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#### Comments, questions, ideas?

Contact Kenny Neighborhood Association: 612-392-4477 or [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto: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.

## Together Through Grief and Growth: A Year of Strength in Kenny

By KNA Coordinator, Mike Ferrin

2025 has been a year that none of us will ever forget. It has tested our hearts and reminded us why community matters so deeply. In the wake of the tragedy at Annunciation, our neighborhood came together in ways that showed the best of who we are: neighbors supporting one another, offering care, and finding hope through connection. We grieve alongside the families and friends who lost so much — especially the Merkel family, our neighbors here in Kenny — and we honor their strength by continuing to build a community rooted in compassion, safety, and unity.

Even as we mourn, we also celebrate the ways our community continues to grow stronger together. From the laughter of kids chasing bubbles and balloons at the Ice Cream Social & Green Fair, to the great conversations shared between neighbors at the New Neighbor & Renter Welcome Gathering, each gathering this year reminded us that connection is our greatest source of healing. The citywide Minneapolis Arbor Day celebration at Kenny Park brought families together for tree planting, harnessed tree climbing, live music, and food trucks — while the first-ever Kenny PorchFest filled our streets with music, friendship, and gratitude. Each of these moments, large and small, reflected what makes Kenny so special: neighbors showing up, giving their time, and creating joy together even in challenging times.

Events like these are more than just fun — they're a reflection of who we are as a neighborhood. Kenny is a place where people show up for one another. Whether we're celebrating, volunteering, cleaning up our park, or finding ways to help neighbors through difficult times, this is a community that cares.

But it's important to remember that this doesn't happen automatically. Every event, initiative, or gathering takes time, creativity, and financial support. KNA is a small nonprofit powered almost entirely by volunteers and the generosity of residents and local businesses. We operate on a modest budget — yet through your support, we're able to bring neighbors together, advocate for community safety, care for our environment, and foster belonging for everyone who calls Kenny home.



## Kenny Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 19593

Minneapolis, MN 55419

Message Line: 612-392-4477

email: [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org)

[www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org)

### KNA Board 2025

**Chairperson** Barb Brady

**Vice Chair** Shelly Ragland

**Secretary** Scott Elton

**Treasurer** Kim Rosenfield

Kelly Barbes Vicki Olson

Grace Barcelow John Petrie

Joy Gottschalk Louise Rath

Amy Gustafson

**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](mailto: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](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org) and click on "Events" for Zoom meeting info or email: [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto: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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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.

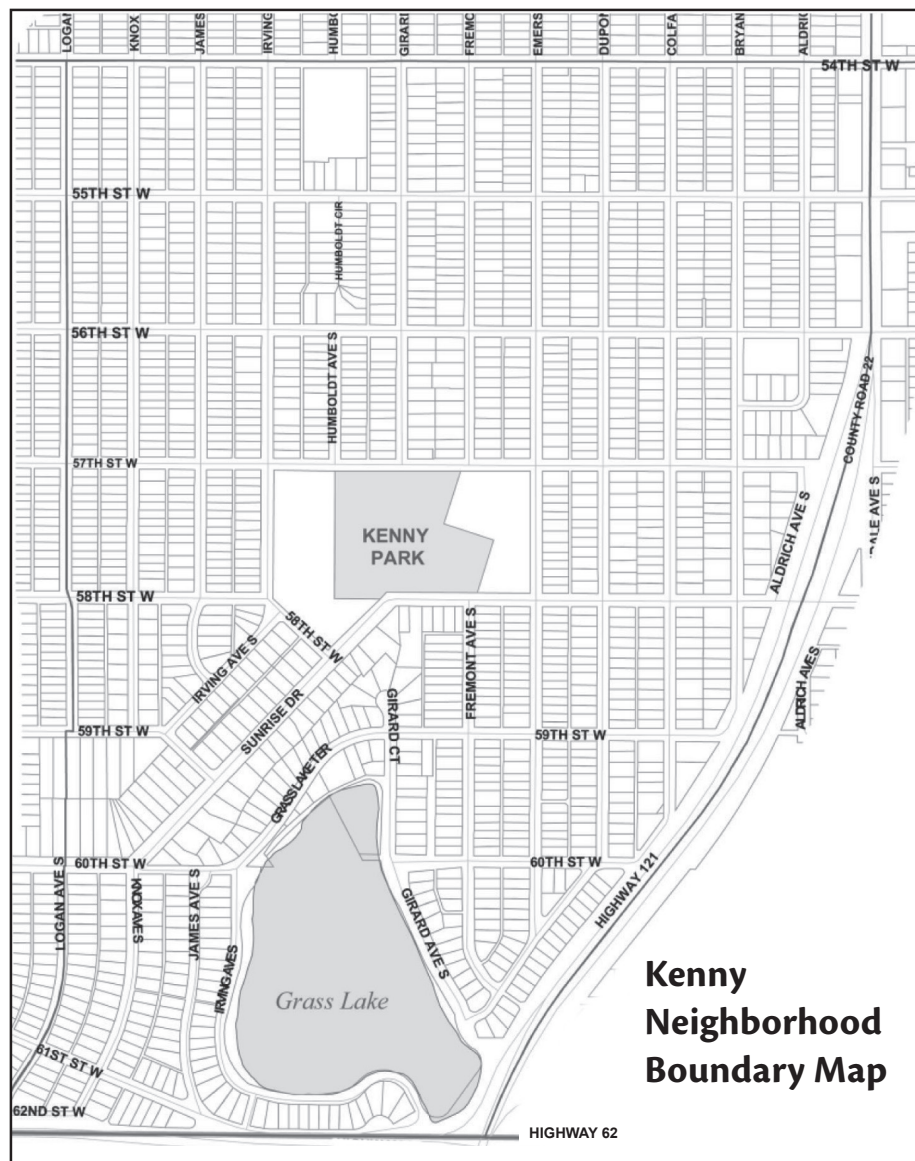
To place an ad, contact Mike Ferrin at [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org).

### KNA Board Members Needed

For more information, call KNA:

612-392-4477 or email:

[info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org).



### KNA Committees & Working Groups

#### GENERAL INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS:

[info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org).

**Communications:** Meets the second Wednesday of the month. 7 p.m.

Kenny Park. Contact Amy Gustafson, [amymgustafson@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:barbes11@msn.com).

**Crime and Safety:** Promotes a safe, secure, and resilient neighborhood. Contact Kim Rosenfield, [rosenfield.k@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:vicki.t.olson@gmail.com).

#### KENNY INTEREST GROUPS:

##### Kenny Garden Club/Grass Lake

**Upkeep:** Contact Bridget Rau at [bridgetrandyrau@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetrandyrau@gmail.com) or Ann Davenport at [afdavenport@gmail.com](mailto:afdavenport@gmail.com).

##### Kenny School Gardens:

Contact Terri Lindenbaum, [terri.lindenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:terri.lindenbaum@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@stkat.edu](mailto:jldahlem@stkat.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



## Kenny neighbors support Annunciation families for the long term



Three months later, the tragedy at Annunciation Church on August 27 is fresh in our memories. Like other major events, many of us still talk about where we were when we heard the news of the shooting that took the lives of two young students, and wounded 30 others attending a back-to-school mass that morning.

Neighbors from Southwest Minneapolis and elsewhere came together to help the victims and their families in any way we could think of.

Almost immediately, there was a memorial with thousands of flowers outside the church. Blue and green ribbons symbolizing the school's colors hugged trees throughout our neighborhoods and the entire city.

Kenny neighbors joined the mourning in every way possible. We brought flowers to the church memorial, delivered meals to the Merkels, volunteered at the city Neighborhood Assistance Center, tied ribbons around trees, worked at the memorial coordinating flowers and yard signs — anything and everything we could think of to express our sorrow and support.

Fletcher Merkel, the eight-year-old who was killed lived in Kenny with his family. The Merkels were featured in our summer 2025 newsletter and came

to our 2024 New Neighbor/Renter Welcome event, so excited to be part of Kenny. Many Kenny families send their children to Annunciation and are directly affected by the tragedy. The sorrow will never go away, but we hope families find comfort in the love and support of neighbors and strangers who care so much.

The Kenny Neighborhood Association has reached out to the Merkels to see what the neighborhood as a whole can do. They like the idea of a bench at Grass Lake honoring Fletcher, so KNA will work with them to make it a reality. Please check KNA's website at [www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org), and KNA's Facebook and Instagram for updates.

Please donate to KNA with the QR code below, or through the Donate button on KNA's website at [www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org), or enclose a check in the envelope included in this newsletter.

We know all Kenny neighbors are looking for ways to help all affected by the Annunciation tragedy for the long term. If you have other ideas for KNA, please email us at [KNAcoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:KNAcoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org).

### Help Annunciation families and KNA

Your donations are tax-deductible.  
You can donate through our website  
at [www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org);  
or use the QR code here.





# Cut, Daub and Done: Buckthorn Bust #1

By Steve Paquin

On a sunny Saturday, September 27, nine Kenny neighbors (and a new friend from Richfield) gathered on the east shore of Grass Lake for the first of three buckthorn busts. Using the “cut-and-daub” method, they tackled invasive buckthorn and cleared a large area on the 6000 block of Girard Avenue South. Now you can actually see the lake from the street! The weather was gorgeous, the teamwork even better. As of press time, two more busts were scheduled for 10/25 and 11/8. Stay updated on preservation activities and cool photos via the “Friends of Grass Lake” Facebook page!



*September 27  
Buckthorn Bust  
crew smile for the  
camera.*

Check out Ellen  
Mueller’s buckthorn  
ink recipe on page 15.



*Left and middle photos: Cut, daub, and haul to a pile on the boulevard for the city to pick up. Right: Steve and Ellen relax after a good day’s work busting buckthorn.*

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## Neighborhood Update

By Mike Ferrin

Kenny Neighborhood Coordinator

### Celebration of Kenny – Neighborhood Happy Hour

**South Lyndale Liquors & Market / November 19, 5-7 p.m.**

Community matters — through both joy and loss — Kenny neighbors have continued to show up for one another. Join us for a year-end Happy Hour as we raise a glass to the strength and connection that define our neighborhood. Come share a moment together and celebrate the people who make Kenny great.

### You Still Make Kenny Great

When we closed out 2024 with the headline “You Make Kenny Great,” it felt like the perfect reflection of who we are as a community. A year later, that sentiment remains true — you still do. Kenny’s strength continues to come from the people who show up, lend a hand, and care deeply about this neighborhood we call home.

2025 has been a year of both celebration and reflection. We experienced moments of deep sorrow and remarkable unity following the tragedy that touched our community, and through it all, Kenny neighbors once again proved what compassion, resilience, and connection truly mean.

Throughout the year, our community came together in so many ways — from cherished traditions to exciting new gatherings — each one made possible by volunteers who gave their time, creativity, and heart. These efforts are what make Kenny special, and they don’t happen without people like you.

As we look ahead to 2026, we need you — your ideas, your enthusiasm, and your presence. Consider joining one of KNA’s groups, lending a hand at an event, or helping with a neighborhood project. Whether you have an hour to give or a whole season, there’s a place for you in our work.

Together, we’ll continue to grow, celebrate, and care for one another. Thank you for being the reason Kenny remains such a special place to live — and for proving, once again, that you still make Kenny great.

#### TO GET INVOLVED OR LEARN MORE:

- Check out our website: [kennyneighborhood.org](http://kennyneighborhood.org)
- Email: [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org)
- Call: 612-392-4477

## KNA PROGRAMS

### KNA Tree Reimbursement

Last call for 2025 submissions! KNA will reimburse residents who participated in and were selected to receive up to three trees through the Minneapolis Tree Lottery. Improving the neighborhood’s tree canopy was voted environmental initiative #1 in 2024 — and we are here to support all of you to do your part. Planting trees will shade your yard, reduce energy bills, and increase property values.



### KNA Security and Safety Rebate Program

All residential properties in the Kenny neighborhood, including renters and homeowners, are eligible to apply for a one-time security rebate of \$250. Rebates can be used on home security projects like: Installing lights for exterior doorways of residential properties, purchase and installation of deadbolt locks, the purchase of home security alarm systems and doorbell cameras.



For applications and more information, visit [kennyneighborhood.org/programs](http://kennyneighborhood.org/programs)

# Arts on Bryant: A Living Room Revival of Community and Culture

By Steve Paquin

In the Kenny neighborhood, a quiet but growing movement is bringing professional music and community connection into a local home. It's called *Arts on Bryant*, and it's the creation of Rebecca Leistikow, a classically trained soprano and passionate advocate for the arts.

Rebecca moved to Kenny from upstate New York seven years ago, and the idea for *Arts on Bryant* began as a way to expose her children, now 12 and 6, to more live music.

"There's so much going on in the Twin Cities, but getting out the door with kids is hard," she says. "I figured, if the music is happening in our house, we'll actually see it." That simple logic spurred her to action.

The result is *Arts on Bryant*, a twice-monthly concert series hosted in Rebecca's home. On the first Friday evening and second Sunday morning of each month, neighbors gather to hear professional musicians perform everything from Renaissance lute songs to contemporary acoustic sets. The concerts are free, open to all ages, and intentionally informal.

"I wanted high-level talent, but in a relaxed setting," Rebecca says. "Kids are around, crayons are falling, people are whispering — but the music is still the focus."

The first three concerts showcased the range and richness of the series:

- Sadie Gustafson-Zook brought warm, witty songwriting and a voice reminiscent of Joni Mitchell.
- Thomas Walker, Jr. and Sarah Jackson, a lute and soprano duo, performed elegant tunes from the Renaissance.
- Austin Wahl and Claire Miller delivered an impressive classical guitar and violin set, ranging from delicate to virtuoso.



Soprano Sarah Jackson and lute player Thomas Walker, Jr.

"Each concert has been so different, but all have created this beautiful, shared experience," Rebecca says. She was surprised that audiences love interacting with the musicians, asking questions and learning about the music. "It's chatty, it's warm, and it's unlike anything I experienced

growing up going to classical concerts where you had to sit perfectly still."

Rebecca pays the musicians herself, inspired by the concept of a "gift economy," giving freely from areas of abundance and trusting that it will return in other ways. "Hiring musicians is important to me. They deserve to be paid, and I'm fortunate to be able to support that."

Beyond music, *Arts on Bryant* also offers free yoga classes on Wednesdays and has hosted youth activities like Juggling Club and Classical Music Immersion.

"We had a summer class and were planning a fall series, but I had to pause it for now," she says. "Still, the vision is there — to create inclusive, arts-based experiences for kids and families."

Her home also doubles as a gallery, featuring work from local artists like Cynthia Holien, whose vibrant canvases now fill the stairwell.

**Arts on Bryant** continued on page 7

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## Arts on Bryant continued from page 7

"She lives a block away, and I had no idea she was an artist until she reached out," Rebecca says. "Now I walk past these beautiful paintings every day. It's one of the ways this project gives back to me."

So what should you expect if you attend a concert at *Arts on Bryant*? A welcoming atmosphere, professional music, and a chance to connect with neighbors.

"You don't need to bring anything," Rebecca says. "Just come. Bring your kids, bring a friend. There's coffee, juice, sometimes wine, sometimes pastries, and always great music."

If you haven't yet made the walk to 54th and Bryant, consider this your invitation. *Arts on Bryant* is more than a concert series, it's a gift. You can learn

more, RSVP for concerts, and explore Rebecca's other offerings like yoga and youth activities at [artsonbryant.com](http://artsonbryant.com).



Neighbors enjoying October 3 *Arts on Bryant* performance

## A Year of Strength in Kenny continued from page 1

This year, as part of our year-end giving campaign, 50% of all funds raised will go directly to support the Merkel family and the many others affected by the Annunciation tragedy. The remaining funds will continue to support the community-building work that defines KNA — from our neighborhood events and environmental initiatives to our ongoing efforts to create a safe, connected, and caring place for all.

As we look ahead, may we carry forward both the joy of our shared celebrations and the lessons learned through grief. Let's continue to care for one another, invest in our community, and nurture the sense of belonging that defines the Kenny neighborhood. Together, we can honor those we've lost by building an even more connected, compassionate, and hopeful future.

As we close out 2025, please consider including KNA in your charitable giving. Your contribution — whether a one-time or sustaining donation — directly funds the work that brings neighbors together and strengthens our shared home. All donations are tax-deductible and can be made easily online at [www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org) by clicking the Donate button on the home page, or by mailing a check using the self-addressed envelope in this newsletter.

From all of us at KNA, thank you for being part of this incredible community — for showing up, helping out, and keeping the heart of Kenny strong.



**This year, as part of our year-end giving campaign, 50% of all funds raised will go directly to support the Merkel family and the many others affected by the Annunciation tragedy.**



Frozen 6 years.  
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### Embryo Adoption Awareness Center

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- Fulfill the dream to start or grow a family.

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<https://embryoadoption.org>



## Fall intermezzo!

Music helps  
reduce stress

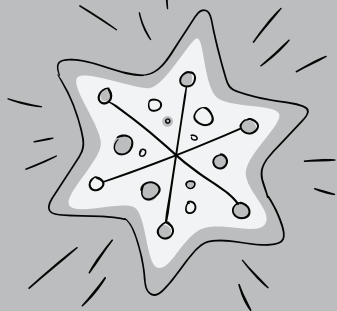
Come play in the band

**It's your community band!**

[www.crosstowncommunityband.org](http://www.crosstowncommunityband.org)

KEEP THIS CALENDAR!

hello  
winter



january

**Fire & Ice**

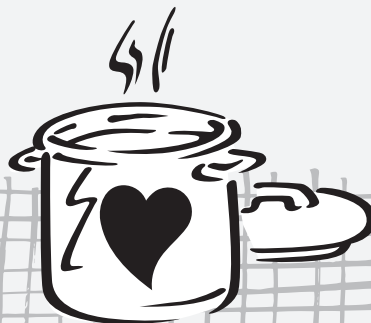
January 10  
Kenny Park

february

**Chili Cook-Off**

February 21  
Location TBD

Cheer!



Enjoy it

march

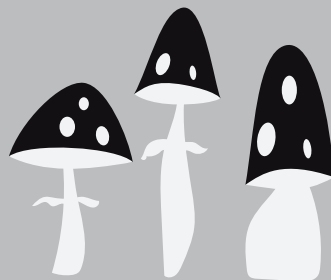


2026 KNA EVENT

july



THANK YOU



BE HAPPY

august

**Movie in the Park**  
Kenny Park

september

**New Neighbor /  
Renter Welcome  
Gathering**

September 10  
Kenny Park

**Grass Lake  
Buckthorn Bust /  
Management**

Grass Lake





april

**Earth Day Cleanup**  
Kenny Park

**Happy Hour/Board  
Meet & Greet**  
South Lyndale Liquors



**KNA Annual  
Meeting & Board  
Elections**

Location TBD

**PorchFest/Year 2**

Tentative  
Details to come!

june

**Ice Cream Social  
& Green Fair**

June 18  
Kenny Park

Hello  
Summer



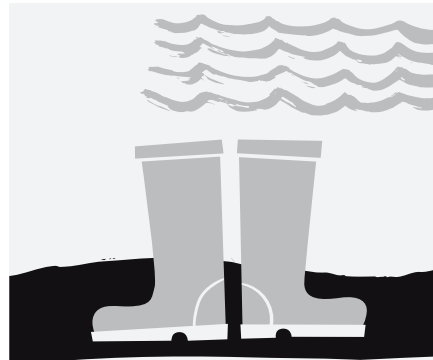
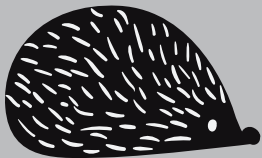
# EVENTS CALENDAR



hello  
autumn

**Grass Lake  
Buckthorn Bust /  
Management**  
Grass Lake

october



november

**Grass Lake  
Buckthorn Bust /  
Management**  
Grass Lake

december

**Holiday Light Tour**  
With Armatage  
Neighborhood Assn.



Warm  
wishes

KEEP THIS CALENDAR!

# Green Energy Subsidies, Credits and Rebates

By Steve Caster, KNA Environmental Committee



The past few years have seen substantial financial subsidies for green energy technologies such as heat pumps, rooftop solar, electric vehicles, or energy-efficient appliances. Much has been reported on the recent federal budget that reduced or eliminated

subsidies or tax credits for these items. However, there are still funds to help defray those costs in the form of loans, low-income funding, and assistance from Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy.

The situation for loans for subsidies is very fluid, so we found this great tool, which is updated as funding situations change. The Clean Energy Resource Teams, or CERTs, put this together. CERTs' mission is to connect Minnesota individuals and communities to the resources they need to identify and implement clean energy projects. The tool is at:

[www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pay-your-projects](https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pay-your-projects)



Simply identify your project type, confirm if it is for an individual and then click on **Find Programs**. All current funding sources are listed for you. Your contractor is also a good source of information on any rebates or tax credits that may apply.

We know these changes are confusing for everyone, but this tool can help you as you contemplate your next project!

## Fall Checklist

- ☒ Plant the last of the spring bulbs
- ☒ Mow your lawn one last time if needed (and lower blades to 2")
- ☒ Wrap sensitive evergreens in burlap
- ☒ Put wire fences around bushes/plants that rabbits might damage during winter
- ☒ Put tree guards around young trees to avoid sunscald damage
- ☒ Leave the leaves! Protect living creatures by leaving seedheads, stems, leaves on the ground. They provide habitat for bees, moths, butterflies, beetles and more.
- ☒ Keep storm drains clean of fallen leaves
- ☒ Water trees weekly if it has not rained until the ground is frozen
- ☒ Clean and disinfect garden tools and containers

## Missed the Electrify Everything Webinar?

Check out the free webinar recordings on:

- The What, Why and How of Electrification
- Get Amped: The Basics of Electrifying Your Home
- Stay Cool, Stay Warm: Heat Pumps Demystified
- Hot Stuff: Electrifying Water Heating, Cooking and Clothes Drying





## ENERGY TIP

KNA Environmental Committee

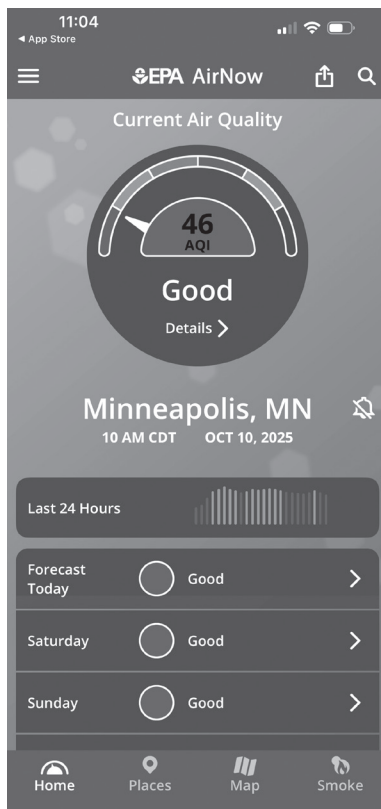
# WILDFIRE SMOKE



Wildfire smoke contains small particles that are small enough to enter deep into your lungs or heart and even pass into your bloodstream.

– Minnesota Department of Health

Consider gifting an air purifier this holiday season to help with smoke from wildfires. Look for a HEPA or MERV-13+ designation.



You can also recommend an app called EPA AirNow that gives air quality forecasts from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



## Plant a Pollinator Garden! Get Help With Plants

Apply for a  
**Lawn to Legumes Spring 2026 Grant**  
by November 30, 2025

Receive \$400 to create a native pollinator habitat in your yard.

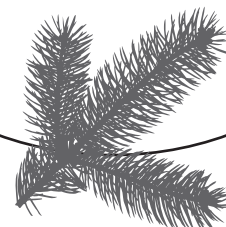
Scan this QR code to submit your application on the Blue Thumb website.

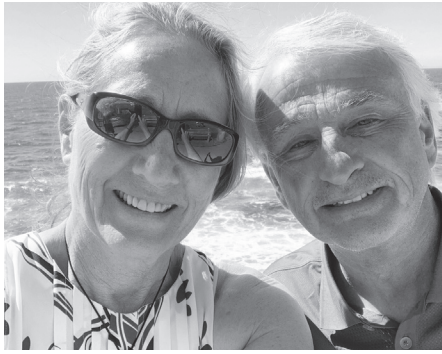


## Join the **FRIENDS OF GRASS LAKE** Facebook Group

Get the latest news on Grass Lake and find out about the next Buckthorn Bust or Native Plants Planting event.

[www.facebook.com/groups/556733720623041](https://www.facebook.com/groups/556733720623041)





## Word on the Street

Pat and Brenda asked:

*How did you use the great weather and extended summer?*



### **Lucia Newell and Steve Wiese**

We're enjoying our four-season porch this fall. We are cooking and making use of our abundant hot pepper and tomato crops.



### **Karen Regan**

I have been busy decorating for Halloween and planting mums.



### **David and Cecilia Sebastian and Rosemary**

We have spent time walking more and taking Sebastian for regular walks. With the nice days we have also been bike riding.



### **Tom Seale and Bailey**

I have been busy painting the outside of the house. I have been spending time working in my native prairie garden.



# Who's in the 'Hood

By Jasmine Avent

As we watched summer turn into fall, and sent kids back to school, one Kenny neighbor is delighted to head into the school building daily too.

Meet **Kate Rosok**, our neighbor over on 60th and Fremont. Kate and Tim have lived in Kenny since 2008. They have three children: Annika (14), Teddy (11), and Julia (8).

Before she had children of her own, Kate had already chosen to make kids a big part of her life as an educator. For the last 18 years, Kate has taught multiple disciplines of science and traces her affinity for the subject to her childhood.

"I loved science as a kid," she says. "Science and math, I was all about it."

She uses her love of the subject to help her students be their best. "I like setting up pathways through the content... knowing that through all of our research into how students learn, knowing what pieces to introduce when, so students are ready for that knowledge. Then we take that knowledge and build on it."

Kate spends her days teaching physics and engineering at North High School. Although she is based at North, she teaches students across the

city who come to her school for part of their day through the Career and Technical Education program. Students from across Minneapolis who have an interest

and get to be a peripheral person in their lives."

Although she says it can be complex to teach in the school district where she lives and sends

her own kids, she hopes to teach in Minneapolis for the rest of her career.

Teaching can be all-consuming, but Kate loves to unwind with a good book. She is a self-proclaimed homebody who loves Kenny for many reasons.

"It's very central, it's easy to get anywhere," she says. "It's a good mix of city and suburban, where we get all the benefits of living

in Minneapolis and also have a little bit more space than other parts of the city. I really enjoy having a neighborhood like Kenny where people are kind and supportive, and want the best for their kids and their neighbors."

If you see Kate and the family around the neighborhood, be sure and say hello!



*Kate Rosok (center) with Annika, Julia, and Teddy.*

in engineering, robotics and drones, education, computer programming, cyber security, health and medicine, public service, and even audio/visual/broadcast recording through KBEM FM radio, (housed in the school), come to North for part of their day.

Kate has no doubt that the best part about teaching high school is her students. "I know it's not common for people to find teenagers adorable... but I think teenagers are adorable. They're just at a great point in their lives, they're discovering all kinds of new things, they're figuring out who they are. It's just so great to see them grow through the year

---

## NOMINATE A NEIGHBOR!

If you have a wonderful neighbor, please let us know.

**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, CPRP  
Recreation Supervisor  
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[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)  
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### Hello Kenny Neighbors!

Fall is finally here. It's the best time in Minnesota in my opinion: cool, crisp mornings followed by bright blue skies with warm sunshine during the day. Then we see shorter daylight hours and winter will be on our doorstep in no time. Embrace what we have and the time to use it.

We are always open to creative ideas with events or programs, so please let me know if you have any to share. You never know unless you ask!

I hope you had time to check out all the Kenny fall activities we offered — and get ready for new ones coming soon.

It's not too late to register for our Holiday Cookie Decorating family event on Friday, December 19. We get wonderful sugar cookies from HyVee and all the toppings you can imagine to create cool cookie designs.

We have done this program at Armatage and it was successful, so we're bringing it to Kenny as well. Space is very limited, but we will make it work!

Gary's Treat Freezer was an added bonus this year where kiddos enjoyed freezes after games and practices! The generosity of Ruth Krinhop and

family donating in the memory of Coach Gary Krinhop provided freeze pops through the fall soccer season.

### Here are the participation stats for fall sports this season for Kenny/Armatage parks:

We offered Flag Football, Soccer, and Volleyball with ages 5U up to 15U in Fall 2025 with 52 Teams, 572 players, and 102 volunteer coaches!

Winter sports and program registration opened Wednesday, October 22. Register on our website at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org).

Basketball is always popular and we thank Anthony Middle School for using their gym as well as for basketball practices. Building community and partners is crucial to productive programs and those opportunities.

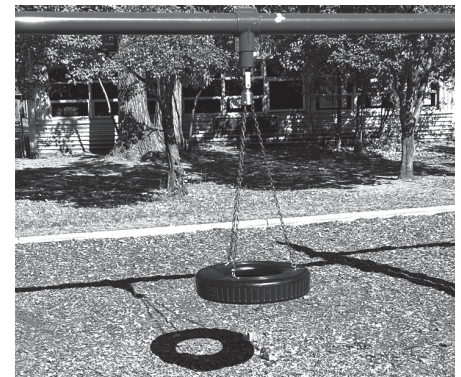
We added more programming at Kenny, including Magic: The Gathering on Thursdays and Saturdays, and Chess Club Fridays, continuing into the fall. Gentle Yoga for Adults on Wednesday nights with Liane has grown in numbers and is very successful.

Preschool Kids with Miss Ann has been very popular so we added a lunch bunch group.

Preschool Kids is from 9 a.m.-noon; Lunch Bunch follows from noon-1:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact me and I can put you in touch with our instructors.

If you'd like to rent out our multi-purpose room, stop by the Rec Center to see if it fits your needs. We are able to rent out after business hours if needed.

More info is on our website at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org). Fall business hours are Monday-Friday, 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays noon-5 p.m.



*The beloved tire swing is back*

### 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](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org) or sign up at [bit.ly/knavolunteers](https://bit.ly/knavolunteers)**





# Buckthorn Ink Recipe (Note: For artistic use only; do not eat or drink)

By Ellen Mueller, KNA Environmental Committee

## Ingredients/Equipment:

Container(s) for foraging (reusable take-out containers with a lid are great)

Large old pot (can stain)

2-4 cups (575 g) buckthorn berries

Potato masher

Water

Fine-mesh strainer

Large bowl

Coffee filter

Rubber gloves

Glass container(s) with a tight-fitting lid(s)

Paper, for testing

Gum Arabic

Optional ingredients: 1/4 teaspoon alum (green ink), and/or vinegar (teal/blue ink)

## Foraging:

Around late September, Use the iNaturalist app to identify the plant as buckthorn. Since they are considered invasive, no one minds people picking the berries because it takes them out of circulation. You may want to wear gloves — the berries can be squishy and sticky, and there can be very sharp thorns. Only harvest the very dark purple/black berries to get the most intensely colored ink. Collect at 2-4 cups depending on how much ink you need.

## Purple Ink:

1. In a the pot, crush the berries with a potato masher.
2. Cover them with water and cook at a simmer until the water takes on a dark purple-blue color. It is okay if some water evaporates — this will intensify the color of the ink.
3. Next, filter the mixture through a fine-mesh strainer with a bowl underneath to collect the liquid. Discard any solids (do NOT put in a compost pile or anywhere the seeds could sprout). A further round of filtering the liquid through a coffee filter should give you a nice smooth ink.

4. You can use this purple ink as is, or you can set aside two ounces and add 10 drops of gum arabic to help create a slightly thick, glossy ink.

## Sap Green Ink:

1. Set aside 4 tablespoons of the buckthorn ink. Add about 1/4 teaspoon of alum to the mixture to achieve a green color.
2. Test out the color frequently on paper and adjust the ratio according to your desired result. Note: color can shift dramatically as it dries.

## Other Color Experiments To Try:

You can try substituting vinegar for alum to get more of a teal/blue color. Again, test frequently and allow to dry to see true color results.

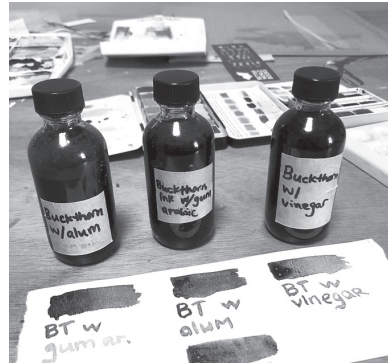


Photo credit: Ellen Mueller; bottles of ink and hand picking berries



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