

KENNY NEWSLETTER

NEIGHBORHOOD

SUMMER 2024

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Comments, questions, ideas?

Contact Kenny Neighborhood Association: 612-392-4477 or info@kennyneighborhood.org

A publication of the Kenny Neighborhood Association. The Association is open to all Kenny residents. We meet to determine neighborhood needs and establish a sense of community.

The mission of KNA is to foster a welcoming, thriving community that is inclusive in all that it does.

To that end, KNA will encourage and support community involvement in the Kenny neighborhood; to stabilize and improve the residential, educational and economic status of the community; to function as a non-partisan, non-sectarian community action group keeping residents informed of proposals that affect the neighborhood; to coordinate and publicize activities in the community; to facilitate programs and projects to improve the neighborhood; and to represent the Kenny neighborhood before city boards, commissions, and other governmental entities.

The New Kenny Website is Live!

By Amy Gustafson

The Kenny Neighborhood Association is excited to announce the launch of our new website. The goals are to build awareness and encourage community engagement, while being a valuable source of neighborhood news and information.

The new site has an updated look with lots of space for photos. The navigation bar at the top and the search options make it easy to find what you need.

What you can find on the site:

News: Find out what's going on and stay up to date on Kenny news and information.

Volunteer opportunities: Learn about all the ways to get involved and support our neighborhood.

Events: Never miss the fun!

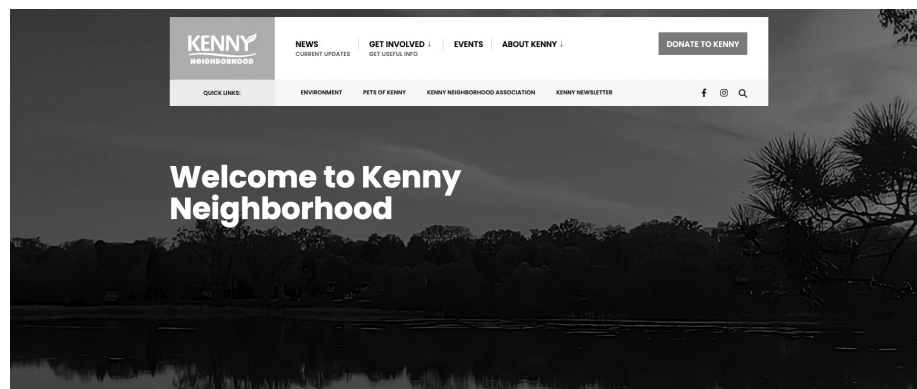
Environment: We heard you: environmental issues are top of mind for Kenny residents. This new section focuses on our goals for a healthy environment.

Kenny Newsletter: You can still read the newsletter online. In addition, there will be feature stories from each issue with color images.

Pets of Kenny: The social media favorite is now on the website! Find all the photos and write-ups of the cute pets in our neighborhood. Submit a picture and brief comment to info@kennyneighborhood.org.

Donate: The donate button has moved to the top of the home page. KNA relies on our community members' generous donations to continue providing all the great events and programs and advocating for neighbors.

The launch of the new site marks an exciting step in connecting and engaging our community. We encourage everyone to explore the site and let us know what you think! www.kennyneighborhood.org



Welcome screen

Kenny Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 19593

Minneapolis, MN 55419

Message Line: 612-392-4477

email: info@kennyneighborhood.org

www.kennyneighborhood.org

KNA Board 2024

Chairperson Barb Brady

Vice Chair Vacant*

Secretary Scott Elton

Treasurer Vacant*

Kelly Barbes Zack Kahn

Grace Barcelow Vicki Olson

Amy Gustafson John Petrie

Chris Henjum Shelly Ragland

Jason Hofsess Kim Rosenfield

*Contact Mike Ferrin if you're interested

KNA Coordinator: Mike Ferrin

All KNA meetings and events are accessible. Accommodation requests are welcome. Please make requests at least 10 days in advance: 612-392-4477 or emailing: info@kennyneighborhood.org.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month and are open to all community members. We meet at Kenny Park with a hybrid Zoom option. Visit www.kennyneighborhood.org and click on "Calendar" for Zoom meeting info or email: info@kennyneighborhood.org for the following:

- For interpreters, listening devices and/or readers.
- To place an item on the agenda or for further information.

Newsletter Team

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Barb Brady Vicki Olson

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Jasmine Avent Amy Gustafson

Barb Brady Vicki Olson

Mike Ferrin Steve Paquin

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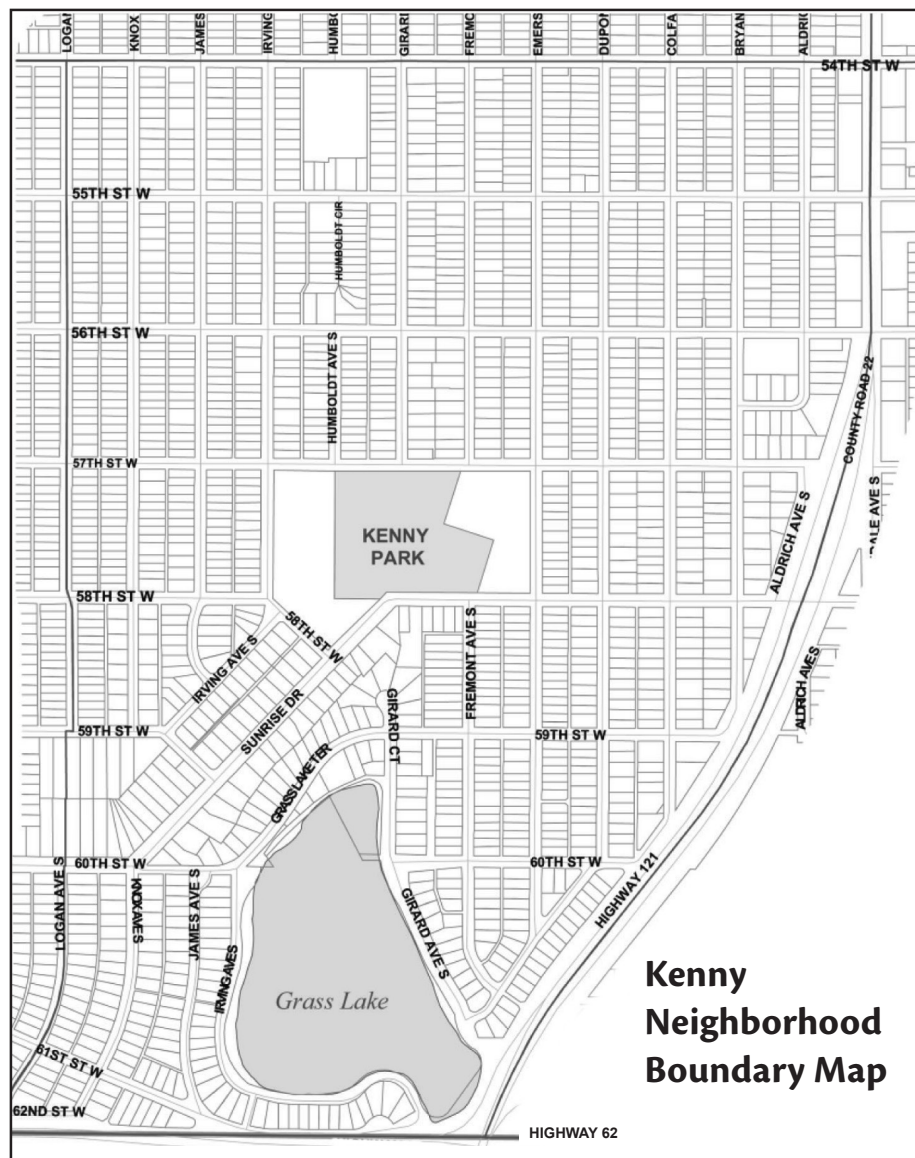
Kenny Neighborhood Newsletter is published four times each year. The newsletter is sponsored by the Kenny Neighborhood Association, donations from neighbors, and support from our advertisers. To place an ad, contact Mike Ferrin at info@kennyneighborhood.org.

KNA Board Members Needed

For more information, call KNA:

612-392-4477 or email:

info@kennyneighborhood.org.



KNA Committees & Working Groups

GENERAL INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS:

info@kennyneighborhood.org.

Communications: Meets the second Wednesday of the month. 7 p.m. Kenny Park. Contact Amy Gustafson, amymgustafson@yahoo.com

Community Engagement: Meets the second Monday of the month. 7 p.m. Goal is to develop and support opportunities for all neighbors to gather. Contact Kelly Barbes, barbes11@msn.com.

Crime and Safety: Promotes a safe, secure, and resilient neighborhood. Contact Kim Rosenfield, rosenfield.k@gmail.com.

Environmental: Meets the second Monday of the month. 6 p.m. Goal is to develop and support education, learning opportunities and activities. Contact Vicki Olson, vicki.t.olson@gmail.com.

KENNY INTEREST GROUPS:

Kenny Garden Club/Grass Lake

Upkeep: Contact Bridget Rau at bridgetrandyrau@gmail.com or Ann Davenport at afdavenport@gmail.com.

Kenny School Gardens: Contact Sarah Staab, sarah.m.staab@gmail.com.

KORE (Kenny Organizing for Racial Equity)

KORE is a Kenny-based group whose purpose is to foster a spirit of anti-racism in the Kenny neighborhood, building a welcoming, safe and healthy community/city/state/country for all. The KORE Book Club meets monthly. Any and all are welcome. The only guiding principle is we read books by authors of color that the group collectively decides on from month to month. More info: Janet Dahlem: jldahlem@stkate.edu, website: <https://sites.google.com/view/kennykore>, or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KOREmpls>.



Letter from the Chair

By Barb Brady

Kenny Neighborhood Association Chair

Hello from your new KNA chair

I moved to Kenny about four years ago during the pandemic, when people were staying home and venturing out only for necessities. Even then, neighbors went out of their way to welcome me. I was immediately impressed with the sense of community and pride in our wonderful neighborhood.

KNA is one reason our neighborhood is so amazing. I got involved shortly after moving here, when I volunteered for the newsletter. I then went to a KNA meeting out of curiosity. Learning about all the association's activities and advocacy was inspiring and I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board a few months later.

Even though we're a small neighborhood, KNA is one of the most active neighborhood associations in the city. We collaborate with other neighborhoods on a variety of issues, including a school board candidate forum on September 19. Please see details on page 14 and plan to attend to help you decide how to vote in November.

Kenny is known for our fun events, like the Ice Cream Social/Green Fair, which drew approximately 600 people from all over Minneapolis this year. Check out pages 8-9 for a wrap-up of this very successful event.

In addition, we host an annual Renter/New Neighbor Welcome at Kenny Park, Meet-and-Greets, and a Chili Cook-Off. Find the list of upcoming events on page 9.

KNA is more than fun events: our Environmental, Community Engagement, Crime and Safety, and Communications committees address issues important to residents.

KNA also offers rebates for residents to increase security measures because we know crime prevention is important to residents everywhere.

KNA listens to residents: if you have an idea and are willing to pitch in, reach out to me or come to a board meeting on the third Tuesday of most months.

I'm thrilled — and humbled — to take over as chair. We have a lot of exciting plans for the next year, and I invite all of you to get involved in some way. We're always looking for people to volunteer at an event or join a committee to guide our future.

We can accomplish a great deal in the coming year, but we depend on residents like you to volunteer and support us financially. Please use this QR code or visit kennyneighborhood.org to donate and keep KNA a strong, vibrant advocate for our community.



Thank you outgoing KNA Board members

A special thank you to our three retiring Board members for their hard work and dedication to KNA and the entire neighborhood.

Carol Martinson served on the Board for 10 years, the last four as chair. Carol says her first act as chair was to cancel that year's Ice Cream Social because of bad weather.

Carol guided the association through the pandemic, when meetings and activities were canceled, limited, or moved to different locations.

She is known for her people skills and including all points of view in our work.

Carol is proud of the fact that KNA is "way ahead of other associations financially, which is a product of our Board and staff working hard together."

Bruce Anderson served on the Board for four years, chairing the Environmental Committee and most recently was the association treasurer. He has graciously agreed to continue some duties until a new treasurer is found. If you or someone you know is interested in the treasurer position, please let us know!

Tom Leigh was on the Board for one year. He co-chaired the Communications Committee and will continue to write for our newsletter.

Tom is also KNA's weather expert. His passion for all things weather has benefited KNA greatly, as he keeps us up to date on weather forecasts for our outdoor events.

Vote for Three Environmental Projects

Continue Kenny newsletter articles and energy tips on environmental topics



Provide online webinar education series on environmental topics

Develop a content list for a home emergency kit for environmental disaster

Advocate for Kenny hazardous waste drop-off sites

Add to tree canopy using heat map to identify high need areas

Educate on chloride pollution and create volunteer program to help keep sidewalks clear without using salt or sand

Provide in-person education series on environmental topics

Create rain gardens using flood map to identify high need areas

Develop website with environmental resources

Develop a program to reduce buckthorn around Grass Lake

Advocate for public transportation to support Kenny

Organize another tech dump event

Develop a campaign to increase Adopt-A-Drain

Other (write-in)

Find the Kenny Neighborhood on Facebook and Instagram!

Find and follow us to keep updated on all things Kenny. You can also reshare content and help us reach even more neighbors. We're also looking for volunteers from the neighborhood who can share photos from around Kenny while they're out for a walk, at park activities and more.

EMAIL US AT info@kennyneighborhood.org or sign up at bit.ly/knavolunteers



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Neighborhood Update

By Mike Ferrin

Kenny Neighborhood Coordinator

What an eventful spring and summer it has been in the Kenny neighborhood! We kicked things off with our annual **Earth Day Cleanup** where several volunteers stopped by Kenny Park to pick up supplies and help clean up the neighborhood. This is always a great opportunity to help make Kenny a cleaner, safer place as we head into summer.

KNA hosts its **Annual Meeting** every May and for the second year in a row, we held a 'Board Meet & Greet' prior to the event to allow residents to get to know more about the organization and the many tremendous people who are involved. This year, we held the Meet & Greet at the new South Lyndale Liquors & Market. They were gracious hosts as many residents stopped by, sampled some tasty appetizers, the wine tap list, and engaged in some wonderful conversations.

We followed up with our Annual Meeting where we presented a year-in-review, organizational financials, and elected two new Board members! We were very fortunate and grateful for **The Roastery** donating delicious coffee for the event. Be sure to check out this fantastic local business and learn more about it, see the sidebar on this page.

Our largest — and my favorite — event of the year was a complete success! KNA held its annual **Ice Cream Social/Green Fair** in June. Check out pages 8-9 for photos and more about this wonderful event.

Thank you to the 14 organizations who tabled at the Green Fair: KNA Environmental Committee, UMN Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, Metro Blooms, Minneapolis Park Board Forestry, Kenny Garden Club, Minnesota Grown, Ironwood Foraging, City of Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling, Hennepin County Stop Food Waste Challenge, Buy Nothing Facebook, Adopt-A-Drain, Minneapolis Parks Water Quality Education, and Home Energy Squad.

A special thank you to **City Church** for sponsoring the ice cream from Sebastian Joe's. They are a tremendous partner here in the community. And a huge thanks for the countless hours and time volunteers put into making this such a wonderful event year in and year out.

If you have ever wanted to get involved with **KNA** — helping out with events and/or projects, sharing ideas, or joining the Board or a committee — don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@kennyneighborhood.org. We are always looking for ways to get people involved and find opportunities to empower residents to engage in activities they are passionate about.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!
Mike Ferrin, KNA Coordinator

Magic is all around at The Roastery

By Jeremy Rath

The Roastery at 616 West 54th Street offers specialty coffees from around the world, lovingly roasted on site.

I founded The Roastery coffee shop on Cleveland Avenue in St Paul in 1992 before closing the storefront in 1999 to focus on small quantities of high-quality, hard-to-find coffees.

Keeping The Roastery name and the mail order list, we set up a tiny roaster in the basement of the Annunciation convent.

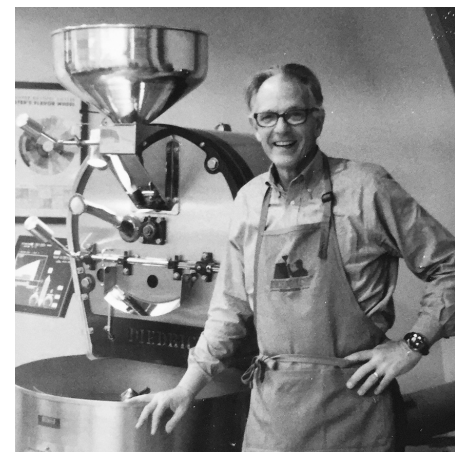
Roasting, mailing, and delivery became the basis of a tiny business.

In 2009, The Roastery moved down the street and set up a retail shop at 616 West 54th Street to combine with the growing mail order and delivery business.

We're open all day Tuesdays and Saturday mornings for folks to come on down and see our process, listen to vinyl, and pick up the fresh stuff. I have

The list of origins changes throughout the year but the menu of characteristics stays the same. We source great coffees to tell the entire coffee story.

Visit: www.shophtheroastery.com for more information.



Meet Alex Plattes, Kenny Tree Inspector

By Vicki Olson

"I am your neighbor! I currently live in the Diamond Lake neighborhood with my wife, eight-month-old son, and dog Penny. I grew up in Southwest Minneapolis on the border of the Kenny and Armatage neighborhoods and attended Kenny elementary and Anthony middle schools. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota and have been a professional arborist for 11 years. It is a very fulfilling career and I am proud to serve the residents of Minneapolis."

MPRB Tree Inspector Alex Plattes prunes a tree overlooking the Lake Harriet Bandshell.



Alex is one of 12 tree inspectors who work for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) Forestry Department. One of their most critical assignments harkens back to the large number of elm trees lost to Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in Minneapolis during the 1970s and 1980s. The most successful DED mitigation effort was sanitation to quickly find and condemn already-dead and infected elms, helping slow the spread of DED.

Today, elm trees located on public and private property are inspected and monitored. When DED is confirmed, MPRB tree inspectors mark the trees for removal.

Inspectors do the same for ash trees if they are infested with Emerald Ash Borer; and less frequently, oak trees infected with Oak Wilt. Tree inspectors also monitor trees that residents have elected to treat for the pathogens and pests mentioned above. MPRB forestry operations are limited to planting, pruning and removing trees. They do not treat trees.

Another critical assignment is finding and marking public trees for removal, which includes boulevard and park trees. These trees are either at the end of their lifespan or pose a risk to public safety. After

they have been marked for removal, tree inspectors select the replacement tree species that will be planted the following spring.

The replacement tree species is determined by the species diversity level at the neighborhood and city block level. The long-term goal is to have a diverse array of tree species in every neighborhood and every block. Doing so will make our urban forest more resistant to future invasive tree pests and pathogens.

- If you have comments, questions, or concerns about trees, call MPRB Forestry at 612-313-7710, or email forestry@minneapolisiparks.org.
- Remember to water trees in your yard and boulevard any week we don't get at least one inch of rain. Watch three easy ways to water trees here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKJWSCYPgOU>.
- Get involved! If you are interested in volunteering or coordinating community workshops with Forestry, please email Danielle Schumerth, Forestry Outreach Coordinator, at dschumerth@minneapolisiparks.org.

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Fixt Rite celebrates 40 years

By Andy Fried

Fixt Rite Auto Repair and Tire Center has been a staple of the neighborhood for 40 years. Dan Kodet and Pete Schumacher opened Fixt Rite on April 1, 1984, across the street from their current location at 5556 Lyndale Avenue S.

Many changes have occurred since we last checked in on them. Pete retired a few years ago. Anthony (Dan's son-in-law), Ben, and sometimes Andrew are now working at the front desk and scheduling. They have added text appointment alerts as well as digital service tracking of your vehicle. However, they still know you by your first name when you come into the shop.

Dan is currently the sole owner and still working every day. However, he is retiring soon, so make sure to stop by and wish him luck. Anthony is taking over when Dan leaves.



Dan Kodet

You can read more about Fixt Rite in the 30th anniversary article, "30 Years and Counting," from our Summer 2014 newsletter: <https://kna.link/Summer-2014>.

A message from Kenny Elementary School Principal Vicki Turner

We ended another great and successful year at Kenny! I have had a wonderful experience as I completed my second year. This year, we used our data to dig deeper and go wider toward our School Improvement goals. The Interventionists were instrumental in helping us provide support to our struggling students and identifying strategies that helped them become successful. I got to know students, staff, and families better. We established a strong Site Council and Special Education Team.

Although the budget reduction left us with one less classroom, I learned that there are always opportunities to continue to grow and learn. I am confident our wonderful staff will continue to provide rich instruction to our scholars and promote a culture of learning. I look forward to next year where we will continue to collaborate, communicate, and strive to create a welcoming and safe learning environment for all.

2024-25 School Year Hours

9:25 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

Student Arrival/Dismissal:

9:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m

We welcome the following staff to Kenny for the 24/25 School Year:

Mr. Dominic Cardelli: ASD Teacher
Ms. Laura Frykman: Art Teacher
Ms. Isabelle Richards: Special Education Teacher
Ms. Rachel Patrick: Music Teacher
Ms. Amy Meenk: Band Teacher

Congratulations to Linda Halverson, who retired this past June after 18 years at Kenny.

Have a wonderful rest of your summer!



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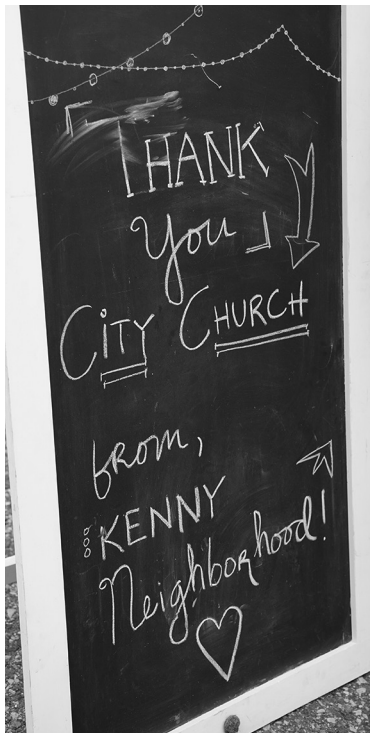
www.crosstowncommunityband.org

KENNY SUMMER EVENTS WRAP-UP: Fun at the

KNA's 2024 Ice Cream Social/Green Fair drew hundreds of people from Kenny and other neighborhoods for ice cream, hanging out with neighbors, and visiting tables with a wealth of information about making homes more environmentally friendly.

About 600 neighbors enjoyed free ice cream, courtesy of City Church. KNA gives a big thank you to City Church for once again providing delicious Sebastian Joe's ice cream.

In its annual appearance, the Crosstown Community Band entertained a large audience with a wide variety of favorites.



The expanded Green Fair offered advice and ideas to make homes and neighborhoods more environmentally friendly, including gardening, tree maintenance, water management, energy efficiency, recycling, stopping food waste, using local foods, mushroom foraging/cultivation and a youth seed planting activity.

We are interested in continuing these partnerships throughout the year by including information in our newsletter, website, and social media.

**Mark your calendars for next year's event:
June 26, at Kenny Park.**



Ice Cream Social/Green Fair



MORE FUN EVENTS ARE ON THE WAY

As summer winds down, be sure to mark your calendars:

Tuesday, August 27: Movie in the Park | Dusk

Movie in the Park is an annual tradition at Kenny Park, and this year's film is Disney's "Elemental" — a family favorite for all ages. Be sure to stop by the KNA table for free popcorn!

Thursday, September 12: New Neighbor/Renter Welcome Gathering 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Calling all renters and new Kenny residents! KNA is once again hosting a gathering at Kenny Park to build connections and for neighbors to get to know one another better. Stop by for free pizza, cookies, and great company! Please bring your own drinks and chairs. Anyone who rents a home in Kenny or has owned their home in the last two years is welcome.



New KNA Board Members

By Barb Brady

Amy Gustafson and Grace Barcelow are the newest KNA Board members, following this spring's elections.

Amy Gustafson



Amy leads the KNA Communications Committee. "I joined the committee to share my experience as a digital marketer and website strategist to help with KNA communications and engagement."

Amy and her husband, Jason, moved to Kenny in 2009. They enjoy exploring the city on bicycles, checking out restaurants, breweries, parks, and live music.

"I love Minneapolis and I feel really lucky to live in Kenny," she says. "My neighbors are awesome, we all know each other and get together regularly."

Amy loves trail running at Theodore Wirth Park, biking to free yoga at Lake Harriet, and the farmers' market. You can also find her hanging out in the backyard with their two cats, Mr. Stevenson and June.

Grace Barcelow



Grace is a conservation specialist for the Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department. She is on KNA's Environmental Committee, sharing her expertise and passion for environmental issues with the neighborhood.

She's a graduate of the University of Minnesota and recently moved to Kenny, quickly finding her place on the KNA Board.

"I would like to become more involved in the community, contribute ideas to improving our neighborhood, and weigh in on decision making," she says. "I have a history of working for local governments and think my experience and passion would help me in this role."

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING for one of our events, joining the KNA Board, participating on a committee or volunteering for activities like the Earth Day Clean-up and the Ice Cream Social. You'll strengthen our community and make new friends!

ENERGY TIP

KNA Environmental Committee

Recycling Tip



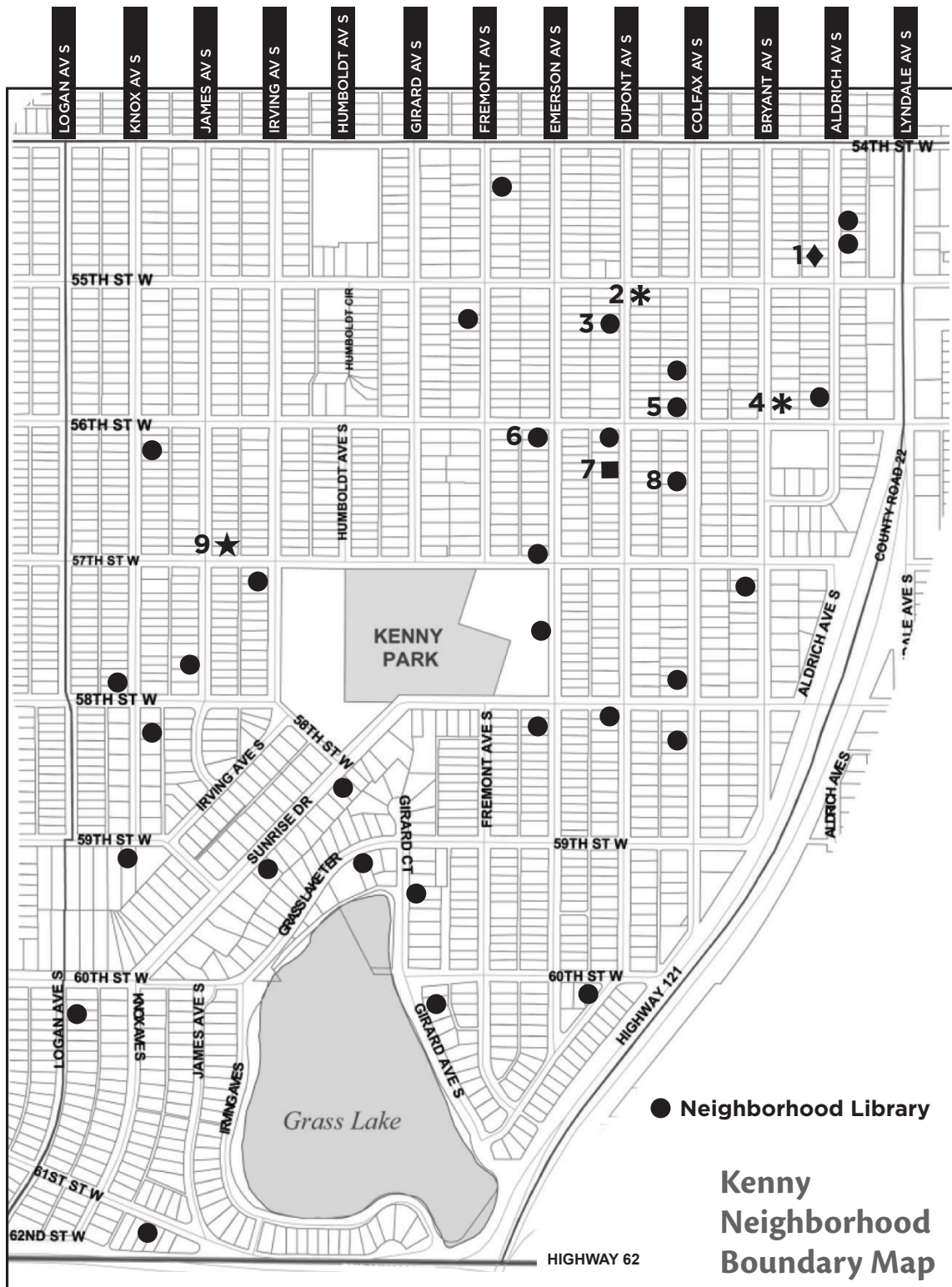
Want to shred confidential documents?

Minneapolis Recycling doesn't accept shredded paper anymore because fibers are not long enough to make other products, and the small bits of paper jam sorting machines.

What are my options?

- Shred at home and put in trash.
- Shred at home and bring to a business that has shredding services. They might charge a handling fee in addition to the per-pound fee, but the paper will be recycled. You can also check with office supply stores or package mailing companies to see if they accept shredded paper.
- Shred at home and compost — just be careful about the ratio to your green components and avoid shredding glossy or highly colored paper.
- Shred at home and reuse for pet bedding, packing for boxes, scented sachet bags, or make your own recycled paper.
- Bring your unshredded paper to a shredding service; a shredding event; check with your tax service, bank, or credit union to see if they offer services; some communities offer service to the public for a nominal fee.
- Don't shred most paper. Use black permanent markers/products that camouflage data and put in recycling. Remember that address data is fairly public. Save shredding for paper that has Social Security numbers or credit card/financial accounts or health insurance/medical data.

Neighborhood Libraries Map



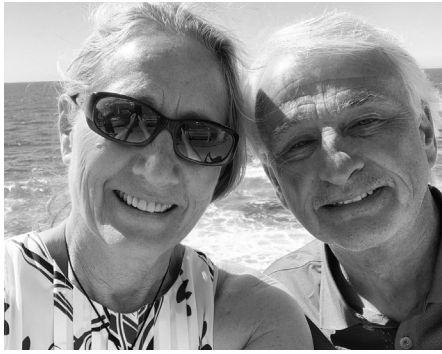
These houses have fun things besides a Neighborhood Library!

- 1 ♦ Art Garden
- 2 * Fairy Garden
- 3 • Neighborhood Library
• Bench
• Dog Treats
• Dog Water
- 4 * Fairy Garden
- 5 • Neighborhood Library
• Kindness Garden/Rock Garden
• Bench
• Fairy Garden
• Dog Water
- 6 • Neighborhood Library
• Bench
• Fairy Garden
• Dog Bags
- 7 ■ Rock Garden
- 8 • Neighborhood Library
• Bench
- 9 ★ Dog Treats

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Its mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.

Check out their website and sign up! littlefreelibrary.org

Let us know if we missed any Kenny libraries. Email: info@kennyneighborhood.org



Word on the Street

Pat and Brenda asked:

What has your spring been like this year?



Adam and Nikki Montante

We have been working on some house projects and doing some baking. We have spent time working on the racecar in our garage.



Cathy and Rick Nahla

We have spent more time in our home. We enjoy not having to water as much. Unfortunately, the mosquitoes have returned.



Brian and Emerson Niedzwiecki

We have enjoyed using our camper and going on a trip to the Rocky Mountains — and not having to spend time watering the grass!



Kathrynne and Paul Baumtrog

Bird watching and following the migration of some species starting in Texas has kept us busy. Warm weather started our gardening, along with chasing out rabbits and sharing nature with younger people.

Who's in the 'Hood

By Jasmine Avent

Putting life's puzzle pieces together is often a journey that takes hard work, time, and effort. Sometimes, though, those pieces fall into place perfectly at just the right time. Some things are just meant to be.

Meet **Al and Meg Vesterfelt**, our neighbors on 57th and Colfax. Their lives collided one fateful weekend and were never the same afterward.

They met while Meg was back home in Minnesota visiting family. Meg, who was working as a dermatologist in Dallas, TX, at the time, was thinking of moving back home and had begun looking for work here.

One day, while they were both visiting Minneapolis, she and Al 'linked' on a dating app based on proximity. That link quickly turned into a bond. While she eventually returned to Dallas, and he went back home to Nashville, their online connection turned into love. They forged a long-distance relationship and after Meg moved back to Minnesota, Al also relocated to Minnesota and the sparks continued to fly.

They started their lives together in Minneapolis' North Loop, but eventually realized the vibe in that part of town wasn't something they wanted long term.

"There was too much light pollution through the windows and people revving their motorcycle engines at two in the morning," says Al. "It just was not great."

On their house-hunting adventure, the first house their realtor showed them was a house in Kenny, and they were sold. They had their apprehensions, and stalled on



buying at first, but just like their love story, it was meant to be and it worked out. They have been Kenny residents since October 2022, and officially tied the knot in January 2023.

Al noticed right away how peaceful the neighborhood is. "I didn't notice how much sleep I was losing out on at night. We love the demographic of the neighborhood. There are young kids, new couples who don't have kids, older couples, older individuals, and it just feels like a lived-in neighborhood. It feels like this is where people live, and it feels great."

Meg loves the variety of things to see while out and about. "Every day that we take our dogs for a walk, I'm not bored."

She loves looking at updates people make to their yards, the little libraries, and neighbors' gardening skills. "It's just a nice, quiet hubbub, which is perfect for us."

For Al and Meg, their experience with neighbors in Kenny matches their fond feelings of the neighborhood aesthetics. They recall that their first encounter with a neighbor upon moving in, was Jerry bringing over zucchinis to share.

"Our neighbor Matt is great," Al says. "We have a street 'grandma' who takes care of everything. It's been really great."

They moved in October and learned that their block was the 'Halloween block' in the neighborhood. Meeting the challenge, Meg recalls how Al jumped right into the swing of things their first year, smoke machine and all. "It was very heartwarming coming from planned communities in Dallas; there wasn't any social intimacy."

This summer, the Vesterfelts are looking forward to repainting the outside of the house and giving their yard a little love. Meg continues her work here in the Twin Cities as a dermatologist, while Al builds websites and is currently in school studying to become a therapist.

When you see them with their two Shih Tzus, Olive and Linus, walking the neighborhood, be sure and say hello!

NOMINATE A NEIGHBOR!

If you have a neighbor who has a unique background, does things to quietly support the neighborhood, or would be a wonderful role model for others, please let us know.

- Send your name and contact info (email, phone)
- The name of the person you are nominating and why you are nominating them.
- Name and contact info for the nominee.

info@kennyneighborhood.org
or call: 612-392-4477



Kenny Park News

By Brian Hall

Recreation Supervisor at Armatage/Kenny

Kenny Park Recreation Center

1328 W. 58th St.,
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-370-4901

RECREATION SUPERVISOR

Brian Hall
Office 612-370-4785
bhall@minneapolisparcs.org

SUMMER BUILDING HOURS: JUNE 15- SEPTEMBER 2:

Monday-Thursday: Noon-9 p.m.
Fridays: Noon-6 p.m.
CLOSED Saturdays, Sundays
Building and Field/Court
rentals available

Hello Kenny Neighbors!

It's August and now is the time to get out and enjoy our great park offerings! Fall program registration is now open for September through the end of 2024.

Kenny Park Sports Report

Kenny/Armatage spring/summer ball teams had another great summer, with our 12/13u baseball teams playing in the playoffs. Kenny Park hosted 5u teams this year. We ended up with 351 kids participating ages five-thirteen. We also had 77 volunteer coaches to lead these young ball players to learn the game, gain experience, build skills and have fun! Thank you to all those involved. Volunteer coaches make our programs happen!

Kenny Park youth are practicing soccer outside this fall. It's not too late to register at www.kennyarmatagesports.com. We are also looking for more fabulous coaches! Email me at kennyarmatagesports@gmail.com for more information about flag football, soccer, or volleyball.

Kenny Park Program Update

Preschool Kids Program.

Preschool Kids classes are offered

Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Classes focus on the importance of social interactions and social skills for preschool-age children, with emphasis on working together, problem-solving, and active listening. We also include academic curriculum, incorporating projects, activities, and group discussions around monthly themes (such as seasons, community helpers, science) and a focus on letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. Join us to meet new friends, learn new things, and make fun memories! Children must be three years old and potty trained.

Young Rembrandts is a contracted group specializing in drawing for youth.

STEM programs are forming soon, so check our website frequently.

Archery programs at Armatage are back this fall.

Adult Yoga is Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings starting late August.

Special Events: Mark your calendars for family fun events.

Outdoor Movie: Tuesday, Aug. 27, at dusk: 'Elemental'.

Last year was a blast with lots of folks showing up and we will have popcorn, freezes, and glow sticks to hand out before the movie starts, along with the Book Buggie handing out books!

Key registration information:

Summer program registrations are ongoing and new programs do pop up so check out the 58th Street marquee sign, come to the park building for flyers, or check our website for updated information.

Questions, comments, concerns, suggestions or compliments? Please email kenny@minneapolisparcs.org

Visit www.minneapolisparcs.org for the latest programs, special events, and offerings. Sports info: www.kennyarmatagesports.com. Questions? Contact the park at 612-370-4901.

Hear from school board candidates

KNA is joining with other southwest Minneapolis neighborhoods to make sure residents are informed about the District 6 school board elections and issues at a September 23 candidate forum.

Monday, September 23, 6-8 p.m.

Meraki Building, 100 West 46th Street

We're still ironing out specific details of the event, but we do know it will be moderated by Tane Danger

of the Theater of Public Policy and live streamed to reach a broader audience.

The candidates are Lara Bergman and Greta Callahan. You can learn more about them at their websites: www.laraforschoolboard.com and www.gretacallahanforschoolboard.com.

Mark your calendars and plan to hear from the candidates about important education issues. Visit KNA's website, Facebook, and Instagram for more details.

A Kenny Pioneer Leaves the Neighborhood

By Steve Paquin

Earlier this year, the Kenny neighborhood marked a significant event when one of its earliest and most influential residents, Bob Engstrom, moved from the Grass Lake Terrace home that he designed and built 63 years ago. A prominent property developer, pioneer in the use of native and prairie plants in landscaping, youth athletics coach, and leader of the Kenny Neighborhood Association, Bob is deeply missed as a vital member of the community.

His neighbor Rick Oknick described Bob's departure as a "changing of the guard," emphasizing Bob's unique and irreplaceable contributions to the neighborhood. "Kenny was a mosaic with Bob as connective tissue. There's not going to be another one like him."

Bob and his late wife Phyllis were married for 68 years and raised three sons in their house on the north side of Grass Lake. You may be familiar with the beautiful perennial gardens on the lake's north shore where, even into his late 80s, Bob was out pulling a hose across the street from his home to keep the plants thriving.

This unassuming gardening nonagenarian is, in fact, a pioneering property developer who created planned communities that focus on land stewardship, open community spaces, and sustainable design. Hailed as a "visionary land-use expert" by the *Star Tribune*, Bob was a designer in 1965 of the first owner-owned townhome development in the metro area, Windsor Green in New Brighton. The innovative principles that informed Bob's development work back then continue in the current projects of his firm, Robert Engstrom Companies. Notable examples of their work in

prairie conservation include the Wildflower at Lake Elmo and The Fields of St. Croix communities.

Bridget Rau of the Kenny Garden Club points out that the club has taken several field trips to walk in The Fields of St. Croix. "It's a beautiful prairie dotted with houses, instead of the opposite, which is what you see in most suburbs. Sixty percent of the land in the development had to be all natural."

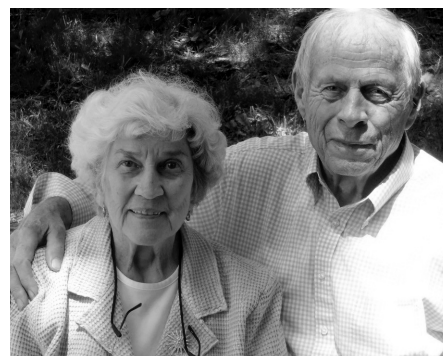
Bob has been a strong supporter of the garden club through the years, and members reciprocate by helping weed the Grass Lake gardens.

"Most of the Kenny Garden Club members have a plant or two from Bob in their gardens, and there are many at our Fixt Rite garden," says Bridget. "Bob propagated his plants at the Fields of St. Croix and has been extremely generous in sharing them with us."

Bob's community involvement extended to local sports as well. He coached youth baseball, hockey, and soccer teams. Kenny resident Grant Hartley, a lifelong Southwest Minneapolis resident, recalls Bob coaching his hockey team around 1975.

"I have a picture of me as a kid with Bob as my coach. I couldn't believe it when I moved to Kenny and realized he lived just down the block from me! But one thing everyone really gives him credit for is starting girls' soccer around here. Bob helped turn Southwest Minneapolis into a real soccer hotbed before it was popular elsewhere."

As Bob remembers, "In about 1970, we put a boys' soccer team together, but there was nobody here to play against, so we had to travel down to Burnsville to find



Bob and Phyllis Engstrom

competition. The next year, the Minneapolis Park Board created a league. In 1972, I was holding a practice at the park for 128 kids, and up walks an 18-year-old kid named Mike Warter who wanted to help out. I helped get soccer off the ground, but Mike is the one who really built it up." Warter went on to become a local girls' soccer coaching legend and champion in Minneapolis, Eagan, and at the University of Minnesota. Bob continued coaching in the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA).

This brief newsletter space is far too small to detail all of Bob Engstrom's involvement and accomplishments in the Kenny neighborhood. He has truly been integral to the community's development virtually since its inception. Though he now lives in Bloomington, Bob's influence is inextricably woven into the fabric of Kenny.

Help Us Maintain Bob's Garden!

For decades, Bob's garden on the north shore of Grass Lake has brought color and joy to everyone who walks the lake. We need your help to maintain it. A simple commitment of one hour of weeding per month through the Kenny Garden Club can help keep the garden thriving for our community. Gardening expertise is not needed — we just need more hands. Please contact Bridget Rau at bridgetrandyrau@gmail.com if you can help.

KENNY

NEIGHBORHOOD

Kenny Neighborhood Association

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Message Line: 612-392-4477

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