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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.

Arbor Day at Kenny Park

By Mike Ferrin

Spring is in the air, and that means it's time to celebrate Arbor Day!

This year, Kenny Park will play proud host to Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's annual Arbor Day Celebration. Join us as we honor the importance of trees and take action to make our community greener, healthier, and more beautiful.

Volunteers, families, and nature lovers will come together and plant more than 60 trees, learn about their benefits, and appreciate a day of environmental stewardship. There will be something for everyone, as event-goers also enjoy food, live music, games, fun, and more!

Many of the details are yet to be determined — Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is forming a Planning Committee to not only help the event become a great success, but to ensure a unique connection with the Kenny neighborhood.

If you are interested in helping plan the Arbor Day Celebration and joining the Planning Committee, please e-mail us info@kennyneighborhood.org. The group will likely meet once a month leading up to the event.

Every year this event is held at a different Minneapolis park. We are very honored and fortunate to play host this year. Bring your family and friends, and let's make a lasting impact by coming together to plant trees and celebrate our environment.

Arbor Day continued on page 4

Arbor Day

Friday, April 25, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Kenny Park • 1328 W. 58th Street



Tree planting at 2024 Arbor Day at McRae Park.

Kenny Neighborhood Association

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

KNA Board 2024

Chairperson Barb Brady

Vice Chair Vacant*

Secretary Scott Elton

Treasurer Kim Rosenfield

Kelly Barbes	Zack Kahn
Grace Barcelow	Vicki Olson
Amy Gustafson	John Petrie
Chris Henjum	Shelly Ragland
Jason Hofsess	Kim Rosenfield

*Contact Mike Ferrin if you're interested

KNA Coordinator: Mike Ferrin

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

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

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

Newsletter Team

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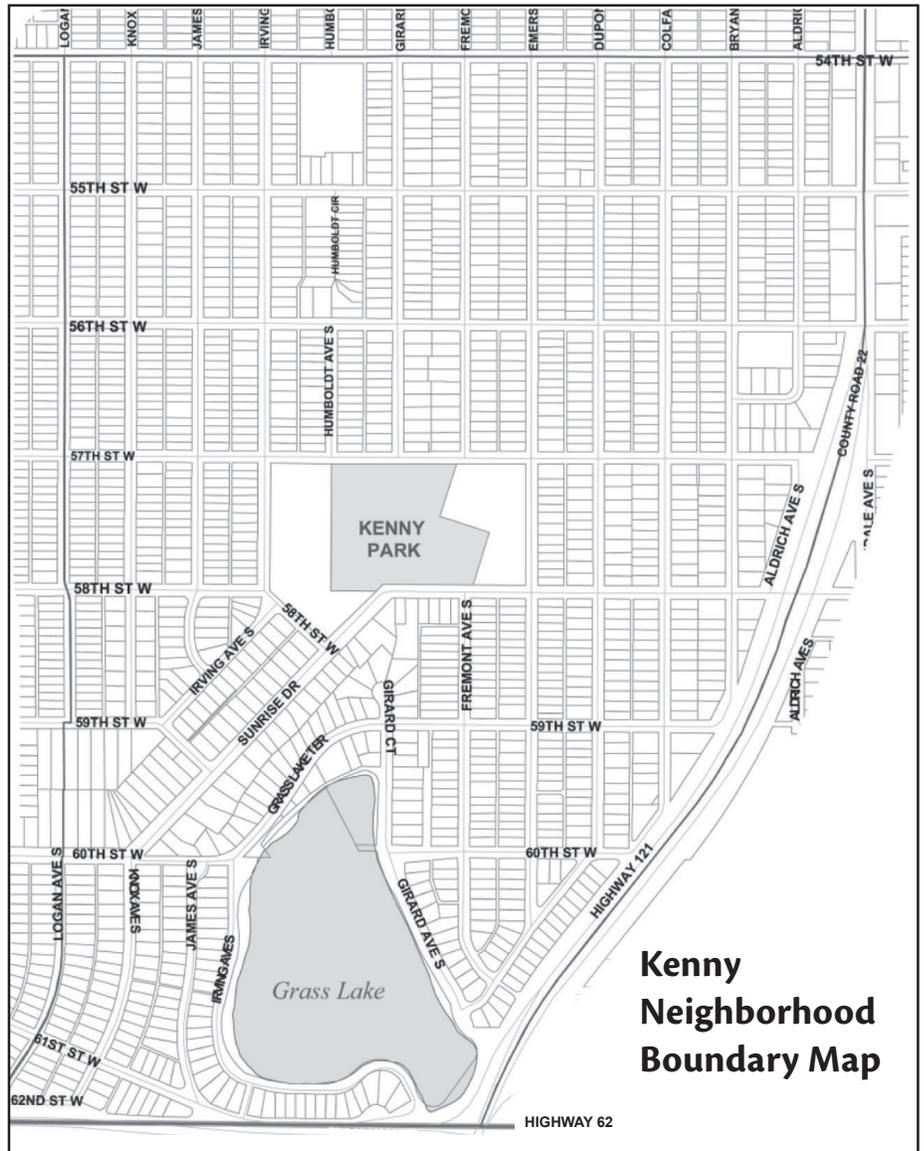
PHOTOGRAPHY:

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, contact Mike Ferrin at info@kennyneighborhood.org.

KNA Board Members Needed

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



KNA Committees & Working Groups

GENERAL INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS: info@kennyneighborhood.org.

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

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

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

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

KENNY INTEREST GROUPS:

Kenny Garden Club/Grass Lake Upkeep: Contact Bridget Rau at bridgetrandyrau@gmail.com or Ann Davenport at afdavenport@gmail.com.

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

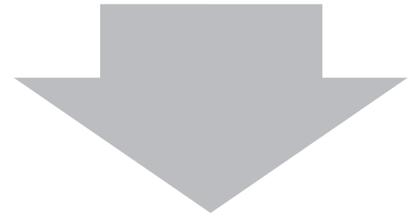
KORE (Kenny Organizing for Racial Equity) KORE is a Kenny-based group whose purpose is to foster a spirit of anti-racism in the Kenny neighborhood, building a welcoming, safe and healthy community/city/state/country for all. The KORE Book Club meets monthly. Any and all are welcome. The only guiding principle is we read books by authors of color that the group collectively decides on from month to month. More info: Janet Dahlem: jldahlem@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



Highway 121/ County Road 22 Update

Details are emerging about the Highway 121/County Road 22 resurfacing project. According to MnDOT, work will begin around April 21 and end around June 28.

The project was awarded in January and planning is under way. MnDOT and the City will release more details as they become available. Here is the link to the project website that contains the latest information: <https://www.mndot.org/metro/projects/hwy121-lyndaleavempls/index.html>.

MnDot plans to reach out to the Kenny Neighborhood Association and the Windom Community Council to offer presentations to community members about the upcoming construction. Officials will also contact area businesses.

As we reported in the Fall 2024 newsletter, the Minnesota Department of Transportation is planning to resurface and reduce the number of lanes on Highway 121/County Road 22 from 56th Street to Highway 62. (The segment from 35W to 58th Street is State Highway 121; and the section from 58th Street to 56th Street is County Road 22.)

The state will remove the inside lanes in each direction, making it a two-way road, and improve the intersection at 58th Street. The median will not change.

Please check out the Fall 2024 edition of the Kenny newsletter for background details. We'll share information in the newsletter and online as it becomes available.

Alley Ope

I moved to Kenny about five years ago. It was the first time I had ever lived in a city with alleys and wasn't sure how they operated. Fortunately, neighbors explained some of the rules to me and were very helpful.

If you're a new homeowner or renter, alleys can be confusing. Here's what I learned about alley requirements and etiquette:

According to the City website, alleys are limited-use streets that provide property access and serve as primary locations for freight loading and solid waste, recycling, and organics collection.

Minneapolis has about 426 miles of alleys, so the City has a big job maintaining them.

Alleys are a good way to meet neighbors and make friends. It's great to catch up with neighbors across the fence and see what's going on in their block. Alleys are one way to build a sense of community as we network with each other.

If you have an "Ope" moment in your alley or with neighbors, communicate and make sure everyone is on the same page about a problem or issue.

One thing I have learned: good old-fashioned Minnesota courtesy and communication are key to making alleys work for everyone. Please respect your neighbors and their property.

There are City ordinances that apply specifically to alleys. You must:

- Keep your alley clear of plants and growth by 14 feet.
- Cut and remove growth and plants that hang over the edge.
- Avoid shoveling snow and ice into the alley.

The City will clear snow and ice from alleys, but you must clear snow around your garbage and recycling carts so crews can reach them.

In order to empty your carts efficiently, the city asks you to:

- Shovel a path at least three feet wide from all your carts to the alley or curb.
- Clear snow left by plows.
- Make sure carts can move freely.

It's best to clear your carts right after a snowfall, but make sure to do so by the night before your collection day.

Alleys — at least mine — are not attractive or well maintained. However, the alley system keeps our city running smoothly — and that's what's really important.



2024 Arbor Day festivities at McRae Park.

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Neighborhood Update

By Mike Ferrin

Kenny Neighborhood Coordinator

Thank You, Donors!

On behalf of the Kenny Neighborhood Association, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. As part of our year-end fundraising campaign, we received 48 donations, totaling \$3,270. These contributions play a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission to foster a welcoming, thriving community.

Thanks to our terrific donors, KNA is able to continue hosting our fun-filled and educational events throughout the year. We will also further build out our website and communications; and as always, you can expect to receive this quarterly newsletter in the mail.

The Security and Safety Rebate Program is back for 2025, and we are pleased to now offer a new Tree Lottery Reimbursement Program - requested and funded by residents just like you.

All of us at KNA truly appreciate your commitment to the work being done in Kenny, and we are honored to have you as part of our community. Please know that your support makes a lasting difference, and we look forward to keeping you updated on the progress we achieve together.

We would be remiss if we also did not thank everyone who donated their time to Kenny. Whether you served on our board or a committee, came to a meeting, attended or helped volunteer at an event, partnered with us on an initiative, or simply were a good neighbor, you all make a meaningful impact to this community.



KNA Security Rebates Will Continue in 2025

Since the beginning of 2024, the Kenny Neighborhood Association has awarded 12 security rebates of an estimated \$3000 to Kenny neighbors. These rebates go to help fund home security projects like installing security lights, installing deadbolts, and purchasing home security alarms.

The KNA board awards four rebates to applicants every quarter. All residential properties in the Kenny neighborhood, including renters and homeowners, are eligible to apply for a one-time security rebate of \$250.

Interested in applying? Visit the KNA website at www.kennyneighborhood.org to learn more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, April 19**
Earth Day Cleanup at Armatage
- **Friday, April 25**
Arbor Day at Kenny Park
- **Tuesday, May 6**
KNA Board Meet & Greet at South Lyndale Liquors
- **Tuesday, May 20**
Annual Meeting & Board Elections
- **Friday, May 29**
Kenny PorchFest
- **Thursday, June 26**
Kenny Ice Cream Social & Green Fair

KNA Tree Lottery Reimbursement Program

The Kenny Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce our new Tree Lottery Reimbursement Program! KNA will reimburse residents who participate in and are selected to receive up to three trees through the Minneapolis Tree Lottery. There are 15 types of shade and evergreen trees available. 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.

The Minneapolis tree lottery runs through March 14.

For more information, visit www.kennyneighborhood.org.



Kenny Elementary Update

By Dr. Jessica Peifer Busse, Principal, Kenny Elementary

Hello Kenny Neighborhood!

There is nothing better in the winter than seeing the kids sliding down the hill or the afternoon skating on the ice in between Kenny and Anthony. But spring is around the corner and that means lots of events for Kenny School.

Everyone is welcome to attend our March Magic celebration and fundraiser at the Richfield VFW on March 22 from 6-10 p.m. The Kenny kids are doing science in big ways: the science fair is March 19.

AND — The Kenny Variety Show is back on April 30.

Come check out all of the exciting things happening at Kenny. Learn more about Kenny School at our website: <https://kenny.mpschools.org>

That's all on top of amazing academic scores and growth in every area. We have an amazing staff who develop great Kenny kids.

If you or a neighbor are not signed up for kindergarten or Year Before Kindergarten, please reach out. We love growing and learning with the youngest of Kenny kids, so they become amazing Southwest Lakers and adults!

As we welcome future Kenny kids, please continue to spread the word about the amazing community and school that the Kenny Neighborhood has to offer.

School Year 2025-26



Mpls Kids Jr

Full-Day Pre-K Child Care Through Minneapolis Kids

Minneapolis Kids Jr offers a nurturing, safe, educational, and recreational experience specifically designed for 4-year-old children entering kindergarten the following school year.
Children must be 4 years of age by September 1st.

SCHEDULE

6:30 am–6:00 pm, Monday–Friday, September–June
The program follows the MPS school year calendar. Participants will be eligible to register for Minneapolis Kids non-school day care. Transportation is not provided.

LOCATIONS

Armatage 2501 W. 56th St, 55410	Lake Harriet Lower 4030 Chowen Ave S, 55410
Dowling 3900 West River Pkwy, 55406	Kenny 5720 Emerson Ave S, 55419
Hale 5330 13th Ave S, 55417	<i>Minneapolis Kids Jr locations are contingent on enrollment.</i>

REGISTER

Scan the QR code or register online at mplscommunityed.com



PROGRAM RATES

\$375 weekly rate
Full-time care only. Includes breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack
One week deposit due upon enrollment. This will be applied to the first bill.

\$30 registration fee
Non-refundable

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Financial assistance may be available to qualifying families through Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

To see if you qualify call **612-668-5937** or apply online at mnbenefits.mn.gov.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Registration opens at 7 am on **January 31st**

Contact Us
mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us
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Community Education

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Luxury For Your Dogs

By Kelly Barbes

Dog lovers, rejoice! A charming new dog boutique is opening in the neighborhood. City Paws Pet Club is bringing a fresh experience for pets and their owners. City Paws Pet Club offers a carefully curated selection of personalized dog services including doggy daycare, boarding, grooming, walking services, and professional training. The owner, Sitania Kerkinni, explained that she first got the idea to open up a one-stop stop boutique for dogs back in 2018 when she opened their first location in Mill City.

Kerkinni creates and incorporates intelligence enrichments, agility, and even a gym class for dogs. You won't see any cages or kennels in this space, only luxury boarding complete with meditation music. Kerkinni explained that her goal is to accommodate her clients' needs. "If they ask for it, I try to make it happen. I want to do what I can to make their life easier," she said. She joked that if owners want a bedtime story read to their dog, then she will make that happen.

Look for details about their grand opening soon!



Enjoy Live Music at Kenny PorchFest on May 29

A Night of Live Music, Performed on Various Stages throughout the Neighborhood
Thursday, May 29, 6-9 p.m.

By Sarah Linnes-Robinson

Calling community musicians and neighborhood stages (*sites with flat lawns, front porches, back decks, or even an empty garage for musical groups to perform in*) for Kenny Neighborhood's first-ever PorchFest on May 29!

On this summer evening, neighborhood musicians will perform acoustic music outdoors at their respective homes, or at neighbors' porches or yards, while others stroll through the neighborhood enjoying the sounds of their talented neighbors.



Kenny's PorchFest relies on the good will and donated time of musicians, amateur and professional, and host-porches. If you are willing to perform music, provide a stage, or both, please register at <https://bit.ly/KennyPorchFest2025>. Registering is vital to the event as it helps us pair musicians with stages and make sure the music from each group does not overlap. It also allows us to promote the bands and their stage locations. **Preferred registration is April 18; registration is NOT a confirmation of participation.**

**Who's a PorchFest Supporter?
You are a PorchFest supporter!**

If you are a PorchFest attendee, it is your responsibility to make sure that this event is successful. Be on the lookout for tip jars at each stage to support the musicians. Carry your phone (for Venmo tipping!) and a pocket of bills to support your neighbors' talents!

Contact Kenny neighbor and PorchFest Organizer Sarah Linnes-Robinson at admin@loveyourneighborhoodmpls.org if you have questions regarding this inaugural event!



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Restoring Grass Lake: A Call for Community Stewardship

By Laura Baxley and Steve Paquin

Grass Lake is facing a critical moment. Known for its natural beauty and wildlife, the lake is increasingly threatened by invasive species and deteriorating water quality. However, by coming together as a community, we can help steward this environment, ensuring it continues to provide clean water, air, productive soil, and essential wildlife habitat.

The Challenge: Invasive Species

One of the primary threats to Grass Lake is buckthorn, an invasive shrub that crowds out native plants and disrupts ecosystems. In areas heavily infested with buckthorn, soil becomes exposed, making it vulnerable to erosion and reinvasion. The solution? Removing buckthorn and replanting with native species — a strategy supported by research from the University of Minnesota.

Native plants offer a variety of benefits:

- Support local wildlife and pollinators
- Require less water
- Prevent soil erosion
- Eliminate the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

Using native plants is essential, as 90% of insects rely on them for survival. This relationship extends far beyond familiar examples like monarch butterflies and milkweed. It is foundational for local food webs, which include the birds that depend on them to survive. Grass Lake serves as a critical stop for migratory waterfowl and songbirds traveling the globally significant Mississippi Flyway, and protecting its role as a wildlife haven is more important than ever, especially with the decline in bird populations across North America.

Why Grass Lake?

The Kenny Neighborhood falls within Minnesota's Deciduous Forest Biome, historically home to a mix of forests, grasslands, lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Grass Lake's diverse landscape, from wetlands to dry slopes, provides an ideal opportunity for adding a variety of native plants reflective of the original plant communities. These enhancements can offer layered and supportive habitats that may also serve as an inspiration for stewarding our home gardens and other open spaces in the neighborhood.



The diagram on the left illustrates Minnesota's Four Major Biomes. The photo on the right is the native perennial Blazing Star with late summer monarch visitors.

How You Can Participate

The Friends of Grass Lake invite you to join our stewardship activities throughout the year. Our efforts, coordinated on our Facebook group "Friends of Grass Lake," will include:

Winter and Early Spring (December-March):

- Broadcasting native grass and wildflower seeds
- Planning and organizing restoration projects
- Native plant seed is easily sown and propagated in recycled containers like milk jugs in the winter. You can then plant the seedlings in early spring around Grass Lake and neighborhood gardens.

Spring and Summer (April-August):

- Planting bare-root trees and shrubs
- Installing native flower and grass plugs
- Removing invasive species such as Queen Anne's Lace, Spotted Knapweed, and Garlic Mustard
- Installing nest boxes and conducting general cleanup.

Fall (September-November):

- Tree planting
- Wild seed harvesting
- Ongoing invasive species management
- Preparing areas for spring planting.

Our restoration work will focus on establishing a diverse mix of native species, including majestic trees like oaks and basswood, beneficial shrubs such as hazelnut and elderberry, beautiful wildflowers like bee balm and blazing star, and essential grasses like sedges and bluestems.

Show Your Support

Certain common practices, though well-intentioned, can harm Grass Lake. Mowing near the shoreline, excessive tree trimming, and dumping yard waste all contribute to degradation. We encourage you to focus on our organized restoration efforts instead. Public agencies lack the resources to adequately manage invasive species and address stormwater pollution issues and rely on partnerships — this is truly a community-driven effort.

Year-Round Best Practices

You can make a difference by adopting the following best practices in your own yard:

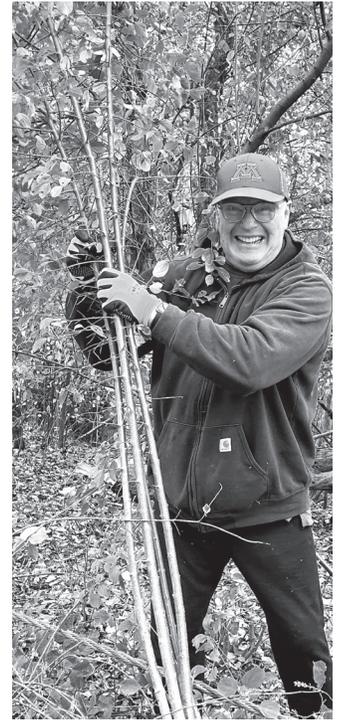
- Remove invasive species and dispose of them in the trash
- Keep drains clear of leaves and debris by adopting a stormwater drain
- Divert rainwater into your garden to reduce runoff
- Learn how to limit using salt deicers and switch to sand or grit for traction on ice.

Why It Matters

The benefits of our restoration work extend far beyond the Lake's shores. Native plantings help:

- Enhance biodiversity
- Support crucial pollination
- Improve soil health and stability
- Conserve and filter water
- Reduce pests and disease
- Build climate resilience
- Control invasive species
- Preserve aesthetic and cultural value.

By working together, we can restore Grass Lake to a healthier, more resilient landscape that will continue to be a treasure for future generations. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting to explore native plants, there's a role for you in this effort. Join our Facebook group to stay informed about restoration events, invasive species removal,



Last November, 15 Kenny residents joined together for our Grass Lake Buckthorn Bust and cleared a huge patch of the invasive scourge from the southwest side of the lake.

planting sessions, and more. You'll also learn how your own garden can reduce stormwater pollution and support biodiversity.

Let's make Grass Lake a thriving, sustainable and educational resource for the entire neighborhood!

Steve Paquin is a 16-year Grass Lake resident and leads the Friends of Grass Lake Facebook group and buckthorn busting events.

Laura Baxley has lived in Kenny for 31 years and is active in many conservation activities, including Minnesota Master Naturalist, and Site Steward for Lost Valley Prairie Scientific and Natural Area.

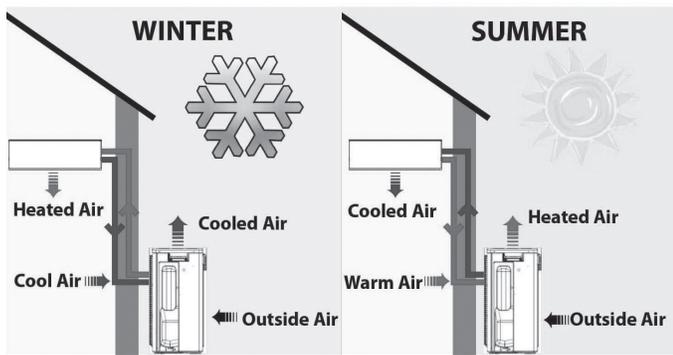


Have You Thought About a Heat Pump?

By Steve Caster, KNA Environmental Committee

Minnesota weather is extreme: it can range from near tropical at times in the summer to almost arctic extremes in the winter. This stresses our HVAC systems as we rely on them to moderate indoor temperatures across the seasons. Our workhorse HVAC systems will need replacing as they age and wear out. Homeowners may want to consider a heat pump as a cost-effective, greener option.

Many homeowners ask, “What is a heat pump?”



Most houses in the Kenny neighborhood would be in the market for an “air-source” heat pump. These units look much like a traditional central air unit and sit outside the house, raised off the ground a few feet (above the snow depth). Quite simply, in the summer, the heat pump works much like a typical AC unit, moving heat from inside the house and sending it outside, leaving the house cooler. In the winter, the process reverses and heat is moved from outside into the house.

Newer units can heat a house even with outside air temperatures as low as 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower than that, your traditional gas-powered furnace (or other heating source) takes over to provide the heat to the house. Your heating professional can help size and select the pump that works for your needs.

So, what’s the advantage of a heat pump?

First, one unit provides both your heating and cooling. For supplemental heating during the coldest days of the year, a traditional furnace may be used. This leads to the second advantage, which is the movement away from burning natural gas to using electricity. Gas creates combustion emissions, while the use of electricity does not, and Minnesota’s power grid is getting ever cleaner.

If this seems like an option for you, before you call a contractor for bids, contact Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to discuss utility rebate options, utility rates, and recommended contractors. Then call contractors — at least two — and get written proposals.

Have your list of needs and wants. Do you want a heating-only unit? Cooling-only? Both? Lastly, there are financial incentives to help with the cost of a heat pump to consider:

- Federal tax credit of 30% of the cost up to \$2,000 under the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Home Energy Rebates (cap of \$14,000) based on income up to 150% of area median income.
- Minnesota Residential Heat Pump Rebate Program of up to \$4,000.

If you are interested in heat pumps, please refer to this resource from the Clean Energy Resource Teams for more information: <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/ashp>.

We’d love to hear from you if you decide to move forward with an installation!

RECYCLING ENERGY TIP

KNA Environmental Committee

Can I recycle aluminum foil? It depends ... Is it clean?



SHEET OF FOIL

CLEAN. Crumple into a 3-inch ball. Recycle.
DIRTY. Throw it away.



ALUMINUM FOIL PAN

CLEAN. Recycle.
DIRTY. Throw it away.

Welcome to Kenny's New Clean Energy Ambassador

By Steve Caster, KNA Environmental Committee

Many Kenny residents are passionate about environmental issues and work diligently to improve our natural resources. I joined Kenny's Environmental Committee because I'm committed to clean energy and making our world a better place. I recently learned about a state program that provides resources for clean energy projects.

The Clean Energy Resource Teams, or CERTs, is a partnership of the University of Minnesota Extension, Great Plains Institute, Minnesota Department of Commerce, and the Southwest Regional Development Commission. CERTs works with cities, utilities, farmers, businesses, and others to provide technical assistance on clean energy projects, such as solar installations.

CERTs also offers an Ambassador program. The goal of this program is for nonpaid volunteers to connect with their communities to aid in clean energy discussions and education. I have recently completed the Ambassador training and am awaiting final certification as an Ambassador.

I hope to work with the Kenny Neighborhood by providing articles in our quarterly newsletter,

highlighting clean energy topics. I had previously addressed home energy audits and insulating the walls and attic space of our older homes (which are generally grossly under-insulated). Other topics I hope to address include solar installations and what to think about, and questions to ask; and also smaller, weather-sealing projects that are low cost, but have a high return that most homeowners can take on in an afternoon after a quick trip to the hardware store.

Clean energy is important for so many reasons. Environmental reasons top the list due to the impact on local and global ecosystems. Many of these projects will also increase the comfort of your home by helping to retain heat in the winter and reducing the cost to air condition your home, saving you money in the long run.

If there are topics you would like us to address, please let us know. This is an exciting program that allows me to tap into the experience of more than 1,400 other Ambassadors statewide as well as the CERTs' expertise as needed.

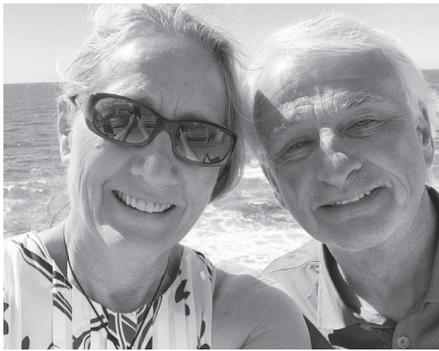
You can reach me with your questions and suggestions at info@kennyneighborhood.org.



Fire & Ice 2025

The Fire & Ice Skating party was a tremendous success this year! It was a perfect winter evening at the park, with more than 150 Kenny residents and neighbors participating in the festivities. Folks took to the ice, warmed themselves around the fires, and enjoyed s'mores, hot chocolate, popcorn, and great company. Thanks to MPRB and all the volunteers for making it such a great night!





Word on the Street

Pat and Brenda asked:

What do you like about Kenny?

What would you like to see improved?



Paige and Fred, Colfax Avenue

We love our neighbors. It is nice meeting and seeing people we know in the park. We enjoy seeing the dogs in the neighborhood. We appreciate the native plants around Grass Lake. We would like to see the continued removals of non-native invasive plants.



Lucia, Girard Court

Everything is good about the Kenny neighborhood. We enjoy walking around the neighborhood, nature around Grass Lake, and the people who live here. Living here 40 years, the neighborhood has given us easy access to local businesses, etc.



Danny Bissonnette and Griffey, Emerson Avenue

I like the quiet neighborhood. Being close to the airport and having parks close by are a plus. It's a great neighborhood to walk a dog.



Cole Zimmerman and Finn, Knox Avenue

We enjoy the park and skating in the winter. Our 8-year-old enjoys sledding on the Kenny Park hills. I enjoy walks around the neighborhood.

Who's in the 'Hood

By Jasmine Avent



As Kenny residents, many of us agree that there is nothing quite like a walk around Grass Lake. For many of us, the sights and sounds of the natural beauty of our neighborhood are a source of pride. For one Kenny neighbor, it is also a source of inspiration as an artist.

Meet Ellen Mueller

Ellen grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, and made her way to Minnesota to attend Bemidji State University. While earning her degree, she met and fell in love with her now husband, Phil McCollam, who was also studying art. They left Bemidji State and traveled the country, living in many places for work as college professors.

Family was a big draw for the couple to return to Minnesota and find a home in the Kenny neighborhood in 2023. Ellen is enjoying the change of pace that the Kenny neighborhood offers.

“We were really excited to get the freedom and a little bit more

control that we have with a house versus renting,” according to Ellen. “We had done a lot of house hunting ... we saw this house, and we were like, ‘Oh my gosh, it’s in really good condition, it’s small, it’s just the right size for us.’” The yard for gardening, barbequing, and hosting family and friends were icing on the cake.

Ellen continues to explore her passion for art. She works in arts administration at Arts Midwest, where she helps run the grants process. The organization gives grants to artists and art organizations across the upper nine states of the Midwest, from North and South Dakota through Ohio and Michigan. In her own time, she continues to grow as a mixed-media artist. She makes prints and exhibits her work around town.

Ellen walks around Grass Lake every day, where she finds inspiration for her work. “My artistic process is almost never

the same twice. I think about a topic quite a bit, maybe researching or writing about it, maybe sketching or collaging about it until an idea for a more detailed or robust finished work strikes me. I like to think about it as a process of preparing fertile ground for an idea to be successful. Once I have an idea, it’s often a process of sketching plans, researching materials, testing compositions, and sometimes bringing in collaborators. Once I feel a project is finished, I document the work and share with the world, which is usually via my website and social media channels in combination with exhibitions in galleries.”

Ellen’s best advice to someone wanting to explore art as a hobby or a profession is to have fun and start small. “Just begin and have fun with it! Give yourself a few minutes once a day, or once a week — whatever you can manage, and enjoy yourself. Draw what interests you and know that drawings don’t have to be at any specific level or quality. Don’t be afraid to snap a photo of your drawing and share it with a friend — drawings are really fun to share with others and can spark all kinds of conversations.”

Ellen has two works on display in *The Fine Print*, an exhibit at the White Bear Center for the Arts until March 27. If you see Ellen around, be sure and say hello!

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
Office 612-370-4785
bhall@minneapolisparcs.org

SCHOOL BUILDING HOURS

(Jan. 1 – June 6, 2025)
Monday-Friday 3-8 p.m. and
Saturday Noon-5 p.m.

SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS

Park Open 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hello Neighbors!

Winter season is winding down and I'm happy to report the warming room and ice skating season already outperformed last year! We had a fun-filled Fire & Ice event this year with more than 150 folks throughout the evening on January 25, skating and warming up near the fire with s'mores and hot chocolate. KNA helped serve drinks, s'mores, and popcorn. See more about Fire & Ice on page 11.



2025 brings some changes for Minneapolis Parks, including new business hours and a few more closure days. Citywide, business hours have changed during the school year: Monday-Fridays are 3-8 p.m., and Saturdays are noon-5 p.m. We also will close for major federal holidays, but adding new this year are Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Indigenous People's Day on October 13, and Veterans Day on November 11. On School Release Days, our hours are noon-8 p.m.

Kenny Park Sports Report

Kenny/Armatage winter basketball teams are practicing at multiple locations including Armatage, Anthony, Windom South Park, Burroughs, Upper Harriet, and Mt. Olivet Church. We ended up with 37 teams and 375 kids between ages 5 and 18. We also had 85 volunteer coaches to help these young ball players learn the game, gain experience, build skills and have fun! Thank you to all those involved, especially volunteer coaches who make our athletic programs happen! Games have started and we are now planning our Kenny/Armatage sports council 11U basketball tournament on March 14-21 at Armatage Park.

New Centralized Youth Sports Registration

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is upgrading its process for youth sports registration beginning with spring/summer 2025 sports: baseball, softball, flag football, and track and field.

Parents, coaches, and anyone else with questions on the new registration process are encouraged to attend a virtual meeting. Youth Sports staff will explain the changes in detail, followed by time for people to ask questions.

Please read the updated MPRB Youth Sports Registration FAQ for more information and visit the MPRB Youth Sports page to sign up for email updates on Youth Sports in Minneapolis Parks. More information is on our website at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

STEM youth programs are back this summer at Kenny, including AquaRocket Explorers and Little Innovators! Armatage STEM youth programs include Remote Control Chaos and Drone Commanders. For detailed information on these and many more programs, check out our website, look for flyers at the Park or call us! Registration for summer starts March 5.

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

Visit www.minneapolisparcs.org for the latest programs, special events, and offerings.

Find the Kenny Neighborhood on Facebook and Instagram!

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

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



Recapping the Chili Cook-off

By Mike Ferrin



The 2nd Annual Kenny Chili Cook-Off brought fiery flavors and friendly rivalry as eight recipes competed for the title of best chili! Attendees sampled a variety of chilis

— from beef to chicken, elk, and venison; and even a scorching seven-pepper recipe! Once bellies were full, and votes were cast, one chili triumphed above all else — Council Member Linea Palmisano’s “Kenny Dearest” — with peppers from Kevin the mail carrier, state fair blue ribbon garlic, frozen farmer’s market tomatoes, homemade hot sauce, and heirloom beans from her neighbor. Special thanks to City Church for graciously hosting us again, South Lyndale Liquors & Market for providing the prize, Mayor Jacob Frey and Park Board Commissioner Cathy Abene for helping serve chili, and especially all the entrants, volunteers, and people who participated in the event to make it a sizzling success!



KNA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE By Amy Gustafson

The Communications Committee was formed in 2024 to improve KNA’s outreach by streamlining our connections across multiple platforms. Our first project was a complete website upgrade to build awareness and encourage community engagement, while serving as a valuable source of neighborhood news and information.

The committee plans and executes communications for the print newsletter and all digital platforms, including the e-newsletter, social media, and the KNA website to support events, community engagement, and KNA’s mission.

Kenny is a gem, and the team is committed to building a sense of community by sharing stories of our unique neighborhood and the people — and our pets — who call Kenny home.

If you’re interested in getting involved, the Communications Committee meets virtually the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Visit our website at www.kennyneighborhood.org for more information.



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