaign is building a diverse coalition of faith leaders, housing advocates and community organizers committed to addressing disparities and advancing equity.

He acknowledged the city's history of change, saying, "The city of the future is going to look different. We have to be open to what that future will look like."

Omar Fateh

Sen. Omar Fateh, who represents Minnesota Senate District 62, entered the mayoral race with a pledge to help build “a city that works for everyone.” He pointed to his legislative record, which includes work on free college tuition, wage protections for gig workers and securing state funding for public safety in Minneapolis.

Fateh says he was inspired to run for mayor after seeing “firsthand what a progressive legislature can do with the right executive,” but believes the current mayor “hasn’t delivered on a vision for public safety.”

Fateh's campaign priorities include stabilizing housing costs, diversifying public safety responses and exploring new revenue sources to offset the property tax burden. His proposals include a commercial vacancy tax, converting commercial properties to residential use and considering a local-option income tax.

His affiliation with the Democratic Socialists of America has drawn some criticism. Fateh emphasized that while he identifies with the group's progressive values, his work has focused on coalition-building and delivering tangible results, including bipartisan support for free college tuition and improved wages for Uber and Lyft drivers.

Fateh said his personal and professional experiences shape his belief that the city needs leadership focused on equity and collaboration.

Conclusion

The four leading candidates differ in background, experience and approach but share common concerns about housing, public safety and economic development. Their distinctions, however, are significant.

Frey positions himself as an experienced incumbent focused on pragmatic governance, citing his record on affordable housing and public safety. Hampton brings a legal and business background and emphasizes collaboration and neighborhood-focused economic development. Davis centers his campaign on values-driven leadership and equity, with strong support for rent stabilization and non-police safety alternatives. Fateh frames his candidacy around bold structural change and progressive policies, including new revenue tools and expanded renter protections.

The decision before voters is not just about policy but about leadership style, track record and philosophy. With ranked-choice voting, residents can express preferences among multiple candidates. Regardless of the outcome, this election will help determine the direction of Minneapolis at a critical time in its history.



Hill & Lake Press

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Hill & Lake Press

MEET THE DISTRICT 4 PARK BOARD CANDIDATES

By Marty Carlson



Conrad Zbikowski (Image: conradzbikowski.org)



Andrew Gebo (Image: gebo4parkboard.com)



Jason Garcia (Image: jasongarcia.org)

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

With the city DFL endorsing convention coming up in mid-July, the field of candidates vying to replace outgoing Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer is starting to gel.

After some false starts and testing of the waters, four candidates have active campaigns for the District 4 Park Board seat: Paula Chesley, Jason Garcia, Andrew Gebo and Conrad Zbikowski.

While some of these names may already be familiar to readers, this is still a campaign of relative newcomers in that none of the candidates has yet held elected public office.

Given the outsized role that parks play in this paper's circulation area, the Hill & Lake Press interviewed all four to learn more about their backgrounds and top priorities should they be elected.

All expressed a strong desire to act as public servants, and all were a pleasure to speak with — thank you! In reverse alphabetical order, the candidates are as follows:

Conrad Zbikowski

Although he's a first-time candidate for public office, members of the DFL faithful will likely recognize Zbikowski's name.

The 32-year-old Zbikowski most recently served as chair of the Minneapolis DFL from April 2024 until April 2025, when he resigned in the midst of a legal fracas over scheduling of the Ward 2 convention. That dust-up notwithstanding, Zbikowski says he's proud of his accomplishments as chair, noting that caucus turnout this year was the highest since 2016, and that the city DFL fully funded both the cau-

cuses and ward conventions without receiving outside money, whether from the state DFL or advocacy groups.

By way of background, Zbikowski was born in Minneapolis, but spent his grade school years in the northern suburbs, first in Spring Lake Park, then graduating from high school in Shoreview.

From there, he pursued a major in communications studies at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 2016.

Since then, Zbikowski has worked for enti-

“After some false starts and testing of the waters, four candidates have active campaigns for the District 4 Park Board seat: Paula Chesley, Jason Garcia, Andrew Gebo and Conrad Zbikowski.”

ties ranging from private communications and marketing companies to the Democratic Party to the University of Minnesota.

Zbikowski says he didn't plan to run for Park Board until two previously announced candidates, Jordan Leick and Jody Wynen, dropped out of the race, which roughly coincided with Zbikowski's departure as city DFL chair.

Zbikowski says he's a strong candidate, with government experience, coalition-building experience, and good relationships with elected officials.

Zbikowski says he also worked with previous MPRB District 4 Commissioner and President Jono Cowgill on Waterworks Park and other park projects.

Asked about his top three priorities if elected, Zbikowski cites: (a) accessible parks for all; (b) investing in healthy communities (e.g., sports, exercise, senior programs); and (c) safety in parks and parkways, ranging from youth and homeless outreach to physical infrastructure such as traffic calming measures on parkways.

More information on Zbikowski's campaign can be found at: czbi.org.

Andrew Gebo

Andrew Gebo is a new name in local politics. A transplant from California who now lives near Loring Park, the 32-year-old Gebo moved to Minneapolis in 2018, where he helps manage business relationships with customers for a local tech company.

Gebo was born in Jackson, California, a small former gold-mining town in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, where he lived until 13, moving to the Bay Area for high school with his mother after his stepfather passed away from cancer.

After graduating from high school, he began pursuing a business degree and became a registered investment advisor, before shifting focus to work with tech start-ups.

The high cost of living in the Bay Area prompted Gebo to consider relocating, and he zeroed in on Minneapolis after conducting some online research and then traveling to the

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Paula Chesley (Image: paulaforparks.org)

area in January of 2018 to make sure he could handle the winters. Winters weren’t a problem, he concluded, and he moved to the area in July of that year, followed shortly by his mom and his brother.

Gebo says parks were a big part of the reason he settled on Minneapolis as a new home, with Loring Park being a particular favorite, and spent significant time around Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska as well.

Gebo says parks offer residents an important opportunity to connect with nature, and the Minneapolis parks, in particular, help show off the city in a very positive light.

Asked about his political ambitions, Gebo says he had a “service moment” after the 2024 elections and began asking himself what he could do to help the community and make a positive contribution.

A friend suggested the District 4 Park Board seat, which Gebo says immediately resonated because of his love of our park system.

Asked about political influences, Gebo cites Bernie Sanders and what he describes as “left-wing populism,” including supporting workers, preserving green spaces and the environment.

He also mentions wanting to help rebuild the city and make it better after the George Floyd murder.

Gebo says his top three priorities, if elected, would be (a) listening to community input and preferences and acting as a public servant; (b) working to ensure park accessibility for all; and (c) creatively addressing the budget crunch that will be facing all local units of government in the coming years, while trying to keep the tax burden minimized.

More information on Gebo’s campaign can be found at: gebo4parkboard.com.

Jason Garcia

Like Andrew Gebo, Jason Garcia is a Minnesota resident by choice. Born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, the 50-year-old Garcia grew up in Hayward, then pursued a degree from University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, majoring in English and minoring in earth sciences.

After graduating from Whitewater in 1997, they moved to Minneapolis, remaining there for a decade until relocating back to Waukesha in 2007 to help care for an ailing parent.

Garcia returned to Minneapolis in 2013, living first in the Lyndale neighborhood, then moving to the Wedge in 2021 (where they had lived previously in the early 2000s).

Garcia says parks are a big part of the reason they chose Minneapolis as a place to live — growing up in an area with lots of wilderness access, they understood the importance of easy access and connection to nature.

Garcia also says parks and park programming were of great importance when raising their now-adult son.

Professionally, Garcia has held a variety of positions, working first in retail/customer service management, then working with The BrandLab, a non-profit that helps kids from non-traditional backgrounds get into the marketing industry.

From there, Garcia shifted to work focused on improving food systems and food access, working first for NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems), a non-profit dedicated to re-establishing native foodways, and currently working at The Good Acre, a non-profit food hub that helps aggregate food from small, local providers.

While this is Garcia’s first run for public office, they have served on the board of the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (including as president from 2022 to 2023), along with volunteering for Planned Parenthood as a clinic escort and helping gather traditional medicines for indigenous community members.

Like Zbikowski, Garcia began considering a Park Board run after former candidate Jordan Leick dropped out, which prompted neighbors to approach them about running instead.

Garcia says their top three priorities, if elected, would be (a) ensuring equitable access to parks, particularly for apartment and condo dwellers; (b) ensuring that parks remain safe for all; and (c) promoting connection to nature. Garcia also speaks of wanting to preserve the Park Board’s historic investment in parks and wanting to promote clear and transparent communications with the public.

More information on Garcia’s campaign can be found at: jasongarcia.org.

Paula Chesley

Although a relative newcomer to politics, East Isles resident Paula Chesley will be familiar to many readers because of her recently

ended run for the Ward 7 City Council seat.

Previously profiled in this paper in connection with that race (see the Hill & Lake Press, Feb. 2025). Chesley says that after she ended her City Council campaign, many neighbors approached her about running for Shaffer’s Park Board seat.

After taking time to think about it, she announced her candidacy in mid-June. The 46-year-old Chesley lived in several different Minnesota communities growing up, including Mankato, West St. Paul and St. Cloud, before attending the University of Minnesota, double-majoring in English and French.

After graduating, she moved to France on a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship, earned a master’s degree in computational linguistics in Paris, then obtained a Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Minnesota.

But after spending a couple of years as a visiting professor and post-doctoral researcher, Chesley decided she wanted to spend more time working directly with people and shifted focus dramatically.

She spent two years with a contemporary dance studio in Berlin, and her interest in dance morphed into an interest in yoga.

After returning to the United States, she began work as a yoga teacher, first at studios, and now on staff with the Emily Program, where she teaches yoga and meditation to individuals in recovery from eating disorders.

Chesley says she also helped develop the Emily Program’s community garden and teaches gardening to program participants.

Chesley’s interest in politics started out with parks. In 2020, she successfully challenged the Park Board’s ordinance banning female toplessness.

At approximately the same time, she became increasingly involved with volunteer activities in her East Isles neighborhood, serving on the local neighborhood association board, becoming a block captain and founding the East Isles Safety Walking Club.

Chesley says that after she ended her City Council campaign, many neighbors approached her about running for Shaffer’s Park Board seat.

After taking time to think about it, she announced her candidacy in mid-June.

She says three top priorities are (1) continuing Elizabeth Shaffer’s strong legacy of constituent services, (2) advocating for additional Park Board funds, whether from the city, county, legislature or other sources and (3) protecting and improving water quality in the parks.

Chesley says that safety in the parks is also key and wants to promote more community gardens in parks, along with advocating for a downtown conservatory.

More information on Chesley’s campaign can be found at: paulaforparks.org.

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Hill & Lake Press

Lowry Hill Update

Thank you to all who attended our Juneteenth Social! Special thanks to the Black artists and business owners who helped celebrate: Christopher Aaron Deans, Ace Rice's PLOT Gallery, Soul Bowl owner Chef Gerard Klass, and ensemble 'Bop Nouveau' from MacPhail Center for Music.

Super Sale registrations are open online. Mark Sept. 13 on your calendars—and sellers, start stocking up your wares!

Did you know storm drain street trash pollutes 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

LHNA's board is off for the summer. Monthly board meetings resume Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7–9 PM at Searle Mansion.



Uptown Farmers Market

Thursdays, 4–8 PM Now through Sept. 25
W Lake St & Girard Ave (beside Seven Points)
The market is in full swing, and LHNA is a proud founding sponsor! Shop local on Thursdays all summer.

Ice Cream Social

July 13 Sat. 2 – 4 PM
Kenwood Rec Center: 2101 W Franklin Ave
Lowry Hill residents are invited for free Sebastian Joe's ice cream! Come meet neighbors and the LHNA board.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Walks

July 19 • August 16 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.

Fishing in the Park

August 9 Sat. 10 AM – 12 PM
SW Cedar Lake: 2630 Cedar Lake Pkwy
Fishing poles, bait, and instruction provided, no license required. All ages and skills welcome!

2025 Neighborhood Super Sale

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

for full details, newsletter sign-up and more



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SUMMER FUN & WELLNESS 2025

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



Learn more about Summer Fun in Kenwood



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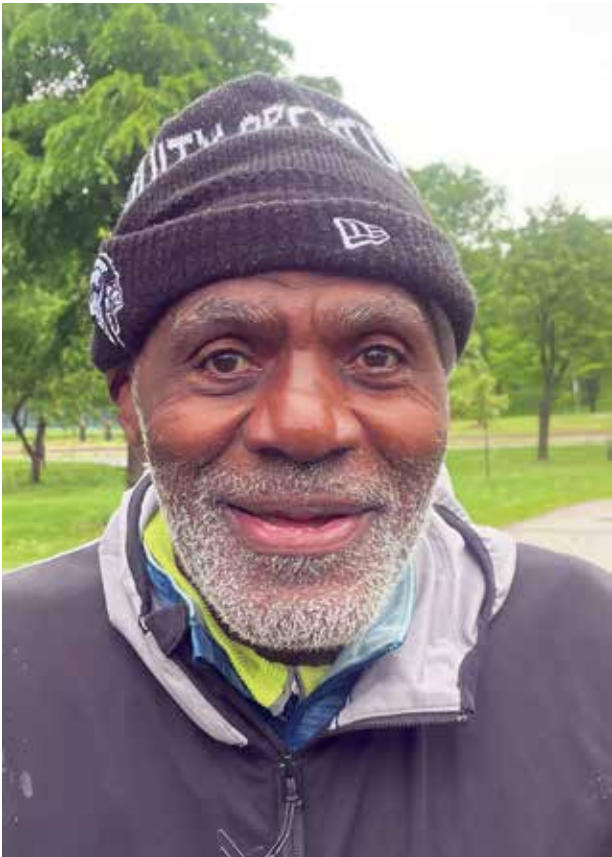
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JUSTICE ALAN PAGE

Our Iconic Yet Humble Neighbor

Interview by David Piper



Justice Alan Page (Image: David Piper)

David Piper is a retired judge and regular contributor. He lives in Kenwood.

Justice Alan Page hardly needs an introduction. He’s a football legend, the first African American to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court, an NFL Most Valuable Player, a College Football Hall of Famer, a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, a children’s book author — and, together with his late wife, Diane Sims Page, the co-founder of the Page Education Foundation. Two schools proudly bear his name: Justice Page Middle School and Justice Alan Page Elementary.

Justice Page graciously agreed to a Hill & Lake Press interview — perhaps because he has called this neighborhood home for more than 50 years. He and Diane purchased their lot here in 1973 and built the house they would share for decades.

Our conversation was thoughtful and wide-ranging. He spoke with quiet pride about his life’s work and with unmistakable warmth about Diane and their shared belief in the power of education. I had assumed — wrongly — that he might be pessimistic about the future. Instead, his optimism is steady, rooted in his faith in young people and the belief that education can change everything.

I caught him after one of his daily walks around the lake, purple cap in hand — a nod to his Vikings days and the legendary Purple People Eaters defensive line. When I told him he looked sharp in the photo I took, he smiled shyly and looked away.

“Oh, I don’t know about that,” he said.

For all his accolades, Page is clearest about what matters most: Diane, their four children and the Page Education Foundation. And maybe, just maybe, he’s also a little proud of playing the sousa-phone for runners at the Twin Cities Marathon.

The next article in this two-part series, appearing in the September issue, will focus on Page’s professional career, his family and his relationship with Diane.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

You were born in Canton, Ohio, in 1945 and graduated from a Catholic high school in 1963. Tell me about your parents and siblings.

I have three siblings — two sisters and a brother — all older: Eric, Howard and Georgiana. My dad ran a bar for a while and worked in the vending machine business. My mom worked at a country club.

As I understand it, your mother died when you were 13. Tell me about her death, if you’re comfortable discussing it.

She had gone to the Cleveland Clinic for a biopsy. She’d been having breathing and lung issues. And she didn’t come home.

Tell us about your high school experience, especially playing football. Were there many African American students at your school?

I started playing football in ninth grade. Up until then, I’d never played. I kept playing throughout high school.

I would say my high school experience was typical — but I don’t really know what was typical for other people. I don’t think I was popular, but I don’t think I was unpopular either. It was a school segregated by gender and 99% white. I was one of very few African American students, much less in my class.

What was it like being one of only a few African American students?

It was the life I had. I didn’t spend much time thinking about it — that’s just the way it was. I’d go to school, do my work and spend time with my friends.

School was kind of a double-edged sword because I was able to get by without working too hard. At that age, that seemed like a good thing. What I didn’t realize was that, while it was relatively easy, I wasn’t applying myself. I was getting by — but I wasn’t learning how to learn. Quite frankly, that didn’t happen until law school.

What did you envision for your life after high school — if, as a kid or teenager, you thought about that?

As a young kid — probably in third, fourth or fifth grade — I started thinking about the law and being a lawyer. I didn’t know any lawyers. There weren’t any in my family. But people ask you what

you want to be when you grow up, and I would say a lawyer.

Why did you start thinking about being a lawyer so young?

There were stories that lawyers made lots of money, didn’t work too hard and drove big fancy cars. And for somebody like me, growing up in Canton, Ohio, the prospects in the 1950s ... well, if things went well, I might find a job in a steel mill.

But I probably also watched a little too much Perry Mason at that age.

The thing that triggered it for me was the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Brown v. Board of Education decision. Growing up Black in Ohio — I could’ve been a Black kid anywhere — you understand from a young age that people look down on you because of your race.

Brown was, in a sense, life-altering. It made clear that state-sponsored segregation was going to come to an end. It sounded the death knell not just for segregation in education, but in housing, employment — in any number of areas. Honestly, it probably was more effective in ending segregation outside education than within it.

What did Brown mean for you at the time?

Brown gave me hope — a sense of the power of the law. If the law had the power to change state-sponsored segregation — and mind you, this is all in the mind of an eight-year-old — but if the law had that power, it could create justice.

And at the same time, the civil rights movement was happening. To the extent that I was aware — and you almost couldn’t help but be aware — that also played into that sense of hope.

After high school, you attended the University of Notre Dame on a football scholarship. Tell us about that.

I think there were roughly 6,000 students and maybe 30 students of color, including international students.

During the time I was there — the mid-1960s — South Bend was going through difficult economic times. The Studebaker plant closed. And at the same time, you’re on this campus famed for its Golden Dome — that gold-plated roof. The juxtaposition wasn’t lost on me.

Was attending Notre Dame a positive experience? Were you subject to racism there?

Overall, it was very positive and very beneficial. As for racism — as I said, almost from the time you’re old enough to understand how people perceive you, that’s part of life. You can focus on it and let it control you, or you can live your life and deal with it as you do.

I’ve been fortunate to understand that those who would discriminate against me — or anyone else, for that matter — based on race, gender, sexual orientation, whatever it might be, that’s their problem. Not mine. It’s not my responsibility to carry their burden for them.



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THE TASTING ROOM

By Jason Suss



General Manager Nicolas "Nico" Giraud. (Images: Jason Suss)



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. His "Why Go?" column highlights interesting reasons to visit and support our neighborhood bars and restaurants. Jason lives in Lowry Hill and owns @AProperPour.

Tucked between an unassuming condo building and the former Kim's/Sooki & Mimi space near 31st and Hennepin is another hidden gem — The Tasting Room.

It's a neighborhood wine bar. But as general manager Nicolas "Nico" Giraud (more on him later) told me during my visit, "We do wine properly." And they do.

The Tasting Room offers more than 25 wines by the glass — white, pink, orange, sparkling, red — plus another four that are alcohol-free, a great option for those who've shifted away from alcohol in recent years. In addition, there are nonalcoholic cocktails, NA beer, vermouth and the increasingly popular THC beverages.

But that's not all. If none of those options tickle your fancy, or you're with your oenophile friend, consult the 21-page bottle list. You'll find wines from all over the world, ranging from \$25 to the equivalent of a Lake of the Isles Parkway mortgage payment.

I mean, you only live once, right? Why not splurge for the 3-liter Jeroboam of Barolo? Wines are served with a generous 6-ounce pour, in proper Riedel stemware, at the correct temperature.

There's food, too, in the form of French-inspired small plates: charcuterie, olives, nuts,

beans and chips. Larger options include salads, sandwiches, rillettes, a burger, "pinsas" (French-style flatbread pizza) and, of course, escargot — the famous French delicacy featuring the shell-backed critter best known for being almost as slow as Hennepin Avenue construction.

I had the jambon-beurre — an open-faced sandwich with piles of salty Paris ham and a thick layer of Beurre de Baratte, a wood-

"The Tasting Room offers more than 25 wines by the glass — white, pink, orange, sparkling, red — plus another four that are alcohol-free, a great option for those who've shifted away from alcohol in recent years."

en-churned and absolutely decadent French butter, on a crusty baguette with a side of tangy cornichons.

At the server's suggestion, I paired it with a glass of Domaine Séguinot-Bordet Chablis.

Now, about Nico.

He's without a doubt one of the Twin Cities' top wine professionals. Raised in Champagne and Provence, he was basically destined for the world of wine.

Plus, his French accent makes anything he says about wine sound far more credible to me.

Nico started his Twin Cities journey running the wine program at Vincent, then Meritage, followed by Spoon and Stable and Bellecour, before taking over The Tasting Room in 2021.

He hand-picks every wine on the menu, including the always interesting \$25 bottle happy hour options.


Pair one with a \$15 happy hour pinsa for the perfect afternoon, first date or evening treat. You can even enjoy it out on the patio during one of the six or seven nice days we get each year.

If all of this sounds like music to your ears, wait until you hear this: You can also bring in your favorite vinyl album and Nico will play it on the vintage hi-fi system.

Think silver-faced McIntosh pre-amp, woven-grill speakers, reel-to-reel — the works.

So if you're wondering, "Why go?" I ask you — wine not?

The Tasting Room is located in the Uptown at 1434 West 31st St., Minneapolis. This cozy neighborhood wine bar is open Tuesday through Thursday from 4 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 4 to 11 p.m. The Tasting Room is closed on Sundays and Mondays. For reservations or more information, call 612-409-0277.



"In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."

— Albert Camus

Albert Camus was a French philosopher, author, dramatist, journalist, world federalist, and political activist. He was the recipient of the 1957 Nobel Prize in Literature at the age of 44, the second-youngest recipient in history.

Image: Albert Camus by Cecil Beaton for Vogue in 1946. Photo by Getty

GO EXPLORE: ADVICE FROM A FARM KID

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,

Ah, July.

The days are warm, if not hot, sunny and long. School’s out, and fun is in! Until it’s shattered by those two little words every parent invariably hears: I’m bored.

I grew up on a farm outside of Northfield and, while I sometimes decried not living in town surrounded by friends to play with at the drop of a hat (our closest neighbors lived a quarter mile away and didn’t have any kids) I learned early that boredom is like thirst: Both universally and recurrently crop up. They’re uncomfortable. And both are a call to action. Infants get their needs met by an attentive parent; as they grow and mature, they learn, if they’re lucky, where their metaphorical spigot is and drink.

Just as plants need water to grow, people need agency, adventure, challenges and learning to thrive.

It was the summer after first grade when I told my mom, who was scrubbing the kitchen sink, that I was bored.

She looked at me as though I’d just sprouted a third foot. “You are? How can you be bored when there’s always so much to do?” I asked if she was ever bored and received the same look (cue the fourth foot).

She then gave me one of the wisest directives ever: “You live on a farm, Dorothy. Go explore.”

She could have said, “Go watch TV,” but that would be replacing boredom with boredom — diversion, yes, but little to no opportunity for growth.

Maybe she’d waited until I was old enough to go out on my own or maybe she was just sick of

providing entertainment.

TV was not an option.

Of course, we had one — a big, square Zenith in the living room, one of the least-used pieces of furniture in the house. I knew it showed “Captain Kangaroo” in the morning (no longer interesting), the news at night, Bishop Sheen on Sunday, and that was it. Rules were rules in our house: I’d no more turn on the TV myself than take a tractor out for a joyride.

That little exchange changed me forever. I went outside, looked around: barn, milkhouse, machine shed, cow yard, hog house, chicken coop, corn crib, granary, garden — and this was just what I saw from the back steps. Beyond my eyes were hundreds of acres growing crops.

Suddenly, everything familiar was brand new. I realized it was all ours, and I was heiress to this kingdom of soybeans and cornfields, outbuildings, livestock, machinery, tools, manure spreaders, stray dogs and cats . . .

And so, I set out. First, the barn where there were cows, then the hog house, then, when I didn’t feel the need for company, I expanded my search. The days rolled on and each morning I’d get up, plotting the day’s quest as I brushed my teeth. Haymow sounds fun. Maybe the granary. Oh! That chicken coop which hasn’t housed poultry in years would make a fine playhouse. And, yes, it did: an entire day to clean, several more for interior decoration, a sanctuary from then on.

Sometimes my siblings joined me, sometimes not. I was good to go with company or without.

One day I biked to the dump, a hollowed piece of land half a mile up the back road that neighboring farmers used. I’d been there before with my dad, riding along in the truck to drop off junk. But now it was my dump, the Promised Land. I went there often, always with a few cookies in my bike’s basket. Like a budding archaeologist, I’d paw through the broken and

discarded items looking for treasures.

One day I discovered a whitish rock, the size of a small watermelon, only pocked and knurly. Beneath layers of mud, I could see its beauty, took it home in the basket, hosed it off, and declared it a diamond.

One day it rained — a downpour! I was bereft, stuck inside. But by then I knew that boredom was my responsibility, nobody else’s. I sat on the front porch, joined by my mother, who loved a good storm and would drop everything to enjoy it.

She’d get out the World Book Encyclopedia and read aloud about storms. Or butterflies. Or she’d just open a page and read that. I inherited land, a solid work ethic and discipline from my father; from my mother, boundless curiosity.

Back at school in September, we were asked to tell the class about our respective summers. When it was my turn, I talked about exploring the farm, sliding down bales in the haymow, witnessing calves and puppies being born and, of course, the dump. When I got to the part about watching my uncle castrate pigs, Sister Joachim — pun intended — cut me off. Summer of wonder, it was.

— Dorothy



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More than 2,000 neighbors and visitors gathered for the Fourth Annual Sharpening of the Lake of the Isles Pencil, a beloved 20-foot community sculpture made from a fallen oak tree. The event featured live music, dancing, pencil-themed costumes and plenty of Minneapolis spirit. (Images: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)





MATRIARCH IS MORE THAN A RESTAURANT — IT’S A LOVE LETTER TO UPTOWN

By Michelle Courtright



Above left: Amanda Leach, executive chef; Above right: Crystal Brown, partner and head of community; Josh Hochstatter, partner and head of operations; Thomas Hacker, general manager; Amanda Leach, executive chef; LouAnn Berglund, partner and head of brand and Michelle Courtright, founder and CEO. (Images: Shelly Mosman)

Michelle Courtright is a Minneapolis-based entrepreneur, sustainability advocate and founder of the climate-forward hospitality brand Jane. She previously owned Fig + Farro, a plant-based restaurant nationally recognized for its environmental mission. Passionate about building community through food and culture, Michelle is launching her newest venture, Matriarch, in the heart of Uptown — blending neighborhood charm with a bold commitment to climate action and inclusive gathering spaces.

How lucky are we to live in this beautiful city of lakes?

At any moment, I can ride my bike around, grab a coffee at Isles, pick up books at Magers, meet friends for a drink on the Barquette patio and catch a show at the Green Room. Yes, construction has been tough, and many are still

feeling the impacts of the uprising after the murder of George Floyd — but we also have so much to look forward to this summer: boba tea at Moona Moono, evening strolls at the Uptown Farmers Market, constant shows at the Uptown Theater and a new vintage shop opening in Seven Points.

Five years ago, I lost my climate-mission restaurant, Fig + Farro, overnight during the uprising.

After insurers claimed “force majeure” on nearly every business that lost property, most of us lost everything — and many were afraid to return to an area that felt abandoned. But remember, Uptown was gritty before. Whether you were sipping a Bloody Mary at the Uptown, catching a punk show or grabbing a late-night bite at Figlio’s (maybe in reverse order), the point is: we made our

own fun.

As many friends and neighbors know, I was looking to both re-surrect my restaurant and find a flagship location for my company, Jane.

I found it at the corner of Lake and Irving. We’re leaning into that amazingly resilient corridor — curated finds with Mike at Combine, vintage shopping at Legacy, tailoring at Eleni’s, dinner and drinks at Lake & Irving. I also recently met Matt at James Irving Men’s Grooming and the rad piercing staff at Bevel (my 17-year-old brought me).

The new restaurant, Matriarch, will still have a plant-forward environmental mission.

We’re also bringing back the neighborhood vibes — the joy of gathering at Lucia’s for morning coffee and catching up with neigh-

bors, picnic baskets you can rent for the lake and a garden rooftop patio for daytime dancing and late-night laughs.

With city licenses expected by the end of July, we’ll begin with a neighborhood soft opening that gives us time and grace to train staff, hear your feedback and create the right balance of what Uptown needs right now. We’ll have a suggestion box, of course, but you can always email me directly at michelle@bookofjane.co. Hope to see you there!

Matriarch’s soft launch for the neighborhood begins June 25, Wednesday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a full-service breakfast and lunch menu, picnic to-go options and rooftop events. Full dinner service is expected by late July. Menus and event details at bookofjane.co.

In Memoriam ...



(Image: Aileen Johnson)

On Saturday, June 14, the MPD 5th Precinct hosted a Family Day with food and activities for children. The event honored Officer Jamal Mitchell, who sacrificed his life for the safety of the community. This bronze plaque, now on permanent display at the 5th Precinct, was unveiled to his family and the public during the event.

