



58th Street/Sunrise Drive Resurfacing and Improvements Slated for 2022

*Residents can provide input at
February 23 virtual meeting*

Winter 2022 Newsletter
Comments, questions, ideas?
Call Kenny Neighborhood
Association at 612-392-4477

BY BARB BRADY

INSIDE

- Letter from the Chair**..... p 3
- Traffic Safety** p 4
- Board Elections** p 5
- KNA Annual Meeting** p 5
- Earth Day** p 5
- Stay in Touch**..... p 5
- Kid’s Birthday Ideas** p 6
- Neighborhood Survey** p 7
- Farewell to Ruth** p 8
- Crime and Safety** p 9
- Thank You Donors** p 10
- Welcome Lauren**..... p 11
- Word on the Street** p 12
- Who’s in the ‘Hood** p 13
- Park Board Update**..... p 14
- KORE Information** p 15

Anyone who drives on 58th Street and Sunrise Drive between Hwy 121 and 60th Street knows the road is in poor condition and needs to be fixed. The city is working on an improvement plan and is seeking public input before work begins later this year.

- The proposal would:
- Add paint to include bike lanes
 - Reduce the width of the travel lanes
 - Replace sections of curb with new concrete
 - Grind off the top layer of asphalt and replace it
 - Make bicycle improvements at the traffic lights at 58th Street and Hwy 121.

“This resurfacing project is designed to improve the overall safety along the corridor and bring this street more in line with our city transportation policies and goals,” says Minneapolis Associate

Transportation Planner Kristian Zimmerman. “This project is strictly to resurface, increase safety, and improve bicycle access. We know neighbors have concerns about traffic safety issues in that area and we have looked at ways to address them. This project should ease those concerns by narrowing the lanes to slow traffic down and by adding defined bike lanes. The city will continue to monitor this area.”

The city’s 10-year Transportation Action Plan identified 58th/Sunrise as one of the areas for bikes and vehicles to share space on quiet low-speed streets as the bicycle infrastructure is expanded. “This is a route with two schools and a park that people can bike to,” says Zimmerman. “It’s an important connection to the existing Bryant and Lyndale Avenue bike routes and would tie into bike routes throughout the city and to suburbs like Richfield, which has new bikeways.”

Cover Story continues on page 4.

Existing Conditions



58th Street West at Emerson Avenue



Sunrise Drive at 58th Street West

KENNY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Office: P.O. Box 19593
Minneapolis, MN 55419
Message Line: 612-392-4477
email: info@kennyneighborhood.org
www.kennyneighborhood.org

KNA BOARD 2021-2022

Chairperson Carol Martinson
Co-Chair Jon Erickson
Treasurer Isaac Accola
Secretary Open

Bruce Anderson
Barb Brady
Scott Elton
Chris Henjum
Laura Hudson
Rick Oknick
Chuck Ott
Nick Winter

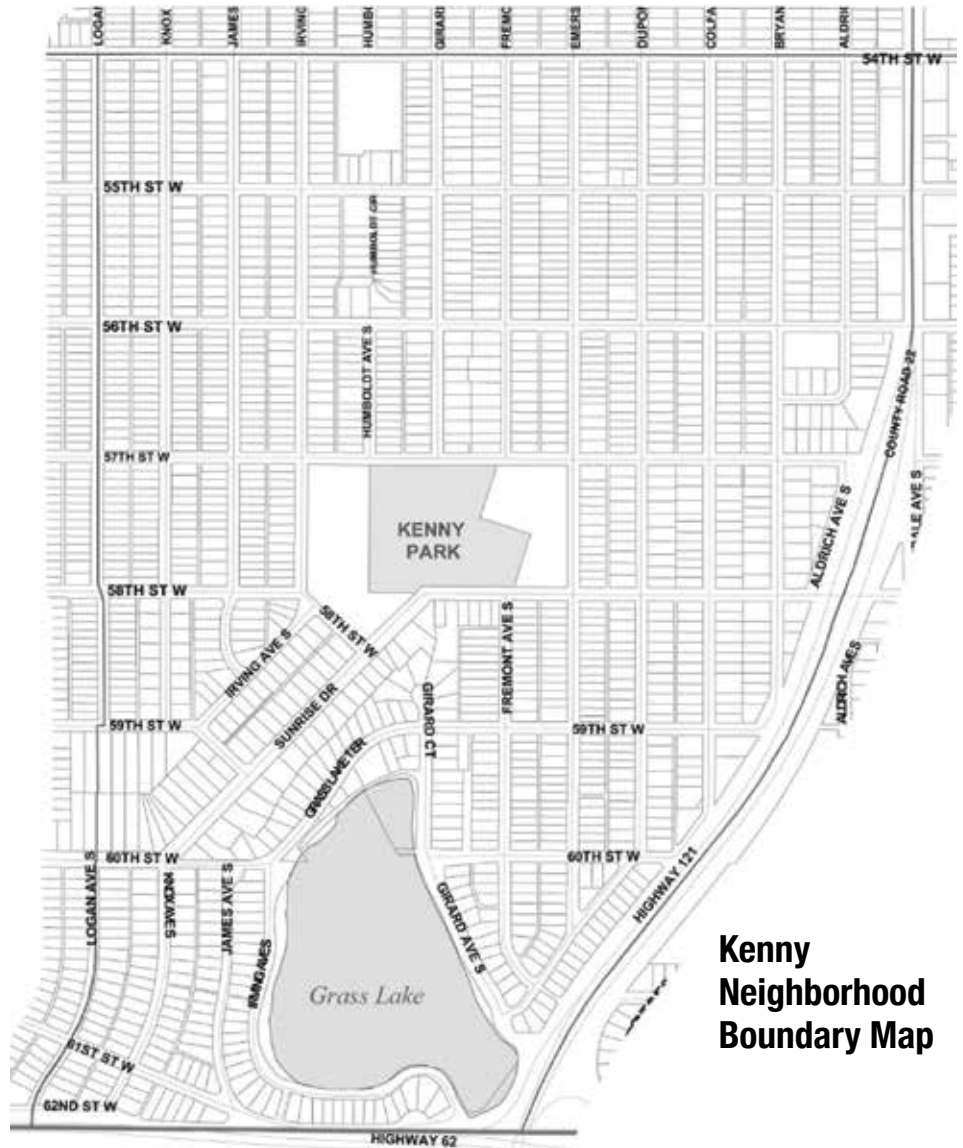
KNA Coordinator

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. During the pandemic, meetings are held virtually. Contact us at : info@kennyneighborhood.org for the meeting link:

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



Kenny Neighborhood Boundary Map

Newsletter Team

COORDINATION AND LAYOUT:

Mary Arneson

COPYEDITING:

Barb Brady and Vicki Olson

WRITERS:

Jasmine Avent

Barb Brady

Carol Martinson

Vicki Olson

Steve Paquin

PHOTOGRAPHY: Mary Arneson,

Barb Brady, Pat Hagan

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, please call Lauren Anderson at 612-392-4477.



Letter from the Chair

By Carol Martinson
Kenny Neighborhood Association Chairperson

All Things New, All Things the Same

As we begin the Chinese Year of the Tiger, I am reminded of how much is new, but also how much is the same. According to the Chinese, the Tiger represents energy, strength, protection, leadership, and respect. All good things as we leave a very challenging 2021 behind and look forward to a calmer and more 'normal' 2022.

We entered 2021 thinking that everything would return to 'normal' but that eluded us. However, as I look at my neighbors and the larger Kenny neighborhood, I am so grateful for the things that keep us on track – taking care of each other, participating in events when possible, understanding the larger issues of our community, and working to make the city a better place for all. All things that we value and treasure and make us a caring community.

2021 saw us saying goodbye to our treasured staff coordinator, Ruth Olson, who has served the KNA board and neighborhood for many years. My most sincere thanks to Ruth for all that she has done for Kenny and will do in her new role working in City Council Member Palmisano's office.

In 2022, we welcome Lauren Anderson as our new coordinator. Lauren also supports the Armatage neighborhood, so we are looking forward to the two neighborhoods working together on projects that make sense.

Also in 2022, the KNA board is launching a neighborhood survey. We

need your input to guide the work of KNA going forward. Check out the details on page 7 and then fill out the survey, which you can find at bit.ly/2022kennysurvey.

And of course, we need you to continue to be involved in ongoing Kenny activities. Whether that is attending the ice cream social, participating in a working group, serving on the board of directors, or attending our monthly meetings – we need you!

Opportunities for you to consider:

- Event planning and participation – new ideas are welcome, volunteers to support events are always needed

- Environmental Working Group
- Crime & Safety Working Group
- Community Building and Engagement
- Block Leaders.

My thanks to all for making Kenny such a wonderful place to call home.

Happy Year of the Tiger!

Carol

Kowalski's Groceries for Good Causes (GFGC) – Support Kenny School

BY CAROL MARTINSON

Kowalski's Markets have donated more than \$2 million to local charities through their Groceries for Good Causes (GFGC) program. The intent of GFGC is to help the community directly surrounding each store. It is meant to help nonprofit organizations like schools, churches, food shelves, youth support groups, and animal humane societies, to name a few. These local organizations then use the funds to help others.

The program is simple: customers place their receipts in labeled boxes at the front of the store. A quarterly donation is made based on the total number of receipts collected in each



charity's box. This allows Kowalski's to direct charitable giving to the local organizations that matter most to our local customers.

Kenny School has a box at the Kowalski's on 54th and Lyndale. Please drop your receipts in our box and help our students!

Cover Story continued.

“Bikes are healthy, environmentally friendly ways to get to school and other destinations,” says Zimmerman. “The 58th/Sunrise project is on the Safe Routes to School network. Fremont Ave. is a key corridor, and this helps students get to where they need to be, as well as build the network out for all users. The city received a great deal of public input supporting these options.”

Zimmerman noted parking will be removed on the south side of 58th St. from Lyndale Ave. to Sunrise Dr., and on the west side of Sunrise Dr. between 58th and 60th St. to add bike lanes. Parking on the east side of the street between 58th and 60th will remain. The vehicle traffic lanes will be narrowed to 10 feet each way to make space for six-foot bike lanes.

“When we were looking at this project, we saw that there are multiple modes of transportation using the same streets,” he says. “There was no dedicated space for bicycles, which posed a safety risk. There wasn’t enough space on the road to safely accommodate parking, vehicles, and bike lanes.”

The city did a thorough parking study over various days and times to see how people use existing parking.

“We found most residents have driveways they’re using,” he says. “Few houses face 58th St. and there’s not a lot of utilization. On Sunrise between 58th and 60th, residents have driveways and alleys, so people have options.”

Overall parking utilization was low on the two streets, so planners felt they could right-size the streets for vehicles and bikes with limited disruption to residents.

“The plan will provide enough parking for anyone who wants to park on the street,” says Zimmerman.

The city is looking for public input. Zimmerman presented the plan to the KNA Board of Directors meeting

in November, and neighbors made comments and asked questions then. Residents directly on the route will receive letters from the city.

There’s an opportunity for residents to provide input at a **February 23 virtual public meeting**.

Go to the project webpage at <http://kna.link/X> for details about the plan and the virtual meeting.

The city is also working on a plan to improve the process to request traffic calming measures in all neighborhoods. **See the story below for more information about traffic calming.**

New City Process Aims to Improve Traffic Safety, Address Resident Concerns

BY BARB BRADY



Kenny residents who feel there’s too much speeding, failure to obey stop signs, or other traffic violations that threaten safety will soon have a better way to request relief.

The City of Minneapolis is working on a process to make it easier to request traffic calming measures in a neighborhood. Traffic calming includes physical measures like traffic circles, speed humps, and bump-outs. It is in addition to major traffic safety projects like full street reconstruction and safety programs. The 58th Street/Sunrise Drive project described on Page 1 of this newsletter would calm traffic by narrowing vehicle lanes and adding bike lanes.

City staff currently review traffic calming requests on a first-come first-served basis. The city receives 2,500 requests a year, most of them about speeding.

A proposed process for traffic calming requests aims to be easier to use, more transparent, and data-based, according to Jennifer Lowry, a principal professional engineer in the Minneapolis Public Works Traffic and Parking Services Division. Instead of addressing concerns on a first-come first-served basis, residents would fill out an application and provide details of their concerns. The applications would

Traffic continues on page 15.



Neighborhood Update

By Lauren Anderson
Kenny Neighborhood Coordinator

Board Election

Spring is a great time to get involved as a leader in your neighborhood. All are welcome to run for an open seat on the KNA Board of Directors, and we especially encourage members of under-represented communities to run, including renters, seniors, residents with disabilities, and residents who identify as LGBTQ+ or BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color).

Board meetings are the third Thursday of each month and the total time commitment is approximately 5-6 hours a month. Board members play a critical role in shaping our neighborhood for years to come.

If you are interested in running for a seat on the KNA Board, please e-mail us at info@kennyneighborhood.org. This year's election is online.

- Nominations/applications for candidates for the KNA Board will be accepted through the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 21.
- Candidate information will be posted on our website on Friday, April 22.
- Online voting at kennyneighborhood.org begins on Friday, April 22, and closes on Thursday, April 28.
- Election results will be announced at kennyneighborhood.org and on KNA's social media channels on Friday, April 29.

Please call us at (612) 392-4477 if you do not have access to a computer and need to register your application by other means. We're happy to help.

Hi Kenny neighbors, I'm so glad to be here and to share my first report as your new Coordinator! Hope to see you around the neighborhood this year!

— Lauren

Earth Day Clean-up at Kenny Park is April 23

Join the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and the Kenny Environmental Committee for a DIY Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 23 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Stop by Kenny Park or any of the participating Earth Day sites during the event to pick up supplies.

No registration is needed and supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so stop by early and then head to a nearby park space or into your neighborhood to pick up trash and recycling while getting fresh air and exercise!

Share pictures of your trash haul on the Earth Day Clean-up Facebook page – @MPLSEarthDay – and use the hashtags #MplsDIYEarthDay and #kennyneighborhood.

Stay in touch!

We're here to help! There are many ways to connect with the Kenny Neighborhood Association:

- Sign up for neighborhood eNews: at www.kennyneighborhood.org
- Send an email to: info@kennyneighborhood.org

2022 KNA Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. on Zoom

To request a meeting link, email info@kennyneighborhood.org

Learn what your neighborhood is working on, hear from informative speakers and get ready to elect neighborhood board members at the Kenny Neighborhood Annual Meeting and Board Election on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

The KNA is committed to building a strong community and supporting our neighbors. Meeting details are still being worked out so please save the date and check: <http://www.kennyneighborhood.org> and our social media channels for more information as it is available.

- Leave a voicemail at: (612) 392-4477 and we will get back to you!

Connect to:

- Facebook: [facebook.com/KennyNeighborhood/](https://www.facebook.com/KennyNeighborhood/)

New! Connect to:

- Instagram (new!): [instagram.com/kennyneighborhoodmpls/](https://www.instagram.com/kennyneighborhoodmpls/)

Are you Looking for Ideas for your Kids' Birthday Parties?

BY VICKI OLSON

Birthday parties for kids can be so much fun but can also be stressful to plan. Here are some tips:

Keep it simple

- Invite no more guests than child's age plus one. And if your child just wants a couple of friends over for a sleepover or outing, don't feel obligated to have something bigger.
- Keep it short – 1 1/2 hours is ideal for a group birthday party.
- For food, kids often only care about the cake so if you are providing other food, keep it simple, for example, pizza or mac and cheese bites or mini sandwiches. This can also help avoid food allergy issues.

Make it personal and interactive

- Ask your child to pick the theme or base it on their interests.
- Involve your child in decorating their own cake and keep the focus on creativity rather than a professionally decorated cake.
- Invite your child's guests to create their own party favors - decorate a box or paint a figure or picture to take home, depending on their age.
- Consider starting a tradition like a late-night family flashlight walk or outing for a breakfast donut with Mom or Dad as an additional birthday activity to take the pressure off one event.



Consider the environment

- For decorations, buy colorful signs, banners, and table decorations; and avoid themes so that you can use them year to year. Put the emphasis for the theme on the cake or napkins instead.
- Consider finger food and paper cones that don't require plates and silverware. If you do use plastic silverware, buy high quality reusable silverware that can be used from year to year.
- Eliminate plastic prizes that might end up in the trash and put the emphasis on having fun.
- Consider children's ages and safety factors in decorating with balloons.

Picking venue/activities during COVID-19 times (Please check websites as status might have changed)

- Ideally, if the child's home is the venue, having outdoor activities is best. During the winter, kids can go

skating or sledding to stay warm or you can have an outdoor portable fireplace or two in the driveway if the kids are old enough – perfect for s'mores! Or in the summer, kids can play on a slip-and-slide, go to a pool, a beach, or a park as long as you have enough adults to spot the children. Orchards, mini golf, and games in the park are other options.

- Some common games are: Hot Potato, Pass The Ball, Musical Statues, Drop The Clothespin, Pin The Tail On The Donkey, Walk The Plank, Duck-Duck Goose, Simon Says, Musical Chairs, Egg And Spoon Race, Grandmother's Footsteps, Kim's Game, Blind Man's Bluff, Minute To Win It, Marshmallow Challenge.
- Many venues are still not scheduling birthday parties because of COVID-19 but may have other options. The Minnesota Zoo, Como Zoo, Bell Museum, and Science Museum of Minnesota are not currently offering parties. Minnesota Children's Museum is also not offering parties but does have two areas that can be rented prior to opening for different ages.
- According to Jordan Nelson, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation supervisor, the Minneapolis recreation centers will start taking reservations in February. The recreation centers provide multi-use rooms and in some cases gyms, that allow for more room for a small group of kids to spread out, which is particularly helpful if you are playing games.

Birthday parties continues on page 7.

Birthday parties continued from page 6.

- The Works Museum, the Edinborough Indoor Park, and Braemar Field are currently open for scheduling birthday parties.

This list is not all inclusive so searching for birthday parties in Minneapolis will bring up many fun and creative opportunities!

Budget

- Even though this is listed last, it really is the most important.
- Consider involving older children in planning their own party. Give them a budget and allow them to participate in making decisions about where the money is best spent.

Here are some websites with more ideas:

- “Five Tips to Simplify Kids’ Birthday Parties.” andreadekker.com
- “Kids’ Party Planning: 15 Expert Tips to Throwing a Fun And Stress-Free Birthday Bash.” mommypoppins.com
- “Children’s Party Games: Fun Games for Kids Birthday Parties.” mumsmakelists.com
- “Throwing a Kids’ Party? 20 Tips for a Successful Bash” care.com

Take the Kenny Neighborhood Survey and Make Your Voice Heard

BY JON ERICKSON

The KNA Board of Directors is committed to providing the most responsive neighborhood association possible, and we want to hear from you!

Help us by completing the 2022 Kenny Neighborhood Resident Survey. Share what you like about our neighborhood, what could be improved, and how you would like us to communicate with you. We are always open to feedback and suggestions. Your voice matters!

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card from a local business.

This year’s survey includes questions about:

1. Creating regional leaders to interface between the residents, the board, public safety, and other organizations
 2. Hosting engaging neighborhood events
 3. Creating a traffic calming and safety volunteer committee to ensure our streets are safe for all to travel on
 4. Better communication about public safety and how we can improve communication between local government and our residents
 5. How the KNA Board of Directors can better serve your needs.
- Visit bit.ly/2022kennysurvey to take the survey or scan the QR code to take it on your mobile device.



If you would rather respond on a paper survey, please leave a message at (612) 392-4477 or send us an email at: knacoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org with your name and address so we can send the survey to you.

Settergren & Diamond Lake

ACE Hardware

Screen & Window Repair • Lamp Repair
Key Cutting • Lock Rekeying
Computer Color Matching
Knife & Tool Sharpening • Tool Rental

Open 8-8 M-Th, 8-7 Friday, 8-6 Saturday
10-5 Sunday

5405 Penn
612-922-6055

5425 Nicollet
612-824-8813



Kenny Loses an Asset, But Gains an Ally



BY STEVE PAQUIN

Ruth started working as a part-time coordinator for the KNA in 2006. Five years later, the Lynnhurst and Fulton neighborhood associations needed assistance with the same role, so Ruth added those neighborhoods to her portfolio.

“Between working for three Ward 13 neighborhoods, living in Armatage, and having a close working relationship with about a dozen other neighborhood associations, I have been pretty plugged in to Southwest Minneapolis,” Ruth says.

Ruth has been directly involved in virtually every initiative the Kenny Neighborhood Association took on since she started in the coordinator role, from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program to the Kenny newsletter, and every neighborhood event at Kenny Park. If there was an organized activity or program in the Kenny neighborhood for the last 15 years, it likely featured Ruth in the background, making it run smoothly.

It’s a snap for Ruth to remember how long she’s been working for KNA. “When I started working for Kenny, my youngest child was in kindergarten, and now she is a college graduate. So, it’s easy for me to mark the time.”

It’s likely pretty easy for her family to remember as well, because Ruth has been enlisting their assistance at neighborhood events for the last 15 years. By the sound of it, Ruth’s husband Scott has been a volunteer assistant at virtually every Southwest neighborhood event for her entire tenure.

“I would call Scott my sherpa for the last 15 years,” Ruth laughs. “At every event, he’d help me load the van, drive

to the park and help me unload. Just between the three neighborhoods, I couldn’t count the number of times he monitored the bounce house, grilled hot dogs or sold tickets. He’s actually the one who’s saying, ‘But what are we going to do now? Do you think they still need help?’ There are so many events I could not have pulled off without him. And I corralled my whole family into it, so there were six built-in volunteers. My kids grew up doing carnival games and whatever tasks I signed them up for, and they were almost always good sports about it. I’ll really miss coordinating the neighborhood events, especially the Kenny Ice Cream Social, which was my absolute favorite.”

All the volunteers who have worked with Ruth and witnessed her consistently go above and beyond the responsibilities of her role are grateful for her contributions, and fortunate to have worked alongside her. Best of luck in your new role, Ruth – we know you’ll continue to work hard for the benefit of Southwest Minneapolis!

KNA Colleagues Highlight Ruth’s Importance to our Neighborhood

Carol Martinson – KNA Chair

“I am always struck by Ruth’s patience when dealing with new board chairs, treasurers, etc. She not only knew the alphabet soup that is the city, like CPP, NRP, NCR to name a few, but was able to translate and advocate for Kenny. She also had an amazing skill at putting more in a minivan than most as she provided and prepared for festivities. And she genuinely cares about all she supported -- whether the neighborhood, board members, or neighbors she met and supported along the way. Ruth set the standard for other neighborhood

Ruth Olson continues on page 10.

It’s commonly held wisdom that in any organization, the administrative staff are the folks who make things run, who get things done, who always know the right person to contact in a pinch. That has long been the case in the Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA), as embodied by long-time KNA Coordinator Ruth Olson.

Unfortunately for Kenny residents, after a 15-year tenure as KNA’s only paid (part time) staff, Ruth left in December 2021 to pursue a new opportunity. Fortunately, Ruth will still be closely involved with issues impacting Kenny residents, because her new position is policy aide on the staff of Minneapolis City Council Vice President Linea Palmisano. The transition seems to be a perfect fit for the skills, knowledge and connections Ruth has generated during her unsung tenure with the KNA.

“Mainly I’m doing constituent services in Linea’s office,” Ruth explains. “If Ward 13 residents have a question or a problem, I’m here to assist. I’ve been operating within the city enterprise for a number of years, so I have a pretty good idea of where to go to solve problems and what city department can address a situation. I’ll also work on communication and special projects, so I think it will be similar to some things I’ve been doing with KNA.”

KNA Crime and Safety Committee Update

BY SCOTT ELTON



The KNA Crime and Safety Committee was formed this past year to identify and help address neighborhood crime, safety, and security issues. It meets monthly and aims to:

- Listen and learn about our neighbors' concerns
- Address safety from a community perspective
- Provide information and resources to help neighbors feel safe where they live
- Create a better network for communication between neighbors and with Minneapolis Crime Prevention.

Our main goal this year is to learn more about how you and our neighbors feel about crime and safety issues in Kenny and what measures you would like us to focus on. We will use the upcoming neighborhood survey to form our initial strategies. Please see "Take the Kenny Neighborhood Survey and Make Your Voice Heard" on Page 7 for more information about the survey and why it's important for everyone to fill it out.

The committee would like to facilitate web-based and in-person information and training programs based on your interests.

Watch the KNA website at: www.kennyneighborhood.org for crime and safety alerts and tips on protecting yourself and your home. You can also find helpful information and statistics at the Minneapolis Crime Prevention website at <http://kna.link/1b>.

We have an ongoing project to create our own master list of block leaders in Kenny. For several reasons, the city doesn't release the names of block leaders to other organizations, including neighborhood associations. If you are a block leader, please send your name, email address, and block(s) that you represent to info@kennyneighborhood.org. If you don't know who your block leader is (or if you're interested in becoming one) contact Jennifer Waisanen, our Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialist. She can be reached at jennifer.waisanen@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-5407.

Our next Crime and Safety Committee meeting is Tuesday, March 8, 6-6:30 p.m. Contact info@kennyneighborhood.org to get the Zoom link. We'd love to have you join us!

CITYCHURCH
IN-PERSON | ONLINE
BIBLE STUDY | GROUPS | SERVING
CITYCHURCHMPLS.ORG | 612.338.6500

Icons: person, heart, cross, envelope

LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS

Buy.
Renovate.
Sell.
Build.

Erik Wood
REALTOR®
612.708.6743

FOX HOMES REALTY
FOXHOMES.COM

Thank You 2021 Kenny Donors

Thanks to the following Kenny neighbors who have generously contributed to our winter fund drive!

Vicki & Bob Dooley
 Lucia Newell
 Bob & Phyllis Engstrom
 Gwen Stanich
 Elaine Pablicki
 Don & Karen Nikkola
 Bruce & Linda Anderson
 Ed Sootsman & Scott Appelwick
 Kristin Hartley
 Phyllis Werness
 Ken & Elaine Kelash
 Carol Skala
 Dan & JoAnn O'Rourke
 Raymond & Vickie Cyr
 Bill LaVictoire
 Isaac Kimmel
 Peggy McGrane & Michael Nicklay
 Tim & Kathy Keehn
 Janet Lodholz
 Sara Swenson & Claude Sigmund

Lynn Barnhart
 Tracy & Chris Brokering
 Pat Hagan & Brenda Smeby
 Harvey Lundin
 Darlene Evenson
 Siglinde Moore
 Carol & Sean McNamara
 Shawn & Maureen Daly
 Carol & James Henderson
 Gregory Shuster
 Debra Stenseth
 Kerrie Drogue & Gary Anderson
 Rick & Mary Arneson
 Barb Brady
 Jane Hancock
 Jean Lansing
 Kelly-Ann & Bill Diehl
 Gary Gwost
 Joan Young
 Russ & Jaklyn Woodstrom

Scan to donate to the KNA



If you planned to give but haven't yet, there's still time to support the KNA by scanning this QR code or sending a donation to Kenny Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 19593, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

Your donations will directly support neighborhood activities, including Kenny summer events and this quarterly newsletter.

Ruth Olson continued from page 8.

coordinators and supported and mentored many over her tenure with Kenny."

Bryan Simmons – former KNA Chair

"I was Board Chair for eight years and worked closely with Ruth. She has a great sense of humor and was always willing to take on a needed task - a 'can do' attitude. Here's a short (but not all-inclusive) list of the neighborhood projects that would not have been completed without Ruth guiding KNA through the various hoops and governmental red tape:

- Grass Lake cleanup and restoration with native plantings

- Kenny and Anthony school signage
- Kenny Park building improvements
- Kenny tennis courts rebuild
- Kenny SummerFest
- Ice Cream Social
- Movies in the Park.

Mary Arneson – Kenny Neighborhood Newsletter Coordinator

"Ruth was so knowledgeable about all the city and neighborhood policies, updates, and events. I could always count on her for information and moral

support when working on the newsletter. She will be a great asset to the city in her new role. I wish her all the best."

Nancy Hoyt Taff – former KNA Chair

"Ruth's unflagging passion for the neighborhoods truly made an impact on our community. She is an advocate for our neighborhoods, an extremely patient facilitator, and open to new ideas. One of my favorite memories of Ruth is when she needed help mapping out the layout for Kenny Festival. She had every other last detail tracked and under control, but just couldn't figure out where to put the tent and food trucks - but she was a saint for managing those bouncy houses."

Welcome to Our New KNA Coordinator

BY VICKI OLSON

“I am excited to continue the good work,” says Lauren Anderson, our new Kenny Neighborhood Association Coordinator. Lauren replaced Ruth Olson on January 3. She also continues her coordinator role with the Armatage neighborhood and sees supporting two neighborhoods as “really exciting because the neighborhoods are similar, but they very much have their own character.”

So what does a neighborhood association coordinator do? Lauren describes it this way:

- Coordinate communications for the neighborhood
- Work with volunteers on recruitment, training, and support; and provide recognition for their important work
- Manage the budget and city funding contract, making sure that Kenny is following all funding requirements and completing reporting
- Collaborate with the board so that its vision can become reality
- Help community members have a voice in their greater community, such as public works projects that impact the neighborhood.

Minneapolis has 70 neighborhood associations.

“The Southwest neighborhood coordinators work pretty closely together,” according to Lauren. “We meet every couple of months, we do a lot of info sharing and helping one another. It’s honestly one of the best parts of the job, this strong community fabric that we are part of.”

Lauren also has had experience as a neighborhood board member, which helps her to be a more effective coordinator.



Lauren has a degree in environmental studies with a focus on education from St. Olaf College.

“Vision and leadership in neighborhoods often come about from environmental work,” she says. “Neighborhood environmental work can be the sweet spot for new folks to get involved with their neighborhood as a whole.”

At the beginning of her career, she worked with an environmental nonprofit and made the transition to neighborhood work as a recycling coordinator for the Macalester/Groveland Community Council in St. Paul.

She loves “working with so many amazing volunteers and that is, by far, my favorite aspect of the job. I just love the grassroots nature of neighborhood work; it’s democracy in its most participatory form. It is an honor to be involved.”

Focusing on involving the under-served is also an important part of her work. “Building relationships in the

community is taking the time, putting the call out to recruit more under-represented folks, listening and really incorporating their feedback, and being as transparent and responsive as you can.”

Outside of work, Lauren loves gardening, particularly vegetable gardening. She lives in South Minneapolis with her husband and three kids, ages 10, seven and four. She and her husband moved to Minneapolis right after college. Currently, she is a block leader. Lauren is also active in volunteering with the Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota.

Lauren sees being the first point of contact as an important part of her role in answering questions and providing information to individuals and businesses and connecting them to resources within the city. You can reach her by email at knacoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org; or by phone at 612-392-4477.

Welcome, Lauren!

Word on the Street



Pat and Brenda asked:

What new or different animals are you seeing in the Kenny neighborhood lately?



Lisa, Don and Pippa the dog

While walking in the neighborhood, we've seen many rabbits. A few years ago we saw a coyote. Also, we miss seeing Carter in the neighborhood and hope he is doing ok!

Tim, Joe, Cole with Jack, Zander, Miles and Dylan

We've seen a fox by the creek.

We have been using the ice rink and are happy that it is back again this year.



Mackenzie, Annette with Fiona and Emmett

We have seen a fox walking around outside our home.



Stacey and Bill with Everett, Beatrice and Gertie (dog)

Our neighbor has seen the fox on their fence. A while back a fox followed us for several blocks and it made us very uncomfortable.



Who's in the 'Hood

Family 'Struck Gold' with Move to Kenny

BY JASMINE AVENT



Life, no matter what journey you choose, can be full of challenges. There is always something new to navigate, a new frontier to explore. Many would say that the challenges we face, although sometimes daunting, can lead to a good outcome. For one Kenny resident, the challenge of buying his first home landed him right where he wanted to be.

For Colin Elliston, the height of the pandemic in mid 2020 was a challenging time for his family. At the beginning of the summer of 2020, he decided that this was the year he was going to purchase his first home. He is no stranger to accepting a challenge, but he wasn't quite ready for this one.

"In August, we were putting in several offers every weekend. Nothing stuck," he recalls. He wasn't alone. According to a Forbes story by Brenda Richardson, "The widespread shift to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic prompted many buyers to re-evaluate their housing options and supercharged demand."

This mad dash for houses led to a \$2.5 trillion gain in housing value, numbers that hadn't been seen since 2005. So, when Colin and his wife pulled up to view a house on 60th and Dupont Avenue South, they were assuming this weekend would be like the others. Even through their offer rejection woes, however, they knew they had to try again. To their surprise and amazement, "This one stuck. We struck gold right here in the city," Colin says. "My wife

and I are still in disbelief sometimes when we think about it."

Purchasing in Kenny could not have come at a better time for the devoted family man. With four growing kids, aged 13, 6, and 5-year-old twins, he feels that he found a quiet but strong community his kids can thrive in.

"My wife and I are outnumbered but being a part of such a lively and beautiful neighborhood has helped us cope," he says with a chuckle.

As a busy family pulled in several directions during the week, they live for the weekends where they can be together, enjoying the neighborhood.

"We love walking the lake, going on small forest adventures, and to Kenny Park," he says. "Everything we need to make the most of our time together is right here, from soccer fields and biking in the summer, to sledding and ice skating in the winter, it's all right here, and I'm grateful for that."

Colin loves to get out and move. He loves to play and coach youth football, and has recently taken up winter jogging. On his first day out, it was several degrees below zero!

Colin's love for conquering new challenges has led to an emerging career, where he is seeing growing success as a budding cinematographer. He works with a Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 4k, and loves to work with lights and sound to create unique moods and messages.

What started off as an idea to document his wedding day in a unique way has snowballed into an entity that specializes in content creation and branding services for small businesses. In a field where 82% of his contemporaries are White, Colin is aware of the potential obstacles of being a Black cinematographer can present, but uses it as motivation.

"I am in a field that is not diverse, but I am aiming to pave a path forward for myself and other Black dreamers after me," he says. He will graduate this year with an Arts degree, which he plans to use to deepen his roots in the field.

Colin views living in Kenny as a path forward as well. His family came to Kenny at the height of civil unrest and turmoil on multiple fronts.

"Being a Black family in this neighborhood was unusual at first," he says. "With COVID-19 and the George Floyd tragedy, our antennas were definitely up. We have been so relieved at the connections we have made so far. They have been reassuring and that is something that we notice and appreciate."

If you see Colin around, be sure to say hello!

Kenny Park News



The Kenny recreation center is now open for the season, and neighbors are enjoying programming, skating, sledding, the warming room, and special events.

Here's what's going on this year:

Adult Pickleball Leagues: We offer leagues for beginners and intermediate players ages 18 and up. Beginners should be new to the sport, while intermediates should have ratings between two and four on a 1-5 scale. Please register only one player from your team. If you need a partner, please email kenny@minneapolisparcs.org. Leagues are at Kenny Park on Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the spring, summer, and fall. For more information or to register, please visit <http://kna.link/Z>.

Preschool KIDS focuses on the importance of social interactions and social skills for preschool-age children, with an emphasis on sharing, working together, taking turns, problem solving, listening, and following multi-step 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

Kenny Park Recreation Center
1328 West 58th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-370-4901

Recreation Supervisor — Jordan Nelson
Office: 612-370-4785
JNelson@minneapolisparcs.org

Modified 2022 operating hours

School year hours:

(Sept 7, 2021-June 10, 2022):

Monday through Friday 3-9 p.m. and
Saturdays noon-6 p.m.

For the latest program listings please visit <http://kna.link/Y>. For more information on MPRB's COVID-19 response and latest updates, visit <http://kna.link/15>.

seasons. Join our qualified, wonderful instructor, Ann Horn, in making new friends and memories. Classes are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Kenny Park, Jan 10-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 art materials. We have a variety of classes planned for this spring for ages 1.5-13. Check out the complete listing online at <https://apm.activecommunities.com/minneapolisparcs/Home>. Themes include preschool story time, crafts, Watch me Learn programs, holiday-themed classes, and more! Programs are at both Kenny and Armatage parks. Adult Yoga combines sequences from various styles of yoga to give your body the breath work and movement it needs. This fitness-style yoga class includes both ab-focused yoga poses and alternative muscle-toning moves. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. Mondays, April 4-May 23, 7-8 p.m., \$75/series.

Tiny, Little, Youth & Team

Gymnastics is a great opportunity for youth interested in gymnastics. Programs are for kids ages 3-14, and



we tailor the experience to your child's age and ability level. Fees are \$50-\$130, depending on session/age. Armatage Park: Saturday afternoons, April 9-May 14.

Spring/Summer Sports Registration for Kenny and Armatage Parks will open on Wednesday, February 23. Register online at Kenny Park and Armatage Activities Council (KPAC/ACC) at www.kennyarmatagesports.com for baseball, softball and track & field for kindergarten through 12th grade. Practices begin in April with games and competitions to follow in May. If you have any questions or trouble registering, contact us at 612-370-4912 for more information.

Playground Construction Update

The Kenny playground construction project was about 90% completed when winter officially arrived. Everything is safe and open to use (and has been since Thanksgiving). Next summer the contractors will return to finish painting the swings, touch up other areas, and complete some of the concrete replacement/finishing. This should take about a week and will require a partial closure of the affected areas. It will take place after school lets out for the summer.

Traffic continued from page 4.

be scored against one another. 311 will also continue to assist residents with requests.

“We hope this is a good mechanism for residents to be engaged and provide input,” says Lowry. “We want to put our limited resources to the best use and address the most critical problems first in a way that people can see and understand. We want to centralize intake with a new application process, apply data, and rank them, so we can figure out what issues rise to the top and where to focus our limited resources.”

A draft document explaining the process and criteria for considering applications is online and has been shared with neighborhood groups. You can find all the traffic calming information at <http://kna.link/19>.

The Kenny Neighborhood Association Board of Directors submitted comments on an early draft of the plan in December, supporting the idea of a simpler, more transparent system that would encourage neighbor engagement.

Board members were concerned about a provision requiring neighborhood associations to approve requests, which would essentially shift decision-making to neighborhood boards whose members may not have expertise or knowledge about the situation or potential solutions. Lowry says that is under revision.

The new process would call for applications and information gathering

in the fall, public engagement and planning over the winter, and construction beginning in the spring.

The city will look at applications through an equity lens, considering the makeup of the community and potential users. There is no cost to submit an application; and unlike the past installations of speed bumps, residents won't be asked to fund the traffic calming improvements.

The city is sending updates to neighborhood groups about the proposal, and KNA will post information on social media.

You can find more information and provide input on the Public Works Department website at <http://kna.link/19>.

KORE

KORE (Kenny Organizing for Racial Equity) was formed after George Floyd's murder to encourage Kenny residents to discuss, learn and act on issues about race. Our 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.

Check out our activities You can attend regularly or drop in when it fits into your schedule.

- **Kenny Talking Circle** Held on the 3rd Sundays of the month from 4:00-5:00 pm. In decent weather, it will be held behind City Church on 54th Street and Humboldt (bring a lawn chair). If the weather doesn't cooperate the Zoom link - <https://zoom.us/j/5174064893>
- **Kenny Book Club** Meets the first Saturday of every month from 8:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m. behind City Church. For more information and the zoom link, email Janet at JLDahlem@stkate.edu
- KORE website: <https://sites.google.com/view/kennykore>
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KOREmpls>
- Email contact: kennyforracialequity@gmail.com



Children's Connections, Inc.

An estimated over 1,000,000 frozen human embryos are stored in the US right now waiting to be born.

Embryo Adoption benefits include:

- Experience pregnancy & childbirth
- Spend less than IVF & other adoption types
- Fulfill the dream to start or grow a family

1-806-745-7995

Frozen 6 years.

A single embryo transfer. childrensconnections.org/embryo-adoption/

DAVERN MCLEOD & NOSTDAHL, LLP

STUART R. NOSTDAHL
ATTORNEY AT LAW

REPRESENTING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN
ESTATE PLANNING AND PROBATE

T: 612.206.3757

www.davernlaw.com



KENNY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 19593
Minneapolis, MN 55419
Message Line: 612-392-4477
email: info@kennyneighborhood.org
www.kennyneighborhood.org

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT 30308

Resident

Postmaster: Please deliver by February 14, 2022

Kenny Garden Club

Contact Bridget Rau at
bridgetrandyrau@gmail.com or Ann Davenport at
afdavenport@gmail.com to get involved.

Kenny Board Members Needed

Make a difference in your neighborhood's future by joining the Kenny Board. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and be part of the community. For further information, please call KNA at 612-392-4477 or send an email to info@kennyneighborhood.org.



Lyndale BP Amoco

The one-stop store
with convenience for you!

Touch-free car wash, groceries, and gasoline!

5400 Lyndale
822-9686

Open 6 a.m. to 12 midnight
7 days a week



Jeff Machacek, CRS

Selling homes in the Kenny
Neighborhood for over 18 years

Call 612-925-8277

Over 800 Homes Sold



Auto Repair & Tire Center

American & Import

All Work Guaranteed • Certified Mechanics

5556 Lyndale



612-824-5620

