

## ***While One Strolls Along Jonathan Trails...***

The Jonathan Association offers many common open spaces and physical amenities for the benefit and enjoyment of its approximately 8,000 residents. Often mentioned among these amenities are the bus shelters and mail stations (47 total), neighborhood entrance monuments (34 total), tot lot playgrounds (19 total), and the community garden plots.

Most notable in Jonathan, however, is the 10.3 mile-long trail system which winds through the various neighborhoods. While strolling along Jonathan trails, one is likely to encounter any one of a number of notable landmarks.

### Children Playing/Dinosaur Bones



In 1970, sculptor Dennis Halverson created a concrete and steel structure which was placed at Arboretum Way and Stanford Circle in Neighborhood One. While most Jonathan residents refer to it as “dinosaur bones”, Halverson’s vision was a group of children piled on top of each other. Pay a visit to the sculpture and see how many kids you can count!

### Lake Grace

Lake Grace, which sits to the west of Highway 41 in Jonathan, is a man-made lake 20 feet deep covering 25 acres. This beautifully aesthetic body of water is cozily nestled between Neighborhood Four to the east, and Neighborhood One to the west.



Lake Grace was dedicated on October 11, 1967. It was named in honor of Grace McKnight, wife of Minnesota State Senator Henry McKnight, the founder of Jonathan.

Lake Grace is actually a part of a larger chain of four lakes – along with Lake Jonathan, Lake Bavaria, Lake Hazeltine – which serve as an important drainage system into the Minnesota River to the south.

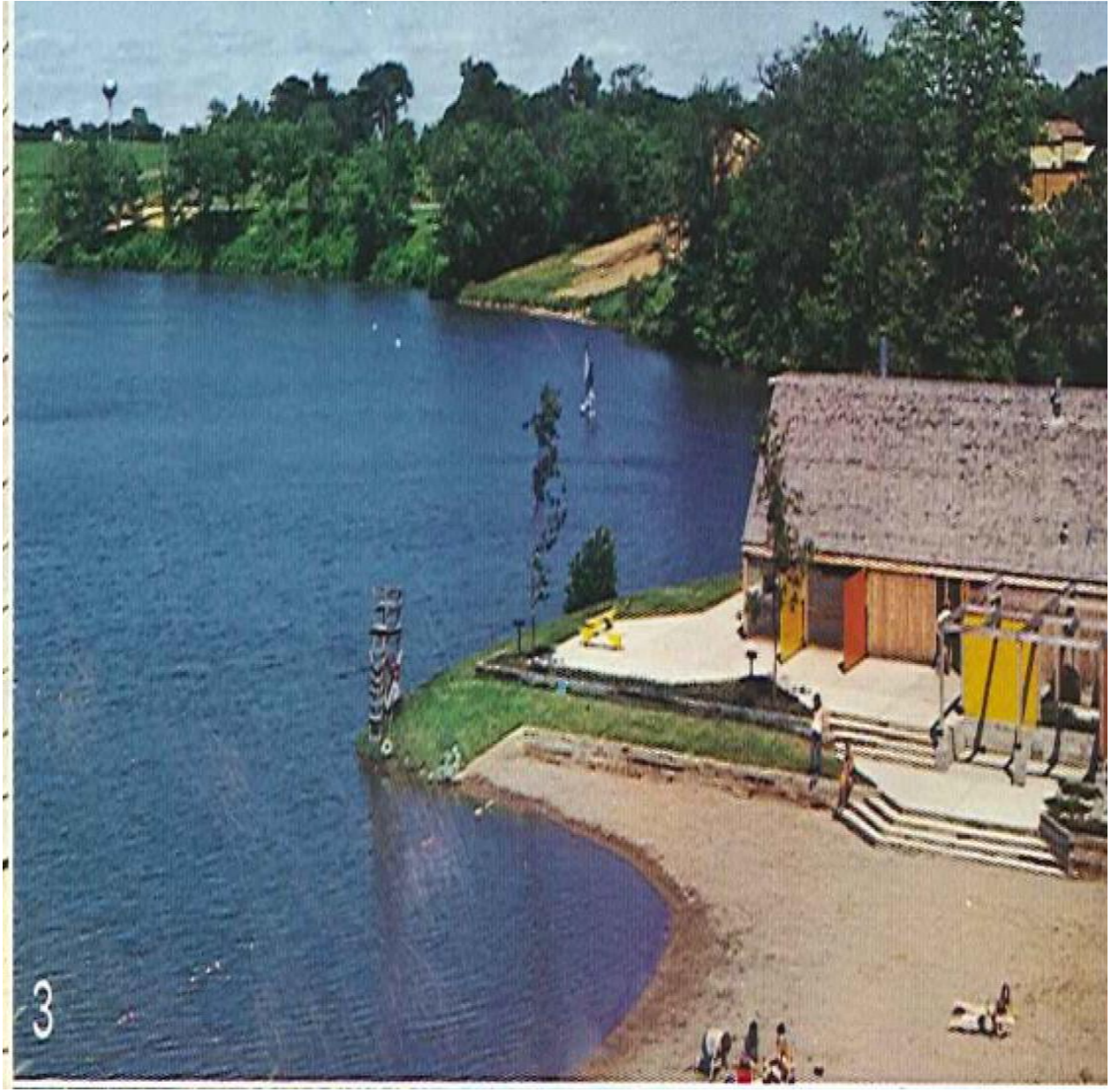
### Lake Grace Pavilion

One of the first “new construction” buildings in Jonathan, the Lake Grace Pavilion was for many years the center of waterfront activity at Lake Grace. This multi-purpose building provided canoe rental, sailboat rental, concessions, bathroom facilities, lifeguard headquarters, and even included outdoor shower stalls.

For a number of years the Lake Grace Pavilion was retro-fitted to serve as the equipment storage and maintenance facility for Jonathan property managers, prior to the construction of the Apple Barn in 2011.

The Lake Grace Pavilion has been the popular site of many special events, whether planned (weddings, Boy Scout campouts, etc.) or spontaneous (picnics, informal volleyball games, etc.) over a span of many years in the Jonathan – and Chaska – community.





The Lake Grace Pavilion was typically the center of lots of beachfront and water sports-related activities in the first several decades of its existence. Much of what Lake Grace and the Lake Grace Pavilion provided to Jonathan residents is now available at the Chaska Community Center and at Fireman's Park in downtown Chaska.

## Trail Map Markers

In 2010 Kasey Crumpton, a member of Chaska Boy Scout Troop # 589, chose as his Eagle Scout Project an initiative that provides great value to the many who stroll along Jonathan's trails.

Kasey, with help from his Dad and Grandpa, constructed ten trail map markers, and then enlisted a crew of fellow Boy Scouts to help him place them in strategic locations along the trails throughout Jonathan. The Crumptions called Clover Traditions in Jonathan their home.



## Bat Houses

Another Eagle Scout Project from Chaska Boy Scout Troop # 589 was completed by Connor Martin, whose family resided in Jonathan's Neighborhood Twelve (Heather Ridge). For his Eagle Scout Project, Connor chose to build and install a dozen Bat Houses in various locations throughout the Jonathan community.

Sometimes, Connor's bat houses were located in the same general vicinity as Kasey's Trail Map markers. But more often Connor chose locations where there was likely a high volume of mosquitos – just the type of “neighborhood delicacy” that bats enjoy!

An important aspect of Connor Martin's Bat House project was that it provided education and insight into the important role of bats in the Jonathan ecological system. Few homeowners knew how many millions of mosquitos are devoured each day by healthy bat colonies – until Connor's Eagle Scout project came along!





When strolling along the trail past the Karen House headquarters of the Jonathan Association, Boy Scouts Kasey Crumpton and Connor Martin have provided not only direction for traveling hikers, but also relief from the mosquitos too.

### Apple Barn

In 2011 the construction of the Apple Barn was completed. Located conveniently on the Karen House headquarters property, this storage facility enables the Jonathan Association and its professional property management company to safely store equipment and cost-effectively stage management operations.

The size of the Apple Barn is 1,800 square feet and, surprisingly, the building takes up a relatively small portion of the overall landscape footprint of the Karen House property.

The Apple Barn is actually the second “barn” to be located on the Karen House property. The first was the historic Worm Barn – which was destroyed by an accidental fire in 1989. The Worm Barn is remembered by many long-time Jonathan neighbors as the first home of the Chaska Valley Family Theater.

The Apple Barn received its name for two reasons. The Jonathan Board members wanted to have a name which would go along with the prestigious Apple Award program which the

Association uses to officially recognize outstanding volunteers and their contributions to their Jonathan neighbors.



The Jonathan Board also chose the name “Apple Barn” in honor of the past attempt by founder Henry McKnight to produce a Jonathan-specific brand of home grown apples. The hybrid variety of trees didn’t succeed in the heavy clay soil of the Chaska area, and the experiment ultimately failed. The Board, however, wanted to retain the memory of this noble Jonathan experiment.

### Jonathan’s Village Center

The building that now houses the Eastern Carver County Schools ISD #112 Kindergarten Center was originally known as the Jonathan Village Center. In the 1960’s and years beyond, the Village Center held a grocery store, medical clinic, restaurant, offices, a pharmacy, and shops.

As its name indicates, it was the focal point for some of Jonathan’s earliest pioneering residents who would gather there for neighborhood events, physician appointments, and shopping. The Village Center was envisioned by founder Henry McKnight as a prototype shopping mall for the first of what was planned to be five “villages” in the New Town of Jonathan.



Typical of Jonathan's designs and plans, some of the finest architectural design teams from around the country responded to McKnight's vision of creativity and innovative design.



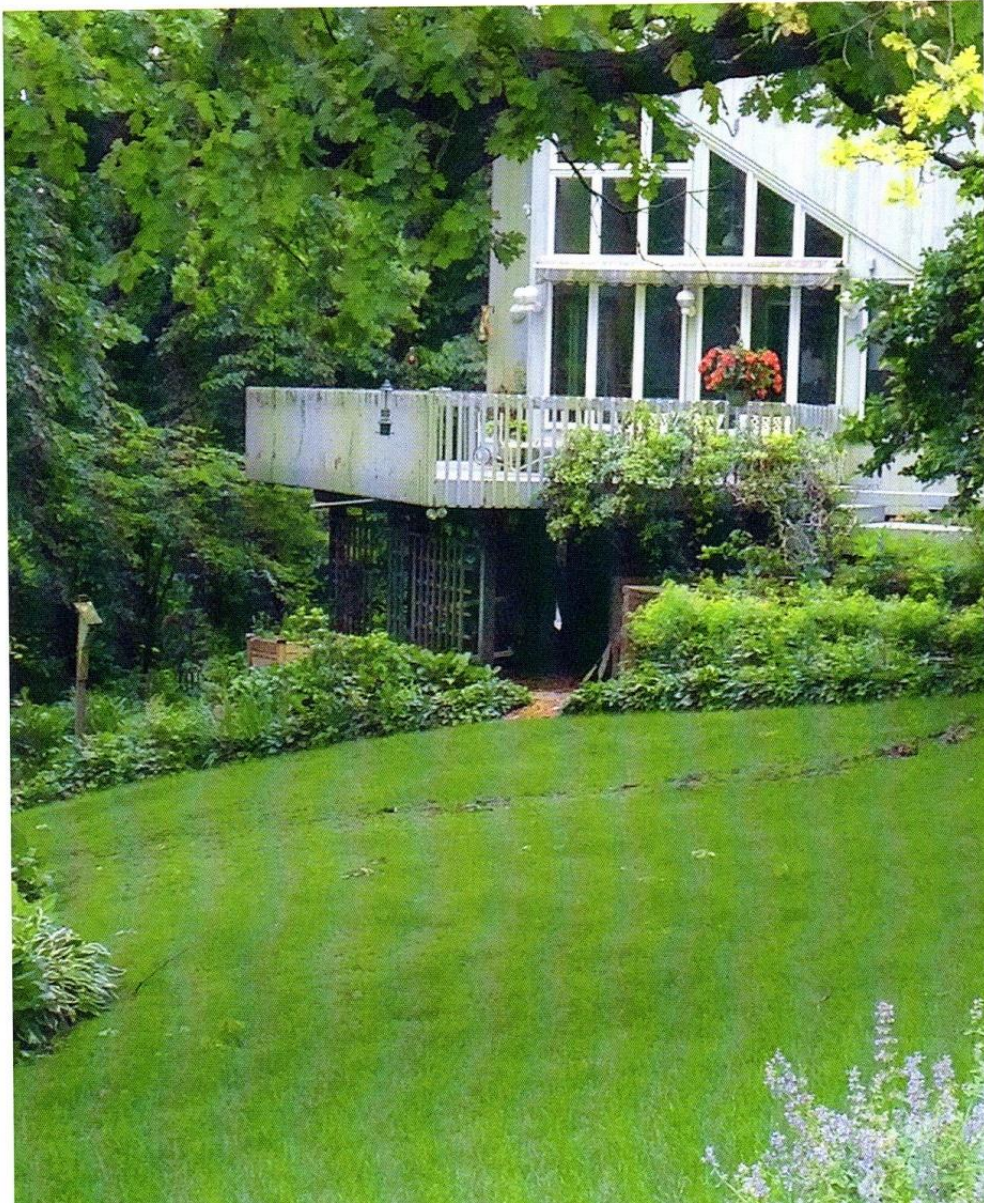
The Independent School District #112 Kindergarten Center was originally known to the earliest residents of Jonathan as the Village Center. By the way, its nearby neighbor, the Jonathan General Store, continues in operation to this day and is typically the starting point location for Jonathan's Annual Fourth of July Kiddie Parade. The Jonathan General Store also provides helpful "last minute" groceries and gas for those in need of convenience in the local neighborhood.

### Red Cedar House

Although he's known in Minnesota mostly for designing the original Guthrie Theater, Ralph Rapson also designed homes throughout the Twin Cities, including one in Jonathan. His Chaska house, on Kings Lane in Jonathan Neighborhood One, is called the "Red Cedar House".

The "Red Cedar House" was designed in 1966 on a commission from the Weyerhaeuser Company, using Weyerhaeuser products. Marketed as a "house for everyman" the intent was to sell the design plans to new homebuyers.

Ralph Rapson's "Red Cedar House" in Jonathan features an inverted truss, which makes the roof appear to passers-by as if it had been built upside down. "Usually most of the houses are something we have tried to create that are a little bit on the firing line, or just a little bit different," said Rapson in a 1999 interview with the Chaska Herald newspaper.



In addition to the "Red Cedar House" in Jonathan Ralph Rapson produced endless plans for embassies, churches, homes, birdhouses and an unrealized master plan for the redesign of southeast Minneapolis.



Rapson (1914-2008) was one of the world's oldest practicing architects and also one of the most prolific. His most famous work was the former Guthrie Theater building in downtown Minneapolis. He also designed the United States embassies in Stockholm, Sweden and in Copenhagen, Denmark. His other works in Minnesota include St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in St. Paul Park, and the former Pillsbury House in Wayzata.

### Tree Loft Apartments

Located on Village Road in Jonathan's Neighborhood One, these unconventional structures were designed to be an apartment complex that made use of 13-foot square modules that could be assembled as desired, something in the manner of building blocks.

The Tree Loft (or as some Jonathan residents call them, Tree House) Apartments in Jonathan were intended to be tailored to individual specifications, an attempt to market the modular box design concept of home construction in the 1960's.

The marketing brochure advertised the Tree Loft Apartments as "...for the young at heart! A new dimension in design that puts individuality into apartment living. Unlike anything you've ever seen before, these apartments are non-traditional...spacious apartments to live in, swing in, and get a new lease on life in!"

Today, the Tree Loft Apartments in Jonathan are known as Aspen Oaks and these homes are still some of the most memorable structures in our community, and they continue to demonstrate the innovation and creativity of Jonathan's original architects.





## Silo – Jonathan in Chaska

The old farm silo at the northwest corner of Highway 41 and Hundertmark Road marks the site of the Christian Bender farm, originally homesteaded in the mid-1800's. George Bender, grandson of Christian, sold the farm to Henry McKnight in 1963. This was the first farm to become part of Jonathan. A dedication ceremony was held on October 13, 2001.







## Trail Head Park



The Trail Head Park is the “head waters” of the extensive Jonathan trail system. This location was dedicated on October 17, 1971 by the citizens of Jonathan; and was renovated with new plantings and a new landscape footprint in the summer of 2012. Plaques which commemorate both of these important efforts are attached to two large landscaping boulders at this site.

The current landscape design was created and is managed by Jonathan vendors Barrie Anderson and Ellis Noone. Ellis was a resident of the Burlington Court portion of Neighborhood One in Jonathan. Barrie gained her local fame as a professional gardener working with the Chaska Farm and Garden Store which was located near Fireman’s Park in downtown (historic) Chaska for many years.