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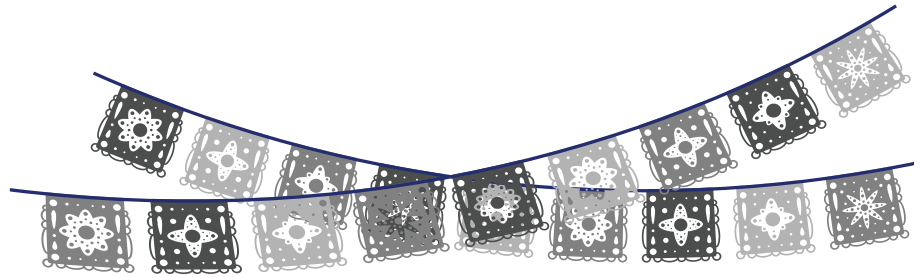
**Comments, questions, ideas?**

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

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

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

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



## Join KNA at Neighborhood Day on Saturday, May 2!

Please join us on Neighborhood Day, Saturday, May 2, from 1-3 p.m. for the Kenny Neighborhood Association’s annual get-together and election kickoff. We will be outside the Kenny Rec Center (inside if it is raining or cold) serving tacos in honor of Cinco De Mayo. You can meet therapy dogs while you enjoy tacos and chat with neighbors. It’s a great opportunity to meet people and catch up with those you already know.

We’ll have a program at 1:30 p.m., featuring local officials and updates on KNA’s 2025 accomplishments and plans for the future.

The meeting will also kick off voting for anyone who wants to join our board. To run for the board, visit our website at [www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org).

Stop by any time from 1-3 p.m. Stay for a while or just say hi. It is a great chance to meet neighbors and learn about the work that the Kenny Neighborhood Association does in our community.

If you’re interested in getting involved in our great organization, please contact [knacoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:knacoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org) or visit our website for more information at [www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org). We always have openings on our board and committees; and need volunteers for our various events. It’s rewarding and fun!

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**Mark June 18, 6-8 p.m. on your calendars for the  
Ice Cream Social & Green Fair. See pages 8-9.**

## Kenny Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 19593  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
Message Line: 612-392-4477  
email: [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org)  
[www.kennyneighborhood.org](http://www.kennyneighborhood.org)

### 2026 KNA Board Members

**Chairperson** Barb Brady  
**Vice Chair** Shelly Ragland  
**Secretary** Kim Rosenfield  
**Treasurer** Scott Elton

Kelly Barbes Vicki Olson  
Grace Barcelow John Petrie  
Joy Gottschalk Louise Rath  
Amy Gustafson

**KNA Coordinator:** Sasha Jensen

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

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

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

### Newsletter Team

**COORDINATION/LAYOUT:** Mary Brozic

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Barb Brady Sandy Caster

### WRITERS:

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Kelly Barbes Sarah Linnes-  
Barb Brady Robinson  
Sandy Caster Ellen Mueller  
Steve Caster Steve Paquin  
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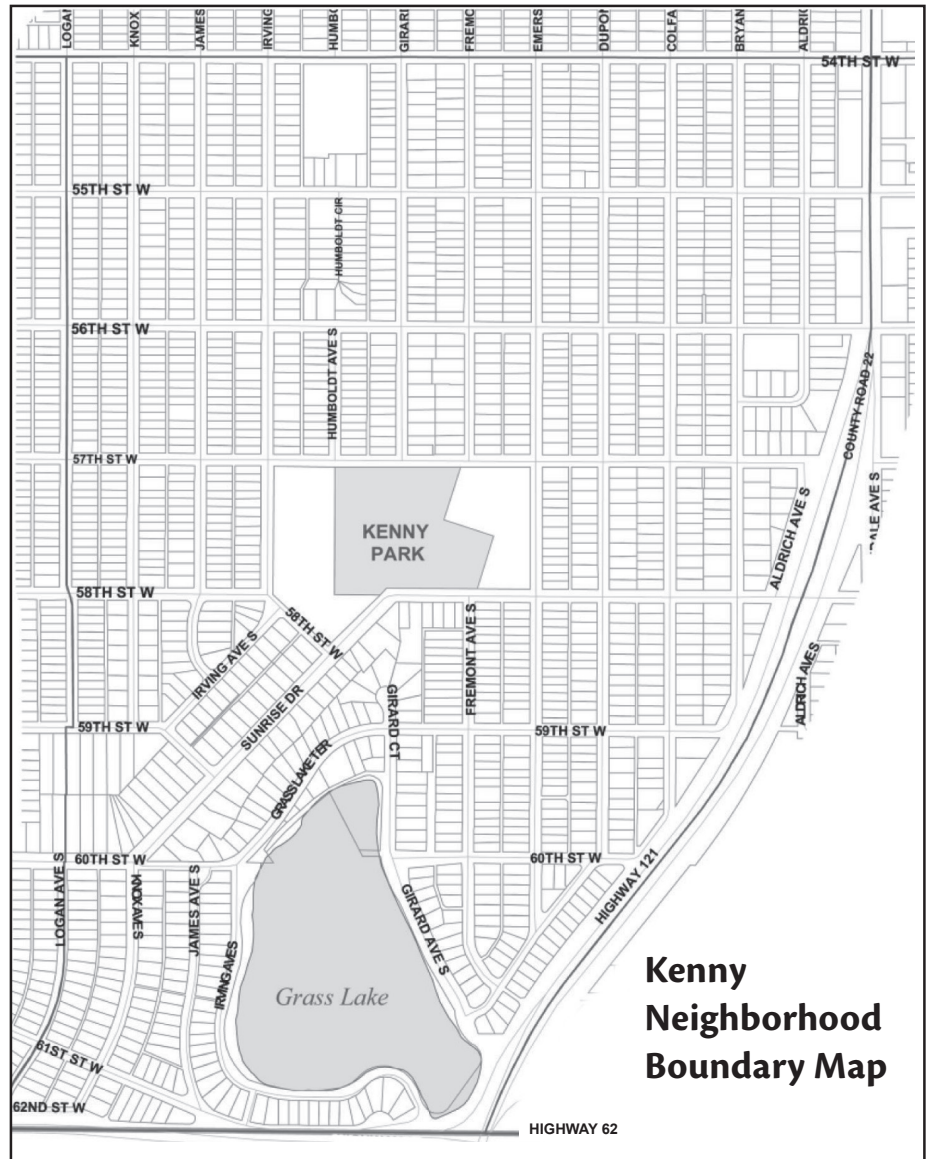
### PHOTOGRAPHY:

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](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org).

### KNA Board Members Needed

For more information, call KNA: 612-392-4477 or email: [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org).



### KNA Committees & Working Groups

**GENERAL INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS:**  
[info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org).

**Communications:** Meets the second Wednesday of the month. 7 p.m. Kenny Park. Contact Amy Gustafson, [amymgustafson@yahoo.com](mailto:amymgustafson@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

### KENNY INTEREST GROUPS:

#### Kenny Garden Club/Grass Lake

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

#### Kenny School Gardens:

Contact Terri Lindenbaum, [terri.lindenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:terri.lindenbaum@gmail.com).

#### KORE (Kenny Organizing for Racial Equity)

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



# Letter from the Chair

By Barb Brady

Kenny Neighborhood Association Chair

## KNA works for everyone

Minneapolis, including the Kenny Neighborhood, underwent another round of trauma this winter, when thousands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents flooded the area, taking suspected undocumented people into custody.

Residents stood up for their neighbors — and are still doing so, even though the number of agents has apparently fallen this spring.

Many thanks to all who did their part to protect neighbors who were taken from home, work, their cars, or from the street. Kenny residents were leaders in giving rides, providing food, standing watch outside schools, and many other brave activities to support people in need.

KNA issued the following statement in response to the ICE activities in our community:

*The Kenny Neighborhood Association stands with our neighbors during this difficult time. Recent tragedies in our city have reminded us how vulnerable we all are and how essential it is to look out for one another. Safety, belonging, and care are shared needs across our entire community.*

*We know many of our immigrant neighbors are feeling added uncertainty right now, and we want to be clear: everyone in Kenny deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued. Our neighborhood is strongest when we show up for each other with compassion and connection.*

*We remain committed to fostering a community where all residents feel they belong, and where we work together to keep one another safe.*

## Here are some other actions from the KNA Board of Directors you should know about:

1. We have a new secretary and a new treasurer. Scott Elton is now KNA's treasurer; and Kim Rosenfield is our new secretary. Their names may sound familiar — they swapped positions.
2. KNA will help fund two additional cookouts at Kenny Park this summer. Kenny Park has offered a June "Welcome to summer" the last couple of years. KNA will now pay for food for two more: one in July and one in August. The events are very popular in the neighborhood and a great way to get to know neighbors. Watch for dates and times.
3. The board approved a technical modification to our Neighborhood Revitalization Program action plan. To comply with city requirements, we moved funds from an account that isn't used (park improvements) to accounts that are being used for neighborhood communications, safety programming, and administrative capacity needed to carry out our many programs and services. In accordance with city requirements, we sought public comment through our website but having received no official response, we felt comfortable with the modification.

And I'd like to say a special thank you to Kenny Park Supervisor Brian Hall, who is leaving us. He has worked with Kenny and Armatage for the last several years. Brian will continue supervising Armatage Park. His Kenny Park replacement is Jason Wong, who will take over Kenny and Windom South parks later this year.

Brian has done a fantastic job for the Kenny Neighborhood, developing new programs, attending board meetings to update us, and making sure KNA events were successful. We will greatly miss him! We look forward to working with Jason when he takes over Kenny Park this fall.

# Anthony Middle School Principal is Minnesota Secondary School Principal of the Year

By Sasha Jensen

This past January, Anthony Middle School Principal Mai Chang Vue was named 2026 Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals at a surprise assembly at the school. This was after being named the 2025 Hennepin County Secondary School Principal of the year in May by the same organization.


Anthony Middle School is lucky to have such an amazing staff led by Ms. Vue. Ms. Vue's professionalism, unwavering dedication, hard work, and exceptional leadership at Anthony have made a lasting impact on our students, staff and community.



## Family fun at Jan. 31 Fire & Ice skating party at Kenny Park



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## Neighborhood Update

By Sasha Jensen  
Kenny Neighborhood Coordinator

### KNA welcomes new staff coordinator

KNA is thrilled to announce we have a new staff coordinator: Sasha Jensen.

Sasha comes to us with a wealth of neighborhood association experience, most recently as staff coordinator at the Fulton and Lynnhurst neighborhoods. She has been involved in the Loring Park and Longfellow neighborhood associations as well.

Some of Sasha's vast volunteer experience includes serving as the current Anthony Middle School Treasurer right here in Kenny. She was a board member and chair of Neighborhood Roots, the organization that runs the Southwest, Kingfield, and Nokomis Farmers Markets

Sasha grew up in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She says she fell in love with Minneapolis after frequent childhood visits to her uncle who lives here.

She moved to Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications. Sasha also has an MBA from the University of St. Thomas.

Sasha worked in advertising before being a stay-at-home mom. She lives in the Fulton Neighborhood with her husband and three middle school daughters.

"I love neighborhood work because it means getting to know the community and serve as a link for local government. I love all the events, and variety of the work," she says.

Welcome to Kenny, Sasha!



### KNA will help you pay for new trees

If you receive trees from the Minneapolis Spring Tree Sale, KNA will help you! Our Tree Reimbursement Program is for residents who participate in and are selected to receive up to three trees through the Minneapolis spring and fall tree sale program.

We'll reimburse you \$30 a tree for up to three trees — \$90 maximum. The spring tree sale is sold out, so it's only for people who already were accepted.

Once you have your receipt, please send your receipt to [knacoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:knacoordinator@kennyneighborhood.org) with information about where to send the check.

### A new era for KNA

Keep your eyes open for KNA's first-ever video project this spring. The videos promote heat pumps through interviews with Kenny residents who have them. Heat pumps are an energy-efficient alternative to traditional furnaces.

This is what is believed to be KNA's first venture into producing videos, which is now a dominant method of communicating in the 21st century.

Watch KNA's Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, e-newsletters and website for the premiere.

Southwest High School Green Team students assisted with the video — showing young people's dedication to the environment.

# Kenny PorchFest is back for another year of community harmonizing

The Kenny Neighborhood will once again be filled with the sound of music, from bluegrass to jazz to acoustic folk, and more when the Kenny PorchFest returns on May 28, from 6-9 p.m. Local 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 neighbors can help make this another joyous evening. For a successful event we need a smattering of stages (and bands!) throughout the neighborhood, so we are calling for community musicians and host stages (*sites with flat lawns, front porches, back decks, or even an empty garage*) to register now.

Registering is vital to the event as it helps us pair musicians with stages and makes sure the music from each group does not overlap. It also allows us to promote the bands and their stage locations. **Preferred registration is May 4; registration is NOT a confirmation of participation.** The registration link is here: <https://bit.ly/KennyPorchFest2026>.

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

If you are a Kenny PorchFest attendee, it is your responsibility to make sure that this event is successful. PorchFest relies on the good will and donated time of musicians, amateur and professional. 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 Sarah Linnes-Robinson at [admin@loveyourneighborhoodmpls.org](mailto:admin@loveyourneighborhoodmpls.org) if you have questions regarding this event. Many thanks to Sarah for organizing this wonderful event!

## A Night of Live Music Performed on Stages throughout the Neighborhood

Thursday, May 28, 6-9 p.m.



### Get your happy on at your favorite neighborhood liquor store, market, deli & wine bar!



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# Garden on Southeast Shore of Grass Lake Progresses

By Ellen Mueller, Environmental Committee

KNA's Grass Lake Restoration Team (GLRT) is a driving force in improving the area around what some call the neighborhood's "hidden gem."

We hosted buckthorn removal events in 2024 and 2025 to regain space overtaken by the invasive species on Grass Lake, a small urban wetland. The goal is to replace the buckthorn thickets with native plants, including a garden on the southeast shore on Girard Avenue during the 2026 growing season. The overarching goal is to learn how to improve, maintain, and expand the natural habitat.

We hope neighbors will enjoy watching the garden follow the native plant pattern of "sleep-creep-leap" over its first three years. In year one, native plants remain relatively small and un-flowering while they are establishing their robust root systems ("sleep"). Then, in year two, we get to enjoy some blooms and moderate growth ("creep"), while in year three the plants really come into their own as they are fully established ("leap").

The garden will consist of native plants and bushes from regional nurseries and neighborhood-grown seedlings sourced from a winter seed sowing workshop in January. Selected plants include Whorled Milkweed, Smooth Aster, Zig Zag Goldenrod, Foxglove Beardtongue, Bottlebrush Grass, Wild Geranium, Wild Bergamot, Canada Anemone, Fox Sedge, Little Bluestem, among several others.

We have secured commitments from nearby neighbors, Steve Paquin and Stu Nostdahl, to assist with watering through the 2026 growing season.

Over the next couple of months, we will prepare the space for planting in late May and early June. We want to engage the community in this project, so if

you're interested in lending a hand, please check out our upcoming events, and/or sign up for the Grass Lake Restoration Team. You can indicate if you'd like to take part in buckthorn busts, garden tending, iNaturalist BioBlitz events, or just stay informed: [bit.ly/GrassLakeRestorationTeam](https://bit.ly/GrassLakeRestorationTeam)



We're looking forward to planting the seedlings from our Winter Seed Sowing Workshop (January 2026) at Grass Lake on the southeastern shore when we get firmly post-frost!

We're tentatively planning for these initial dates/times in May (weather allowing). Hope to see you there!

**FENCING INSTALLATION:**  
**Saturday, May 2, 1-3 p.m.**

**PLANTING:**  
**Saturday, May 16, 1-3 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 23, 1-3 p.m.**



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## Spring is for music!

Come play in the band!  
All ages/levels welcome

It's YOUR community band

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

Kenny Park will once again fill up with neighbors enjoying free Sebastian Joe's ice cream, a Green Fair, children's activities, and the Crosstown Community Band at KNA's Ice Cream Social/Green Fair on June 18, 6-8 p.m.

It's an annual tradition where Kenny residents and neighbors from all over the city get together for ice cream, music, and a Green Fair, where you can learn how to make your home and garden more environmentally friendly.

**NEW THIS YEAR:  
Zero waste at  
Ice Cream Social/Green Fair**

KNA's Environmental Committee is leading the effort to make this year's Ice Cream Social/Green Fair a zero waste event.

We'll provide compostable and recycling containers and waste receptacles throughout the park. We're asking organizations that are tabling at the Green Fair to encourage zero-waste offerings. The Ice Cream Social will provide compostable cups and recyclable napkins.

It's part of KNA's commitments to improving our environment in every way possible.



Kenny Ice Cream

Don't miss out on KNA

JUNE  
6-8 p.m.



See you on June 18 at Kenny



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Everyone loves the free Sebastian Joe's ice cream, courtesy of City Church. Adults of all ages and kids line up for a scoop of their favorite flavor.

We'll offer various kids' activities in line with our zero-waste objective. Watch for details as the date draws nearer.

And we're delighted to welcome the Crosstown Community Band, which has entertained crowds at the Ice Cream Social for many years.

**We'd love to have more neighbors volunteer at the Ice Cream Social. We could use help with set-up and tear-down, scooping ice cream, and other assistance.**



**KNA's signature event!**

**8:00 p.m.**

## GREEN FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

There's something for everyone at the Green Fair. You can stroll through booths hosted by organizations with great ideas for your home and yard. You will have the opportunity to get your questions answered by a forester or a master gardener volunteer.

There are lots of kid activities to learn about the environment. Meet our Kenny Garden Club and learn what they do. Get to know your resources for recycling, water quality, stormwater management, and how we are doing as a neighborhood. Find out about clean energy and how to get started. Stop by the KNA table and learn what we are doing to address the three top Kenny environmental priorities:

- #1 Enhance Kenny's Tree Canopy.**
- #2 Remove Buckthorn Surrounding Grass Lake.**
- #3 Advocate for a Hazardous Waste Neighborhood Drop-Off Event.**



**ny Park!**

## Can E-bikes save the world?

By Steve Caster, KNA Environmental Committee

Green energy conversions for the home, such as installing a rooftop solar array — can be expensive and may also be generational expenditures where the purchase decision is made once every 10 or even 20 years. If you just added a new gas furnace, you likely will not be thinking of taking it out to add a heat pump, and the opportunity to “green up” is lost for a decade or more.

**Electric bikes, or E-bikes, present a refreshing alternative.** E-bikes use a small battery and motor to provide some level of pedal assistance, making trips easier and quicker. Hills are no longer an obstacle, for example. E-bikes can carry heavier loads and travel greater distances.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 28% of American carbon emissions are due to transportation.

**E-bikes provide reasonable alternatives to automobiles** for much of what we use cars for — taking kids to school, running to the store, meeting friends for coffee or lunch, running to the dentist. E-bikes can easily go around 20 miles per hour, so they are perfect for city streets and traveling across town without breaking into a sweat! E-bikes use about 3% of the energy of a car to go the same distance for an energy savings of 97% for each trip made!

**E-bikes have two key features** that aid in their adoption (over 2 million sold in the US in the past few years) as well as their continued use by purchasers (in other words, they don't sit in the garage). First, like most consumer products, prices vary. Entry level bikes can start around \$1,500 to \$2,000 and up, depending on your needs. Compared to a car or a new HVAC system, the barrier to entry is fairly low.

**Secondly, using E-bikes is fun!** They provide a bit of a workout and get you outside and in the fresh air.

**A wide variety of bikes and styles is available.** If you are interested, visit one of our many local bikes shops or try the free Minneapolis Cargo Bike Library, which has a small fleet of electric cargo bikes that members can borrow for free ([mplscargobikelibrary.com](http://mplscargobikelibrary.com))

In future articles we will address other lower-cost green energy technologies home owners could consider.



## ENERGY TIP

Sandy Caster, KNA Environmental Committee



Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties held a Plastic-Free Challenge during the month of February. As a participant, I learned

several ways to reduce plastic consumption and how to recycle plastic that is not picked up curbside by the city.

**Below are a few takeaways from the challenge that you may want to try.**

- Use a plate to cover food in the fridge instead of using plastic wrap.
- Bring your own container for leftovers when dining out.
- Bring your own containers to stores that offer items in bulk. An added benefit of shopping in the bulk aisle is that you can choose to buy only the amount that you need. I love to try new recipes and rather than buying a whole jar of a spice, I just shop for the amount required for the recipe.
- Recycle plastic bags that are not accepted with curbside recycling. Many plastic bags used for frozen vegetables have the recycling symbol with the text “Store Drop-Off.” Nearby drop-off sites include the Target in Edina and the Kohl's in Bloomington.

**To find more locations that accept these bags as well as bread and cereal bags, go to <https://how2recycle.info>**

- Another way to recycle plastics is through Ridwell, Inc. For a monthly fee, Ridwell will pick up plastic and other household items that are not accepted with curbside recycling.

For more information, go to: <https://www.ridwell.com>

# Kenny/Armatage Chili Bowl creates community

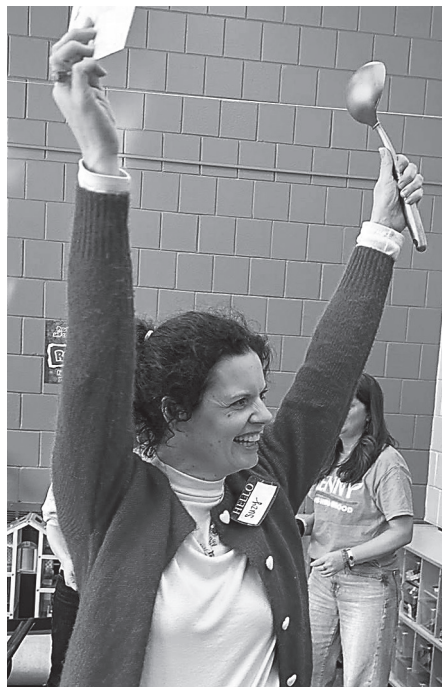
By Kelly Barbes, KNA Community Engagement Committee chair

Kenny and Armatage residents went head-to-head for a two-neighborhood “Chili Bowl” in February. The joint event brought together residents of all ages for a lively afternoon filled with friendly competition, great food, and community spirit. Held at the Armatage Recreation Center, the event featured 17 chili entries, each offering a unique twist — from classic beef recipes to creative vegetarian and spicy fusion varieties. Attendees sampled the dishes and cast their votes.

Participants took pride in their recipes, sharing stories behind their ingredients and cooking styles. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with neighbors mingling, meeting new faces, and reconnecting with familiar ones.

Beyond the competition, the cook-off served as a reminder of the strength and connection within the community. Local volunteers helped organize the event, ensuring everything ran smoothly, and small businesses contributed prizes. A big thank you to Kowalski’s markets for donating a gift card to the first place winner, Suzy Langdell, from Kenny. Her “Golden Ladle Chili” recipe can be found in the entry way of Kowalski’s market. Thank you to South Lyndale Liquors & Market for once again supporting the event with a lavish gift box from their market and to The Roastery MPLS for donating prizes for second and third winners.

By the end of the day, laughter, full stomachs, and a sense of togetherness defined the experience. The chili cook-off not only satisfied appetites but also strengthened neighborhood bonds, leaving many already looking forward to next year’s gathering.



Top: South Lyndale Liquor owner Dan Campo sampling all the entries.

Right: Suzy Langdell, Chili Bowl winner.

Far Right: Suzy’s winning recipe in Kowalski’s magazine.

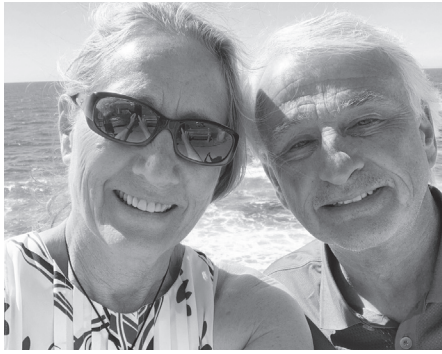
**KOWALSKI'S party guide**

**GOLDEN LADLE CHILI**  
 A RICH, SLOW-SIMMERED BRISKET CHILI WITH BACON, COFFEE, AND A TOUCH OF SWEETNESS. AWARDED 1ST PLACE AT THE KENNY/ARMATAGE 2026 CHILI COOKOFF COMPETITION.

4 slices thick-cut bacon  
 3-4 lb. beef brisket, trimmed  
 - Kosher salt, black pepper, onion powder (for seasoning meat)  
 2 cups white onion, small diced (about 1 large onion)  
 1 red bell pepper, diced  
 6 garlic cloves, pressed  
 1 tbsp. paprika  
 1 tsp. ground cumin  
 3½ tsp. chili powder  
 ½ tsp. dried thyme  
 ½ tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. salt  
 1 quart beef broth  
 8 oz. of brewed coffee (or 1/4 cup instant coffee crystals)  
 ¼ cup brown sugar  
 ¼ cup semi-sweet chocolate (cut into small pieces, or use morsels)  
 1 (28 oz.) can whole tomatoes in juice, blended  
 1 (16 oz.) can kidney beans, drained  
 2 packets Sazón Goya  
 ½ (7 oz.) can Chipotle Peppers in Adobo Sauce (adjust to taste)  
 ½ tsp. 7-pot pepper sauce (adjust to taste)

**DIRECTIONS:**  
 1. Cut brisket into small ¼-inch cubes. Season generously with salt, pepper, and onion powder.  
 2. In a large stockpot, cook bacon until crispy. Remove to a plate to cool the bacon, but leave the bacon fat in the pot.  
 3. Increase heat to medium-high. In the bacon fat, brown the brisket in three batches, avoiding overcrowding. Develop deep browning. Remove each batch to a bowl and reserve.  
 4. In the same pot, add diced onion with a pinch of salt. Cook, scraping up browned bits, until softened and lightly caramelized.  
 5. Add garlic and cook 1 minute.  
 6. Return meat to pot. Add coffee, beef broth, tomatoes, chocolate and kidney beans. Stir well.  
 7. Add paprika, cumin, chili powder, cinnamon, thyme, salt, Sazón Goya, chocolate, chipotle chilis and coffee. Stir well.  
 8. Crumble in reserved bacon. Cover and simmer gently for 2½-3 hours.  
 9. Add heat with 7-pot pepper or hot sauce to taste.



## Word on the Street

Pat and Brenda asked:

*What are your favorite things about the Kenny neighborhood?*



**Cole Colin – 60th Street**  
**Jill Vegas – 58th St. & Emerson Ave.**

We love Grass Lake. We love to see interactions between the herons, hawks, eagles, muskrats, foxes and swans around the lake.



**Leah Appleton and Iver – Logan Avenue**

I like the accessibility to the trails and lakes. I have great neighbors. I appreciate that our community responds to crises in our neighborhood and city.



**Sherie Swanson and Gary Mrachek – James Avenue**

We love the great views of Grass Lake. We've been here 25 years and have lived in the area a long time. We enjoy walking and seeing neighbors in our neighborhood.



**Mallory Losen – Dupont Avenue**

I have been in the neighborhood six months and find it friendly and quiet. Neighbors have help shovel my driveway when I am not home. I like the fact that there are kids playing outside.

# Who's in the 'Hood

By Jasmine Avent

The Kenny Neighborhood has all sorts of unique stories about different ways that we make a house our home. For one Kenny woman, her part-time residence is a part of her full-time commitment to her family.

## Meet Yvonne Avent.

Yvonne has lived part-time in Kenny on 60th and Dupont for six years. Every Monday night, she shows up at her daughter's house with her suitcase, ready to work. She stays until Friday afternoon and says her mission is simple: "I love helping out."

Yvonne was near the end of a 46-year career at Honeywell when her daughter announced she was expecting their now 10-year-old daughter. Yvonne took that as a sign that it was the perfect time to retire. Since she retired in 2015, she has spent every work week with her daughter, her son-in-law, and their four children, Ceriah (17), Eden (10), Kai (9), and Colin Jr. (9). During her weekly stays, she enjoys making breakfast for the kids, taking Kai and Colin to their bus stop, and getting Eden to Kenny Elementary every morning. During Eden's years at Kenny, Yvonne has become a fixture in the hallways, greeting teachers and lunch staff. After she sees Eden off to school, she enjoys getting her exercise in. "I walk around the schools if it's not icy. Cold I can deal with; icy, no. I'm 77 and I don't want to fall.



That's my goal every year — not to fall," she says with a chuckle.

The most special part of her day, though, is welcoming the kids back home. "One thing I always do is to welcome them, because it's not a sure thing that kids will come home. So, I always want them to feel welcomed and glad to be back home."

She comes over every week to make sure that she is helping her daughter and son-in-law, who both work full-time. But over the years, her presence has come to mean much more than dishes, laundry, and logistics: she has become an integral part of the Elliston home.

"I try to teach them things about life. I enjoy just being around them, being a part of their lives," she says. "I like to play with them, dance with them, watch movies, let them listen to the news to know what's going on

in the world, talk with them, ask them how their day went. They think I make the best pancakes and oatmeal."

The Elliston kids can credit Yvonne for teaching them things like Sudoku, The Lord's Prayer, how to appreciate and say good morning to their bus driver, and even how to write in cursive.

Sometimes her friends and family poke fun at her for spending so much of her retirement helping out in the Elliston home, but Yvonne is adamant

that it keeps her sharp, brings her joy, and that it is a part of her purpose. She also makes sure to find time to explore her other interests. Every other year, for two weeks, she is unavailable to the Ellistons because she travels the world on a Dave Coz jazz cruise with her sisters. After she leaves on Fridays, she goes back to her home to spend time with her husband and the rest of her family. "I go out with my sisters a lot. We go to concerts, out to dinner, church," she says.

If you see Yvonne out and about, be sure and say hello!

---

## NOMINATE A NEIGHBOR!

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

[info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org)  
or call: 612-392-4477



# Kenny Park News

By Brian Hall

Recreation Supervisor at Armatage/Kenny

## Kenny Park Recreation Center

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

### RECREATION SUPERVISOR

Brian Hall, CPRP  
Recreation Supervisor  
Minneapolis Park and  
Recreation Board  
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## Happy Spring, Kenny Neighbors!

Seasons change and soon the fields will be packed with ball players, kids on the playground, and folks walking their dogs. Along with the season change, so does leadership in the parks system's Recreation Department. I have truly enjoyed working with the Armatage and Kenny neighborhoods and parks over the last few years.

The shared duties of Armatage and Kenny parks are ending. Kenny Park and Windom South Park will soon share park staff. I will transition out of the wonderful Kenny neighborhood and be strictly at Armatage Park starting in the fall. In the next newsletter, we will introduce Jason Wong, who will be the new Kenny Park Recreation Supervisor.

Let's have a great spring and summer!

## Kenny Park Sports Report

Kenny/Armatage winter basketball teams have wrapped up and I want to thank all those involved, especially the volunteer coaches who make our athletic programs happen!

We are moving into the Baseball/Track/Softball and Spring Flag Football season. At the time of writing, we haven't received the rosters for 6u and older for the youth sports office. However, I do know the 5u Tball Kenny program, which we started not that long ago as a park program has maxed out with 40 players each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at Kenny Park! We are currently working on certifying the volunteer coaches and organizing the teams. Stop on by and watch the dreams of big leaguers come alive at 5 p.m. with 5u Tball.

## NEW Summer Programs Alert

Registration is still open for summer programs and you can browse and register at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)

I want to highlight Klub Kenny, which will operate Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1-3 p.m. during the summer. Do you have kids aged 10 to 14 who are looking for activities not on the screen? Come recreate with staff member Cole and crew. It's fun with a friend or you can make new ones! The first session starts June 15 and continues through July 10.

## NEW program this summer

is Neighborhood Day Camps. Children between 8 and 13 are welcome and at the time of writing, we are full, with 30 kids enrolled for the H2Olympics. There is space available for the Theater Arts camp August 4 to August 7, and NDC Juniors camp for 5- to 7-year-olds is August 18-August 21.

Questions, comments, concerns, suggestions or compliments? Please email [kenny@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:kenny@minneapolisparcs.org)

Visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) for latest programs, special events and offerings.

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School Out Release Days:  
Park Open Noon-8 p.m.

School Year Building Hours:  
(Jan. 1-June 10)

Monday-Friday: 3-8 p.m. and  
Saturday: Noon-5 p.m.

CLOSED on Sundays.  
Rentals available.

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## Find the Kenny Neighborhood on Facebook and Instagram!

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

**EMAIL US AT [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org) or sign up at [bit.ly/knavolunteers](http://bit.ly/knavolunteers)**



# The Women Behind Our Schools' Names

By Steve Paquin

If you scan a map of Minneapolis neighborhoods and schools, you'll notice an unsurprising pattern: the names skew heavily toward men. Mostly white men. Presidents, senators, historians, industrialists, they're the usual suspects of 19th- and 20th century civic naming conventions. Most of these gentlemen were perfectly respectable. Others were more problematic, like John C. Calhoun, the pro-slavery vice president, who had a lake named after him for nearly two centuries before Minneapolis restored its Dakota name, Bde Maka Ska.

But here in Southwest Minneapolis, something different happened. Three of our schools were named after remarkable women, and two of those names, Kenny and Armatage, also define entire neighborhoods. That's worth pausing on, because it didn't have to go that way.



**Sister Elizabeth Kenny** was an Australian nurse who arrived in Minneapolis in 1940 with an unconventional idea about how to treat polio, the disease terrorizing families across the country. The medical establishment's approach at the time involved

immobilizing patients with splints and casts. Kenny insisted on the opposite: movement and muscle re-education. Doctors were skeptical, sometimes openly hostile. She didn't care. Her methods worked, getting paralyzed patients up and walking when conventional treatment left them in braces. By 1952, a Gallup poll named her the most admired woman in America, edging out Eleanor Roosevelt. She was bold, tireless, and by all accounts up at ungodly hours calling people before dawn. A neighborhood, a school, and a hospital rehabilitation center bear her name.



**Maude Armatage**, born in 1870, became the first woman elected to a Minneapolis municipal office when she won a seat on the Park Board in 1921. She served for 30 consecutive years, the longest continuous tenure in the board's history. During those

three decades, she was instrumental in building Minneapolis' park system into one of the finest in the country. She championed joint use of school and park facilities, fought for recreation programs for children and adults, and was unanimously elected vice president of the board in 1924. Today her name graces a neighborhood, a school, a park, and the now-closed but fondly remembered Café Maude on Penn Avenue.



**Clara Barton** needs less introduction. The founder of the American Red Cross, she spent decades as a battlefield nurse, relief worker, and advocate. She started caring for the sick

as a young girl tending to her injured brother, and she never really stopped. Barton Community School on Colfax Avenue carries her name as inspiration for students, a reminder that courage and compassion aren't abstract concepts.

Three schools. Three women who healed, built, and served. In a city where the naming honors went overwhelmingly to politicians and businessmen of varying moral quality, Southwest Minneapolis got it right. The next time you drive past Kenny, Armatage, or Barton, consider that these names represent something unique in our neighborhoods.



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