

KENNY NEWSLETTER

NEIGHBORHOOD

SUMMER 2026

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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.

Ice Cream Social/Green Fair draws happy crowd, fun activities for kids and adults

By Barb Brady

Hundreds of neighbors, families, and friends packed Kenny Park for the annual KNA Ice Cream Social/Green Fair on a picture-perfect June 18.

The Crosstown Community Band provided a variety of live music as attendees enjoyed Sebastian Joe's ice cream courtesy of City Church. The Baron of Bubble enchanted kids with huge bubbles in the sunshine.

It was so busy, we ran out of ice cream, which has not happened in recent memory. Apologies to the kids and parents we had to turn away. Come early next year! (June 17, 2027)

Many thanks to our sponsors **All Energy Solar** and **Green Spirit Home Performance**. If you didn't have a chance to chat with them at the Green Fair, you can find them at www.allenergysolar.com/company/service-areas/minnesota and www.greenspirithome.com/home

Special thanks to City Church for the Sebastian Joe's ice cream enjoyed by so many; and for providing volunteer ice cream scoopers.

Ice Cream Social/Green Fair continued on page 10



Photos by Jason Lund

Kenny Neighborhood Association

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www.kennyneighborhood.org

2026 KNA Board Members

Chairperson Barb Brady

Vice Chair Shelly Ragland

Secretary Kim Rosenfield

Treasurer Scott Elton

Kelly Barbes Vicki Olson

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.

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 an online option. Visit www.kennyneighborhood.org and click on "Events" for online 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.

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The newsletter is sponsored by the Kenny Neighborhood Association, donations from neighbors, and support from our advertisers.

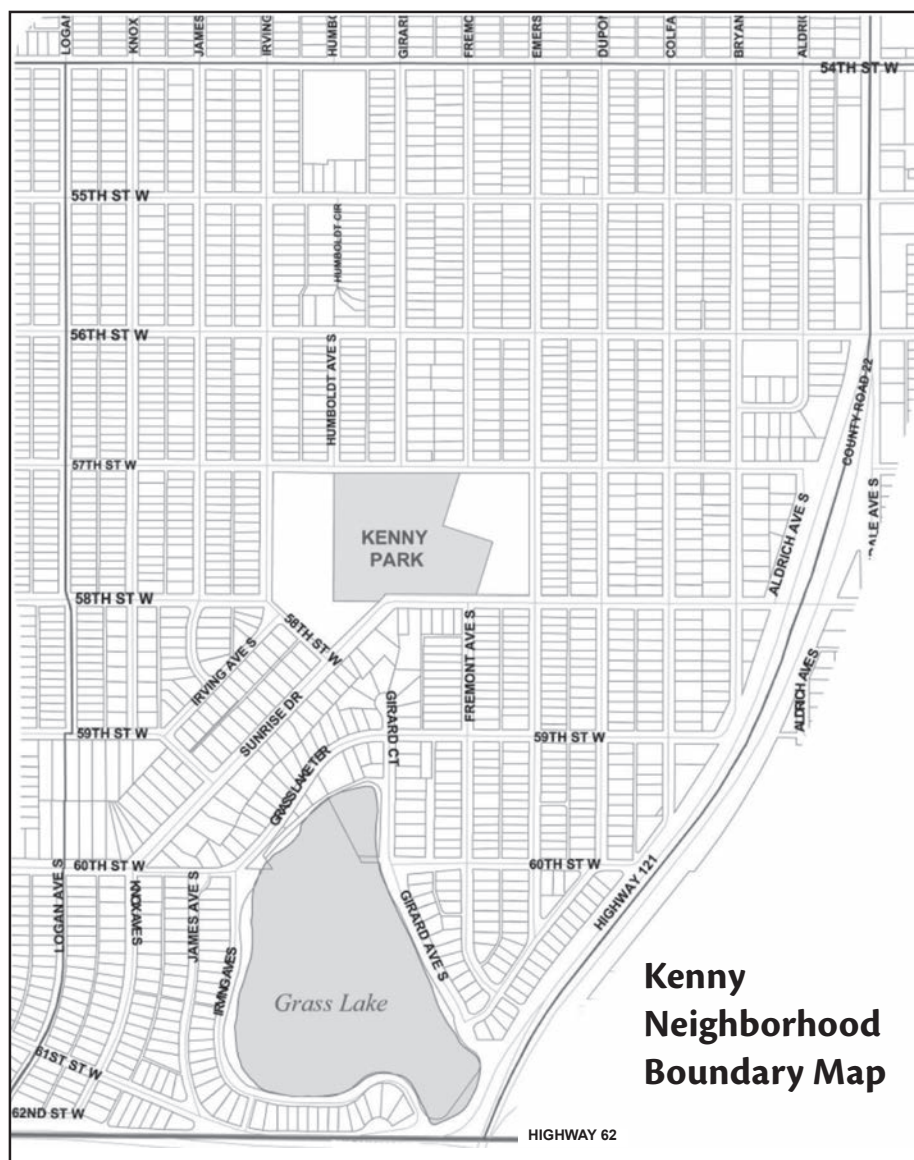
To place an ad, contact Sasha Jensen at info@kennyneighborhood.org.

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.

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 Terri Lindenbaum, 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. Our guiding principle is we read books by authors of color that the group collectively decides on from month to month. **Please join us on Sat., Aug. 1, 12:30-1:30 p.m. to read and discuss the book, "Burning Down Master's House," by renowned historian & author, Clay Cane. RSVP to Janet Dahlem: 612-250-4123.**



Letter from the Chair

By Barb Brady

Kenny Neighborhood Association Chair

Neighbors honor Annunciation families, staff, friends

As the first anniversary of the Annunciation tragedy approaches, a physical sign of Kenny neighbors' support and love for all those affected has appeared on the shores of Grass Lake.

In consultation with the Merkel family, KNA sponsored a bench honoring 8-year-old Fletcher Merkel, whose life was lost on August 27.

Fletcher loved to fish in Grass Lake, and his parents fondly talk about the fact he caught a fish in the lake, even though multiple people told him there were no fish in the lake.

The plaque on the bench reads:



The bench is on the Girard Avenue side of the lake. The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board built and installed the bench; and KNA paid for it and will maintain it.

The KNA Environmental Committee is expanding the new native plant garden to the bench, to further beautify the area around the bench.

Many thanks to Colleen Dillon, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board's Memorials and Tributes specialist who coordinated the project. Council Member Linea Palmisano and her senior policy aide Ruth Olson were also instrumental in making the bench a reality.



Please watch KNA's social media for news about a bench dedication in the future.

Neighborhood Day

Kenny residents enjoyed amazing tacos, chatting with neighbors, and hearing from elected officials at KNA's May 2 Neighborhood Day at Kenny Park.

KNA and other neighborhoods hold annual meetings every spring to elect board members and update residents about association activities. KNA makes the annual meeting a fun event, with food and opportunities for people to talk to each other.

This year, Ward 13 Council Member Linea Palmisano and Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty addressed the crowd, sharing insights on issues and policies important to voters.

Neighborhood Day was the kick-off for elections for the KNA Board.

KNA's next big event is the New Neighbor/Renter Welcome on September 10. Everyone is invited! Watch KNA's social media for details.



'Awesome' year at Kenny Elementary

By Principal Jessica Busse

Kenny Elementary School has had such an awesome year of growing, learning, and teaming up with our amazing community. Let's take a quick look at what we've done together and see what's just around the corner!

This past year was packed with great learning, lots of creativity, and making even stronger connections with our neighbors.

- **Teaching the Whole Kid:** We stayed super committed to making sure every student feels seen and included. Using tools like *AmazeWorks* and the Science of Reading, our teachers made sure our classrooms were all about supporting emotions and strengthening the foundations of reading.
- **Our Gorgeous Gardens:** A huge thanks to our Kenny families and neighbors for keeping our flower gardens looking beautiful and expanding the development of new gardens this spring. They're a local kid favorite and the perfect spot for families to gather before and after school.
- **Better Together:** From volunteering in the cafeteria to supporting families during the Metro Surge, the bond between neighbors and our school community has never been better!

Just like our mascot—the Kangaroo—we don't know how to hop backwards. We're always looking ahead! We're already getting ready for another great year with more shared leadership and big goals for every single student to succeed.

- **Fresh Floors and Room Swaps:** This summer, we're sprucing up the building with new flooring and rugs to make sure our classrooms are cozy and ready for all kinds of learning. We are also moving classrooms around.

- **More Room for Everyone:** We're keeping up our great specialized programs and are even opening a second Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classroom to better support our students. Additionally, we have a third section of 1st grade and 5th grade, expanding our building and student enrollment.

Strong communities make strong schools, and we love having you at our events! Whether you have kids here now, had them here years ago, or just enjoy the park — you and your children are Kenny Kids! Here are some dates to keep on your radar:

- **Help Out in the Garden:** Help us keep things green! If you want to spend a little time weeding or watering this summer, just reach out to Terri Lindenbaum at terri.lindenbaum@gmail.com or the Garden Committee.
- **Back-to-School Open House:** Swing by to meet the teachers, check out the new classroom looks, and give a warm welcome to our new kindergarteners and families, September 3, 4-6 p.m.
- **Kenny Events:** The Kenny School calendar is busy, so follow along with us at kenny.mpschools.org.

A Big Thank You: We really want to thank the Kenny Neighborhood Association and all our neighbors. Your support and pride in our community are what make Kenny such a special "hidden gem."

To learn more about signing up, view the full calendar, or just learn more about Kenny, head over to the Kenny Elementary School Website at kenny.mpschools.org.

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Neighborhood Update

By Sasha Jensen
Kenny Neighborhood Coordinator

Jumping into Kenny

When I had my initial interview with some Kenny Neighborhood Association board members, I could tell they were going to be an active, fun group to work with. What I wasn't ready for was what an active spring and early summer we would have!

A few days after I started, the Kenny/Armatage chili cook-off took place. It was fun to see so many neighbors from both neighborhoods sharing food they had made and spending time together, all with just a slightly competitive feel. And who knew there were so many varieties of chili!

Grass Lake is a very active place in the spring. KNA has held multiple planting and bio blitz events as well as an informational meeting for the Friends of Grass Lake about our continued restoration efforts as KNA continues to advocate for Grass Lake.

Soon after my start date, planning was underway for our Neighborhood Day/Annual Meeting and board elections on May 2. Dozens of neighbors dined on a delicious taco buffet and listened to Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty and Ward 13 Council Member Linea Palmisano at Neighborhood Day.

Three KNA Board members were re-elected in our spring elections: Amy Gustafson, Scott Elton, and Barb Brady. Thank you so much for continuing to donate your time and energy to our neighborhood. I look forward to working with you this coming year.

There are still openings on our board — please consider joining and help make our community even better.

On a more technical side, I spent some time working on our website and making sure I have access to all our accounts. A big thank you to Andy Freid, who is stepping away after years of helping to keep our website running. KNA Communications Chair, Amy Gustafson and I will work with other volunteers to make sure our website is the best place to keep updated on all things happening in Kenny.

Finally, I got immersed in the planning of our big event of the year, our Ice Cream Social and Green Fair. Organizing our vendors and sponsors was a great way to get to know the community. It was great meeting so many Kenny residents at the event. I look forward to seeing many of you again at our final Kenny cookout of the season on August 19 and more events this autumn and winter.

Mark your calendar for the September 10 New Neighbor/Renter Welcome at Kenny Park. All Kenny residents are welcome! Watch social media for details.

Kenny Community Garden Celebrates anniversary, expansion

By Stu Nostdahl,
coordinator

There is reason to celebrate at the Kenny Community Garden. This year marks the garden's 11th year of operation and a new expansion. The garden, which was formed in 2016 by the Kenny Neighborhood Association in cooperation with City Church, is located on the southwest side of the City Church property at 1501 West 54th Street. The site has been home to 3,200 square feet of garden space, which benefits from full sun and connections to the church's irrigation system, making for ideal growing conditions. Gardeners have had great success growing all varieties of vegetables, fruits, and herbs, as well as pollinator-friendly flowers. Perhaps most importantly, gardeners have built new relationships with their Kenny neighbors. This year, the garden was presented with the opportunity to expand, this time on the southeast side of the church. Thanks to a generous donation from the Kenny Neighborhood Association, we were able to build out the new garden space, including an extension of the irrigation line to provide for water, as well as delivery of mulch and compost to create fertile growing conditions from day one. The new site allows space for eight additional gardeners and their families, bringing the garden's total to 28 plots.

While the new plots were quickly spoken for, there may be opportunities next season. For those interested in joining the community garden, please contact Stu Nostdahl at stuart.nostdahl@gmail.com. And to all, feel free to stop by the garden and see the progress over the growing season.

Kenny PorchFest Wrap-up

By Sarah Linnes-Robinson

I want to thank all the hosts and musicians at Kenny PorchFest for a really great evening of music and community on 14 local stages. I would say there is no question that we doubled (or dare I say tripled?) our numbers of neighbors coming out to participate in the second year of this event. I witnessed enthusiastic crowds of 25-50 people at most sites around 8 p.m., and one even busting out into the street with over 75 neighbors! I am super thankful to everyone who contributed their time and talent to this great community event.

It has been a trying year for our community, as I write this article just one year from the murders of Melissa and Mark Hortman. The multiple shocks and injuries to our state, city, and direct neighborhood have been hard to make sense of. And in times like these, it is hard to clear your head and see the sense of making plans for light-hearted and community-focused events. And yet, this is also why we must do it. As Ray Bradbury said, "So while our art cannot, as we wish it could, save us from wars, privation, envy, greed, old age, or death, it can revitalize us amidst it all."

If neighbors are looking for musicians to play at private or other community events please feel free to reach me at admin@loveyourneighborhoodmpls.org. A number of these groups expressed the desire to play more and I am happy to share their contact info with you if you are looking to book a local band or singer-songwriter.

At this time, I hope you find yourself revitalized to continue reaching out to all our neighbors and sharing your love and energy with the world.



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What's Blooming at the Kenny School Gardens?

By Terri Lindenbaum

If you've walked past Kenny Elementary School lately, you've likely noticed a lot of color and activity! Our school gardens have been a whirlwind of growth over the last two months.

Thanks to our students and volunteers, we've planted more than 600 student-grown flowers, added pollinator plants to the south garden, and tucked delicious honeyberries into the edible garden. We also assembled nine "Garden in a Box" kits, installed the 5th grade commemorative bricks, and displayed beautiful mosaic wooden spoons created by our 1st grade Girl Scouts.

Building a Nature Play Space: We've also begun installing our new nature play space and front entrance shade garden! We received log donations from Scott at Arborsmith, as well as a helping hand from the park board. We are working with MPRB Arborist Alex, who is helping us acquire more logs for the project. In a wonderful twist, Alex is actually a Kenny School alum!

We Need Our Neighbors! As summer rolls on, we have a variety of ways for the wider Kenny neighborhood to get involved:

- **Watering Volunteers:** Sign up to water the vegetable gardens on a day that works for you. Bonus: Whichever day you water, you get first choice of ripe produce!
- **The Shade Garden:** Help us clear out the weeds and prep the front entrance for its new design.
- **Clean up crew:** Join us to play in the dirt and clear weeds to keep the gardens clean on any of our upcoming work days!

To sign up for watering, find work day schedules, or join our community text groups, email Terri at terri.lindenbaum@gmail.com or hop into our **Kenny School Gardens WhatsApp Community**. Scan the QR code.

Whatsapp
Group Chat



We are deeply thankful for the grants provided by the KNA and KPF, which are helping make these big garden plans a reality for our school community.

Thank you for helping us keep these shared spaces beautiful and vibrant for our neighborhood!



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New video highlights neighbor enthusiasm about heat pumps

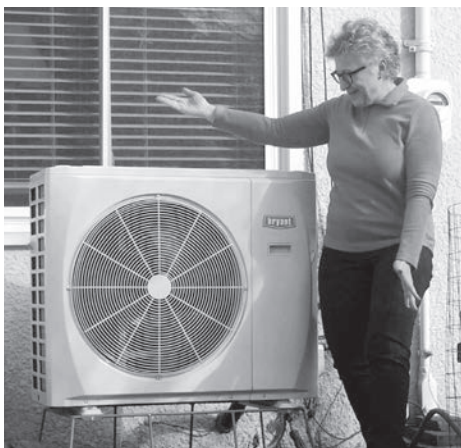
By Steve Caster

Have you seen the new videos called “Living with Heat Pumps” produced by the Kenny Neighborhood Association? If not, please take this as your invitation to do so!



“Living with Heat Pumps” contains one video and several shorter versions. It’s the first of a series of upcoming videos on environmental issues.

The videos contains stories from your Kenny neighbors about how they decided to install air-source heat pumps and how these systems function in heating



their homes, especially during last winter’s more “normal” Minnesota weather. Their stories provide fascinating insights that you may find helpful if you are considering a change to your existing home heating system.

These four neighbors were excited to share their enthusiasm for heat pumps and recommend other neighbors look into them.

We are excited to start to use video as a medium of communication and connection.

As KNA Board Member Joy Gottschalk explains, “Video creates a human presence different than the printed word alone. We are hoping to deepen connection and community across the neighborhood on this topic and others.”

Please join us in viewing these videos and passing them along to friends who might be interested. Look for future videos as well!

Many thanks to Southwest High School’s Green Team for their assistance in this project, and to Colin Elliston and Artistic Behavior for video, editing, and content work.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

By Sandy Caster and Louise Rath, KNA Environmental Committee

What would you do with an extra \$3,000 annually? It may not take as much effort as you think — just change a few habits to prevent wasting food. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average US household of four throws away approximately \$3,000 worth of food each year. In Hennepin County alone, the amount of wasted food annually could fill Target Field 1.5 times!

Here are a few tips on preventing wasted food:

Use your senses

Many foods have a sell-by or use-by date. However, these dates do not mean those foods should be thrown out on or shortly after these dates. Manufacturers and retailers provide them to indicate the product’s peak quality. The only dates related to safety are on infant formula, which is mandated by federal regulations.

Visually inspect your food for spoilage. Also, smell it for “off” odors. If in doubt, throw it in your organics recycling bin outside.

Store Food Properly

- Set the humidity levels in your refrigerator crisper drawers: high humidity for lettuce and low humidity for fruits and vegetables.
- Avoid storing these items together:
 - Onions and potatoes. The potatoes will ripen more quickly and grow eyes.
 - Apples and other fruits and vegetables. Apples emit ethylene gas, which ripens other produce more quickly.

Plan Grocery Shopping and Meals

- List favorite meals and plan three to four meals a week.
- Plan one night to eat leftovers.
- Check refrigerator and pantry before shopping.
- Choose food grown locally, which will last longer as it spent less time being transported.

Thanks to Hennepin County’s Food Waste Prevention Specialist Jenny Kedward for many of the tips provided.

Learn more tips by participating in the Save Food, Spend Less Challenge from Oct. 1 – 31. Sign up to receive notification when registration opens by clicking on this QR code.



Kenny Environmental Committee Actions this Year

By Vicki Tang Olson, Environmental Committee

KNA and friends have worked tirelessly to maintain and improve the neighborhood's environment. Here's what we've achieved so far this year:

Accomplishments

TREE CANOPY

- Reimbursed four neighbors for trees from Minneapolis Tree Lottery

GRASS LAKE RESTORATION

- Held Winter Sowing Class
- Received \$6,000 grant from the Garden Club of Minneapolis for native plants to restore areas where buckthorn was removed in last two years
- Held two community meetings to share plans for Grass Lake and solicit neighbors' priorities
- Installed fencing/signage for gardens
- Planted native plants in three sessions on the east side of lake. Many thanks to Steve Paquin and George Perpich for their diligent watering — and the whole team for planting!
- Held Bio Blitz to encourage citizens to learn the science of plants, trees, birds, and animal activity around Grass Lake
- Expanded garden to include Fletcher Merkel's memorial bench
- Worked with City of Minneapolis, MNDOT, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board to develop partnerships

ZERO WASTE

- Supported compostable utensils/bowls and organic disposal at Ice Cream Social
- Provided recycled art, tic tac toe and composting lesson for kids' activities at Green Fair as well as Hennepin County Stop Food Waste table
- Offered sign-up for organic recycling and shared examples of kitchen composting set-ups

ENERGY USE

- Released videos promoting heat pumps featuring Kenny neighbors. See separate article on page 8 for background and QR code to link to videos for this exciting project.
- Green Fair participation by All Energy Solar, Green Spirit Home Performance, and Home Energy Squad

Next Steps

TREE CANOPY

- Continue Tree Lottery reimbursement program
- Map tree species around Grass Lake

GRASS LAKE RESTORATION

- Bio Blitz from 9–10 a.m. on Saturday, August 15
- Three Buckthorn Busts this fall. All 10 a.m.–1 p.m. September 12 | October 10 | November 14
- Support Eagle Scout project to restore wood duck houses and plant trees for wood ducks
- Address Grass Lake water quality issues through Adopt-a-Drain program/apply for storm drains stenciling to educate Kenny residents that most of Kenny stormwater flows to Grass Lake
- Address other issues shared by neighbors in community meetings related to road safety, barriers, pathway, and maintenance of public land around Grass Lake

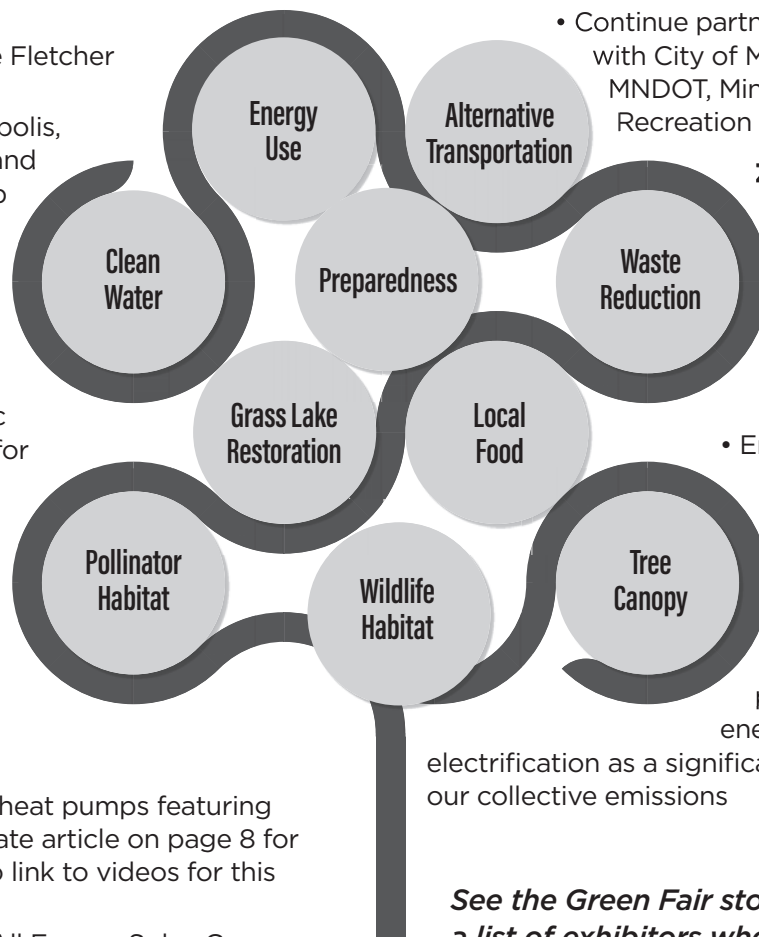
- Continue partnership discussions with City of Minneapolis, MNDOT, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board

ZERO WASTE

- Create Kenny team for October Hennepin County Save Food, Spend Less Challenge
- Encourage sign-up for organic recycling

ENERGY USE

- Continue the heat pump campaign, promoting home energy efficiency and electrification as a significant way to reduce our collective emissions



See the Green Fair story on page 10 for a list of exhibitors who supported all of our environmental priorities.

Plan your fall now with the Oct. 10 Twin Cities Bike Tour

By Ted Duepner

Summer is the season of many things, but probably most of all, the peak season of Fear of Missing Out (FOMO). This is no more evident than in the dizzyingly packed calendars of any Minnesota weekend between Memorial and Labor Day. As one of the planners of the Twin Cities Bike Tour (TCBT) at the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, I have received many messages from folks who say they really wanted to participate in our first two years but were unable due to conflicting schedules. It was in this spirit that we decided to move the ride to October 10 for year three of the TCBT.

Good news for Viking football fans: we even moved the ride to a Saturday so you can catch the game the day after!

We ditched the challenging climb up Franklin Avenue from the river for a pleasant roll across the Number 9 Bridge by the U of M, followed by a cruise on the Dinkytown Greenway, and a spin down the U of M Transitway (open ONLY to bicycle traffic and buses).

What hasn't changed?

For those who rode with us previously, the ride still starts and ends at Wabun Park in beautiful Minnehaha Falls Park.

We still have three route offerings, although with slightly different distances based on rider feedback: 24, 38, or even a 50-mile route. Each route visits multiple rest stops and crosses the Mississippi River twice. Rest stops include Farmstead Park, The Depot in Hopkins, Venture Bikes on the Midtown Greenway and Dual Citizen Brewing.

We are still offering the popular FREE family-or-new-rider-friendly "Loons Loop" (two- or four-mile route) on October 3 with the help of our friends at Loons Coffee.

Registration is required for both the Oct. 3 Loons Loop and the main event on the 10th.

We can use volunteers too — some positions are right in Kenny! You can register, volunteer and find out more at bikemn.org/tcbt. Early bird rates are still available! Use code KENNY2026 for \$5 off!

By registering for the Twin Cities Bike Tour, you directly contribute to BikeMN's statewide efforts, which include grade school-level bicycle and pedestrian education, Adult Learn to Ride, increasing bikeability in your community and across Minnesota, and more.

Ice Cream Social/Green Fair continued from page 1

The Green Fair part of the event, which was zero-waste for the first time, enjoyed more exhibitors than ever, listed here by Environmental Priority area:

General

- KNA Environmental Committee
- Minneapolis Public Library

Waste Reduction

- Hennepin County Stop Food Waste
- UMN Master Gardener Volunteer Youth Activity on composting

Energy Use

- All Energy Solar – sponsor
- Green Spirit Home Performance – sponsor
- Home Energy Squad

Clean water

- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Clean Water
- Adopt a Drain

Tree Canopy & Pollinator Habitat

- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Forestry's
- Ask an Arborist
- UMN Ask a Master Gardener Volunteer Info Booth
- Kenny Garden Club

Wildlife

- Land of Lakes Bird Alliance
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Clean Water Turtle Naturalist
- Kids activity: Turtle coloring drawing

Local Food

- Southwest Farmers Market

Alternative transportation

- Bike MN
- Minnesota Cargo Bike Library
- Metro Transit



Photos by Jason Lund

Staying Power

By Steve Paquin

In 35 years, Christine and Ron Frisk have owned exactly two houses, five blocks apart in the Kenny neighborhood. Two years ago their son Avery and wife bought a third, directly next door to the one he grew up in. Some families scatter; the Frisks orbit. The center of gravity, it turns out, has always been Kenny.

The Frisks grew up in Ankeny, Iowa, married young, and when they moved to the Twin Cities, they landed first in Excelsior “It’s kind of like living in La La Land,” Christine says. “It’s beautiful.” But while she finished school they kept edging toward Minneapolis, and the lakes closed the deal. “It just felt magical to be in the city, to have the Chain of Lakes right out your doorstep.” Thirty-five years on, the verdict hasn’t changed: “I still find it to be one of the most magical cities, because of the water element and the trails and the ability to really get your arms around the outdoors.”

In 1991 they bought a Tudor home at 54th and Fremont, and Christine, pregnant with their first child, discovered the thing Kenny does even better than lakes. With both of their extended families back in Iowa, the block quietly stepped in. “We made really good friends and neighbors on that street. They were kind of our friends and our family.” How much like family? “When we would get together at night after the kids went to bed, I took the monitor with me across the street, so I could hear if anybody woke up.”

All three kids, Harrison, Elizabeth and Avery, walked to Kenny School, which became as much a center of family life as the block. Harrison started there the very first year Minneapolis made Kenny a true neighborhood school, a seismic shift for a district that had bused kids all over the city. And the classrooms gave the Frisk kids something Ankeny never could have. Christine says. “Our kids went to school with people from all over the world, and I love that.”

Christine and Ron repaid the favor with years in the PTA, and then some. When Minneapolis Public Schools later tried to close Kenny School, they were part of the parent group that fought the district. “It was getting shut down. They were closing it. And it was kind of like, well, you picked the wrong neighborhood.” Their campaign put Elizabeth, then in third grade, on the front page of the newspaper, testifying before the school board alongside a friend, Jenna. (You may have noticed the school is still open. They won.)



2002



2026

In 2002, the Frisks did the unthinkable and left the block, though not the neighborhood, moving to a boarded-up, fire-scarred walkout ranch home on Grass Lake Terrace that Christine, an interior designer of 35-plus years, refused to leave to flippers. “I saw the potential. It had really good bones.”

Ron spent six months of nights and weekends making it livable, but the renovation wasn’t the hard part. “The hardest part was saying goodbye to our neighbors on that block.” To be clear though, “goodbye” oversells it; the move was from 54th to 59th, a mere five blocks. “There was kind of no question that we wanted to stay in Kenny. Our kids could walk to school, we had the lakes close by, and a lot of our community was here.”

Two years ago the neighborhood pulled off its neatest trick yet. A Cape Cod on Fremont, right next door to their old Tudor, went up for sale just as Avery, now 30, and his wife Sara were house-hunting against Minneapolis prices. A bidding war followed, including a cash offer, which in Kenny often signals a teardown. Avery and Sarah wrote the sellers a letter. The sellers picked the letter over the cash offer.

He’s no outlier: nearly all of Avery’s boyhood friends still live in the area, and his brother and sister are still in Minneapolis, too. Christine isn’t surprised. “In the neighborhoods we’ve been in and the schools our kids have been in, there is a real loving approach to how we embrace the people around us.”

Kenny, it turns out, is easy to move within and much harder to leave.



Word on the Street

Pat and Brenda asked:

What are your plans for the summer?



Shelly Ragland and Buck and Bean – 60th & Dupont Avenue

Walking the dogs. Hanging out with the neighborhood children.



David and Jennifer Osland Monty and Duncan – 58th & Dupont Avenue

We're enjoying our new patio and landscaped backyard.

Walking our dogs in the neighborhood.



Lynne Kinsley and David Bergum Mickey and Jackson 58th & Colfax Avenue –

We enjoy walking around Grass Lake.



Linda Fredrickson and Bella – 60th & Knox Avenue

I enjoy playing golf and walking around Grass Lake with Bella.

Who's in the 'Hood

By Jasmine Avent

They say that New York City is the epicenter of fashion, theatre, culture, and much more. A place where new, fresh starts are made. But for one now former Brooklynite, Kenny has become the backdrop of his next chapter. His family's move from New York City to the Midwest now has him in a Kenny state of mind.

Meet Stanley Pierre-Paul.

Stanley, along with his partner Ali Wilbur, son Blaize (11), and daughter Irie (9), have called Kenny home for the past two years. For Stanley, the move from their home in the Chelsea neighborhood in Manhattan to Minneapolis, made sense.

"The rent was getting expensive, and we were paying some outrageous numbers," he says. "We are paying half of that now for a home in Minneapolis. We just literally got priced out of the city. We were living in Edina, and we're definitely not Edina people. "We started looking at trendy neighborhoods, not knowing anything about south Minneapolis or Kenny. [The home we live in] became available and it ended up being the right home, on the right lake, in the right neighborhood." He says that every time someone from Ali's family has come for a visit (she is originally from Edina), they comment on how much of a hidden gem Kenny is.

Stanley and Ali met on the fashion scene in New York while he was working as a fashion representative, and Ali was running a business as a wholesaler. "Mutual friends introduced us,



and we'd known each other for years before we dated. I'm very persistent. If I know what I want, I'm going to get it," he says with a laugh. They've been together 16 years. Ali still works in the fashion industry, and Stanley enjoys going back to New York as an independent contractor from time to time, building stages and working to assist production with The Tonight Show, Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, and other top venues in the city.

As the family gets settled into their new surroundings, Stanley is eager to share with his neighbors. "We're an open book family, what you get is what you see," he says. He explains that his east coast personality can often be misinterpreted, but connection and networking are at the core of his intentions. He enjoys talking to people and developing relationships, which made his transition into real estate a natural one. As he builds his career as a realtor with Edina

Realty, he is eager to see what development can look like in the city in the near future. He feels that Minneapolis is a place that is ripe for development. "Everybody needs a roof over their head; it's an easy conversation."

New York can feel like an irreplaceable vibe, but Stanley thinks that he has gained some things here: community being one of them. "Since January in Minneapolis, how the community came together, how the community was helping each other, for each other, and how everybody

stood up against ICE. That's real," he says.

In his spare time, Stanley loves to golf, and discover new restaurants, but says he hasn't found any good ones yet. He adds that he'll gladly take any recommendations for a good bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich, or slice of pizza neighbors may have. He is enjoying just being outside, shooting hoops or running basketball drills with Blaize and Irie. He also loves being on Grass Lake and taking walks around it with Ali.

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

NOMINATE A NEIGHBOR!

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

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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

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Brian Hall, CPRP
Recreation Supervisor
Minneapolis Park and
Recreation Board
Armatage & Kenny Parks
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Hello Kenny Park Neighbors!

The Kenny Park reports will look a little different after this issue, as Jason Wong will take over supervision and programming at Kenny Park starting in September.

Minneapolis Parks management has made some staffing moves and one was to assign Jason Windom South and Kenny Park to manage. Armatage and Kenny were managed together for many years, but it is now changing.

It has truly been a pleasure since March 1 of 2023, when I was assigned to Armatage/Kenny. I enjoy the Kenny neighborhood, a true gem in Minneapolis. There are so many fabulous people I have met and worked with over the years. I will still be helping with the sports side so I will be in the area but managing only Armatage Park.

The summer is always a great time of the year as we have many events, programs, and activities in our Minneapolis Parks system. The Kenny Ice Cream Social/Green Fair was a blast, seeing so many folks out and about on June 18. There are more to come at Kenny, including the Neighborhood Grill outs replacing the Outdoor Movie this year. Hundreds came to the

Summer Celebration kickoff on June 24 and we hope to see more folks out for my last event on August 19 for the Neighborhood Grill-Out at 5:30 p.m.

The Spring/Summer sports season has gone well. We had another growth in the 5u T-Ball area. We had four nights with 140 kiddos participating. 6u T-Ball was great with six teams and 8u softball; and coach pitch having five more teams! As I write, our older 10u baseball and softball teams will play in post-season tournaments and both teams were top in the standings for the regular season.

HUGE thank you to all the volunteer coaches! Without your time and commitment to the kiddos, teams may not have formed. I welcome you all next season for another sports season!

The current fall sports season is under way for soccer/flag football and volleyball. Sign up ASAP on our website at: www.minneapolisparcs.org. If you have issues registering, contact me and I will be happy to help.

Fall programming spotlight is on Preschool Kids. This program has been longstanding at Kenny Park and goes in waves with enrollment numbers. Ann Horn has been our leader and teacher

for 14 years and those who have had their children come through the program are thankful for enrolling their children with Ann. They must be three years old for Preschool Kids as we offer Monday-Thursday with flexible day options from 9 a.m. to noon. We also have a lunch bunch add-on from noon-1:30 p.m. and we welcome 2.5-year-olds who can one day join when they are three for the full program.

There is limited space so sign up today. If you have questions, please contact me at BHall@minneapolisparcs.org.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

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.

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



Learn about Kenny's amazing trees through our new Trees of Kenny project

By Ralph Sievert

Trees of Kenny provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to see a variety of trees that are growing in our neighborhood. Some are on boulevards, in parks, or on school grounds; while others are on private property. In addition to its location, a photo and brief narrative is provided for each tree. The mature height of trees will be described as either small (20 to 30 feet), medium (30 to 50 feet) or large (over 50 feet).

This is an ongoing project with more trees and/or additional photos added as seasonal characteristics develop.

Autumn Splendor Buckeye (*Aesculus x arnoldiana* 'Autumn Splendor').

Location: Sunrise Drive and W 58th Street at Anthony Middle School.

A medium size tree with showy spikes of yellow flowers rising above the foliage in early May. This cultivar was developed by the University of Minnesota. It is resistant to leaf scorch and has a reddish fall color. Unlike Ohio Buckeye, it produced very few buckeye nuts.

Spring Snow Crabapple (*Malus* 'Spring Snow')

Location: 5600 Irving Ave. S. in boulevard on W. 56th Street side

A small tree that is covered in fragrant showy white flowers in May. It has dark green summer foliage that turns yellow in the fall. Unlike many crabapples, it is fruitless.





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