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By JILL BOOGREN

Green thumbs looking to shop outside the big box for garden plants and supplies don't need to go far. There are great options right here in the neighborhood. Each is locally owned and carries locally-grown products. Each places a premium on customer service, and each is rooted in the community.

Here are three garden centers within a seed's throw:

Minnehaha Falls Nursery & Landscape

4461 Minnehaha Ave. S.

Minnehaha Nursery has been at its location on Minnehaha Ave. since 1967, when it was opened by Bob Lindgren's parents. He and his wife, Jennifer, now own the shop. They carry annuals, perennials, natives, shrubs, trees ("not a ton" of the latter, according to Lindgren, mainly a few varieties of fruit trees), and vegetables.

"I like to think we're one of the larger suppliers of varieties



Among the first signs of spring: colorful pansies on sale at Minnehaha Falls Nursery & Landscaping. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

of tomatoes," said Lindgren, including heirlooms. They carry some organics, and all of their

products come from Minnesota growers.

A couple of designers and an installation crew on staff provide landscaping services, including stonework projects, patios and pathways, gardens and buffers.

"I think we do a real good job with the hardscapes such as patios and walls," said Lindgren.

The nursery also carries a large selection of pottery, including glazed and unglazed clay pots, and yard ornaments – "all the goodies," said Lindgren. "We're plumb full."

What makes Minnehaha Falls stand out?

"It's gotta be customer service," said Lindgren. "If we don't have an answer, we'll certainly do some digging and take a name and number and give 'em

a buzz back. You've gotta be customer friendly around here."

Minnehaha Falls response to

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Bob Lindgren, owner of Minnehaha Falls Nursery & Landscaping. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Paige Pelini, co-owner of Mother Earth Gardens. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

neonicotinoids, or "neonics" (see "The buzz about bees," page 7):

Lindgren is still researching and hearing from growers. He welcomes the conversation.

"If somebody comes in here... wanting to know that what they're getting is 100% bee friendly, I can certainly point them in the right direction," he said.

Hours:

May hours will expand to Mon.-Fri., 9am-9pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; and Sun., 9am-6pm. Wednesdays are senior discount days. www.minnehahafallslandscape.com

Mother Earth Gardens

3738 42nd Ave. S.

In the Longfellow neighborhood since 1994 and co-owned by Karen O'Connor and Paige Pelini since 2007, Mother Earth Gardens is the go-to place for organic gardening. They carefully vet all their products, and no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides are used or sold.



John Sandy at Glass Endeavors talks about a window he is repairing from the 1800s. (Photo by Jan Willms)

16th Annual Glass Art Show ceremony Apr. 26

By JAN WILLMS

For the stained glass artist, the only regional venue for a display of art has usually been the State Fair. But for the past 16 years, Glass Endeavors, 2716 East 31st St., has held an annual Glass Art Show and competition, as an opportunity for artists to show their stained glass work.

"The show is for just about everyone, except absolute professionals," said John Sandy, who with his wife Zoi has owned and operated Glass Endeavors since 1996.

It is a stained and fused glass studio and retail store.

This year's show opened Apr.

22, with the artwork displayed until Apr. 26, when a reception and awards ceremony will be held starting at noon.

"I bring in a PA system and give out the awards," Sandy said. "About a hundred people show up, and it's really a lot of fun."

Sandy and his wife have been having fun with their careers since starting the shop, which began in their home and has relocated twice because of its growth.

Both have a background in fine arts and bring a strong history of art and glass experience to their business. They began their store to provide a reliable re-

source for supplies, classes and finished products.

Although Sandy has been able to earn his living working with the art form he loves, he said it took him many years to reach that point.

"My wife and I both quit our day jobs on the same Friday to start Glass Endeavors," he said.

Stained glass is a technique that has been around for a thousand years, dating from Saxon times, according to Sandy. His store offers classes in stained glass, fusing glass and mosaic glass artwork.

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Students create mural at Roosevelt

Middle school and high school students collaborate with local artist Greta McLain

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Students are adding a mural to the front entry of Roosevelt High School.

Not only have they put time and effort into this piece of art, but it's one that captures who they are. The portraits of several students are part of this mixed-media mural that combines paint and mosaic pieces.

The work in the entryway at Roosevelt caught the eye of junior Jocelyn Pliego one day in early April, and that same day she decided to grab a paintbrush and lend a hand. She'd never worked on a mural before. What excites

STUDENTS ASSIST WITH DESIGN

Over 44 middle school and high school students partnered with art teachers and muralist Greta McLain and her assistant Claudia Valentino on the mural. McLain (www.gretamclain.com) grew up in Minneapolis, and earned an art degree from the University of California - Davis. She uses murals as a means of sharing with and drawing from her community. Locally, she created the mural on the Mercado at Bloomington and Lake that was installed last fall.

Artists McLain and Valentino



Artist Claudia Valentino is managing the project while muralist Greta McLain is out on maternity leave. As Valentino and the students work, they reference papers that show what the finished project will look like. Each color is marked with a number that corresponds to a paint can. It's a little like paint-by-number, according to Roosevelt art teacher Jaci Smolund. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for Sanford students to see themselves in the mission of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program."

- Sanford art teacher Marlene Maloney

her about this project? "It's going to be here a pretty long time," Pliego noted.

It was easy to recruit Gilles Mally for the project. "I just love painting," explained Mally, a junior, who added that he loves not only the colors but everything about painting. "So, I decided to be a part of this amazing art."

worked with Roosevelt students to come up with visual ideas based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Roosevelt.

"Since Roosevelt is an IB School, the main inspiration was to show students, families and visitors what the characteristics of an IB student are," explained Roosevelt art teacher Jaci Smolund. They include these traits: responsible, principled, knowledgeable, risk taker, inquirer, open minded, caring, balanced, reflective and communicator; as well as the Roosevelt motto: Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve.

"Our principal, Michael Bradley, was looking for ways to add more art to the school," commented Smolund. "He saw some of Greta's other murals and knew it would be a beautiful element to have at the main entrance."

According to Bradley, the learning structure around this project is an opportunity for Green Central and Sanford students to use art to see themselves in the mission and vision of Roosevelt High School and the IB Program.

COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

In February, students drew their ideas out on large poster paper and those drawings were then taken to Green Central and Sanford so that the middle school students could add their ideas. Then, McLain drew up the overall design and students used her drawings to assemble the mosaic parts of the piece. Roosevelt students worked on it on Mondays and Thursdays, Green Central Students on Tuesdays and Sanford students on Wednesdays.

In April, the drawing was

transferred to the wall of the front entryway and the painting began. The mosaic parts, featuring colored tile, dishes, mirrors, marbles and glass pieces, were added next.

"The mural design has actual Roosevelt students posing while portraying the learner profiles," Smolund said. "For example, a girl balancing on a unicycle and a thoughtful student reading a text book. There are also butterflies, a large bird, words and other symbols."

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Local libraries bustle in new technology era

By JILL BOOGREN

A group of teens gathers to play the latest Xbox 360 games. A toddler carries an armload of picture books to his mom. People of all ages sit at computers, surfing the web or watching YouTube.

This is an every day scene at Nokomis Library, which reopened in 2011 and has been bustling ever since. With recently renovated buildings (Roosevelt in 2013, East Lake in 2007), expanded hours (now including Mondays at East Lake and Nokomis), and growing visitorship, our neighborhood libraries are booming.

"There is so much love in this community for the library," said Chris Enstad, a regular patron who also volunteers as vice president of Friends of the Nokomis Library.

That this old institution — the public library — can thrive in an age when people are hooked on smartphones, tablets, and e-readers speaks to its adaptability.

"I think libraries have been changing for a really long time," said Amy McNally, senior librarian who supervises Nokomis and Roosevelt. "We had a computerized catalogue for years and have had computers for the public to use for years. We've continued to change and adjust on an ongoing basis."

True, computers were available for use at the library before they got personal, and libraries have been important way stations for printing and making copies. Books on tape are now on CDs, movies on videotape have given way to DVDs — a collection Enstad thinks rivals Netflix for variety.

"I've found really obscure movie stuff, really obscure films," he said. "I'm always surprised at

how much stuff they really have." And now there's the internet, and with it, downloadables: audiobooks, eBooks, music, and videos — all available from the county's library website.

"We have 41 buildings, and downloadables are like a 42nd library," said Deb Reieron, senior librarian at East Lake Library. And people are checking them out. The Hennepin County Library system was one of six in the country with over 1.1 million digital checkouts in 2013, up 46% from 750,000 the previous year.

"Our eBook collection is... one of our fastest growing collections, because demand is there and because availability is there," said McNally.

In some ways, as new technologies emerge, the need for libraries becomes even greater. For many, the first time using a computer and going online was,



Egg shakers are a big hit at Family Storytime at Nokomis Library. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

and still is, at the library. iPads are now available for checkout at Roosevelt (inside the building only). And downloadables are free material that would be cost prohibitive to purchase.

"Libraries are still the great equalizer, because not everyone can afford all that," said Reieron, noting that in an economic downturn one of the first things people let go of is internet service.

But it's not just new gadgets and WiFi. People are using libraries differently, too.

At age 14, Jaime Reese saw they had gaming at the library

and thought it was pretty cool; three years ago, at 19, he decided to bring it back.

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Roosevelt Library is easy access for students coming from the high school across the street, as well as anyone walking, biking, driving or taking the bus. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Browsing the web on a computer at East Lake Library. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

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Viewpoints

Messenger

For more information on submitting letters or news announcements to the Messenger email Calvin deRuyter at editorial@deruyternelson.com.

It's that nice time of the year, when Mr. M. and I can go to lunch and a movie, without feeling guilty. Oh, the guilt is all mine anyway. Mr. M., being raised in Finland, feels very little guilt, if at all. This was one of those things people never discuss. I had no idea Finns (at least immigrants) have no guilt. As for me, I was born with guilt. My mother used it as a tool to get me to study, or work, and clean. We were trained to feel guilty about a dusty living room. "What would people think?" She'd ask. "They think I went ice skating instead," I'd answer.

To Mr. M.'s relief, I haven't had as peaceful a winter as I had hoped. Krista (Mr. M.'s daughter) asked me to fly out to Arizona and help her get the nursery ready for the wee one. Of course, I happily packed my bags and flew out. My five-day stay was difficult, as I expected; Krista is a Type A personality, controlling every movement in the



The Old White House

By SHERRI MOORE

Guilt free laziness

house. We had a couple of low key clashes when I didn't cook something to her specifications. Instead of losing my temper, I escaped to the desert for long walks, while Kayla, the two-year-old, napped.

I was home just a few days, when Krista went into premature labor, which was delayed by her doctor. She was then put on bed rest. We got a call again, and I offered to come out and take care of mother and daughter. I knew it was going to be difficult. It was like tying down a tornado, but, happily, a healthy baby boy, Daniel, was born.

When I returned home, again, I was exhausted. My

right knee hurt from an unfortunate trampoline session, where I showed off a bit—it'd been since high school that I jumped around like that.

All these incidents have had a drain on my energy, and I have declared a moratorium on physical projects. Mr. M. is quite happy. Instead, I've been planning my upcoming projects. There's always work to

do in this old white house. Today, I've been looking for ceiling moldings for the alcove. Trying to keep the cost down, I've looked at composite and Styrofoam, in addition to oak or other kinds of wood. My search has been online, and not successful. If any reader has purchased moldings on line, please email me; I need ideas.

(Sherri Moore is a freelance writer and resident of the Nokomis neighborhood. She and Mr. M. are still renovating their old white house. Sherri welcomes your comments and can be reached at sherrimoore92@msn.com.)

With lots of talent back this spring for the Minnehaha Academy boys track team, they have the potential to soar.

Last season, the Redhawks boys team took second in both the Tri-Metro Conference and Section 4A meets. Additionally, the red-and-white took seventh at the state meet, their highest finish in a decade.

"Our guy's team is both deep and broad, and as such, our ceiling is incredibly high," said Redhawks coach Kristofor Sauer. "We have quality athletes in every event group and some who are capable of pulling down major points in important meets."

Returnees include Dan Birkleland and Jonathan Wabbe on the sprints. Jumpers Mitchell Koeckertiz and Collis McKenzie will help the team's score as will distance runners Andrew Wintz, Ephraim Bird and Ethan Wagner. Sam Lunquist will help the team on hurdles, and Eric Smith will compete on the pole vault.

On the girls side, the Redhawks have some talent back this spring from their Tri-Metro Conference championship team and fifth-place finish in sections last year. Pole vaulters Corinna Brown and Vanda Niemi will give the Redhawks points. Terra Rhoades and Marin Fredrickson are running distance and Ellie Bedingham can add points on the board in sprints. Catherine Dustrude makes a difference on the hurdles and jumps. All of them will need to help the team overcome key losses in sprints and distance from last year's squad.

"Our total numbers are a little smaller for our girls team, but the same positive attitudes and determined personalities are driving us forward there as well," Sauer said.

The Redhawks run in their final Tri-Metro Conference Championship this month, since the school will join the newly formed IMAC (see story on page 11). The red-and-white also have the Section 4A Championship meet this month followed by the state meeting in June.

"Although we have a series of conference meets, our major focus will be performing well at those meets so that we can get quality seeding marks for our championship meets at the season's end," Sauer said.

Roosevelt Teddies boys tennis looking to improve

Teddies boys tennis coach Jose Williamson has team rebuilding to do from last year's 4-8 season.



In The Zone

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Sky's the limit for Minnehaha Academy Boys Track

"This season will be determined by the commitment and attitude each student athlete brings to practice and games," Williamson said. "As far as win/loss record goes, we will determine success and growth by sportsmanship and positive attitudes."

Williamson foresees more talent coming up through the youth program in the next few years.

Pitching needed to another state run at MA

Minnehaha Academy baseball has talent all around coming back from a team that reached last year's tournament.

Getting there again will hinge on a young pitching staff. Thomas Shogren, a junior pitcher, will be looked to for shouldering more of the load. He had a 1-0 record with a 1.40 ERA as a relief pitcher last year.

"We have some great pitchers who are young with little experience," Redhawks coach Scott Glenn said. "We should show improvement throughout the year, but we will be competitive."

Redhawks returnees included junior captain Ford Schroeder, who hit .346 last season. Senior captain Calvin Treichler also gives the team leadership at center field. Three key players, two of them pitchers, graduated last year and now play college baseball.

Roosevelt badminton looks to grow

Teddies coach Rodney Losso has his varsity starters back for badminton this season and hopes to have a stronger finish than last year's 3-12 record.

"I am hoping to go .500 in the conference and win one of my three non-conference matches," Losso said.

Bernarda Avillar, Kolang Vang, Donna Samrith, Nou Thao and Somsanith Thao all started for the Teddies last season and are starting again. Unfortunately for the maroon-and-gold, no ninth graders came out for the team, which makes building the program a challenge.

Minnehaha Academy softball a Tri-Metro contender

Eight starters back from last year gives Minnehaha Academy softball cause for making one last run at the Tri-Metro title.

Last year, the Redhawks went 13-7 overall and took third in Section 4AA under coach Mike DiNardo. He has senior captain Jessamine Von Arx, a fifth-year starter at catcher, back this season. Von Arx batted .531 last season.

"She is strong with quick hands, so she can hit for power," DiNardo said. "She is also an excellent defensive catcher, so it is difficult to steal on her."

Junior captain Jennifer Mrozek has started her fourth year starting at short stop. She hit .552 and scored 31 runs in 2013. Megan Thurow returns to the mound after a 13-0 season while dealing with injuries. Thurow can also swing the bat with a .364 average from last season. Angela Scharf will serve as junior captain at third base. Sarah Kaminski again gives the red-and-white solid defense at first base. Kaminski hit .475 last year.

"As long as we stay healthy we are confident we can compete against any team we face," DiNardo said.

New coaches at Minnehaha

Three new coaches have taken helm for spring sports teams at Minnehaha Academy.

Mike Wiens now coaches the girls golf team, and Hannah Latz leads the girls lacrosse squad. Kris Sauer has taken over as head coach for both the Redhawks boys and girls track teams.

"It has been exciting to see the infusion of energy these coaches have brought to their respective sports," Redhawks athletic director Homar Ramirez said. "I look forward to watching their programs grow and excel over the spring season."

LoLa Art Crawl deadline May 1

The deadline for Artist and Site Registration for 2014 LoLa (League of Longfellow Artists) Art Crawl is May 1. This year's Art Crawl will take place on Sat. and Sun., Aug. 23-24 from 10am to 5pm both days. Artist and site registrants must live or work within these boundaries: east of Cedar Ave. to Mississippi River and south of 28th St. to Crosstown Hwy 62.

All emerging and established artists or craftspeople are welcome to participate! Artists may register their own home/studio in Longfellow as a site, or may participate at a

different site. Registration forms and further information are available at the website: www.lolaartcrawl.com. If you have questions email longfellowartists@gmail.com, or call 612-399-6546.

Any business, organization, or individuals interested in being a sponsor of LoLa Art Crawl 2014 can find sponsorship info at the above website, email or phone number. Sponsorship is a great way to increase your business visibility, and support the neighborhood and its artists!

Stay on top of local events by visiting the *Messenger* Events Calendar at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Submit your local events at LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com It's Free!

Local libraries

Continued from page 3

Now every Thursday, Reese (a.k.a. VEXSIS, his game name) brings his Xbox 360 and maybe a PlayStation 3 or 4, some controllers, and games and transforms the Nokomis Room into Teen Gaming Central.

"My goal is to get 'em in here and expose 'em to the newest, hottest, latest games," said Reese.

He figures he's logged over 200 hours of volunteer time, rarely missing a game night. He runs it with his friend, Eric Tu (a.k.a. Fainted Wisdom), as a democracy: games are voted on by the players—winners play on, losers hand the controller to the next up.

"He wanted to give back to the community, and he's a great mentor for kids and teens," said McNally. "We get a different

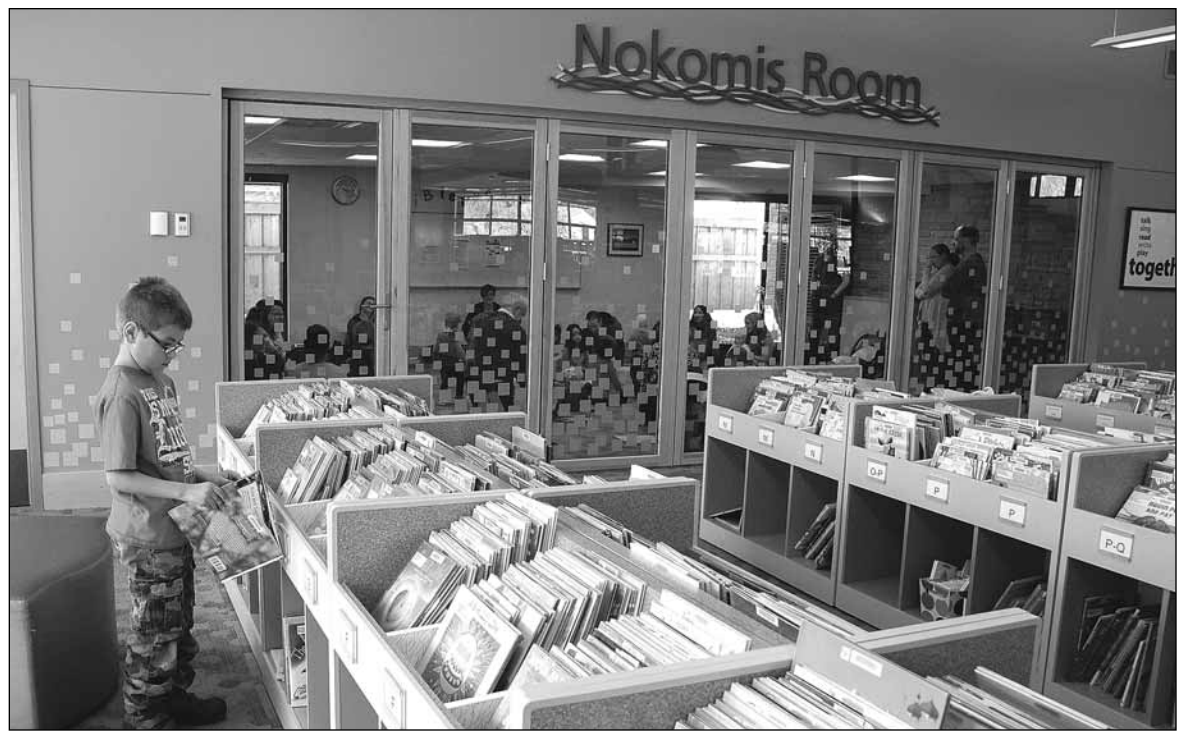
group of teens that participate in that than some of our other programs. It's a great way for them to connect."

The library as a social gathering place isn't a new idea. Writers' groups, book clubs, and children's storytimes are right at home here. But now there are clubs for Teen Anime and Magic the Gathering, the trading card game. Knitting groups assemble. Conversation circles take place for English-language learners. Local art hangs from walls. Kids read to dogs.

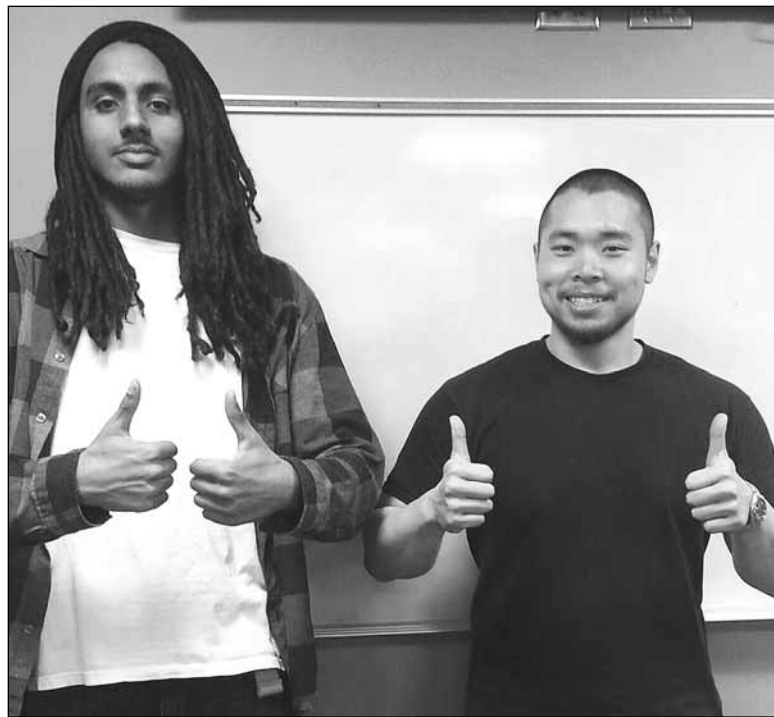
And these are not the hush-hush libraries they once were. You're as likely to hear a young preschooler call out a greeting as he returns his scavenger hunt "find sheet" to the librarian as you are to hear a grown man in headphones laugh out loud to the video he's watching.

"The days of the quiet library are fairly, pretty much gone in most locations," said McNally. It's an intentional goal to make families, especially those with young children, feel welcome.

Emphasis is placed on promoting early literacy, numeracy,



Koda Goggleye browses the stacks. In the Nokomis Room behind him babies and their families gather for storytime. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Jaime Reese and Eric Tu head up Teen Gaming on Thursdays at Nokomis Library. (Photo provided by Jaime Reese)

and kindergarten readiness. At Nokomis, a honeycomb on display connects kids with nature while its hexagonal form teaches about shapes and patterns. Kids count money at the play cafe.

"We want to provide educational play spaces for kids," said McNally. "We understand play is work for children; we give kids opportunity to play."

Above all, the library is a free place to be, for kids, families, the homeless, or the self-employed. And its central role remains the same: help people find information.

As Minnesota-based author Neil Gaiman said in 2010 as honorary chairman of National Library Week: "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one."

With the sheer volume of information available at our fingertips, it can be really hard to get what you need.

"There's still a digital divide," said Reiersen. "We spend a lot of time...every day helping

people on computers."

Patrons also get help with vital services: volunteer tutors help students with homework; a librarian teaches how to raise readers in Roosevelt's teen parenting program; writers from The Loft Literary Center hold writing

grams they offer, with me a chance to volunteer, it's a way to get grounded in the community."

East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St., is open 9am-8pm on Mon., Tue., and Thur.; 9am-5pm on Wed., Fri., and Sat; noon-5pm on Sun.

In some ways, as new technologies emerge, the need for libraries becomes even greater.

workshops; representatives from Goodwill Easter Seals provide job assistance; "navigators" from Minnesota AIDS Project help people apply for health insurance.

With your library, there's no need to go it alone.

"It's so easy to kind of get isolated with the technology," said Enstad. "The library becomes a place where, with pro-

Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave. S., is open noon-8pm on Mon. and Thur.; 9am-5pm on Tue., Wed., Fri., and Sat.; closed Sun.

Roosevelt Library, 4026 28th Ave. S., is open noon-8pm on Tues. and Thur.; 9am-5pm on Sat.; closed Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sun.

Find catalog, programs, and resources at www.hclib.org.

River Gorge Cleanup scheduled April 26

The River Gorge Earth Day Cleanup is an Earth Day tradition in the Minneapolis River Gorge. People come from throughout the local river corridor neighborhoods and metro area to celebrate Earth Day and contribute to the health and vitality of this national treasure, the Mississippi River. ...And enjoy the Parkway Pizza.

Everyone should meet at one of two bluff-top sites along the parkway. Pick whichever works better for you:

- E. 36th St. and W. River Pkwy., an oak savanna actively being restored by FMR Gorge Stewards volunteers.
- E. 44th St. and West River Pkwy., a maple basswood forest also benefiting from Gorge Stewards restoration volunteers.

Participants will see a small tent and signage near the bike and walking trails. (Please note that the start-time is indeed 2pm, we're starting later this year due to a race taking place on the trails earlier in the day.)

Learn more at http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/earth_day_cleanup-2014-04-2.

Nokomis East Neighborhood-Wide Yard & Garage Sale Saturday, June 28



Sell your treasures, or buy theirs.

Be a part of the fun! **Sellers**, pre-register with NENA for free advertising and a spot on the printed listing and map.

Registration Deadline is June 16

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For more information or to register your sale, please contact NENA (below) or visit us at:

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South side neighborhoods to gain new transit links with SW LRT

McLaughlin cites project's citywide benefits

By IRIC NATHANSON

The Southwest Corridor LRT project will give south side neighborhoods, including Longfellow and Nokomis, access to major new transit links, according to Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin.

McLaughlin, who chairs the multi-county Transit Improvement Board, applauded a recent action by the Metropolitan Council to move the controversial project forward despite objections by Minneapolis city officials and some city residents. On Apr. 9 the Council approved a plan to run the light rail line through a series of two tunnels in the Kenilworth corridor between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake.

Neighborhood residents and their supporters in City Hall object to routing the LRT through Kenilworth if the Twin Cities and Western Railroad continues to operate its trains through the same corridor. They claim that St. Louis Park is renegeing on its commitment to permit a railroad reroute through its neighborhoods, a claim that St. Louis Park officials dispute.

"With all the controversy over the route through the west end of town, it is easy to lose sight of the

citywide benefits from the Southwest LRT," McLaughlin said

"In terms of jobs alone, the benefits are huge," he noted. "People all along our Blue Line in South Minneapolis will get direct access to over 200,000 jobs in places like St. Louis Park, Hopkins and Eden Prairie when the new LRT gets out to those communi-

"More than 30 years ago, people in Longfellow and Nokomis came together to lay the groundwork for the Hiawatha LRT.

That was a difficult project, but we were able to make it happen. Those efforts should serve as a guide as we work through the LRT issues facing us today."

- Peter McLaughlin
Hennepin County Commissioner

ties. Right now, if you live in Longfellow but you work in Eden Prairie you need to face a "white knuckle" drive on Highway 62 or 494 during a snowstorm in order to get to your job. You won't have to do that with the new LRT line if you work near a transit center," McLaughlin added.

The proposed Southwest LRT anticipates a 15-mile transit line from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie. The new transit route

will connect with the Hiawatha LRT, now known as the Blue Line, and the Green Line to downtown St. Paul, scheduled to open in June.

Under the plan approved by the Council, the Southwest line would be submerged in two tunnels built on either side of the channel connecting Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake. The line

would emerge from the first tunnel and pass over a bridge spanning the channel before descending into the second tunnel.

Now that the Council has voted to move the project forward, cities along the 15 mile LRT line will have an opportunity to express their views on the proposed route. At this point, it is not clear whether Minneapolis will be able to scuttle the entire project if the city maintains its objection to the Kenil-

worth tunnel plan. Area residents will be able to provide feedback on the LRT plan at joint hearing sponsored by the Hennepin County Rail Authority and the Metropolitan Council at the Hennepin County Government Center at 6pm on Mon., May 12. McLaughlin, an architect of the Hiawatha LRT, now helps oversee funding for new light rail developments as chair of the Transit Board, which allocates sales tax funds for transit projects in the metro area. He wants Minneapolis officials to work with the Metropolitan Council to resolve the current controversy. "This project is too important to let it slip through our fingers," said McLaughlin, whose commissioner district includes Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods.

worth tunnel plan.

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"The Kenilworth corridor is the only real option for Southwest LRT at this point," he maintained. "Relocating the trains through a new route in St. Louis Park is something the railroad doesn't want to do, and even if it did, we would still have to deal with opposition from people in the Park. Promises may have been made 17 years ago, but a lot has happened since then. We need to face the

situation as it is today."

"The claim has been made that Southwest LRT doesn't benefit Minneapolis, but that is not the case. The new line will have three stations serving North Minneapolis, which will give people in that community access to employment in high growth places like the job hubs in Eden Prairie. That issue has not gotten enough attention during the current debate."

"We also keep hearing that funds can be transferred to other LRT projects in the Twin Cities if Southwest goes down, but there is no guarantee that will happen. Cities all over the country are waiting in line to get federal funds for their transit projects. If the new line to Eden Prairie is postponed or cancelled, transit officials in Washington could send the money earmarked for our area to places that are ready to move ahead with their own projects."

"More than 30 years ago, people in Longfellow and Nokomis came together to lay the groundwork for the Hiawatha LRT. That was a difficult project, but we were able to make it happen. Those efforts should serve as a guide as we work through the LRT issues facing us today," McLaughlin added.

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NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH AND DOUG WALTER, NENA STAFF

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Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop – May 31

Our annual Growing Monarch Habitat workshop will be offered on Sat., May 31, 9:30-11am at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. The workshop will show how you can make a difference in saving monarch butterflies and other pollinator populations devastated by habitat loss.

Monarch butterflies need milkweed to reproduce. They are the only plants that monarch caterpillars eat, so increasing the availability of milkweed is critical to the survival of the monarch migration, as well as the Minnesota monarch population. Small urban gardens can make a big difference in making up for the loss of rural habitat.

The workshop discussion will include the Monarch butterfly life cycle, migration and required habitat needs; the best native plants for monarchs, and how to plan your garden. The class is presented by Vicki Joy Bonk, a NENA volunteer who has served as the Nokomis Naturescape park stewardship leader for 15 years.

A "Garden-to-Go" kit is included in the registration cost of \$25. It has a selection of native plants (milkweed, nectar and shelter) and instructions for starting your own monarch garden. To register, download the form at www.nokomiseast.org or www.monarchfestival.org or call the NENA office (612-724-5652) for a copy. Attendance is free if you do not need the kit.

NEBA Annual Meeting

The Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) will hold its annual meeting on Tues., Apr. 29 at Faith

Lutheran Church (3430 E 51st St.), 6-8pm. Everyone is welcome.

All Nokomis East businesses (retail, home-based, professional, etc.) and community organizations are eligible to be members of NEBA. Non-members can join at the meeting and continuing members can renew their membership at the same time. The meeting will feature Park Commissioner Steffanie Musich, a review of 2013 projects, updates on the 2014 plans, and dinner.

Nokomis East Garage Sale – June 28

Our neighborhood garage and yard sale is in its 5th year and continues to grow. Last year 139 sales were listed on the map. It's a good way to clean out clutter while making a little money. People find it's also a fun, casual way to catch up with neighbors and meet new residents.

The deadline to register is Mon., June 16. Blocks that have at least two sales on the map have more shoppers, so ask you neighbors to participate. It draws more customers, and brings more neighbors together.

NENA will do the advertising for the event. It will be on the Star Tribune garage sale calendar, and advertised again in the days leading up to the sale. It will also be promoted on Craigslist, on Minneapolis forums and our Facebook page.

We put all registered sales on a map and address list along with a short description of your items. The map will be available online and at select neighborhood businesses on June 24. Listing is free, but you must be located south of Minnehaha Pkwy. and East of Cedar Ave. The

sale is a rain-or-shine event, advertised from 8am until 4pm. You can set you own hours and extra days beyond the advertised time, and note it in your description.

All you need to do is register by June 16 and then organize your own sale. You can pick up a registration form at the NENA office, or download it from our website: www.nokomiseast.org. Return it to NENA office at 3000 East 50th St., Minneapolis, MN 55417, or you can call the NENA office at 612-724-5652, and we will take down the information.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

NEBA Annual Meeting: 6:30pm, Tues., Apr. 29, at Faith Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St.

NENA Board Meeting: 7pm, Thur., May 22 at the NENA office, 3000 E. 50th St.

Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop: 9:30-11am, Sat., May 31, at Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

Nokomis East Garage Sale: 8am-4pm, Sat., June 28. Register by June 16. Maps available beginning June 24.

Last-minute schedule changes are posted on our Calendar page at www.nokomiseast.org.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, contact the NENA Office at 612-724-5652 or email nenan@nokomiseast.org.

NENA welcomes requests for accommodations. Please call 612-724-5652 or email rulrich@nokomiseast.org at least 5 days in advance of a meeting to make arrangements.

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Garden local

Continued from page 1

"We were organic before organic was cool," said Pelini.

They work to be an affordable urban boutique center with what O'Connor calls "a small footprint, huge selection." Their plants are grown in Minnesota and Wisconsin and include annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables. They also carry hundreds of native varieties, including trees and shrubs.

Mother Earth has a garden consultation business that ranges from an hour's worth of garden coaching all the way to a full-scale plant list. They do very little installation (and only after the busy season) and no hardscaping.

Check out their "gutterponics" system - made up of copper downspouts with five buckets that each become little gardens. The remaining water goes to rain barrels, which are used for spot watering.

"It shows people one more way to capture and use water resourcefully," said Pelini.

Bird baths, garden pots, and steel trellises are for sale, as well as art pieces for pot, garden, and home.

Mother Earth's response to neonics (see sidebar below):

They've published a handout about the use of neonics and its potential impacts on bees and other pollinators. One of their suppliers, Green Value, made a commitment to stop using neonics, so Mother Earth transferred a large portion of their tree and shrub order to them, as well as all of the plants that are bee-pollinated.

Hours:

Mon.-Wed., 9am-7pm; Thur.-Fri., 9am-8pm; Sat., 9am-6pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. www.motherearthgarden.com

Plantique

5152 Hiawatha Ave. S.

Plantique has been at its Hiawatha Ave. location since 2000, just a few years before the light rail became operational.

Owner Bruce Bale is a big advocate for shopping local. All of his plant products, including



Plantique owner Bruce Bale greets people at his booth at the Nokomis East Business Association block party last fall. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees, are grown in Farmington, MN.

"Buying local, is very, very important," he said. "The money that you spend local, stays local." Another benefit, as stated on Plantique's website, is that perennials, trees and shrubs nurtured in our climate zone are more likely able to cope with our seasonal extremes.

Bale takes pride in carrying a wide selection of unique and unusual annuals. He offers a variety of morning glories, heirlooms, and lesser-known herbs, like dark opal basil. He also has a large selection of succulents and sun-tolerant coleus plants. He figures about 50% of his plants and about 60% of his treatments are organic.

Plantique gets unbagged

mulch and soils by the truckload and sells it by the yard.

Landscaping services include installing patios, walls, rock gardens, and plantings. They also offer a "pick-a-pot" deal that allows people to order planted pots for graduation parties and other events.

Bale said he has scoured sources to find more reasonably priced pottery, without diminishing quality and colors. Also, in the building behind the store is a collector's gallery, with garden-related antiques and collectibles.

Plantique's response to neonics:

He's had conversations with growers about moving completely away from it. "Everybody's on board with doing it," said Bale.

He encourages people using organics for pest control, which he fully supports, to be patient and consistent for best results.

Hours:

Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. Located on Hiawatha Ave. at 52nd St. on the west side of the tracks. Dogs are welcome. You might even want to pick up a Shampooo grooming bar for your best friend. www.plantiquempls.com



Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators pollinate about 75% of our flowers and crops. Beekeepers estimate they lose 30-40% of their hives annually due to pesticides and other factors. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

The buzz about bees

By JILL BOOGREN

By now you may have seen reports that a widely used class of pesticides thought to be bee friendly may actually be harming bees and other pollinators.

Called neonicotinoids, or "neonics," these were hailed as a non-toxic alternative for growers but might actually be contributing to Colony Collapse Disorder, a dying off of bees.

Neonics "can mess with [bees'] ability to find their way home," said Erin Rupp, partner at The Beez Kneez in the Seward neighborhood. They can also affect reproduction, mobility, and bees' ability to find food. Beekeepers are losing 30-40% of their hives annually due to pesticides and other factors.

Bees may be tiny, but this is no small matter. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators pollinate about 75% of our flowers and crops, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lose the bees, and we lose our food.

Continued on page 12



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Build it, and they will come

By JAN WILLMS

This adage, from the film "Field of Dreams," has been taken to heart by Joel Ahlstrom, owner of the Longfellow Market.

Rather than building from scratch, he renovated an old building for his new store at 3815 Lake St. Citing a need in the neighborhood for an "old-fashioned grocery store," Ahlstrom is certain that residents of the community, as well as other areas of the Metro, will come.

"We've been planning this store for 20 years," he said, as he rushed off to a meeting the week before the store opened in mid-April.

It has been about one year since he brought plans to the Longfellow Community Council and began working with city planners and architects, electricians and plumbers and the neighborhood to turn his dream into reality.

His 51 years in the grocery business have served him well as a basis for operating a store and providing customers with the service and products they desire.

"One of the biggest hurdles has been restoring this building from the 1920s," said Ken Larson, store director. "We tried to refurbish the building because it was the right thing to do. It has so much character, and we wanted to bring it back to an earlier era. We have pressed-in tin ceilings and oak floors."

He said one of the major challenges was an old oil tank they found in the ground that had to be removed and the soil checked before proceeding. The weather this winter also

was a big factor. Larson noted that buying the properties and getting all the permits and working with all the variables involved was another challenge. "It would be nice to have another month or two to fine-tune everything" he said.

"We had a soft opening," he continued, "and once we have all the kinks worked out, we will have a grand opening."

Larson said Andrew Johnson, Ward 12 council member, has been a big advocate for the store. "He called me every week to see if we're open yet for him to shop here," Larson chuckled.

Originally called the Riverside Market, after other stores that Ahlstrom has owned and operated, this store's name was changed to Longfellow Market because of the neighborhood's interest.

"The Longfellow community is closely knit," Larson said. "After getting to know people, and seeing how excited they are to have a neighborhood grocery, it just seemed natural to call it Longfellow Market."

The store features a deli, bak-



Longfellow Market manager Ken Larson said that construction issues related to restoring a 90 year old building, including an old oil tank that was found in the ground, were all challenging. Now that they are open, Larson says that customer service will be paramount to their success. (Photo by Jan Willms)



Longfellow Market has a large deli counter to serve customers. The staff dresses in white shirts and blouses, black pants and bow ties, emphasizing the look of an old-fashioned grocer. (Photo by Denis Woulfe)

ery, meat and produce departments.

"We have the best department heads you can find," Larson claimed. "No managers, but a lot of great leaders, people who understand customer service."

The customer service aspect is one Larson said will be strongly emphasized at Longfellow Market. "Every employee has a customer request form," he explained. "If customers don't find the product they want, they can request it and I will get it for them."

He said he does not consider the store to be in the food business, but in the people business, stressing the importance of a staff that smiles and is ready to meet the customers' needs.

"There is always an opportunity, if a customer is unhappy, to talk to that person and make a friend," Larson said.

He said the store is starting out with 45-50 employees, but he expects that number to rise to about 80 within six months. "We have hired mostly neighborhood people and have a very eclectic group," he noted.

Larson, who used to work at Kowalski's and was a market analyst for Super Valu, said he thinks Longfellow Market will be a great supporting retailer for other businesses that will move into the area.

The store hopes to emphasize its old-fashioned quality with barbershop quartets performing once a month and demonstrations by local companies. Someone from Kemps will show how to make ice cream, and someone from Land O' Lakes will demonstrate how to churn butter.

"I'll have a lot of unique items from Minnesota," Larson said, "that will be unique to this

store." He cited a creator of a barbecue sauce that will be on the market's shelves, along with demonstrations. He said Longfellow Market will have organic, natural and regular food products that will appeal to every type of consumer.

"We have our own smokehouse for our sticks and jerky, with double-smoked bacon and ham. We also have 190 different kinds of cheese," Larson said.

The store plans to be competitive with prices offered both by organic markets and big food chain stores.

"We are also using a lot of Minnesota companies," he said, "such as General Mills, Crystal Farms, Gedney Pickles, Jenny-O and Hormel. We're working with the Minnesota Grocers Association and teaching people to buy locally."

The staff dresses in white shirts and blouses, black pants and bow ties, emphasizing the look of an old-fashioned grocer. The 18,000-sq-ft store is spacious, but not so large people will get lost in it, according to Larson.

He said he has received no negative feedback from the community, and he thinks the neighbors really care about getting a local market. And the market hopes to return that caring feeling.

"I want to work with vendors to create a way to give back to the community," Larson stated, "whether it's through food drives or fundraisers or putting basketball hoops in the parks. I already have sponsors like Pepsi, Coke and General Mills who are willing to help us do something."

"People have been very supportive," Larson added. "Our success depends on how we take care of our customers."

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9am - 3pm (full-day) \$175
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8-14 Year Olds

Summer Skills Challenge - July 14-18

9am - 12 noon (half-day) \$95
9am - 3pm (full-day) \$175
Orchard Rec Center

9-18 Year Olds

Striker / Keeper Camp - June 16-20

9am - noon \$150
McMurray Fields

9-14 Year Olds

Soccer World Cup Camp - June 23-27

9am - 12 noon (half-day) \$95
9am - 3pm (full-day) \$175
Orchard Rec Center

12-18 Year Olds

Competitive Player Camp - July 21-25

9am-11am \$150
McMurray Fields



Details and registration at
www.blackhawksoccer.org



Longfellow Market is offering more than 190 varieties of cheese. They also have their own smokehouse for sticks and jerky, with double-smoked bacon and ham. They will have organic, natural, and regular food products that should appeal to every customer. (Photo by Jan Willms)

Glass art show

Continued from page 1

"I personally teach 200 to 300 people a year in beginner's classes," Sandy said.

He explained the differences in the forms of glass. Stained glass is colored glass that is cut into pieces and formed into a mosaic, usually used in windows.

Sandy explained that Louis Tiffany started experimenting by mixing colors in the glass. Tiffany used opalescent glass in a variety of colors and textures to create a unique style of stained glass.

"All glass is already premade by manufacturers," Sandy said. "No color is added to the glass by the artist. Even if there is any painting on glass, the paint itself

is in black or brown.

Sandy said that in fusing glass, one takes pre-manufactured colored glass that is made scientifically so that its expansion and contraction rates are the same.

"You put multiple layers together in different techniques and melt together in a kiln. This provides totally unique pieces for windows, jewelry or bowls."

He said mosaic is usually colored glass, and bits and pieces are glued to a substrate and then grouted, similar to what would be done with bathroom tile.

"It's very fulfilling to teach people and help them find their creative spark," Sandy said. "Some who take the Color and Design class for stained glass artists said they have never thought about how the design and color work together. They have said that after the class they look at the world differently."

Sandy said he sometimes teaches a class that uses primarily traditional "male" tools, and 80 per cent of the participants are women, learning how to solder a piece of art.

He also draws and paints with oils, with many of his paintings on the walls of the store.

"Occasionally I will teach a drawing class for stained glass artists," he said. "We try to teach college-level classes that can be understood by the beginning artist," Sandy said.

Besides offering classes at all levels, Glass Endeavors repairs stained glass windows, dishes and porcelain.

"We grind chips out of goblets, something not many people do anymore," Sandy noted. He said that there are only about a couple major retail outlets like Glass Endeavors left. In the 1980s, there were ten such

stores, but their owners have retired or moved on.

He said the most popular product that people buy is usually windows, which can be custom-designed. For window repair, the window has to be removed and laid flat, since it involves resoldering.

A bin in the store is filled with small pieces of colored glass.

"We collect the glass and give it to TSE," Sandy explained. TSE is a company that supports individuals with developmental

and other intellectual disabilities.

"They use the glass and make stepping stones, and we sell them here."

Sandy stressed the importance that creative arts can have for everyone, whether it is a way of making a living or therapeutic relief from a long day at the office.

"We'll have someone come and start a beginner's class, and they'll tell us that they went home and worked on a project and suddenly it's 2am in the morning, and they're still at it."



As the Messenger went to press, the current show was not ready to be photographed, but a photo from a previous Annual Glass Art Show shows the diversity that is a hallmark of the exhibit. Owners expect upwards of 100 people to attend the opening at noon on April 26.



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Longfellow Neighborhood Garage Sale

Summer is approaching quickly and it is almost garage sale season! The Greater Longfellow Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday June 20th and Saturday June 21st. Registration will be available at Longfellow.org from May 20th - June 6th. Please contact Joe with any questions 612.722.4529 ext 13 or joe@longfellow.org



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For more information: www.mncee.org/hes-mpls

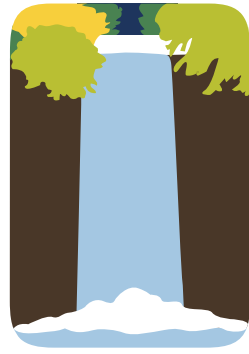
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Already had a visit? Get your home certified with Energy Fit Homes - a new home certification program designed exclusively for existing homes and focused on energy efficient upgrades. To learn more visit mnenenergyfit.org or call 612-335-3483.

River Gorge Birding Hike

Saturday, May 10, 2014, 7:00-10:00, FREE

Wake with the birds to greet the returning spring songsters! Join local birding expert Dave Zumeta for an exploration of the world-class flyway in our "front yard" along the Longfellow river gorge, and see who's back! Over 160 bird species have been observed in this area!



Bring your binoculars (or let us know you need a pair) and a water bottle and snack. Wear sturdy shoes for exploring the river bluff, forest and banks. The event is free, but RSVP is required, as the number of participants will be limited. RSVP to joannalund@longfellow.org and you will be provided with the meeting place and starting location for the hike.

Sponsored by the Longfellow Community Council's River Gorge Committee

Save the Date!

The Community Warming Party and Summer Celebration at Fireroast Café on Tuesday, June 24th from 5-7pm. This LCC fundraiser will have food, activities for kids and a lot of ways to help support LCC! FFI jessica@longfellow.org



New T-Shirts!

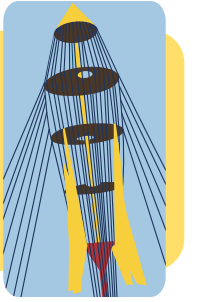
New T-shirts are available in the LCC office during business hours! The shirts are organic cotton and come in crew neck or v-neck styles in navy blue. They are \$15 each.



**TOGETHER
WE MAKE
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SAFER**
CALL 911 TO REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

"Together We Make Our Neighborhood Safer" signs will be available again in May at the Longfellow Community Council office. We've had numerous requests for these since our first printing. Stop by the LCC office during regular business hours - Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm - to pick up your new yard sign. There is a \$ 5.00 suggested donation per sign. For more information contact joannalund@longfellow.org

Join LCC at Harriet Brewing for Happy Hour on Wednesday May 14th! Come meet your neighbors and get to know the local brewery from 4:30-6pm. This is a just-for-fun event! Bring your family, friends and neighbors! FFI jessica@longfellow.org



Calendar of Meetings and Events

MAY 2014

Meetings are free and open to the public, and are accessible. Check the calendar on our website www.longfellow.org

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 7
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Fireroast Café, 3800 37th Ave
FFI: jessica@longfellow.org

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, May 12
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: joe@longfellow.org

LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, May 13
12:00 - 1:30 pm
FFI: joannalund@longfellow.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, May 13
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: joannalund@longfellow.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 15
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S
FFI: melanie@longfellow.org

RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 20
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Hiawatha School Park, 4305 42nd St. E
FFI: joannalund@longfellow.org

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, May 27
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: joe@longfellow.org

COOPER

HOWE

LONGFELLOW



HIAWATHA

Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406

612.722.4529 • www.longfellow.org

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In Our Community

Messenger

Send us your news to editorial@deruyternelson.com! When you submit your press release it will be considered for the newspaper as well as the Messenger Facebook page ([Facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger](https://www.facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger)). You can also go to our website, LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com and enter the information in the online Event Calendar.

Guided Bird Hike set in River Gorge

Wake with the birds to greet the returning spring songsters! On Sat., May 10, Dave Zumeta of the MN Forest Resource Council will lead a bird watching excursion from 7-10am in the Mississippi River Gorge. Over 160 bird species have been observed in this area and Zumeta is a local birding expert who will help hikers explore the world-class flyway in our "front yard" along the Longfellow river gorge.

Bring your binoculars (or let us know you need a pair) and a water bottle and snack. Wear sturdy shoes for exploring the river bluff, forest and banks. The event is free, but RSVP is required, as the number of participants will be limited. RSVP to and you will be provided with the meeting place and starting location for the hike.

The guided bird hike is sponsored by the Longfellow Community Council's River Gorge Committee.

Spring Fiesta planned May 22

Hiawatha/Howe Community School will be hosting their annual Spring Fiesta on Thur., May 22 from 4:30-7:30pm. All are invited to this event which will include pony rides, games with prizes, inflatables, a photo booth, tasty food and much more. There will be a Raffle for themed baskets filled with a variety of items as well as a silent auction for goods and gift certificates donated by many neighborhood businesses. This year's Fiesta will be held at Howe which is located at 3733 43rd Ave. S. If you have questions, please call the PTO at 612-642-1786.

2015 reconstruction topic of May 8 meet

Longfellow Business Association hosts Hennepin County staff on Thur., May 8, 1:30 - 2:30pm, to present staging plans for the Minnehaha Ave. reconstruction project slated to begin in Spring 2015. The meeting will be held at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S. For further information email ruth@longfellow.org or call 612-722-4529 x10.

Program highlights seniors downsizing

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a presentation about downsizing on Tues., May 20 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. You've decided to move – now what do you do with all your

stuff? How do you move it or get rid of it? Hear from representatives of Rose's Daughters and Minnesota Estate Sales about how they work with people who want to transition to a new living situation. Learn about your options and how planning can make the process easier. For questions, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

Bethany sponsors Salad Luncheon

Bethany Lutheran Church will sponsor their Ladies Salad Luncheon on Sat., May 17, noon at the church, 3901 36th Ave. S. Salivate over salads sweet and spicy and enjoy music from the Kitchen Kut-Ups Kitchen Band. Tickets are \$8. Make reservations by calling the Bethany church office at 612-729-9376 or email at office@bethanyon36th.com.

Minnehaha Academy now part of IMAC

Minnehaha Academy has joined with five other Twin Cities independent schools to form the Independent Metro Athletic Conference (IMAC) for competition beginning in the fall of the 2014-2015 school year. The five other schools are The Blake School, Breck School, Mounds Park Academy, Providence Academy and St. Paul Academy and Summit School.

The new conference will benefit students directly in a number of ways. "Our IMAC member schools currently provide a wide range and large number of athletic offerings," said Blake Athletic Director Nick Rathmann. "In the IMAC, we will be able to ensure competitiveness, equitable promotion, and strong recognition for all our student-athletes across all sports."

Homar Ramirez, Minnehaha Academy Athletic Director, agreed. "Forming the IMAC provides a level of scheduling flexibility, as well as an opportunity to honor all student-athletes in an equitable manner," said Ramirez.

The schools sought to create a conference based on the shared belief that athletics should operate in harmony with the educational mission of each member school.

The formation of the new conference follows recent changes to the Tri-Metro Conference, the former home of the six schools. In recent years, the Tri-Metro expanded the number of member schools to sixteen, creating a large disparity in enrollment numbers of the member schools and posing significant scheduling challenges.

Alice Cooper focus of film premiere

Sound Unseen presents the MN

Premiere of the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival documentary, "Super Duper Alice Cooper," as part of their monthly film series, Wed., May 14, 7pm, at the Trylon microcinema. The Trylon is located at 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S. Tickets are \$8.

"Super Duper Alice Cooper" (2014, Canada, 86 min., HD) is the story of Vincent Furnier, preacher's son, who struck fear into the hearts of parents everywhere as Alice Cooper, the ultimate rock star of the bizarre. From the advent of Alice as front man for a group of Phoenix freaks in the sixties to the hazy decadence of celebrity in the seventies to the winking comeback as glam metal godfather in the eighties, one will watch in wonder as Alice and Vincent battle for each other's souls.

The story is told in the form of a "doc opera," a dizzying blend of documentary and rock opera that combines audio interviews with a bounty of Alice Cooper archive footage. Concerts, TV appearances, movie cameos, newspaper headlines, magazine spreads and many other visual elements have been cut out, layered and collaged like a cinematic View-Master.

For tickets go to <http://soundunseen.com/buy-tickets>.

Native Plant order deadline May 20

Twin Cities Chapter of Wild Ones is taking orders for their annual Native Plant Sale now through May 20 (order deadline). Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, is a non-profit group that promotes preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Once established, native plants have the ability to do well with the swings in cold, wet springs and hot, dry summers.

Plants must be pre-ordered: check the web site for an order form and details about the plants available at www.wildonestwincities.org/p/plant-sale.html. The pick-up date is Sun., June 1, 12-3pm at 4009 Minnehaha Ave. S. (next to Visual Expressions).

Each plant collection is selected for a specific type of location, including: sunny/well-drained areas, woodland shade, and boulevard and rock gardens. Special "Clay Buster" collections for sun, shade and semi-shade include plants happy in each of those areas. Sunny and part-sun collections attract monarchs, swal-

lowlights, bees and other pollinators. You can also order native shrubs that work and look wonderful in our city yards.

Bethany sponsors luncheon May 6

On Tues., May 6, Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.) will sponsor "Power Down: Lunch Unplugged on 36th Ave." Enjoy a light lunch at noon with your Longfellow neighbors while having a chance to connect and network. A \$5 donation towards lunch is appreciated but not required. For questions, contact email office@bethanyon36th.com.

Community dinner planned May 3

"Soundbytes: Dinner Church on 36th Ave" will be held Sat., May 3, 5-7:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3901 36th Ave. S. Feed your soul; prepare the meal together in community and worship and share food at the table. Reservations appreciated by emailing office@bethanyon36th.com.

Annual Plant Swap planned May 31

Is this the year you thin out the rudbeckia and tame those perennial grasses? Or are you looking for joe pye weed or Russian sage to liven the boulevard? Whether you have give-away bags of too-successful perennials or are looking for flower bed or boulevard fillers, the Longfellow Garden Club's annual Plant Swap is the place to come.

The Plant Swap will be held, rain or shine, or snow, at the west side of the Sanford Middle School (3524 41st Ave.) parking lot on Sat., May 31. You can bring plants beginning at 11am. Swapping plants starts at noon. (Note: plants are mostly gone by 12:30.) All traces of the Swap will disappear by 1pm.

Swap rules: label what you bring, donate a few dollars if you took plants but didn't bring any, take home any of yours that are left.

Garden Club events are free and open to the public.

Zumbra down at Hope Lutheran

Designed especially for seniors, Zumbra Gold is low-impact, easy to follow dance routines that will get your blood pumping. Come and shake it at your own pace every Wednesday (through May 21), 10:30-11:15am at Hope Lutheran Church, 5728 Cedar Ave.



Local women in Diva Gala May 9-10

Longfellow/Nokomis residents Dianne Berg, Barb Gacek, Jeannie Loh, Susan Terry, Samantha Wenwoi, Brigid Riley and Naomi Siegal will perform with The Twin Cities Women's Choir (TCWC) at the choir's annual Divas and Desserts Gala on May 9 and 10. This year's gala theme is "Minnesota! Nice!" featuring musical stories about growing up and living in Minnesota, and what we treasure most about calling this state home. The gala features music, desserts, live and silent auction.

In keeping with TCWC's mission of supporting new choral music by and for women, the choir will premiere two new works written specifically for this concert. The debut of "Bdote" ("where two waters come together"), a piece by well-known Minnesota composer Janika Vanderveelde and supported by donations to a project funded through GiveMN. Also, the debut of "Funkytown Remix," a piece sponsored by the Carol Rue Commission Fund and composed by TCWC's assistant director, Randi Grundahl Rexroth.

On both nights, the silent auction starts at 6:30pm and doors open at 7pm for seating for the 7:30 performance and live auction. The gala will be held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave. S. Pre-sale admission for adults is \$25 and for seniors and students is \$22. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$30. Order tickets at www.TwinCitiesWomensChoir.org or 612-333-8292.

Continued on page 13

County happy to anchor L & H Station Development

by TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Imagine a Hennepin County Service Center conveniently located in your neighborhood. Now add retail businesses and offices next to it along Lake St. Place a green roof above a 100-space parking area.

Situate multi-story apartment buildings, some with units that walk out directly to the street and others that overlook the light rail station along Hiawatha. They have balconies and terraces. Inner courtyards provide space for gardens and gatherings. Rain gardens and green roofs are sprinkled throughout the development, designed to help with storm water management (while exceeding those standards). Underground parking is available for the apartments. A bike trail follows the light rail tracks.

Add in a one-third-acre area set aside for the farmer's market and urban park, one that includes a stage area for outdoor concerts as well as indoor bathrooms. Envision a 6am yoga class filling the park.

These are all pieces of the current proposal for the 6.4-acre site at Lake and Hiawatha. It's very similar to an earlier plan for the site, except that the county building is the anchor for the L & H Station Development rather than Minneapolis School's adult basic education program.

LOCAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED

Local residents learned about the plan during a public meeting on Apr. 3 held at the Brown Building, the facility owned by the Minneapolis School District that currently sits on the property. The entire parcel at 2225 E. Lake St. is owned by the school district, and the district and county are negoti-



Midtown Market Manager Miguel Goebel is concerned that the current L&H Station plan places the Farmers Market back off Lake Street because many people are drawn to shop at the market when they see it set up. He shared his opinion during a public meeting about the project on Apr. 3. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

ating for the sale of the land. The cost is estimated at between \$7-9 million.

"It's nice to see a packed house for such an important project," stated Corcoran Neighborhood Organization Land Use Committee Chair Philip Koski.

"How can we make buildings that aren't the same old?" asked City Council member Alondra Cano. "This project is about people and collaborations."

"We couldn't be more excited about this development," said Don Sabre of Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department.

Putting together a 100,000-square-foot county facility, retail, mixed-use housing and a farmer's market is a magical formula, according to developer Jack Boorman of BKV Group. "It's a wonderful opportunity."

The current plan varies slightly from the one presented four years ago. Instead of the school district anchoring the site, a county social services building will. This six-story building will run along Lake St. and 22nd Ave., which will give the school district several years to vacate the Brown.

The shift also allows the farmer's market area to be one-third larger, making it more like an urban park.

Phase one on the northwest side includes 125 housing units, retail and office and the 100,000-square foot county facility. There will be between 3 to 4 phases in all, spread out over several years, as developers are sensitive to the needs of the school district.

"It's all about you. It's all about us. It's all about community," said Boorman.

1 IN 5 RESIDENTS USE SOCIAL SERVICES

The county facility will be "a one-stop experience for folks to get their needs met," according to Sabre. It will be similar to one in Brooklyn Park that opened in October 2012 and the Bloomington location that opened in February 2014.

The county is decentralizing its services and intends to open four more several social service hubs throughout Hennepin County, including this new one in south Minneapolis and others in Hop-

kins, north Minneapolis, and downtown Minneapolis. It plans to close its large downtown Century Plaza building in 2015.

"The beauty of this hub is the great transit access on Lake and Hiawatha," observed Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin.

Sabre pointed out that 1 in 5 south Minneapolis residents use the services provided by his department. He expects 950 people to be in and out of the county building a day. They will have approximately 300 employees, whose hours will be staggered.

450 HOUSING UNITS

There will be a mix of 450 housing units in this development, with both affordable housing and market rate options, that house between 600-800 people. There will be smaller units of 550 square feet with one bedroom, and also larger units with four bedrooms for families. Taller apartment buildings will sit near the lightrail line, while townhouse units will ring the edge near existing single-family homes.

Meeting attendees asked

questions about parking. Some expressed concern that there be enough while others envisioned a development that didn't support cars, and pushed for a pedestrian boulevard.

Boorman acknowledged that parking must be supplied within the development, and not push out into the streets or neighborhood. He pointed out that a parking and traffic study will be done soon to study the area, taking into account traffic at the YWCA across the street.

Sabre pointed out that county employees are encouraged to use public transit and given discounts on a metro card.

Currently, the Met Council rents space for a Park-and-Ride lot at the site. The future of the lot for commuter parking has not yet been determined.

ABE AND TRANSITION PLUS

Currently, the building on the site is used for the school district's adult basic education program, and its Transitions Plus program for ages 18-21 with disabilities is supposed to move into the building in 2015.

Richard Doty of the Minneapolis School District noted that the district is considering several options for where the ABE and Transitions Plus programs will be moved.

Several people spoke out in support of keeping the programs there.

"The school district wants to be a part of where we go with this," stated Robert Doty of the Minneapolis School District.

Last year the district rejected an \$83 million multi-use development plan for the parcel because the cost to replace the Brown Building was more than it was willing to pay.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

Bethany Lutheran
3901 36th Ave S • 612-729-9376
www.bethanyon36th.com

Pastor Jo Bauman
Sundays Worship 10:30 am
Education for all ages 9:15 am
Saturday May 3 - Soundbytes Dinner Church at 5 pm
Tuesday May 6 - Power Down Lunch Unplugged at Noon
Wednesdays Bible Study 10:00am
Check us out!

Bethlehem Covenant
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
www.bethlehemcov.org

Pastor Ryan Eikenbary-Barber (Handicapped accessible)
Children especially welcome
Contemporary Worship, Sundays 8:30am
May 25 Worship at 9am
Sunday School for all ages 9:30am (through May 18)
Traditional Worship Sundays 11am
May 25 Worship at 10:30am
Wednesdays at 5:45 (through May 14)
Meal and activities for the family

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthumcpls.org

Rev. Pam Armstrong
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Education: Adults at 9:45 am;
Children and Youth, 10:45 am
(Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Minnehaha United Methodist
3701 E. 50th St. • 612-721-6231
www.minnehaha.org

Traditional Service 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship 11:00 am
(Sept.-May) 10:30 am (June-Aug.)
Education for all ages 10:15 (Sept.-May)
(Childcare; fully accessible)

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. •
612-724-3643
www.saintalbertthegreat.org

Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
Sunday Mass 9:30 am (Childcare available)
Saturday Mass 5:00 pm
M, T, Th, F: Rosary at 8 am, Daily Mass 8:15 am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,
First Fridays from 9 am to noon
Air conditioned!
(Handicapped accessible)

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000
www.stpeders.net

Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
Worship 9:00 and 10:30 am,
Summer - 9:00 only
Education for all at 9:00 am
(Childcare; Wheelchair Acc., Braille)
Coffee 10 am

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org

Pastors Derek Johnson & Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 am
May 25 - 10 am only (summer schedule)
Wednesday Meals 5:30 pm (through May 14)
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays 7 pm

Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:

Minnehaha Food Shelf,
Serving People Tuesday
10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Call us at 612-721-6231

Minnehaha United Methodist,
3701 E. 50th St.

The buzz about bees

Continued from page 7

As a precaution, the use of certain neonics has been banned in Europe, and now growers are struggling with what to do here in the United States.

"It's a really complicated issue, the entire horticultural industry is involved in it," said Karen O'Connor, co-owner of Mother Earth Gardens.

The challenge lies in knowing when a treatment results in pollen that has neonics in it, which can vary depending on how and when it is applied. Neonics are systemic, or absorbed by the plant, but how long they remain toxic is unknown and likely differs from plant to plant.

O'Connor empathizes with growers, because they thought they were doing the right thing.

"They tried to use a pesticide that's less toxic," she said. "Nobody wants to kill the bees. Everybody needs pollinators, es-

pecially the growers."

Herbs and veggies at Mother Earth Gardens are 100% organically-grown; annuals and perennials, 90%. Sourcing trees and shrubs free of pesticides is more challenging because of the longer-term investment in raising them, but Mother Earth is working with a grower who has committed to stop using neonics.

So what can you, the home gardener, do?

Plant more flowers and eliminate pesticide use, said Rupp. Ask your garden centers if they or their growers pre-treat plants or soils (see "Go Green, Garden Local," page 1, for local nurseries' responses to neonics). Plant untreated seeds.

And when planting, keep the wild critters in mind.

"You absolutely cannot go wrong by planting native species," O'Connor said. A quick lookup found the bur oak, for example, to be home to 534 butterfly and moth species. "If it has insects, then it has birds, then it has mammals."

What's good for the bees (and the butterflies and the hummingbirds) is good for us all.

To get more info:
<http://healthybeeshealthy lives.com>

In our community

Continued from page 11

East Lake book sale set May 10-11

The Friends of East Lake Library will be holding their spring book sale Sat., May 10, 9am-4pm and Sun., May 11, 12-3pm.

There will be a great selection of books, at \$1 for adult hardcover and DVD/CDs. Adult paperbacks are 50 cents. All children's and teen books are also 50 cents. Saturday's \$5 Bag Sale starts at 2pm and is in effect all day Sunday. Please, no scanners before noon on Saturday.

If your spring cleaning turns up excess books, they may be brought to the Library anytime before May 9! The Library is at 2727 E. Lake St.

Free Kids Summer Club scheduled

Trinity Kids Summer Club, "Weird Animals," will be held June 16-20 at Morris Park, 40th Ave. S. and 55th St. At Weird Animals, kids will learn about some of God's most creative creations! They'll participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, have yummy treats, experience cool Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them they are one of a kind, and test out Scien-cy-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long.

In addition, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with The Tail End—a celebration that will get everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join daily for this special time at 11:30am.

Participation in Trinity Kids Summer Club is completely free. Weird Animals Summer Club is for children age 3 through the 5th grade and will run from 9am-noon each day. For more information, call 612-724-3691 or register online at: <http://groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/trinitykids2014>.

Founders Fest planned May 26

Historic John H. Stevens House, Birthplace of Minneapolis, will hold its 11th Annual Founders' Fest on Memorial Day, May 26, noon to 4pm.

The historical house was the place where our City and County were planned and named, streets were platted, names such as Nicollet and Hennepin were chosen for them, and the school system was founded.

Storyteller Larry Johnson will relate "Gerda Pulls Harder than the Horses," the story of how the children of Minneapolis helped save our history by pulling the House to Minnehaha Falls Park using 500 foot ropes.

Old-time games for kids and adults will be offered, as will free tours of the House.

Historic John H. Stevens House Museum is located at 4901 Minnehaha Ave., in Minnehaha Falls Park, across from the 50th Street LRT station. For more information call 612-827-0138.

Quartet to perform at the Weisman

Come hear your saxophone neighbors! NENA residents Joan Hutton and Angela Wyatt are members of the Ancia Saxophone Quartet and on Sun., May 4 they will be performing at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Pkwy., at 4pm. There is no admission charge for this concert and the galleries will be open until 5pm.

The concerts will include Arvo Part's hauntingly beautiful and deeply spiritual Summa, Revolutionary Etudes by Pulitzer Prize winner David Lang and a cover of Radiohead's alternative pop tune Paranoid Android. Percussionist David Schmalenberger will join the Quartet on Perry Goldstein's groove based, high energy Fault Lines, and John Mackey's Strange Humors which combines African hand-drumming with middle-eastern folk music. The concert is supported by a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and is free and open to the public.

494/35W design studies unveiled

The public is invited to review the Interstate 494/35W interchange design proposals at on Mon., Apr. 28. The open house will be held from 4:30-6:30pm in the Community Room at St. Richard's Church, 7540 Penn. Ave. S., Richfield.

Open house attendees will have an opportunity to review preliminary interchange design concepts and transit options. Other study information and representatives from MnDOT and Metro Transit will be on hand to answer questions. There will not be a formal presentation at the open house.

Information presented at the open house will be available for review and comment on the proj-

ect web site as soon as it becomes available. For more information about the study, visit www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/494and35w.

"Seussical" hits the stage Apr. 24-26

"Seussical the Musical" will be performed Apr. 24-26 at Minnehaha Academy North Campus. "Seussical" is based on the works of Dr. Seuss, by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, with music by Flaherty and lyrics by Ahrens, co-conceived by Eric Idle. Performances are at 7pm on Apr. 24, 25, and 26, with a matinee performance at 2:30pm on Apr. 26. Kids receive a free hat and photo opportunity with Thing 1 and Thing 2 at the matinee performance. Tickets, which can be purchased at the door, are \$12 for adults, and \$6 for students/kids. The North Campus fine arts center is located at 3100 W. River Pkwy.

VOX Cabaret in one night performance

Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., will host "VOX Cabaret" for one night only on Fri., May 16, 7:30pm. Named for the Latin word for "voice," VOX Cabaret is an event bringing together six acts focused on the human curiosity of how we make meaning from the voice.

Solo artists Desdama & Vukalana, both known for their distinctive vocals, appear alongside choral groups preserving Eastern European and American choral traditions, and two groups (one ladies, one gents) covering contemporary pop with a style all their own.

The program features Desdama (vocalist and spoken word); Prairie Fire Lady Choir; Minnesota Shapenote Singers (participatory American singing tradition);

Vukalana (gender-bending electro-acoustic); Murder of Bros (acapella 90s grunge covers); and Sarah Larsson and Friends (eastern European harmonies).

VOX Cabaret is the first in an all-new series of Concept Cabarets featuring acts around a common theme. Check out the Performers page at patrickscabaret.org to learn about upcoming events and how to get involved. This show is hosted by Scott Artley, Patrick's Cabaret Performing Arts Curator.

Tickets are \$10 at the door (cash and check only).

Mosaic Festival scheduled May 8

Roosevelt High School will present "Mosaic Festival, Celebrating the gifts the arts, cultures and diversity bring to life," on Thur., May 8, from 3:30-6:30pm. The festival, which is free and open to the public, is a family friendly event which will feature art, culture, entertainment and food. Student artwork and food will be for sale. Roosevelt's gym, located at 4029 28th Ave. S., will be the location—park and enter on 30th Ave. S.

New play to show at Roosevelt in free performance

Ten Thousand Things productions will present a free performance of "Dirt Sticks," with Project SUCCESS, at Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave. S., on Fri., May 2, 7pm. The play was written by Kira Obolensky who is a playwright-in-residence for Ten Thousand Things Productions.

In "Dirt Sticks," the dead don't rest with an untold story. After Rose Wand falls to her death, her bones go missing. Now, 20 years later, a mysterious Peddler has come to town selling

glimpses of the past and stirring up thoughts about second chances. But before they can imagine a new future, Rose's son Henry Wand, Mother Spindle, and the orphan Miss Laurel have to face the stories—told and untold—that hold them captive.

The show began its tour to prisons, low-income centers, schools, and shelters Apr. 24, with public performances May 9-June 1 at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S. Tickets for the Open Book performances are \$25 (student tickets \$15 on Sundays with valid ID; use password "DSStudent"); www.tenthousandthings.org or 800-838-3006.

Chard Your Yard 2014 plans 30 new veggie gardens

Chard Your Yard is a way of promoting fresh, local food right in the neighborhood. This year Transition Longfellow has a goal of installing 30 new vegetable gardens in Longfellow! They are planning their garden install day for May 17.

See the Chard Your Yard page on Transition Longfellow website to:

—Sign up for a raised bed garden for your yard @ \$60. (Reduced price gardens available for seniors and/or low-income persons @ \$30, made possible with support from the Environment & Transportation Committee of LCC.);

—Volunteer for the garden mob on installation day - you'll be paid in food, friendship and satisfaction!;

—Volunteer to be a garden mentor for a new gardener (a few visits over the course of the summer); and

—Order a Chard Your Yard sign @ \$10 ea.

Happy May Day! "...dedicated to bringing peace by pleasing the palate"

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Council Member Johnson speaks up for medical marijuana

By JILL BOOGREN

Whether Minnesota should allow medical use of marijuana generated a lot of talk this legislative session, with one voice in the debate being that of Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson.

Drawing from his personal experience with glaucoma, Johnson first appealed to his council colleagues to add support for it to the city's legislative agenda (they did), and he took his message to the capitol himself.

Johnson has an extreme form of glaucoma and at 29 years of age has undergone three surgeries to aid his vision. In a city committee meeting he explained that its use in treating glaucoma can lead to better outcomes in surgery and reduce further loss of vision. But his doctor, who also practices in Florida where med-

ical marijuana is legal, can not prescribe it here.

"I don't want to see any of our residents or anyone else in this state lose vision that can be avoided by having all those options, all those drugs, available," he said.

He was joined by 10th Ward Council Member Lisa Bender, a cancer survivor, who described the standard course of treatment -- surgery, followed by chemotherapy, daily radiation, and years of additional drugs to prevent reoccurrences. Each of these treatments has side effects, such as nausea, pain and difficulty sleeping, the drugs for which include narcotic pain medication, anti-anxiety pills, and sleeping pills.

"I don't see any reason that policy makers should stand in the way of a medical doctor

adding medical marijuana to that toolkit to address the side effects of cancer treatment drugs," said Bender. "I think it is the smart thing to do and the compassionate thing to do for many people who are suffering today."

Johnson also testified at a legislative committee meeting, where over three hours of often emotional testimony was heard by people sharing their experiences with conditions such as multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, and muscle spasms, who were calling on lawmakers to legalize the use of medical marijuana.

A number of parents spoke on behalf of their children who experience seizures, using medications they said were ineffective. Maria Botker said her young daughter now lives with her dad in Colorado because they've seen significant improvements from

the medical marijuana that can be legally prescribed there.

Johnson doesn't consider marijuana the first line of defense against glaucoma--he said there are more effective drugs. Rather, it is a last resort for cases like his, where available treatments just aren't enough to help save vision. Marijuana can lower eye pressure, which is critical before surgery, and can stem further loss of sight.

"No person should have to suffer additional vision loss because a drug that can treat their condition, that can help improve the outcome of their surgery, that can help preserve some of their eyesight, is not legal, is not an option for them," he said.

The bill, H.F. 1818, passed through one committee but was pulled before the next hearing because of differences with law

enforcement. In a statement, the bill's author Rep. Melin said she offered a compromise that removed the option for patients to smoke or grow marijuana, but law enforcement still didn't get behind it. Governor Dayton has said his support is contingent on theirs.

This was disappointing to Johnson, who said he appreciates the challenges to law enforcement but pointed out that these exist with many prescription drugs.

"We need to be making laws around medicines available based on what's best for patients, not what's easiest for law enforcement," he said.

Advocates were still pushing for the bill as the Messenger went to press. Twenty states and the District of Columbia allow the use of medical marijuana.

Mural

Continued from page 2

ART FOR EVERYONE

Sanford will be adopting its Middle Year Program next fall and many of its students will attend Roosevelt in the future. "Students have explored the themes of the IB Learner Profile through each stage of the project, reflecting on

its meanings and connections to their lives, and to the artwork," remarked Sanford art teacher Marlene Maloney. "The mural will be a part of our community's daily visual experience of Roosevelt High School, the artwork itself will be in communication with students and staff by underlining the IB Learner identity and its link to a strong and successful school community."

"Greta is amazing at creating art for communities. She makes it

clear that the piece is for everybody to share and everybody is welcome to help," said Smolund. "The Roosevelt students are getting to create a permanent piece of artwork and the middle school students can look forward to seeing what they've done when they come to high school. Most importantly, everybody has been having a lot of fun participating in making something really beautiful."

Maloney is pleased that this

project has given her students the opportunity to work closely with a professional artist and older Roosevelt students in a small-group environment in the after-school Art Club program.

In March, about 30 parents and staff attended an open workshop at Sanford to experience the process. They used cool cutting tools and added their piece to the project. "The event demonstrated the high level of engagement and excitement from the students as

they taught their teachers and parents about the process and how to use the tools to create mosaic," said Maloney.

"It has been an awesome experience for us so far and we look forward to celebrate the unveiling at the end of May."

The community is invited to attend the unveiling of this artwork and the Connections Gallery (see sidebar below) on May 28 from 5-8pm (tentative time).



Student artists Jocelyn Pliego and Gilles Mally paint a mural on the front entry at Roosevelt High School in early April, accompanied by Roosevelt art teacher Jaci Smolund (far left) and artist Claudia Valentino (right). (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Connections Gallery to open this spring at Roosevelt

A second art project two and a half years in the making will also be finished this spring.

The Connections Gallery by the front door at Roosevelt High School will offer artwork and a bench to reflect.

In collaboration with Forecast Public Art and artist Randy Walker, the Connections Gallery installation will be a permanent structure with changeable components that Roosevelt, Minneapolis Public Schools and the community can enjoy, use and access to make connections through art and across curriculum.

In addition to a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board and an anonymous donor, 152 community members donated \$8,583 through a Kickstarter Campaign.

In 2012, students at Roosevelt began exploring issues of community art with artist residencies facilitated by Forecast Public Art, a non-profit organization that connects artists to communities through public art. As the discussions developed, students and faculty hatched the idea of having a permanent public art installation at Roosevelt. Artist Randy Walker, a fiber and mixed media artist who has created temporary and permanent installations throughout the United States (including the rocket at Brackett Park in the Seward neighborhood), was selected by students and staff to be the lead artist on the project.

The final design shows 14 metal frames radiating outwards like wheel spokes from a large circular open air gallery. Like a rice

paper screen or stained glass window, each metal frame is divided into a smaller cells of acrylic panels. Within these panels students will be able to insert pictures, words or anything that they can create on paper. Attached to each panel a strand of colored fiber will be woven through the top of the sculpture connecting to another panel elsewhere on the sculpture. These fibrous connections will be moved and reworked to make different connections as the art and content in the frames is changed.

It is designed for people to use it as an evolving and ever changing gallery and record of art making and relationships among people and ideas -- reflecting the community's past, present, and future.

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Moon Palace Books focuses on community and service

Independent booksellers can respond where book chains cannot

By JAN WILLMS

Sensing the time was right, Angela and Jamie Schwesnedl put their long-discussed plan to own and operate a bookstore into action about a year and a half ago, opening Moon Palace Books at 2820 33rd Ave. E.

"The number of independent bookstores has been increasing the last couple of years, and we wanted to be a part of that trend," Angela Schwesnedl said.

She said she thinks the rise in independents after so many had fallen victim to the large chain bookstores, is in part due to shop local campaigns. "Those have made a big difference," she noted. She said people like to bring their families, friends and children into a bookstore, something that can't be done online.

"Independent bookstores can offer a variety of books and activities," Schwesnedl continued. "We're pretty much in touch with our community and have a sense of what people are excited about, and we can respond to that. The bigger chains can't respond in the same way."

Besides books of all types and what she calls a nice mix of new and used volumes, Schwesnedl said their store offers many events for the neighborhood.

"We have a couple local authors coming in to do readings and signings," she said.

Mike Huber, a children's author, has a collection of new children's books he has written and will be at the store in May. In June, Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew will be signing her new novel, "Hannah, Delivered."

On April 23, Moon Palace participated in World Book Night, celebrated on Shakespeare's birthday. People apply to World Book Night to give out books. Those selected are sent 20 books to be given away to others who may not be frequent readers as a way to share the world of reading and storytelling.

Moon Palace, along with other bookstores and libraries, received boxes of books. Those who have been selected as "book givers," came to the store and picked up their box of books to distribute.

"This was done all over the country," Schwesnedl explained.

"There is a map of contributing places, based on zip codes."

The selected books can include recently written ones or classics. They can be novels or poetry and based on any genre. This year the list includes two Minnesota authors: Garrison Keillor's "The Pontoon: A Novel of Lake Wobegon" and Peter Geyse's "The Lighthouse Road."

Book clubs also meet in the bookstore on a monthly basis. There is the International Book Club, in which books by authors from a different country are read and discussed.

Another club is the Wild Read Book Club, which focuses on speculative fiction.

"We are also partnering with the Trylon microcinema," Schwesnedl said. The Trylon is an independent movie theater located in the same building as Moon Palace. The two businesses are encouraging participants in this book club to read a book and then see a screening of the film based on the book. The first offering is "Cool Hand Luke," and later "Planet of the Apes." This club meets about every three months.

Besides its wide array of books, Moon Palace carries t-shirts and bags. Some memorabilia is from last year's Longfellow Art Crawl, in which the bookstore hosted one of the artists.

Schwesnedl said the store has expanded its children's book collections, both new and used. There is also a play area for children.

For her own reading tastes, she said she likes almost everything.

"I do have a weakness for cookbooks," she added, "even though I seldom cook."

Schwesnedl said this has been a tough winter for businesses, and her store is no exception. "The weather has been a real challenge this winter," she said. "It was such a mess for parking and hard for bikers and pedestrians to get around. When there were some signs of spring, I saw people that I had not seen for months."

One of the things Schwesnedl said she has liked the most since the bookstore opened is finding how reading and storytelling bring out the best in people.

"Reading can really connect them," she said.



A full wall mural and a bright entrance, call attention to the excitement inside at Moon Palace Books, 2820 33rd Ave. E. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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Angela Schwesnedl, owner of Moon Palace Books, arranges some of the thousands of titles available at the store. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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