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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.

Just Deeds By Steve Paquin

In the tumultuous aftermath of the 2020 George Floyd murder, the Kenny Neighborhood Newsletter highlighted the work of the Mapping Prejudice project, a University of Minnesota-based, volunteer-driven program created to identify and map racial covenants, which are clauses inserted into property deeds to keep non-white people from buying or occupying homes. Hundreds of Kenny neighborhood homes have deeds that include racial covenants. In 2020, the Newsletter recommended that readers who wished to remove a covenant from their home’s deed work with the Kenny Organizing for Racial Equity (KORE) organization and an attorney to discharge the racist language.

Fortunately, new programs to simplify racial covenant removal have been created. In 2020, the Mapping Prejudice initiative inspired the City of Golden Valley to develop the Just Deeds Coalition — a group of community stakeholders committed to acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in housing in Minnesota. Beginning in March 2021 the City of Minneapolis’s Just Deeds Project began executing the discharge of racial covenants from Minneapolis property owners’ deeds upon request, free of charge.

What Are Racial Covenants?

The history of racial covenants in Minneapolis dates back to the early 1900s when the city was experiencing a wave of immigration and rapid population growth. During this time, the use of covenants written into property deeds was a common practice that



enabled property owners to legally prevent non-white individuals from living in their neighborhoods. Examples of such contractual language in Kenny deeds are “No person or persons other than of the Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy said premises or any part thereof,” and “This property shall not be sold to any negroes.”

These covenants were legal and enforceable until a 1948 Supreme Court case ruled that individuals could still make and abide by racial covenants, but courts could no longer enforce them. In 1953, the

Kenny Neighborhood Association

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KNA Board 2022-2023

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Co-Chair Jon Erickson

Secretary Scott Elton

Treasurer Nick Winter

Bruce Anderson	Jackie Moes
Barb Brady	Rick Oknick
Scott Elton	Nick Winter
Chris Henjum	

KNA Coordinator

Lauren Anderson

All KNA meetings and events are accessible. Requests for accommodations are welcome. Please make requests at least 10 days in advance by calling 612-392-4477 or writing to info@kennyneighborhood.org.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. We currently meet on Zoom, and are open to all community members. Visit www.kennyneighborhood.org and click on "Calendar" for Zoom meeting information or contact us at info@kennyneighborhood.org for the following:

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

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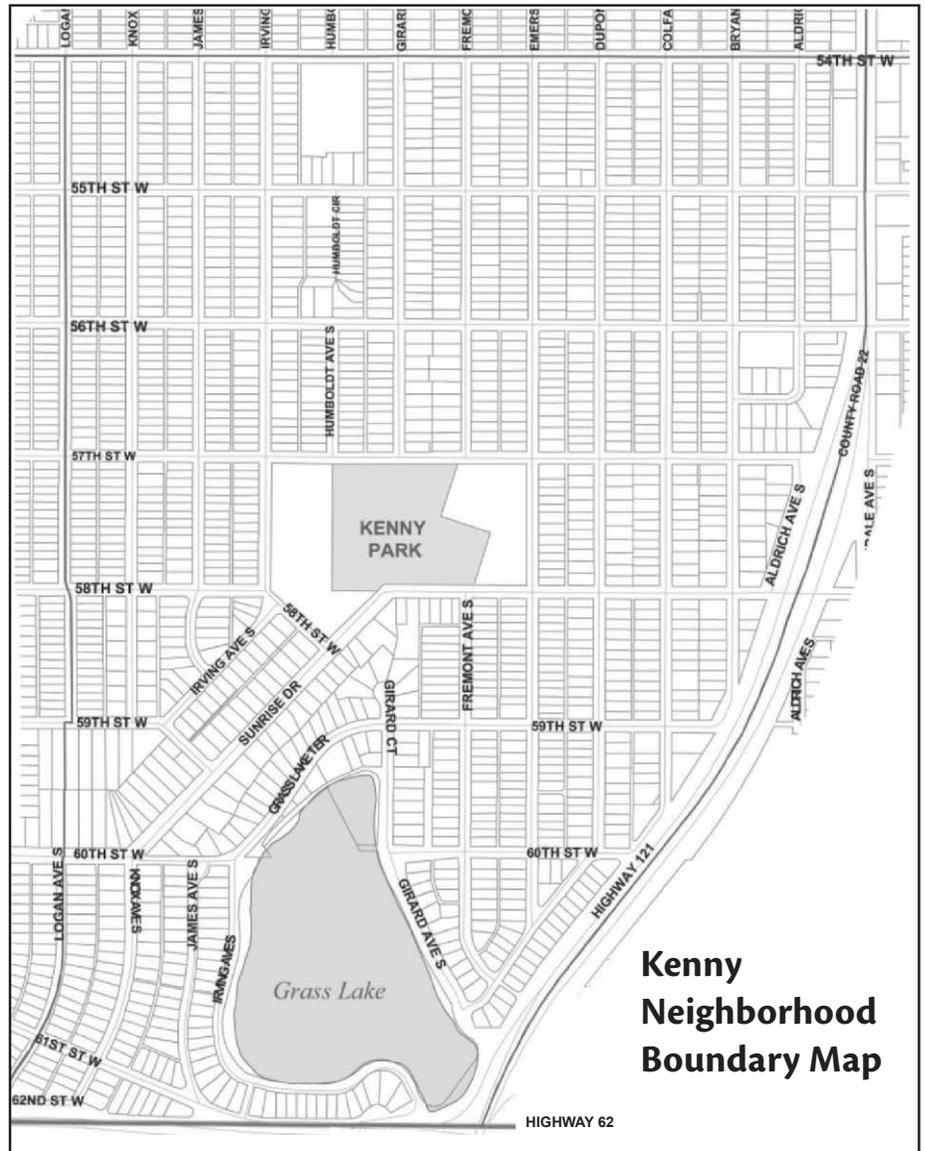
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KNA Board Members Needed

For more information, call KNA: 612-392-4477 or email: info@kennyneighborhood.org.



KNA Committees and Working Groups

GENERAL INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS:
info@kennyneighborhood.org.

Community Engagement: Meets the first Monday of the month. Goal is to develop and support opportunities for all neighbors to gather. Contact Barb Brady, bbrady127@gmail.com.

Crime and Safety: Currently in development. Looking for neighbors who want to promote a safe, secure, and resilient neighborhood. Contact info@kennyneighborhood.org.

Environmental: Meets the second Monday of the month. Goal is to develop and support education, learning opportunities and activities that support a green environment. Contact Bruce Anderson, Anderson.brucep@gmail.com.

GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL: Kenny Garden Club and 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: 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. EMAIL: kennyforracialequity@gmail.com. FACEBOOK GROUP: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KOREmpls>

KORE Book Club: Meets the first Saturday of every month behind City Church, 8:15-9:45 a.m. Contact Janet, JLDahlem@stkate.edu if you prefer the Zoom link.



Letter from the Chair

By Carol Martinson

Kenny Neighborhood Association Chair

COMING SOON: Area Leader Program in Kenny

The KNA Community Engagement group and two very dedicated volunteers are working on an expanded block and area program that will facilitate closer connections across the neighborhood. Patterned after a program established in The Wedge during 2020, the goal is to develop a structure at all levels that:

- Fosters a sense of community
- Supports efforts to reduce crime and increase safety
- Promotes environmentally friendly strategies

Watch for more information coming this Spring.



Weaving a stronger fabric

(with apologies to the weavers of the neighborhood)

It's winter, it's dark and there has been too much snow and ice, but with neighbors helping neighbors (and some fun at the ice rink and sledding hills at Kenny Park) we have made it to March! Soon we will be able to see our neighbors without scarves, hats, mittens, snow suits and shovels in hand.

I always look forward to the first conversations with neighbors when we come out of hibernation. The kids have grown, people have taken trips and many have experienced great joy or loss depending upon their circumstances. It is always good to catch up and remind ourselves how important this neighborhood is for each of us — and how its fabric is woven together by the individuals who reach out and connect.

The Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA) represents all residents of our neighborhood. KNA is your go-to source for advocacy with the city, for social events and for creating a sense of community for all. KNA provides input on city initiatives and works with our elected representatives to share neighbors views.

KNA sponsors events throughout the year like the Ice Cream Social, New Neighbor and Renter

Welcome, and the Spring Clean-up. KNA neighbors also produce the newsletter, deliver welcome packets, or focus on environmental issues, crime and safety, and community engagement. All these activities help to strengthen and create Kenny.

So whether it is the Warp (reaching up and down) or the Weft (across and back and forth) KNA provides all the 'weavers' of the neighborhood the opportunity to help make new and innovative patterns or to solidify and repair the existing patterns of support. If one thread breaks or is missing, the patterns are disrupted.

There are many, many threads in this neighborhood fabric, but room for so many more.

Weavers Wanted

Kenny needs each of you to participate in keeping it strong and viable. That may be making sure you welcome new residents on your block or getting involved with KNA as a volunteer. There are multiple ways to get involved with KNA. You can be a board member, work on a committee, help at an event, deliver welcome packets or get involved with an expanded block and area leader role that is being developed and coming to you soon.

Currently we are seeking individuals to become members of the board that guides KNA. Please see the brief job description on page 6 and reach out to me if you are interested in learning more about what it means to be on the KNA Board.

May this spring bring renewed strength and energy to all so that we can continue to weave a cloth that would make our namesake, Sister Elizabeth Kenny, proud.

Carol

The Kenny Neighborhood Association is one of the many ways that the fabric of the neighborhood is created and sustained.

Minnesota legislature prohibited the use of racial restrictions in warranty deeds. However, these covenants were still being added to deeds throughout the United States until the 1968 Fair Housing Act made them illegal nationwide.

Although these covenants are no longer legally enforceable, their presence on property deeds has continued to perpetuate discrimination and hinder homeownership for non-white people. The legacy of redlining, racial covenants and other discriminatory practices in Minneapolis has had profound and lasting effects on communities of color. The Just Deeds Project aims to be a crucial step towards addressing this legacy of injustice and working towards a more equitable future.

Finding and Removing Racial Covenants

Mapping Prejudice has so far researched over 80,000 Hennepin and Ramsey County deeds and discovered over 26,000 racial covenants, including more than 8,200 in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Just Deeds Project used this data to create a map of Minneapolis properties that contain covenants (**visit www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/attorney/just-deeds/**). Kenny homeowners can find out if their deed is impacted using the interactive map. If your property is highlighted in red, its deed includes a racial covenant. The Just Deeds Project, administered by the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, can help you discharge it.

Amy Schutt, an Assistant City Attorney who manages Minneapolis's Just Deeds Project, says "My goal is to see all 8,253 racial covenants discharged from Minneapolis deeds. Of course, when we started the

program, we knew it wouldn't happen quickly. So far, 790 covenants have been discharged in Minneapolis, and we're getting new applications daily." Ms. Schutt says the process is intentionally simple for the property owner.

"The only requirements are that homeowners check to confirm their property has a covenant, complete the application paperwork, get it notarized and submit it either online or through U.S. Mail," she explains. "There is no fee for the City Attorneys' work and Hennepin County has also waived the records request and filing fees."

Currently, the process takes between two and four months, depending on the volume of requests and external factors. In addition to researching the covenant, and creating and filing the discharge form, the City Attorney's Office provides homeowners with resources to learn about racial covenants and other discriminatory housing practices, the lasting harm of those practices, and what homeowners can do going forward to challenge them.

Kenny residents Amber and Ryan submitted an application to the Just Deeds Project last fall and recently began the covenant removal process on their home. "I got a call from someone from Just Deeds and he walked me through the program and the process. He had the specific language from our deed (author's note: "grantee can not sell or lease said real estate to a colored person"). He was really helpful and explained exactly what we needed to do to discharge the covenant. We pretty much just had to sign the paperwork, get it notarized and send it back in to the city. It was really easy."

Amber says she investigated her property's racial covenant through Mapping Prejudice after having conversations with concerned neighbors who were taking action on their own deeds. "When I learned that this language has been in our deed for almost 100 years it felt horrible," Amber recalls. "I know they aren't legally enforceable, but removing it is something I can easily do, and if nobody else has taken any action to fix it, then it's up to me. It's a small change, but it's important."

When asked about the stance of some Minneapolis residents who see the removal of racial covenants as unnecessary or "performative" since they can't be legally enforced, City Attorney Amy Schutt acknowledges the action is not legally required. However, she believes it is an important action for community members to declare the principles they value and to start an often-difficult conversation. Amy thinks the Minneapolis-based project Free the Deeds organization expresses the ideals well. An author-selected example from the group's communications: "To do your part in shifting the narrative, try discussing these topics with your family, friends and neighbors! Do you live in a covenanted neighborhood? Did you grow up in one? Who are your neighbors? Who's missing? Who owns and who rents? Does your neighborhood today reflect the diversity of the city? And if it doesn't, what are you going to do about it?"

Resources to gain an initial understanding of racial covenants and housing discrimination in Minneapolis:

- mappingprejudice.umn.edu
- justdeeds.org
- pbs.org/show/jim-crow-north

Just Deeds continued on page 15



Neighborhood Update

By Lauren Anderson
Kenny Neighborhood Coordinator

Block Lists and Groups

With spring weather approaching, now is the perfect time to update or set up your block's contact list! An up-to-date list helps you quickly get in touch with your neighbors to move their cars during street sweeping, to shut a garage door that was accidentally left open, to warn of emergency weather, and more. Creating an online group using a tool like Google, Whatsapp, Facebook or Nextdoor is a great way to stay in touch, and a simple text thread with everyone's cell numbers works well for quick contact.

Have new neighbors moved in on your block?

Knock on their door or drop off a note to get their contact info and help get an updated block list out to everyone. If someone on your block prefers a note, phone call or in-person hello rather than electronic communication, designate a neighbor or two to regularly check in with them.

Whatever communication methods your block uses, keep your list or group bookmarked and up-to-date. A more connected community, where neighbors look out for one another, is a safer community.

Join the Kenny Neighborhood Association Board

One of the best ways to support our small but mighty neighborhood organization is to serve on the Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA) Board! The KNA Board is a fabulous group of volunteers who live all over Kenny and get together on the third Thursday of each month to help keep our neighborhood informed, advocate on behalf of Kenny and plan free events that bring our community together.

The KNA Board would love to have your energy and enthusiasm in the group, so please consider getting involved this year!

To join the Board, you'll be able to register online starting in late April at www.kennyneighborhood.org.

You can also register at this year's Board election kick-off on Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kenny Park, next to the building.

Stop by to enjoy free treats, register and/or vote in the election and celebrate the return of warm weather. You will be able to meet current board members, ask questions and hear about their experiences of serving our neighborhood.

Stay tuned for more information in our Kenny Neighborhood eNews, on social media and in the next edition of the Kenny Neighborhood Newsletter.

FIRE & ICE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who braved the chill for this year's Kenny Fire & Ice Skating Party on Friday, February 3! The event took place in sub-zero temperatures after having been rescheduled from its original date because the ice rink turned into slush. We had a great time around the fire roasting marshmallows, drinking cocoa and snacking on popcorn while skating to music. Huge thanks go out to our fabulous Kenny Park staff and to the Kenny Neighborhood Association volunteers who made this event possible!



Kenny Needs You

Kenny residents take a great deal of pride in our neighborhood, and the Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA) strives to make our neighborhood even better by hosting events for residents, working with the city and creating a sense of community for all.

The KNA is a nonprofit organization that listens to neighbors' concerns and needs, and finds ways to respond. We have depended on city funding for a large part of our budget, but that support is dwindling. As we told you in the last newsletter, the city tried to cut the KNA's 2023 funding from \$24,000 to \$14,000, but thanks in large part to our Council Member, Linea Palmisano, our funding was increased to \$20,000 at the last minute.

We know more cuts are coming in the future and we need to prepare now. Funding cuts mean the KNA has to either cut valued programming or find ways to increase revenue.

Volunteer with Your Neighborhood

If you enjoy neighborhood events like the Ice Cream Social, Earth Day Clean-up, the New Neighbor/Renter Gathering, environmental work and education programs, please think about what you can do to assist — no matter how much time or resources you have. Every contribution benefits you and your neighbors.

Consider volunteering for an hour at one of our events, joining the KNA Board, participating on a committee that works in your area of interest or volunteering for activities like the Welcome Packets, Earth Day Clean-up, and other ways to make Kenny a better place. You'll strengthen our community and even make some new friends!



Sign up at bit.ly/knavolunteers, scan the QR code or reach out to our Coordinator, Lauren, at info@kennyneighborhood.org or phone: 612-392-4477 with your contact information.

KNA CHALLENGE

Thanks to everyone who donated this winter! You helped the KNA raise \$1,500 to support neighborhood programming and advocacy.

Our goal is to double the winter donations and raise \$3,000 over the next three months and we need your support! Every donation supports KNA's work in our community and helps offset the severe loss of city funding. The KNA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so your donations are tax-deductible and eligible for employer matching.

Please make your tax-deductible contribution to the Kenny Neighborhood Association by sending a check to: **KNA, PO Box 19593, Minneapolis, MN, 55419.**

For an **electronic transaction just scan the QR code** in this article to make a secure donation through GiveMN.org.



Thank you for your support! The Kenny Neighborhood Association

Kenny Neighborhood Association Board of Directors:

BOARD MEMBER JOB DESCRIPTION

The Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA) is a nonprofit organization that governs the activities and financial responsibilities of the neighborhood organization. Board members are elected from the members of the neighborhood organization and serve to implement the goals and activities of KNA.

Terms are for two years.

Members are elected at the annual meeting (April or May).

Members attend a board meeting on the third Thursday of the month (one to two hours) and **serve on** a working committee that also meets monthly (another two to three hours). Members also assist with events based on their availability and interests.

KNA Board members have the opportunity to meet with city and other government officials as part of the monthly meetings and have direct input to comment and guide activities being presented to the board for review and input. Board members also have the opportunity to meet and work with other neighborhoods on common issues.

If you'd like to explore being a board member, sign up at bit.ly/knavolunteers, call 612-392-4477 or email info@kennyneighborhood.org and Carol Martinson will reach out to you.

Safety Tips!

Thanks to Jennifer Waisanen, our Southwest Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialist, for the following tips on preventing automobile, license plate and catalytic converter thefts.

Auto and License Plate Theft Prevention Tips

Auto theft prevention has been a citywide focus for Minneapolis police. In January 2023 Minneapolis experienced more than 700 auto thefts, 33 carjackings and 260 thefts from a motor vehicle.

Never leave your car running and unattended, including for a quick delivery or pick-up. A cold car is better than no car. If you walk away from a running vehicle and take the key fob with you, the vehicle can still be stolen and driven until it runs out of gas or is shut off.

Always take your keys and/or fob with you. Do not leave your keys in your vehicle, even in your own garage. 70% of vehicles are stolen using keys or fobs that were left in the vehicle

Consider additional safety measures for your vehicle. A steering wheel locking device can be a good option if your car is a model that's frequently targeted.

Do not leave valuables, bags, backpacks or similar items in plain view within your vehicle. Take these items with you or lock them in your trunk. Thieves regularly break vehicle windows and take items they can see.

In addition to stealing vehicles, thieves are also stealing or swapping license plates to put on stolen cars. Thieves look for vehicles that match the same make and model of a vehicle that was just stolen. It's possible you could be pulled over by law enforcement in a felony stop because a plate swapped onto your vehicle matches that of a stolen vehicle.

Secure your license plate with tamper resistant security screws. This will make it more difficult to remove your plate.

Check the front and back of your car regularly to make sure your license plates have not been tampered with, and are indeed yours.

Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Tips

A catalytic converter is a pollution-control component of your vehicle's exhaust system. It contains precious metals that a thief can re-sell to a scrap dealer. Converters are an easy target for theft because they can be sawed off vehicles in a matter of minutes. Vehicles with a higher ground clearance, such as all wheel drive trucks, sport utility vehicles and minivans are especially vulnerable.

Whenever possible, park your vehicle in a well-lit area or locked garage. Add additional security lighting and video cameras where you park.

Etch or engrave your License Plate number and/or vehicle identification number (VIN) onto your catalytic converter.

Spray paint your converter with brightly colored, heat resistant paint. This could help make it easily identifiable at a scrap yard.

Set your car alarm to be more sensitive to detect tampering.

Install an aftermarket anti-theft device. These are designed to make it more difficult for a thief to remove the converter. Several different versions are available through auto parts stores and online. You can also talk to your mechanic or vehicle dealership for anti-theft devices specific to your vehicle make and model.

If you work for a business that operates a fleet of vehicles, consider securing them in a yard with high, locked fencing.

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Earth Day Clean-up

Saturday, April 22, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join the Kenny Environment Committee and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board for a spring clean-up of our neighborhood streets, Kenny Park and Grass Lake! Volunteers are needed: meet at Kenny Park to pick up free gloves and bags and then head out to your designated clean-up location. No registration is needed and supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis so swing by early! In case of rain, we'll share event status on social media that morning.



Neighborhood Election Day

Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We're kicking off the annual Kenny Neighborhood Association Board election with a community event at Kenny Park. This event is part of the citywide neighborhood election day so stop by to enjoy treats, register to join the Kenny Board of Directors and vote while chatting with neighbors and watching kids play on the playground. www.kennyneighborhood.org



Kenny Neighborhood Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 7 p.m.

Join your neighbors for this year's Kenny Neighborhood Annual Meeting. Learn what the Kenny Neighborhood Association is working on and connect with your elected representatives. We'll also announce the results of the KNA Board election at the end of the event so make sure to get your vote in at the May 13 event or from May 13-18 at www.kennyneighborhood.org

Movie in the Park

Date To Be Determined

Check back in a future edition of the Kenny Neighborhood Newsletter for our Kenny Movie in the Park date, which will likely be in August. Thanks to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board for sponsoring the summer Music & Movies in the Park series!



RE ARE FUN & INFORMATIVE EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!



AAPI Heritage Month Potluck

Date To Be Determined

Join the second annual Kenny Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month potluck, which will take place on a Saturday in May at Kenny Park. We'll share details at www.kennyneighborhood.org as soon as the date is available. This event will be an outdoor picnic at the park but in case of rain we'll move inside the Kenny Park building. Please bring a dish to share and come celebrate our AAPI neighbors with delicious food and fun. Huge thanks go out to Kenny neighbors Terri and Claire for spearheading this great event for a second year in a row. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this neighborhood celebration!



Ice Cream Social & Green Fair

Thursday, June 22, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Come to Kenny Park for the annual Ice Cream Social and the inaugural Green Fair! Enjoy free Sebastian Joe's ice cream with neighbors and a fabulous concert from the Crosstown Community Band. Several ice cream flavors, plus a gluten free/dairy free option, will be provided. The Kenny Environment Committee's Green Fair will feature several organizations with information and activities to help you minimize your environmental impact. Join us to learn about renewable energy, organics recycling, sustainable yards, protecting water quality and more.

Thanks to City Church for their sponsorship of this event. As always, they are a fantastic community partner in the neighborhood. In case of rain on the day of the event, we'll update the event's status via messages at kennyneighborhood.org and on social media. We hope you can join us for one of our favorite events of the year!

Renter and New Neighbor Welcome Gathering

Thursday, September 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Kenny renters and new(ish) neighbors are invited to a free annual dinner outdoors at Kenny Park! If you rent your residence or have moved to the neighborhood in the last two years, save the date and plan to come meet one another and get to know your neighborhood. The Kenny Neighborhood Association will provide free pizza, and attendees are asked to bring their own beverages. We'll share more info closer to the event.



Induction Cooking Is Heating Up

By JoAnn Erickson

The number of different appliances used in today's kitchens has increased greatly over the past 30 years. Once a new food craze arrives, you can be assured there is an appliance that has been specially made for it! New appliances include instant pots (which does many things but is great at pressure cooking, in my opinion) to air fryers, bread machines and yogurt makers.

On the other hand, electric and gas stoves have been around for many years, and it may be time for them to move over and make room for other appliances like induction burners and stoves. Induction cooking is well-established in other countries, but has only recently gained traction in the United States.

My husband and I love to cook, and we recently opted to replace our old glass-topped electric stove with an induction stove. There are pros and cons to induction stoves, but we are very pleased with our choice. Here are a few issues that helped us make our decision to go with induction cooking:

1. Induction cooktops are more energy efficient than electric and gas cooktops. Induction cooktops use an electromagnetic field to heat the cookware directly, while gas cooktops heat the air around the cookware. Since induction cooktops heat the cookware directly, they can transfer heat to the food more efficiently and use less energy in the process.
2. Induction cooktops are safer to use than electric and gas cooktops. Because the cookware is heated directly, there is no open flame or hot burner to accidentally touch. Additionally, if a pot or pan is removed from the cooktop while it is still on, the cooktop will automatically turn off, preventing any accidental fires.
3. Induction cooktops are easier to clean than electric and gas cooktops. There is no open flame or hot burner, so there is less risk of food and spills getting caught in the burner or on the cooktop. Additionally, the cooktop itself does not get hot, making it easy to wipe down with a damp cloth.
4. Induction cooktops provide more precise temperature control than gas and electric cooktops. With gas cooktops the temperature is controlled by adjusting the flame, which can be difficult to do accurately. With induction cooktops the temperature is controlled by the touch of a button or turn of a dial, making it easy to achieve the exact temperature desired.



As an incentive to move away from gas appliances, the federal Inflation Reduction Act contains tax credits and rebates for consumers to purchase electric and induction stoves, among other energy-saving

measures. You can find details from the Minnesota Commerce Department at mn.gov/commerce/energy/federal-rebates, a tax expert, or consumer advocacy sources you trust.

In conclusion, induction cooktops are more energy efficient, safer, easier to clean and provide more precise temperature control than gas cooktops. These advantages helped us to choose this type of stove for our kitchen and it has proven to be an excellent decision.

ENERGY TIP

KNA Environmental Committee

Power Down Your Devices!

Did you know leaving household electronics turned on uses a lot of energy? Even though many computers and TVs have a standby mode, many devices continue to draw on “vampire energy” in this state. Consider completely powering down electronics, or look into “smart” power strips that turn off all power, including vampire energy, to all devices at once.

Common examples of appliances and devices that have phantom loads include televisions, DVD players, cable boxes, stereos, coffee makers, microwave ovens, toasters, laptop chargers, hair dryers and cell phone chargers.



ADOPTING STORM DRAINS IS WORKING IN THE KENNY NEIGHBORHOOD

By Lane Christianson

Kenny neighborhood residents are doing their part by adopting storm drains — keeping them clear of leaves, trash and other debris. It takes just fifteen minutes, twice a month, to help have cleaner waterways and healthier communities.



Sweep Up, Rake Up, Pick Up!

Did you know stormwater flows directly from drains to lakes, creeks and the Mississippi River? Trash and organic materials travel through storm drains, polluting our local waterways.

Helpful tools for cleaning

Tools that are helpful for cleaning your storm drains include a broom, a rake, a trash grabber, work gloves, an orange cone and/or safety vest, a snow shovel or dustpan, and a large bucket or yard waste bag for gathering collected materials.

Making a difference

Residents can track their impact by estimating how much debris they collect and entering it at the Adopt-a-Drain website. Last year 889 Minneapolis residents reported clean-ups, which helped measure the cumulative efforts of your work.

In 2022, 40,576 pounds of debris was collected in Minneapolis from adopted drains, with 2,865 participants citywide adopting 6,232 drains. **54 participants in the Kenny Neighborhood adopted almost 100 storm drains! Your efforts make a difference!**



Scan the QR code to learn more

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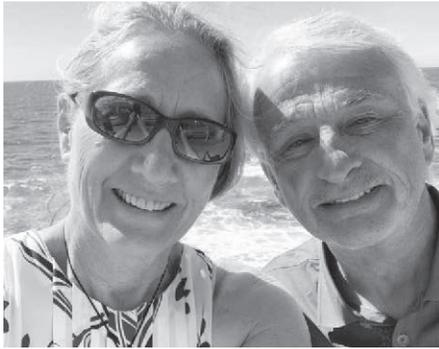
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Word on the Street

Pat and Brenda asked:

What have you been doing to spend time and enjoy the winter season?



Mike and Eloise

We enjoy the outdoor sports of ice skating and sledding.



Steve

I have been snowboarding with my daughter. I have been supporting local businesses over the winter.



Danny and Penelope

We have been playing in the snow and been practicing judo as a family .



Seth and Nora

We have been enjoying the snow with family. We are been biding our time until gardening season.

Who's in the 'Hood

By Jasmine Avent

Many of us in Kenny begin and end our day very similarly. We wake up, dress, and leave the house to spend the day outside of our neighborhood. For one neighbor, the opportunity to work and find joy right in the neighborhood is something that she feels grateful for every day.

Meet Megan Hardesty, a first-grade teacher at Kenny Elementary School. Megan has been making a positive impact on Kenny for ten years and has really enjoyed working in her community. Where other people may see the challenge of the classroom as daunting, Megan thinks differently. "Kids are creative. No day is the same!" she reflects. She believes that the magic she experiences inside of the school walls every day has a lot to do with the neighborhood outside it. "I love the community. It's nice and small. My favorite thing is that the teachers know all the kids. I have worked in bigger schools and there is a community, but not like it is here." Megan went on to express that she feels the small school environment is beneficial for her six- and seven-year-old co-workers too. "I think it really helps the kids to feel safe, knowing so many adults in the building."

As the world slowly crawls back from the pandemic, Megan is excitedly waiting for the resurrection of what made the school great — its neighborhood. She looks forward to post-COVID activities resurging. "It's nice when the neighborhood comes to support activities at the school. [Before COVID] we had parents in this building all the time. I can't wait to get back to that."

**"KIDS ARE CREATIVE.
NO DAY IS THE SAME!"**

When she isn't in the classroom, Megan's love of teaching doesn't go far. She mixes her love of music and children by teaching piano in her spare time and during the summer. She gets joy from seeing kids' minds open up with music, and is amazed at classroom progression after kids have been introduced to learning music. She also loves spending time with her daughter Nora, a seventh grader at Anthony Middle School. She looks forward to their spending time at her parents' cabin, and visiting her sister in Hawaii.

Megan's hope for Kenny and the neighborhood is, simply, growth. "I hope that we continue growing. We went through a lot of changes, and I just want us to get back to where we were. It's a really cool gift to be able to get to know kids."

If you see Ms. Hardesty in the neighborhood, be sure to say hello!



Megan Hardesty with her daughter Nora



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Kenny Park News

By Brian Hall, Recreation Supervisor

Kenny Park Recreation Center

1328 W. 58th St.,
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612-370-4901

RECREATION SUPERVISOR

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

SUMMER HOURS:

June 16–September 4, 2023
Monday–Thursday Noon–9 p.m.
Friday Noon–6 p.m.

New Recreation Supervisor at Armatage/Kenny: BRIAN HALL

Hello everyone, I'm Brian Hall the new Recreation Supervisor, and I'm excited to be in Southwest to make new connections and do great work! I've been closely involved with the parks since I played sports at Bottineau Park as a Northeast Minneapolis kid. My first job was at Logan Park when I was 14 years old, and I've made a career of it since. I graduated from DeLaSalle High school and the University of Minnesota (Sociology), and I'm also a Certified Park Recreation Professional. I have loads of experience across the city. I started full time in 2000 at Logan, was promoted to Sibley Park Rec Leader in 2004, and I've spent significant time since then at Waite and Farview Parks. Now it's time for an adventure in new surroundings in the Southwest service area at Kenny and Armatage Parks. I'm married and have a 7½ year-old son (those half years do count!). I love sports, having played baseball and football through high school, and I enjoyed coaching MPRB youth sports while I was in college. My door is open to new ideas or programs, so stop by to say hello!

Kenny Park Update: We are wrapping up winter youth sports. The season has been a success and much learning and development has taken place on the court. Make sure to check out an exciting 11u basketball tournament, which will be held at Armatage park between March 17 and March 25. For the latest program listings please visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/activities/.

For more info on MPRB's COVID response and latest updates, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information.

Preschool KIDS focuses on the importance of social interactions and social skills for preschool-age children, with emphasis on sharing, working together, taking turns, problem solving, listening and following multistep directions. We will also include academic curriculum into our day, such as working on letters, numbers, colors and shapes and incorporating a weekly concept such as "I can do it," "marvelous me," opposites, sorting, and seasons. Join our qualified, wonderful instructor, Ann Horn, in making new friends and fun memories. Classes are offered Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. This program is at Kenny Park, January 9-May 25.

KidCreate Studio is an art studio just for kids! Your child will create fridge-worthy masterpieces, learn art concepts, and experiment with many different art materials. We have a variety of hour-long and week-long classes and camps planned for the entire summer. Programming is for ages 3-13. Check out the complete listing online at apm.activecommunities.com/minneapolisparcs/Home. Themes include Art Academy, Beyond Pokemon, Roblox, Tie Dye, and more! Programs are held at both Kenny and Armatage Parks.

Spring/Summer Sports Registration for Armatage and Kenny Parks: Summer registration opened February 22 at noon. The Spring/Summer sports will be flag football, t-ball, machine pitch, baseball, softball and track. A variety of other programs, special events and offerings are available. To register visit www.kennyarmatagesports.com. If you have any questions or trouble registering, contact Armatage Park at (612) 370-4912 for more information.

Find the Kenny Neighborhood on Facebook and Instagram!

Did you know that KNA is 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



Kenny's Pennhurst Subdivision Spotlights Racial Covenants

Racial covenants in home deeds became a significant issue in the Kenny and Armatage neighborhoods during the building boom immediately following World War II. In 1946, new home plots were being rapidly sold in the Pennhurst subdivision (from 54th Street to 56th Street, between Penn and Humboldt Avenues). Construction-worker members of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) union learned that three returning war veterans had been denied the opportunity to purchase homes in the subdivision because they were Jewish. The subdivision's developer asserted that if these men purchased homes it would violate the racial covenant that was placed on every deed, which stated "no person of any race other than the Caucasian race shall use or occupy any building or any lot, except that this covenant shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants of a different race domiciled with an owner or tenant." The scope of these racial covenants was frequently expanded to encompass Jewish home buyers.

In December 1946, the AFL union's business agents voted unanimously that the union should boycott any work on homes containing racial covenants, and forwarded that recommendation for approval to the Building Trades

council. The action would have been considered an "organized work stoppage" — in other words a strike. Developers and realtors opposed the union's stance. In response to the AFL's proposed boycott, the subdivision's developer said "There hasn't been an addition opened in Minneapolis in the last 20 years that didn't include such a clause," and the president of the Minneapolis Board of Realtors stated "It is an unfortunate situation, but until the attitude of buyers changes, there probably will be restrictive clauses in all new projects." (Source: *Minneapolis Tribune*)

In January 1947, the Building Trades council demurred on the boycott, instead recommending that Minnesota Governor Luther Youngdahl initiate statewide action to eliminate racial covenants. Construction on the Pennhurst subdivision continued with the

covenant language intact, but the United States Supreme Court, in a 1948 decision, reduced the practice of racial covenants by declaring them unenforceable. The legacy and damaging impact of racial covenants continues to be felt in Minneapolis, but the Kenny and Armatage neighborhoods were an early flashpoint in the fight to eliminate them.

To learn more about an Armatage-based group's fight against racial covenants, visit www.area1946.com

Thanks to PhD student Daniel Rosenblum (Uppsala University, Mapping Prejudice Affiliated Scholar) for alerting us to this story and providing newspaper clippings. If you live in a home with a racial covenant and would like to help Daniel with his dissertation research by sharing your perspectives, please contact him at rosen918@umn.edu.



HOUSES MUSHROOM AT 54TH AND PENN—Two years ago this picture would have shown only a few scattered houses in the area south of Fifty-fourth street S. near Penn avenue. Since then the F. R. Lein construction company has put up 69 single and double dwellings in the vicinity, as well as a \$35,000 National Tea retail food store at the corner of Penn and Fifty-fourth. Lein and other builders are continuing to fill out the district, with most of the single homes

MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE AIRPHOTO BY POWELL KRUEGER in the \$13,000 to \$16,000 class and double bungalows running about \$21,000. Fred R. Lein heads the building firm, and most of the construction has been financed by the Wilkinson Home Finance Corp., according to C. A. Kuehn, sales manager for Lein. Lein started building homes in 1921, and prior to the war put up about 100 each year. Shortages of building materials now have cut this figure to about 75 per year. During the war Lein built barracks at Ft. Snelling.

KENNY

NEIGHBORHOOD

Kenny Neighborhood Association

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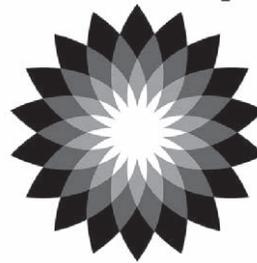
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