

DINE OUTSIDE THIS WINTER



The Longfellow Grill is leading Minnesota in a new trend: garden igloos that make patio dining a year-round thing. BELOW Patrons clink glasses in a toast. (Left to right) Bill and Lyn Hamlin; Dave Hoppenrath and Anna Sower; and Jan and Scott Lysen-Anton. (Photos by Terry Faust)



Garden Igloos proving to be popular addition on patio

By JAN WILLMS

Minnesota is known for many opportunities, but dining outside in the middle of winter isn't one of them.

However, that may change if other restaurants follow the trend set by the Longfellow Grill (2990 West River Parkway). Just before New Year's, the drinking

and dining establishment set up two geodesic domes on its patio. The domes or "Garden Igloos" are heated structures, designed to seat eight customers who can enjoy cocktails and dinner outside on a sparkling winter evening.

"We don't have them active all the time because of the propane usage," said manager Andy

Blankenship. "We basically set them up for the bookings." That can vary from one to seven bookings per night.

The domes are reserved by the hour. Patrons must guarantee to spend \$100 per hour minimum Sunday through Thursday or \$150 minimum Friday and Saturday. **DINE OUTSIDE >> 12**

2020: GET TO KNOW YOUR OPTIONS Five vie at 63B forum

By JILL BOOGREN

With longtime Rep. Jean Wagenius's announcement last November that she would not be seeking reelection in 2020 to her seat in the Minnesota State Legislature, several candidates are now vying to represent the portions of south Minneapolis and Richfield that make up House District 63B.

In late January, five DFL candidates got a chance to introduce themselves and present their views to several dozen residents at a DFL candidate forum held at the Richfield Community Center.

The two-hour forum, moderated by the DFL's Amy Livingston and Thomas Anderson, was structured around five prepared questions, with none taken from the audience.

In this historically left-vot-



South Minneapolis resident Jean Wagenius has opted not to run for reelection. She has served 17 terms in the Minnesota House since 1986. (Photo submitted)

ing district, all five candidates promoted progressive platforms. But while there were areas in which there was broad agreement – the need to address disparities between white residents and people of color in education, housing and health care, providing mental health services, addressing climate change – candidates

did differentiate themselves in terms of priority and approach.

The result? An information-packed evening that left people with plenty to ponder.

Here are brief excerpts from candidates' introductions and what they stated as their priorities to kick off the forum.

FIVE VIE >> 8

Aging Well

'There's science in every thing' says Bonnie Everets

SELF International founder aims to close achievement gap by organizing hands-on science programs

By STEPHANIE FOX

When Bonnie Everets was only four years old, her family bought a vineyard and fruit farm upstate New York and the family moved from town to the country. For Everets, it changed everything.

"The instant we got there, I became interested in being in nature. It was like my own secret garden," she said. "I worked in our vineyard with my father, driving a tractor as soon as my foot could reach the clutch, at about seven years old."

It set her on a lifelong path of discovery, exploring and teaching.

Holistic approach

When she was in fourth grade, she was out exploring when she discovered a hillside with a number of different kinds of mosses, each a different color. She took samples, transplanting them to a terrarium to study. A trip to the library helped her learn more. "Then, I took the mosses to school and taught the other students what I had learned," she said.

Later, attending Hope College, Everets focused on art, English, German and theater, spending her junior year in Turkey. After earning a master's degree in archeology at the University of Chicago, she received a Bush grant and moved to the Twin Cities in 1974 to work as a member of the theater ensemble at URBAN Art's program. She later worked at the Walker. She ended up in real estate to support her creative and artistic projects with a flexible schedule.

SCIENCE >> 3



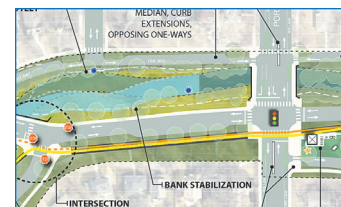
AGING WELL:
Retirement
dreams fulfilled

PAGE 2



Hayes Windows
works with what
you have

PAGE 7



Parkway to remain
open to vehicles all
the way through city

PAGE 8

Aging Well

A LITTLE NUGGET IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Twenty years ago, Lucy Elliott was in a parking lot in Elgin, Ill., loading boxes of repurposed project materials into the back of her car. Working as a family literacy educator at the time, she had just led a community program about child development and fostering creativity.

Elliott said, "I put the last box in and thought, one day I'm going to have a place where people come to me. That was about as much planning as I did for opening Belle's Tool Box. The idea bubbled for quite a while."



Creator/jowner of Belle's Tool Box, Lucy Elliott, opened her creative play space for families three years ago – in her theoretical retirement. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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Fast forward to 2013. Elliott and her husband Mark sold the home in Illinois where they raised their two children, and both retired from their respective careers. In anticipation of becoming grandparents, they downsized and moved to Minnesota to be near to their daughter Jen and her husband Aaron.

And the idea of that creative learning space was still bubbling.

One year later, Elliott bought Keller's Auto Repair on the corner of 34th St. and 42nd Ave., just blocks from her new home. She said, "I liked the possibilities of this place. It had potential indoor and outdoor play spaces, which was what I'd dreamed of all those years."

In a world filled with activities, classes, and high expectations for young children, Elliott sees her now nearly three year-old business and labor of love, Belle's Tool Box, as an alternative. It operates like a public library – come for 20 minutes or stay for two hours. There's nothing to register for, and you don't have to worry about being a few minutes late.

The friendly, folksy space invites parents and children to engage in open-ended play together. Elliott explained, "We're not working toward end results here. All of the project making materials are repurposed, which just makes sense environmentally, and also stimulates creativity. You can do a lot of interesting things with egg cartons, straws, and chop sticks."

Elliott's commitment to living lightly on the earth informs every inch of Belle's Tool Box, and that commitment has deepened as she has grown older.

She explained, "When families walk in the door for the first time, they sometimes look a little surprised. I get them engaged with the space from the beginning. If the child is 3+, I'll say something like, 'Let's hang your coat up here. Oh, look, can you tell what that coat hook is made of? It's a faucet handle like you might have on your hose at home! We were going to throw it out, but we realized it could be made into something useful!'"

Elliott continued, "Often kids are faster than their parents at figuring out what things are. There's a gate made from a pallet; chairs made from big wooden spoons; light fixtures made

Belle's Tool Box is retirement business and long-time dream

from pie tins. Ninety percent of the stuff in here came from the re-use stores in the neighborhood, and was repurposed into something else. All of the toys encourage open-ended play."

At 66, Elliott has seen a lot of trends come and go in the field of education. She said, "It seems like we radically change educational philosophies every decade. I wish we could get over this idea that every kid has to fit into the same curriculum in the same way. I try to offer alternatives here to what a lot of kids might have at home, and focus on the relationship aspect of play (parent or grandparent to child, or child to child)."

You won't find Belle's Tool Box on Facebook. Elliott prefers the more organic form of word-of-mouth advertising. In addition to her regular hours of operation, she welcomes neighbors to rent her unique space for their small group gatherings.

A 90-minute birthday party for ages 3+ costs \$75. Children have access to toys and art materials, and are invited to make a book on the book binding machines.

Non-profit organizations such as LOLA and the Sierra Club, as well as school groups, have rented Belle's Tool Box for meetings and programs recently. Play groups, moms and dads groups, and home school groups are also welcome. A small donation is requested.

Elliott is looking forward to summer at Belle's Tool Box. Her daughter Jen, now the mother of two young children and a strong supporter of her mother's efforts, will be newly certified as a Master Gardener and trying out new ideas in the garden. In the summer, the gazebo and garden paths become extensions of the indoor play and learning spaces.

Hours of operation are Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-noon and, during the winter months, Belle's will be open on the third Saturday only from 10 a.m.-noon. A small donation is requested for each visit.

'There's science in every thing' says Bonnie Everets

>> from 1

Meanwhile, her son, Graham, was attending the Friend's School, thriving in their holistic approach to teaching. But, in sixth grade, he asked his mother if he could be homeschooled. His mother agreed.

Mother and son became involved in the Jason Project, a non-profit offering hands-on curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

"My experience with Graham allowed me to recognize an exciting holistic approach," she said. And, it helped her understand that all kids needed to be exposed to the advantages offered to Graham.

Everets realized that most schools, even the best, couldn't offer everything kids needed to learn during regular school hours. "We have a major achievement gap in Minnesota. But, I know how smart these kids are. Giving these kids enrichment time after school, on weekends and in the summer will help put them on a more even level," she said.

"We needed to go into the community where the kids live."



Southside resident Bonnie Everets and a group of future scientists at the Boys & Girls Club/STEAM summer garden. (Photo submitted)

SELF International born

Everets decided to organize locally. In 2005, she created SELF International (Science Education Literacy Fine Arts,) establishing education programs for underserved students and their families.

"I owe a big debt to State Senator Patricia Torres Ray," said Everets. Torres-Ray connected her to the Minnesota Science Museum to set up one of their first big events in 2012.

That event was Nano Days, part of a national movement, that lets grade and middle school students study science on a molecular level. "This lets kids see the fun and excitement of science. They won't think science is irrelevant or that it's hard," Everets said.

"It exposes them to opportunities they might not otherwise have, and it gives kids and their families who probably don't go to museums the chance to have the museums come to them."

The Science Museum became a chief sponsor, supplying NanoDays Hands-On Activity Kits, along with volunteer scientists and educators, to give students practical experiences in real science letting them see science as part of their world.

State Senator Torres-Ray, continues to be a strong supporter of Everets' work. "Facilitating a partnership between the Science

Museum and SELF, International was an essential step to insure that SELF's mission to increase and expand community access to science becomes a reality," she said.

They didn't know where food came from before

Everets' STEM program, originally located only at Sabathani Community Center expanded, offering cutting edge STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Math) at various locations around the Twin Cities, including Urban STEMs: the Science of Food at the Minneapolis Boys & Girls Club.

Three summers ago, in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club in South Minneapolis, SELF started a garden at the corner of 39th and Columbus, across from the Boys & Girls Club.

"Bonnie is a great person. She's dedicated and the kids love her. There aren't a lot of behavior problems because they really respect her," said Boys & Girls Club in the Twin Cities Area Supervisor Mark Graves.

"The kids grow the vegetables, and we use them for our snack and dinner programs. The kids learn overall knowledge of the importance of growing your own, the skill and patience that

it takes to have a successful garden," he said.

Everets added, "Most of these kids don't have houses with yards. They don't know where food comes from or how it grows. The program focuses on the science of food. So, we brought in pros. We brought in soil scientists, and food scientists. We studied bacteria to make yogurt. They learned about insects and food preservation. It shows the kids that there's science in everything, so we get to create a science identity as early as possible."

In her spare time, Everets

is writing a cookbook based on her urban garden experience. "It's an A to Z cookbook for children and their parents. It'll show what to plant and then what you can make with it." She plans on doing her own illustrations and is currently searching for a publisher.

Other programs offered by SELF International include 'Building with Biology' and 'Let's Do Chemistry'.

Join SELF International

"Because we move directly into the neighborhoods where

students live, we collaborate with local schools and community organizations," she said.

SELF International just received a mini-grant to start a new program for middle school-aged Latinx students and their families. They are currently scouting locations for the program and looking for interested collaborating organizations.

There are no paid positions at SELF International, so there is always a need for volunteers who want to work with kids. Contact Everets at beverts@selfinternational.org.

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The Motley Conversation

Messenger

Join the conversation, and let us know your diverse and varied thoughts on the issues that affect your neighborhood. Send letters and guest commentaries to news@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com or call 612-345-9998.

The fate of Minneapolis neighborhood associations beyond 2020

By CANDACE MILLER LOPEZ AND MELANIE MAJORS

Neighborhood Associations (NAs) have long been the connective tissue between the city of Minneapolis and its citizens, but as the Neighborhoods 2020 (N2020) planning process closes, it looks like a total unraveling is on the horizon.

NAs come in all shapes and sizes -- serving from fewer than 1,000 residents to over 20,000 annually. There are 70 serving 81 separate neighborhoods. Since the early 1990s, NAs have received funding from the city under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the Community Participation Program (CPP). For many, this was and is the primary source of revenue. In return, NAs provided the city with a direct link to residents. Key to the success of these programs was the emphasis on citizen-driven engagement and, in most cases, adequate resources to get the job done.

Neither program was perfect. The NRP has faced questions of disproportionately benefiting white homeowners and the CPP about the level of representation of minorities and renters on NA boards. Yes, there were unintended outcomes and not all communities benefited equally.

However, NRP was a well-resourced, \$300-million bricks-and-mortar investment that, over 20 years, stabilized the city's housing stock and made neighborhoods safer and more livable. By any standard, it was a success. The program, administered through NAs, empowered residents to develop plans for their neighborhoods. It was fully driven by citizens.

CPP, which replaced NRP around 2010, focused on broad citizen engagement and has been funded at a dramatically lower level -- \$4.1 million a year for the past 10 years. Because of this substantial cut in funding, many neighborhoods have been limited in the type and amount of programming and engagement they could reasonably provide.

So what is next for neighborhoods? In May 2019, the city council voted to adopt a set of draft recommendations assembled by the Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR) Department that would define the next iteration of neighborhood engagement and funding. The council included a requirement to engage an outside consultant to work with NCR, the associa-

Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association



By **CANDACE MILLER LOPEZ**, Executive Director
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Longfellow Community Council



By **MELANIE MAJORS**, Executive Director
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tions, the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) community and other stakeholders to address many of the concerns raised by NAs about the patriarchal and punitive nature of the draft 2020 framework as well as to gather the perspectives of marginalized groups and their relationships with NAs. The council also required the new program not to cost any more than the current one: Base funding for each neighborhood would be set at \$25,000 annually. The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) was selected to do this work.

There have been a couple of significant problems with the NCR/CURA process. First is the abbreviated timeline condensing what was supposed to be a six-month process down to six weeks during the holidays, due to delays in executing the contract with CURA. Second, a proposed set of program guidelines bears little resemblance to the input from the participants at five large group meetings. Last, key deliverables in the CURA contract, like developing the program guidelines, logic model, defining input, outcomes and how NA participation results will be evaluated, are all being developed without input from NAs. In fact, the entire process has largely ignored the insights and opinions of NA staffers and board members.

This has resulted in a new program outline, driven primarily by the results of a Racial Equity Analysis that CURA conducted of the previous funding models (NRP and CPP), and their conclusion that both programs were representative of systemic racism experienced throughout the city. It is important to know that NRP in particular was not designed with racial equity in mind. CURA has developed a program and funding model that prioritizes racial equity. Under this model, the lion's share of \$4.1 million per year would go to community-based nonprofits (CBOs) other

than NAs and a select few neighborhoods with a high percentage of BIPOC and housing cost burdened residents, which will most certainly destroy the current NA system. It is important to acknowledge that across the board, participants in the large group meetings held by CURA overwhelmingly stated their support for both the need for racial equity work and the funding of CBOs to increase the efficacy of this work, but we firmly reject the idea that this is an either/or proposition.

Under this model, NAs like Standish-Ericsson and Longfellow Community Council will see their funding from the city fall to roughly \$1 per resident per year, down from the current level of around \$7. This means that less than 25% of available funds will go to base funding for neighborhoods. The city says it is providing this \$5,000 to \$10,000 in annual base funding to "preserve the network of neighborhood associations to minimum standard." There is no minimum standard that can be supported by this paltry sum. The network the city is hoping to preserve will crumble. "Show me your budget and I'll tell you your values."

What happened to the council's requirement of \$25,000 in base funding? The balance of the funds will be distributed through competitive grants to NAs and CBOs focused specifically on racial equity work, with priority given to racially diverse communities experiencing gentrification and housing disparities. What does this mean for residents of neighborhoods that do not meet this criteria and whose NAs will not survive without meaningful funding from the city? No more community meetings to inform about new developments, transportation activity and other community concerns; no more summer festivals or community garage sales; no more newsletters, environmental programs or programs that serve residents like

home improvement loans, support for small business, emergency grants, or clean-up events, etc.

CURA uses a racial-equity framework to inform its work. It is based on three precepts: Context, or insuring solutions address systemic inequity; Community-centered, or working with the population negatively impacted to co-create solutions; and Reparative, or co-creating solutions that are commensurate with what caused the inequity. This framework is the driving narrative in its proposed changes to the program.

We applaud the city and CURA's intentions regarding racial equity, but we question this strategy. The new program is feeling a lot like reparations, but how on earth do they expect to address and correct inequity generated out of a \$300 million capital investment with \$3 million of outreach funding? This response does not fit with the CURA framework, and the declaration that all neighborhoods should be doing equity work but with only some benefiting from the city's financial support for this work is simply wrong. Additionally, and no less important, the city has yet to define what racial equity will even look like under this new program.

The decision-making process for the future of neighborhood

associations will come to a close by April 9. It has been an arduous and often frustrating process. Recommended program guidelines will be released for public comment on Feb. 24, and residents will have 45 days to review the guidelines and submit comments. As directors of two successful South Side neighborhood organizations, we want to make sure that residents understand what is at stake if the city council adopts the recommendations of NCR and CURA. Some NAs will no longer exist, all but decimating this decades-old network.

Thirty years of resident-driven organizing and hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours created the NA network we have today, which has benefited the city in countless ways. In determining the fate of Minneapolis' neighborhoods, residents must decide whether they will be voiceless consumers of local government output or citizen participants driving the decision-making process.

** Editor's note: In order to further define the recommendations, the city postponed the release by a few days of the Neighborhoods 2020 guidelines for public comment. As of press time, it anticipated releasing the guidelines by Feb. 28.*

Letter to the Editor

Minneapolis waging war on neighborhoods

Dear Editor:

The city of Minneapolis has been waging what I choose to call an undeclared war on neighborhood organizations as well as neighborhoods and neighborhood activists. By the time this letter is published and read it is likely that this attack will have reached its climax at the monthly meeting of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) on 2/19/20. At this meeting the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department is supposed to have made public its plan for what amounts the dissolving of NCEC.

For years the city has been pursuing "engagement" with neighborhoods and the communi-

ty. Now there is evidence that the city was better off with empowered neighborhood organizations thanks to NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program). Dissolving NCEC will leave many neighborhood organizations on life support. Some will ultimately cease to exist. The City power grab will be complete.

The interaction between the city council, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Dept. and the Neighborhood and Community Relations Commission (NCEC) cries out for some solid, in depth investigative reporting that exposes exactly what is going on in the name of engagement and the spending of our tax dollars. A good place to start would be the neighborhood grounded members of the NCEC.

Donald Hammen
Longfellow

Send in letters to the editor, press releases and more!

Email tesha@longfellownokomismessenger.com

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Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the Messenger. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@longfellownokomismessenger.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

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The Messenger is for profit and for a purpose -- and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that

is both black and white. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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Staying-in-Place grants

NENA is pleased to announce the launch of its Staying-in-Place grant program through its new nonprofit partner, Rebuilding Together Twin Cities.

The Staying-in-Place grants are designed to help vulnerable adults (low-income, senior, disabled, and veteran) address outstanding housing maintenance issues. Rebuilding Together Twin Cities will provide access to needed funds to help these property owners living on fixed incomes make repairs so they can live safely in place with economic stability. The grant program covers two service categories:

1. Safe at Home: Provide home safety and fall prevention

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association



By **LAUREN HAZENSON**,
Project & Communications Manager
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modifications and ramps for older adults and individuals living with a disability.

2. Home Repair: Provide volunteer-delivered repairs including weatherizing, cleaning, installing flooring, patching and painting, siding, and landscaping, and timely contractor-de-

livered repair or replacement of essential systems, such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, outer envelope and roofs.

For more information or to request an application, call Rebuilding Together Twin Cities at (651) 776-4273 or email homeowners@rebuildingtogether-twincities.org. Be sure to mention you live in a Nokomis East neighborhood.

Online secondhand tool sale

NENA is doing some spring cleaning, and selling some previously owned tools for your spring greening! Get a deal on rakes of all sizes, clippers, sprinklers, seedling pots and more!

The sale begins March 1 at

nokomiseast.org/store and closes on March 20.

All supplies must be picked up at the NENA office. Tool selection is first come, first serve, so shop early for the best selection. All proceeds from the sale go to NENA programming.

Green Fair is back!

Climate Change, pollinators in trouble, and a garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean twice the size of Texas – and growing every day. Our environmental problems can seem too big to handle, but they're not too big to be solved by people like you. Commit to reducing your impact on the planet one change at a time, right in your own home.

The South Minneapolis

Green Fair is there for you with resources for any sustainability question you have, from improving water quality in your backyard to diverting waste from the landfill. Join us on Saturday, April 18 from 12-4 p.m. in the Roosevelt High School Gym for free workshops, speakers, and over 20 exhibitors. Check out more details and plan your visit at bit.ly/SMGreenFair.

Meetings and events:

3/11/20: NENA Green Initiatives Committee, NENA Office, 6:30 pm

3/21/20: Crock-Pot Cook-Off and Meat Raffle, Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 6:30 pm

3/23/20: NENA Board Meeting, NENA Office, 7 pm

Longfellow Businesses: LBA wants to hear from you

This March the LBA is hosting four focus groups to learn how to support our business community in the Greater Longfellow Area better. If your business falls into one of the following categories, consider joining us. We're interested in hearing from business owners about the tools, resources, connections we can offer to help your business thrive. We will provide lunch, and all participants will receive a \$20 gift card to a local Longfellow business. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Kim at kim@longfellowbusinessassociation.org or 612-298-4699.

Industrial Businesses: Wednesday, March 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, Du Nord Craft Spirits. Has your business been

Longfellow Business Association



By **KIM JAKUS**,
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affected by the demographic and infrastructure changes along the Hiawatha corridor? How is your business adapting, and what can LBA do to support you?

Arts & Entertainment Businesses: Wednesday, March 11, 12:30 - 2 p.m., Du Nord Craft Spirits. The Longfellow neighborhood now hosts numerous venues for dance, literary events,

live music, craft beer, and spirits. How can LBA build on this momentum and create a vision for Longfellow as an arts & entertainment destination?

Minority & Immigrant-owned Businesses: Wednesday, March 25, 10:30 a.m. - noon, El Norteño. What are the challenges to operating a business in Minneapolis, and more specifically, in Longfellow? How can LBA better support and market your business or service to community members?

Emerging Business Owners: Wednesday, March 25, 12:30 - 2 p.m., El Norteño. Are you a first-time business owner in your 30 or 40s? If so, LBA interested in learning about the challenges facing business owners in the age of social media. How can being part of a business association help you to thrive?

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Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger Classifieds*, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417; e-mail denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com; or call 651-917-4183.

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Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a dangerous relationship or needs to create a safety plan. B-20

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Rebuild Repair Recycle

Learn to be more pro-active about the waste you produce

Rethinking waste in 2020

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Wonder where your waste ends up?

A standing room crowd gathered at the Matthews Park Rec Center on Feb. 3, 2020 to hear about the changing world of waste creation and waste management from Kellie Kish, Recycling Coordinator for the city of Minneapolis; Kate Marnach, co-founder of the zero waste store Tare Market; and Nancy Ford, owner of the Repair Lair.

According to Kish, the contents of the black carts (58% of garbage collected) goes to the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center in downtown Minneapolis, and is incinerated. That's your trash.



Do you ever wonder where your garbage, recycling, and compost end up? (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

"In the waste business, the ultimate goal is waste reduction. We saw a 2,600 ton overall reduction in waste last year."

~ Kellie Kish

mont by bus in early summer, so people can see how the process works first-hand. To get on the waiting list for either opportunity, email kellie.kish@minneapolismn.gov.

Set attainable goals

Tare Market co-owner Kate Marnach explained how she got to the point of opening a package-free, re-fill store last year. She said, "My parents raised me to understand the value of recycling, but somehow the other 'Rs' went right by me. In our business, we see the solution as an inverted triangle that starts at the top with Refuse, and goes through Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, and finally, Rot (compost) at the bottom."

Marnach debunked the myth of zero waste being successful only if you can fit a year's worth of trash in a mason jar. She said, "It's more important to set goals that are attainable. Start with simple things like keeping re-usable shopping bags in your car, purse, or backpack."

RETHINKING WASTE >> 9

Don't bag your recyclables

The blue carts are emptied, and the mixed recyclables are brought to Eureka Recycling in northeast Minneapolis where they are sorted and processed for sale to new markets. Recyclables account for about 20% of the waste collected.

While recycling is not mandatory in Minneapolis, 97% of residents choose to have a recycling cart. The contamination rate for recyclables last year was 8.5%.

The biggest contaminants were plastic bags, product wraps (like what goes around a six pack of pop), and plastic film. Kish admonished the crowd, "If you

remember nothing else from this presentation, remember not to bag your recyclables and to keep plastic bags out of your recycling cart!"

Organics recycling matters

The newest alley addition, the green carts, contain food scraps and other compostable products like paper towels, tissues, pet waste, and 100% compostable cutlery and dishes. Along with yard waste, the contents of these bins are taken to a transfer station in southeast Minneapolis, reloaded onto semi-

trucks, and driven to a compost site in Rosemont.

Even though organics recycling is a new program in Minneapolis, the opt-in was extremely high this year for residents. With almost 52,000 Minneapolis households participating, the green carts account for about 18% of the total waste collected.

Kish said, "In a country where 40% of the food produced goes to waste, organics recycling matters." One of her goals for 2020 is to hit the 50% mark for all Minneapolis households participating.

Note that all compostables must be placed in a paper bag, a compostable bag, or wrapped in newspaper before being put in the organics recycling bins.

If any readers are compost enthusiasts, Kish is looking for volunteers to help with the spring compost audit - a process by which compost is evaluated for contamination. Last year, the contamination rate was less than 1%. She recommends a fairly strong stomach, as there can be surprises.

Kish is also organizing a field trip to the compost site in Rose-

South Minneapolis Green Fair

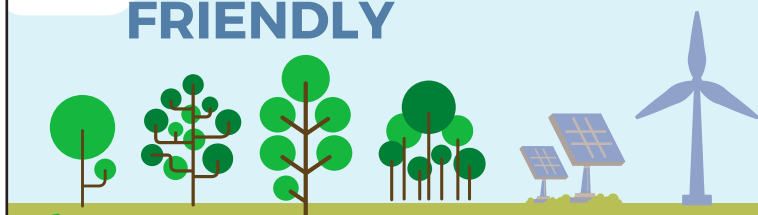
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Home Improvement

Original wood windows worthy of restoration

Why not work with what you already have?

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Joe Hayes was working as an elementary school teacher in 2009, when he bought his first home. A classic South Minneapolis bungalow, the house had one major problem – its windows.

There were no storms on the outside, and all of the original glazing was gone. Metal pins held the window glass panes in place. The previous owner had cut and removed all the sash cords, and filled the side cavities with insulation. None of the windows could be opened.

The restoration project Hayes had to embark on eventually led to a career change. In the course of making many, many repairs, he realized he had a passion for it. Hayes found satisfaction in producing quality craftsmanship, and in working with his hands.

In the last three years, he has built Hayes Window Restoration into a full-service business providing repair and restoration of pre-1940 double-hung wood windows. Hayes said, "We have a clearly defined niche, and we do a good job of staying in it."

Don't discard and replace

In a building industry where "Discard and Replace" has become the moniker, Hayes offers homeowners a better option. Why not work with what you already have? His seven-person team brings knowledge, professionalism, and an ability to troubleshoot the nuances of older

homes to every window restoration project.

Many of the older homes which dominate South Minneapolis are architectural treasures, whether they are large or small. Hayes explained, "The materials used to construct these homes were high quality, and the craftsmanship was excellent. Traditional joinery methods were brought over from Europe, and these homes, including their windows, were built to last."

He pointed out, "The people who find us understand this. They have a sense that their old windows are meant to be there. A lot of our clients see themselves as stewards of their homes. With window repair and restoration, we're not only doing what's right for the house – we're also doing what's right for the environment."

Old-growth white pine windows irreplaceable

Many of the nearly century-old homes in Longfellow and East Nokomis have windows made from old growth wood. Hayes said, "The old growth white pine from Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin can never be replaced. Those forests are gone."

What's the difference between old growth and new growth wood? Old growth wood had time on its side. Because of its age, it developed tight growth



Joe Hayes, owner of Hayes Window Restoration, said, "I have yet to meet an old window that I couldn't restore. I've seen hopeless parts, but not hopeless windows." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

rings, dense heartwood, and is high in pitch – which makes it naturally insect and rot resistant.

The new growth wood used in replacement windows has none of those attributes, because it isn't given time to develop them.

Original windows can be efficient too

Why are people so quick to replace their original windows? Hayes chalked it up to marketing. He said, "We live at the epicenter of three huge window manufacturers. It's in their best interest to sell new windows, but how long will the replacements last? Look at the life of your manufacturer's warranty; you can expect maybe 20 years before you need

to replace them again." Window replacement companies tout energy efficiency and cost savings, but it's worth reading between the lines. The general thinking is that it takes decades to get a return on investment. With proper care and maintenance (including weather stripping and quality storms)

WINDOWS >> 9

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Five vie at 63B forum

>> from 1

Emma Greenman

Having experienced “both comfort and poverty,” Emma Greenman said she would never forget the feeling of getting off a waiting list for subsidized housing and moving into the Towers at Cedar-Riverside, for the safety and security it provided as her mom struggled with mental illness.

A former Wellstone organizer and voting rights attorney, Greenman called 2020 “a make or break moment for our democracy,” which she said is under attack by voter suppression and money in politics. She wants to focus on fixing the system first.

“Before we can tackle the issues, we have to start by repairing and reimagining our democracy,” she said. “...When you look at common sense gun violence legislation, when you look at issues of criminal justice reform, when you look at issues of clean energy... what is holding us back is a concentrated attack on our democracy.”

Her first priority would be to restore the right to vote. She called for automatic voter registration and pre-registration for 16- and 17-year olds, and for ensuring every dollar spent on ads is disclosed.

VOTE in the presidential primary March 3

In 2016, legislation was passed creating a presidential nomination primary, Minnesota's first since 1992. The 2020 primary will be held Tuesday, March 3.

To vote, you must choose which party's ballot you want. Two major parties are participating in the presidential primary, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party and the Republican Party.

<http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/election-day-register>
Use the Voter Registration Lookup to see if you're already registered. Find your polling place. Provide proof of residence. Dial 311 Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. and weekends 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., for election and other city information.

Tyler Moroles

For Tyler Moroles, formerly with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and currently a manager of the Community Development Block Grant Development program in Hennepin County, addressing inequities in home ownership is a top priority.



DFL candidates for Minnesota House Seat 63B speak at a candidates forum in January. From left to right are Emma Greenman, Tyler Moroles, Husniyah Dent Bradley, Eric Ferguson and Jerome Evans. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

“We have some of the worst inequalities in home ownership [between] people of color and white folks,” he said. He wants to see a renters bill of rights that ensures landlords give advance notice of vacating property and are not vacating for no reason, that gives tenants legal protections and establishes a tenant defense fund.

“Usually landlords have lawyers, tenants do not,” said Moroles.

He would also double the amount of funding for the Housing Finance Agency, which he said is twice as likely as private market lenders to give a direct home buyer assistance loan to a household of color. Moroles would also work to reduce property tax, so people, especially seniors trying to “age in place,”

don't get pushed out of their homes.

He also called for immigrants' rights, expressing support for Driver's Licenses for All, a bill passed by the House in 2019 that has not yet been taken up by the Senate. Born and raised in the district, Moroles describes his father as a Mexican-American Chicano migrant worker who lived “as a second class citizen his whole life.” He became addicted to opioids and died when Moroles was two years old. He was raised by his mother, who worked at a nursing home to provide for him. She was in the audience at the forum.

Husniyah Dent Bradley

Husniyah Dent Bradley, a chemist, campaign organizer,

lawyer and program administrator/counselor for career and professional development at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, said her first priority would be to work with the Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Planning Commission on solutions for the I-494 underpass and for Cross-town Highway 62. She said the proposed MnPASS lane on I-494 could also be done on Cross-town Highway 62 and suggested widening the freeways by getting easements on some of the homes. In addition to the METRO Orange Line (I-35W Bus Rapid Transitway), she suggested adding a faster train over Portland Ave.

“That would definitely ease some of the congestion and some of the transportation issues,” she said.

CANDIDATES >> page 9

Q: First Priority

Q: Improve Public Safety

Q: Address Health Care and Crisis Services

Q: Address Homelessness, Affordable Housing

Q: Strengthen Minnesota's Schools

Q: What Else?

Husniyah Dent Bradley



Ease traffic congestion by widening lanes through easements on some homes. In addition to the Metro ORANGE line (rapid bus transitway up I-35W), add a faster train over Portland Ave.

Supports having cops or volunteers on trains. People sleeping and committing crimes on trains don't have jobs. Make the neighborhood more mobile, so people can get to jobs and training.

Hire more nurses who are people of color and who can deal with crisis situations. Expand home visits and who can administer prescriptions.

Supports efforts in Minneapolis not to close public housing units. Short term: Convert vacant properties into places to house the homeless. Long-term: Develop more affordable housing. Increase access to lawyers to renters.

Increase funding for education. Teach about harassment and bullying in schools (like programs in Minnetonka and Excelsior) and how to handle it. Supports legislation to hire more teachers of color.

Address climate change and environmental justice. Support telecommunications satellites to increase access in rural areas and remove the need to travel to jobs.

Jerome Evans



Create a “Minnesota Hope Scholarship” to provide a pathway for low-income students of any ethnicity to attend college.

Focus on economic security. Change management of police to free up officers used for routine tasks.

Supports a single-payer health care system. Fund programs at the state level that Minneapolis provides out of need. Establish funds required to stabilize us in case of an emergency.

Provide safe shelter. Create a fund where state invests with new homeowner to purchase a home. Tie the price to a state-mandated amount (to prevent flipping), which creates a bank of affordable housing.

Fill Minnesota's opportunity gap. Fund senior citizen services over their lifetime. Invest in students to ensure they stay in Minnesota. Use data.

Treat climate change as a public health crisis. Supports elements of the Green New Deal to invest in electric vehicles, improve access in rural MN.

Eric Ferguson



Promote renewable energy storage. Cover the freeways (to build housing). Offer “Commit to MN” free post-secondary education for people who stay in Minnesota for 5 years after leaving school. Short-term: Provide noise mitigation for residents living under airport flyways.

Bring back fare checks and transit police on light rail to deter crime.

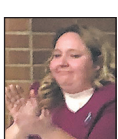
Short term: Likes Governor Walz's ONECare program, a public option. Long-term: Likes Sen. Marty's single-payer plan but would introduce it gradually. Would also redirect job retraining to home health care, where there is no shortage of need. Counter anti-vaccine propaganda campaign.

Create space for housing by covering the freeways and building houses on top of them. Think of the parkway extending across the Hiawatha Ave. tunnel at Minnehaha Park, but on a grander scale. Use the space for affordable housing.

Embrace the “big idea” of public education for everybody. Spend more on public education. Promote “Commit to Minnesota” plan to provide free college for residents who stay in MN for 5 years after leaving school.

Expressed pride in district's high voter turnout, skills needed to be effective at the capitol. Have liability insurance for guns.

Emma Greenman



Repair and reimagine Democracy. Restore the right to vote, including automatic pre-registration for 16-17 year-olds. Ensure full disclosure of money spent on campaigns.

Think about alternatives to policing, like neighborhood watches. Stop over-policing in black, brown and indigenous neighborhoods. Do not criminalize mental illness. Pass common sense gun safety legislation, including “red flag” laws. Restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated folks.

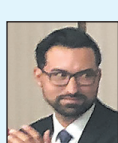
Supports Sen. John Marty's MN Health Plan. Expand MinnesotaCare. Supports immediate passage of the Alec Smith Emergency Insulin Act, Rep. Mike Howard (D-Richfield)'s bill to provide insulin to those who can't afford it (passed in the House last year and is being negotiated in a Senate committee).

Invest urgently in shelters. Provide more rental subsidies and build more rental units. Build accessible housing that everybody can use and everybody can visit. Build more affordable housing.

Tackle the achievement gap by fully funding our public schools. Cut underfunding of special education. Restore pre-Gov. Tim Pawlenty funding levels. Pass Teachers of Color Act (introduced by Sen. Patricia Torres Ray). Provide early intervention and access, universal pre-K.

Address climate change. She is running a campaign to build the infrastructure to beat President Trump, who lost Minnesota by 1% of the vote in 2016.

Tyler Moroles



Remove disparities in home ownership for people of color. Double funding for Housing Finance Agency. Create a renters bill of rights that ensures advance notice of and reason to vacate, gives tenants legal protections and establishes a tenants defense fund.

Does not want to see more black and brown people locked up. Fully fund shelters. Do not criminalize desperation. Ensure that every police officer has a body cam on at all times. Ensure people are not asked for immigration papers if they are stopped by police.

Treat drug addiction as a public health crisis, and don't criminalize addiction. Supports Sen. John Marty's (single-payer) MN Health Plan. Ensure accessible housing and transportation for seniors.

Sign on to Homes for All guarantee. Create a renters bill of rights that ensures renters have representation. Remove disparities by providing more access to home ownership. Establish rent control at the state level. Create a progressive property tax so owners of million-dollar homes pay more.

Supports hiring more teachers of color to reflect students they'll teach. Ensure teachers licensure is more accessible. Fully unionize bus drivers, cafeteria workers and staff in other high turnover jobs. Bridge gaps in ESL and special education funding and ensure schools are more LGBT friendly.

Address climate change. Immediately purchase carbon offsets. Ban single-use plastics. Sign on to the Green New Deal and honor the commitment to not take PAC money. Ban Line 3. Address immigrants' rights.

Editor's note: These are intended to provide a snapshot of the conversation; it is not a comprehensive voter guide. The forum is viewable in its entirety by searching SD63 DFL Open Discussion Forum on Facebook. Each candidate has a website.

Five vie at 63B forum

>> from 8

Dent Bradley moved with her parents from Cincinnati to Chicago, where they were involved in voting rights and marches. In his job at the postal service, her dad helped union workers fight for union rights, which is where Dent Bradley learned about speaking up and the importance of people making their voices heard. Ultimately her family moved to 43rd and Chicago Ave. in Minneapolis, where they dealt with public assistance as well as having to vacate their home due to basement flooding.

Eric Ferguson

With a campaign slogan, "What's the Big Idea?", Eric Ferguson, website developer, actor and three-term former DFL chair of Senate District 63, is banking on his "big ideas." Namely, three.

The first is to use pumped hydro to create an energy storage system that would use excess power (produced from solar and wind) to push water up to a reservoir, which could then be released over hydro turbines to recreate the electricity when it's needed again.

"If we're going to allow renewable energy to replace fossil fuels, we have to deal with the problem of renewables not providing baseload power," he said. "We'll probably have battery power eventually, but global warming isn't waiting for eventually."

His next idea is to cover the freeways, which tore out many homes and entire neighborhoods when they were built, to create space to build more housing.

Third, he would offer a free college plan he calls "Commit to Minnesota," which would make any post-secondary education free if students commit to living in Minnesota for five years after they leave school.

Ferguson knows it would take time to build support for these ideas, so in order to get something passed quickly, his immediate priority would be to address "a local problem that is very solvable": expanding noise mitigation - better windows and air conditioning - to the parts of Richfield that are under the airport flyways.

Jerome T. Evans

Jerome T. Evans grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, went to Georgia Tech, then law school. After practicing law for a few years, he moved to Minnesota.

Evans, who now chairs the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, is co-chair of the Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee and serves as president of his condo association, said he and his partner, Aaron, are considering growing their family of two. In putting on his "Dad hat," he found the data to be disturbing.

"If we have a child that looks like me [a person of color] and we put them through our public education system, they will receive a lower quality education than if they look like Aaron [who is white]," said Evans. "And that does not align with our values."

Evans emphasized the need to take a data-driven approach when talking to Republicans in the Senate.

"You can talk racial justice with them until you're blue in the face, and you will not get anything done," he said. "Let's start talking data, let's keep it real, leave the rhetoric behind."

His first priority would be to create the "Minnesota Hope Scholarship," which would provide a pathway for low-income students of any ethnicity to get into college in Minnesota without having to pay for tuition.

'Five good candidates'

After the first round, candidates responded to questions about improving public safety, addressing health care needs and crisis services, addressing homelessness and affordable housing, and strengthening Minnesota's schools, with a final round asking candidates to talk about anything that was missing (see the Q & A guide on the previous page for a snapshot of these responses).

Following closing remarks, residents and candidates mingled for a few minutes. Asked to comment, Judy Moe, of Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership, shared her impression.

"The biggest thing I noticed is lack of mention of the disability community," she said, despite candidates discussing

All genders invited to League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization open to all genders that:

- Encourages informed and active participation in government
- Works to increase understanding of major public policy issues
- Influences public policy through education and advocacy

The Civic Buzz meets the first Tuesday of each month, with new topics and speaker, followed by discussion. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Black Forest Inn, Minneapolis. There will be no March Civic Buzz meeting as people are encouraged to vote in the Presidential primary election.

Get involved. Call the League office at 612-333-6319 or drop by 310 E. 38th St. Suite 205 at the Sabathani Center 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday - Friday.

other demographics and the fact that transportation, housing and health care all apply. She did acknowledge that Greenman specifically mentioned accessible housing.

DFL Senate District 63 Secretary Larry Nelson offered his take. "I think we have five good candidates. All of them have good strengths and experiences they'll bring to the Capitol."

This forum is viewable by searching the SD63 DFL Open Discussion Forum on Facebook. The next DFL candidate forum for House Seat 63B will take place Saturday, March 28, 1-3 p.m., at Washburn Library, 5244 Lyndale Ave. S. DFL precinct caucuses were held Feb. 25, and the Senate District 63 DFL endorsing convention will take place Sunday, April 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sanford Middle School (3524 42nd Ave. S.).

GOP candidate

Frank Pafko is running for GOP endorsement as the candidate for MN House of Representatives in District 63B. He ran in 2016 and 2018 against Rep. Jean Wagenius, who won her reelection by wide margins.

Original wood windows

>> from 7

original windows can rival the energy efficiency of replacement windows at significantly lower cost - while keeping original windows out of the landfill or incinerator.

When considering replacement versus restoration, remember to factor in resource extraction and the energy needed to make new windows, too. The carbon footprint is not small.

Window preservation workshops

Hayes Window Restoration is licensed, insured, lead safe certified, and operates all year long. The turn-around time for full window restoration is about six weeks. They will secure your window openings for warmth and comfort while your windows are being worked on in their shop. Sash cord replacement, weather stripping installation, and other mechanical problems are done on-site, as is spot glazing in the warm months.

Hayes said, "We restore and repair windows in every kind of home from a one-bedroom Longfellow bungalow to a Cass Gilbert mansion on Summit Ave. We offer a range of services that make our services do-able for most homeowners."

Through a partnership with Rethos (formerly the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota), Hayes has been active in teaching others how to maintain and preserve their own windows. In the past six months, he offered three

JOE'S PERSPECTIVE

"Original wood windows are central to the charm and character of an older home. When original windows are replaced with new wood or vinyl inserts, the home's architectural integrity is altered. Choosing restoration instead of replacement retains a home's character while bringing beauty, smooth operation, and increased energy efficiency to the original windows."

workshops that covered everything from glazing to sash cord repair.

Hayes Window Restoration is also a proud new business member of ReUSE Minnesota, a non-profit organization focused on bringing visibility to the reuse, rental, and repair sector.

In the interest of promoting restoration, Hayes said, "Do it yourself if you can, and if you can't - call us." Their company website (www.hayeswindows.com) has a bounty of DIY tips, reports from the field, and other interesting and helpful tidbits in the section called Old Window Almanac.

"I have yet to meet an old window that I couldn't restore," said Hayes. "I've seen hopeless parts, but not hopeless windows." To arrange for a free consultation, call 612.259.7855 or email info@hayeswindow.com.

Rethinking waste in 2020

>> from 6

"When shopping, choose items sold in glass or paper instead of plastic.

"Learn how to store food properly to minimize food waste. Don't put potatoes and onions in the same drawer - the potatoes will sprout. When your celery gets limp, cut off the ends and stick it in a cup of water. Swaddle your greens in a damp cloth in the refrigerator, and skip the plastic bag. Why does everything we eat and drink have to come in contact with plastic?

"Simplify your life with fewer clothes, and fewer toys for kids and grown-ups. Consider giving experience gifts instead of material gifts."

Buy less stuff

Repair Lair owner Nancy Ford said, "My main message is, buy less stuff. You'll never hear that as a major ad campaign though, because it means nobody is making any money. By the way, the bigger and more conspicuous an ad campaign is - the smaller the likelihood that you'll ever need the product being advertised."

Ford founded Repair Lair five years ago. It's one of two stores in the U.S. that offers consignment and repair of outdoor equipment and clothing under the same roof. She advocates buying second hand, and says that customers should expect to pay about 30% of what an item would cost new.

Ford is also a founding

"We do a good job of recycling in this state, but we could do even better - 100% of what we put in our recycling carts stays in North America; 90% stays in the Midwest, and 80% stays in Minnesota."

~ Kellie Kish

member of ReUSE Minnesota, a member based non-profit focused on bringing visibility to the reuse, rental and repair sector.

The three presenters offered three different vantage points on rethinking waste but, at some point, all circled round to the same thought. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day observance, now, more than ever, less is more.

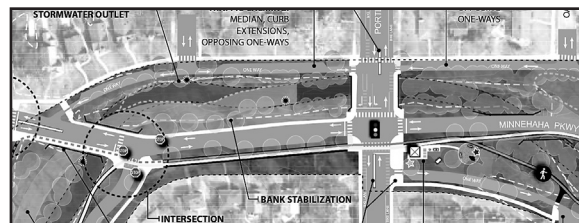
Rethinking Waste 2020 was jointly sponsored by the Longfellow Community Council and the Seward Neighborhood Group. Tare Market is located at 2717 East 38th Street. Repair Lair is located at 3304 East Lake Street.

Attend Green Fair April 18

Mark your calendars for the South Minneapolis Green Fair on Saturday, April 18 from 12-4 p.m. at Roosevelt High School. The Messenger is a media sponsor of the event. Learn more ways to be proactive about the waste you produce, and have fun doing it.

Minnehaha Parkway to stay open through city

Master plan revised after public outcry about closing some sections to vehicles



By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Drivers will be able to travel the length of Minnehaha Parkway in Minneapolis after all.

Following public outcry last fall to its proposal to close off some sections to vehicular traffic, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board has released an updated master plan for Minnehaha Parkway and the creek. It includes continuous motorized vehicle traffic on the parkway road in both directions.

While it still includes an adventure play area and bathrooms under the Nicollet Ave. bridge, the roadway will continue to

travel both directions in the area as it does now.

Near Portland, the intersections at 50th and 4th will be better aligned. The northern sections of the parkway will have a set of opposing one ways that are about a block long so traffic can't drive all the way through, but drivers can instead take the main, southern route all the way through.

Other intersections, such as the one at Bloomington, will get a make-over with curbs and realignment of the traffic lane and trails.

The community adviso-

ry committee studying this area made its final recommendations on Feb. 10. Next, the draft Master Plan will be released for a 45-day public comment period. Based on responses during the comment period, the Master Plan may be modified. A public hearing will then be held at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners before it is approved.

After the plan is adopted, the MPRB will spend approximately \$1 million in the corridor. Specific projects have not yet been determined.

Contact editor at tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com.

In Our Community

Messenger

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for both the newspaper as well as the Messenger Facebook page (Facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger).

Classes and groups for seniors offered

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors holds several classes for seniors including Tai Chi exercise, art classes, technology assistance and diabetes support groups. Tai Chi classes are held on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran, 2730 E. 31st Street. Our next art class on painting with alcohol inks will be held on March 18 from 1-3 p.m., also at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. A technology "clinic" will be held on March 10 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Trinity Apartments. A diabetes support group meets on March 11 from 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612 729-5799 for more information.

Gypsy moth in area

Join the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) at an open house on Thursday, Feb. 27, 6-8:30 p.m. at Keewaydin Recreation Center (3030 E 53rd St.) to find out more about gypsy moth and a proposed treatment for the area, which includes parts of the Wenonah and Keewaydin neighborhoods. Gypsy moth is an invasive insect that can attack many trees and shrubs. It has been found in neighborhoods south and east of Lake Nokomis.

Join Elder Voices

Elder Voices (Telling Our Stories) will meet the fourth Friday of February (2/28) and March (3/27) at Turtle Bread Company, 4205-

34th St. 10-11:30 a.m. There will be time for people to tell or update their elder stories, the challenges and joys of elderhood. Conversation topics will include, Do neighborhood organizations and neighborhoods still matter to elders and to the city of Minneapolis?

Free Black Dirt-y talk

Join Free Black Dirt, conveners of the MayDay Council, in a Dirt-y Talk Discussion Series around the barriers, challenges, and opportunities of creating a new MayDay process on Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (1500 E. Lake St.). Explore tokenization, accessibility, appropriation, gender, non-extractive relationships, community celebration and more as we shape a new MayDay Celebration that is truly equitable, accessible, and community-owned.

Study on implicit bias

Lenten Study on Implicit Bias starts March 1, noon with food and conversation at Epworth United Methodist Church. Are you committed to the work of having conversations that matter, honoring cultural differences, and dismantling policies and practices that hinder us all? Learn about implicit bias using print and video resources from the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) as well as other resources. This Lenten Study is one step toward bridging the gap between what people proclaim and the realities of implicit

bias that stand in the way. Epworth United Methodist Church is located at 3207 37 Ave S. For more info, email epworthumcplsmn@gmail.com or call 612-721-0232.

Sick Lit workshop

Attend Sick Lit: A Writing Workshop on Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Nokomis Library. This is a free, open writing workshop for artists and writers interested in writing and reading around chronic illness. No previous experience needed. The workshops will be led by writer, editor, and teaching artist Lara Mimosa Montes in the library meeting room. For more information and to RSVP, write: MplsWritingWorkshops@gmail.com. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Theatre premieres dystopian drama

Uprising Theatre Company is proud to present the regional premiere of "Doctor Voynich and Her Children," a new play by Leanna Keyes that strives to illuminate what happens in a country where there is no sex education and abortion has been outlawed. This powerful new drama will be on stage March 6-21 2020 at the Off-Leash Art Box, located at 4200 E. 54th St. Uprising Theatre Company's 2020 Season features all transgender and nonbinary playwrights, all women and/or transgender directors and all new work.

Suicide prevention class

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide - Question, Persuade and Refer. A QPR classes will be offered on Sunday, March 8, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 Snelling Ave. S. For information, contact NAMI Minnesota at 651-645-2948.

Focus on 'Clobber Texts'

Discuss the clobber texts in the Old Testament - Clobber passages are those verses in the Bible that are commonly used as a weapon. Any of several passages in the Bible that are routinely used by some people to condemn homosexuality and homosexuals. On Wednesday March 11, Epworth's Beer & Bible will discuss Genesis 1 & 2, 18:16-19:29, Judges 19:14-29, Leviticus 18 & 20, and Deuteronomy 23 in the context of verses surrounding those passages. Beer and Bible meets at Merlin's Rest (3601 E Lake St.). Beer is optional. The same passages will be discussed at Epworth's Bagel and Bible on March 15 at 9:30 am at Epworth 3207 37 Ave. S.

Intergenerational story time at Vet's Home

Baby/Toddler Intergenerational Story Hour & Play Time at the Minnesota Veterans Home is Tuesday, March 17 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Veterans read books and

sing songs (with a ukulele player) for 1/2 an hour followed by 1/2 hour play/ craft time, all led by a recreation therapist. This is free and open to the public, and held monthly. Children of all ages are welcome, just know the songs and books are geared to little ones. The Minnesota Veterans Home is at 5101 Minnehaha Ave S. and the program is in the Building 19 Community Room. The facility is a nursing home within Minnehaha Falls Park. Contact Erin, erin.betlock@state.mn.us / 612 548 5751, to RSVP or with any questions.

Discuss 'Milk'

Epworth Youth Present Dinner, Movie, and Conversation at 5 p.m. Come March 21 to watch and discuss the movie "Milk," the story of Harvey Milk's struggles as a gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official. Epworth aims to spark conversations about topics that impact the community. Epworth UMC is located at 3207 37th Ave. S.

Veggies classes set

The Veggie Basics class offered by Transition Longfellow runs for 4 Saturdays in April: April 4, April 11, April 18 and April 25 from 10 - 11:30 a.m., in the community room at Gandhi Mahal (3009 27th Ave So.). It is taught by various Hennepin County master gardeners. Cost for the entire series is \$10. Beverages will be served. For questions about class content, email reierson.deb@gmail.com. For questions about registration or payment, email boyleaj3@gmail.com.

Praying in Color

Take time to reflect on and deepen your relationship with God in the season of Lent on Sunday, April 5 at 11:30 a.m. after coffee hour; Monday, April 6 at 10 a.m.; and/or Tuesday, April 7 at 4 p.m. at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church. The hour-long sessions will include a short Bible study on the importance of prayer before exploring different ways to pray, featuring a practice called Praying in Color. Praying in Color is an easy and relaxing way to pray using your hands and creativity to reflect and color a connection with God. All ages are welcome to come to one or more classes; no artistic ability needed.

Learning garden tour

One of Minnesota's most anticipated summer gardening events - the 2020 Hennepin County Master Gardener Learning Garden Tour being held on Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This self-guided tour includes nine gardens from Prospect Park to Edina and into Linden Hills. The variety of gardens on this year's annual tour offer many learning opportunities. They include eight home gardens designed and tended by Master Gardener volunteers, as well as one Community Garden. At each garden you'll meet Master Gardeners who garden not only for their enjoyment, but to contribute to the health of our local ecosystem. Buy tickets and learn more at www.hennepinmastergardeners.org.

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**A fashion show to benefit Sisters' Camelot**
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\$20 advance tickets. Hosted by Cornerstone Thrift Store

Events belong right here.
Reach readers with an ad on our Community page.
Denise@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

**Nokomis East Neighborhood Association**
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RESCHEDULED
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
6 - 7:30 pm
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Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children
bit.ly/NENAcrockpot

Longfellow Library opens

Minnehaha Senior Living, an assisted living community, located in South Minneapolis, has recently added a new library for its tenants and dedicated it to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. He was a beloved American Poet, famous for "The Song Of Hiawatha" written about Native American Indians in lyric poetry in 1855. The book is about an Ojibwe warrior named Hiawatha and a Dakota woman named Minnehaha.

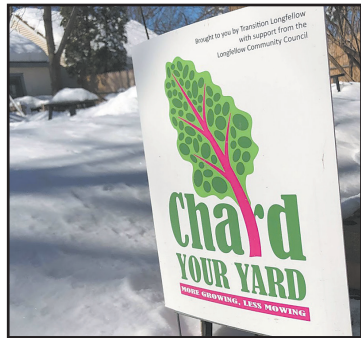


rich history of the writer and the name Minnehaha.

Ernst will be reading from the book "The Song Of Hiawatha" during a talk about Longfellow's life - that is open to the public on March 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the Activity Room. Ernst is the Executive Director at the Richfield Historical Society and is a regular speaker at Minnehaha Senior Living (3733-23rd Ave. S.).

Chard Your Yard Garden registration opens March 15

Have you seen those signs near your neighbors gardens and wondered what Chard Your Yard is all about? Since 2013, Transition Longfellow has partnered with the Longfellow Community Council to offer a fun and exciting event to increase vegetable gardening in the neighborhood, Chard Your Yard. Transition Longfellow is a community led group of neighbors focused on building sustainable communities in order to address climate change.



Chard Your Yard volunteers have built and installed about 160 raised bed vegetable gardens in the greater Longfellow neighborhoods. "We plan to build, deliver, and fill dirt in 24 raised bed vegetable gardens for neighbors in zip code 55406," say organizers. The garden beds are \$70 which includes: a 3'x5'x12" wooden frame installed and delivered to your house, a site visit by a master gardener to find the perfect spot for your bed, a fill of nutrient rich dirt, and a Chard Your Yard sign.

"Through the generous support of Longfellow Community Council, we can offer a limited

number of beds for low-income and senior citizen gardeners (\$35) and double-high beds for gardeners with disabilities (\$70)," say organizers. These beds are only available for people in Longfellow, Cooper, Howe and Hiawatha neighborhoods.

This event is completely volunteer based. Volunteers needed. Build and install the beds Wednesday, April 29 between 5-9 p.m. and fill them Saturday, May 2nd from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (attendance for entire shifts not required). Registration to receive a bed opens March 15 and will close in April or when all beds are purchased. Visit www.transitionlongfellow.org/chard-your-yard for further information.

Advertise in our Home & Garden Section coming in April and May

Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com | 651-917-4183



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

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- Monthly Service Guide & Classifieds

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Sunday School for all - 10:00am
Traditional Worship - 11:00am
Español - 1:30pm
March 1 - one service at 9:30
March 4 - Family Fellowship and Potluck starting at 5:15

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

Pastor Steven Reiser
Adult Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Children's Class 10:45 am
(Childcare Provided ages 0-4)
(Wheelchair Accessible)
Upcoming Events:
Cabin Fever Wednesdays @9:30-11:30 am
Beer & Bible @ Merlin's Rest at 6:30 pm
2nd Wednesdays
Bagel & Bible at 9:30 am 3rd Sundays
March 7 - Pasty Sale

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.org

Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
9:45 am-Sunday Worship & Sunday School
Mar 11 at 6:00 pm-Meal & Songs of My Life Service
12 Step Program-Mon thru Thurs
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Spirit Garage - The church with the really big door
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www.spiritgarage.org • 612-827-1074
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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 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 (Handicapped accessible)

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

Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
9 am Worship
9 am Youth Faith Formation
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:30 am Adult Faith Formation
Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:30, Worship follows at 6:45 pm
March 6th: Annual Cod fish and Meatball Dinner: 5 and 6:30 pm seating's. Call to make a reservation.
Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. (Handicap acc., Braille, Large Print)

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

Pastor Matt Oxendale
8:30 & 10:30 am Worship (1st Sunday 10:30 am only)
Lent Weds 6:30 p.m. (3/4-4/1)
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 pm

PROJECT OF NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES

Minnehaha Food Shelf, serving people Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm

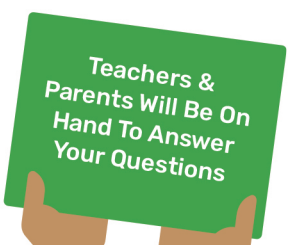
Call us at 612-721-6231 • Minnehaha United Methodist • 3701 E. 50th St.



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Longfellow Grill General Manager Andy Blankenship said, "We are making outdoor eating a thing here at Longfellow Grill." (Photos by Terry Faust)

DINE OUTSIDE THIS WINTER

>> from 1

"That's not on top - you just have to spend that much money on food and beverages," Blankenship said. Although the domes are designed to hold eight people, he said that 12 can fit, with extra chairs brought in.

"The domes can stay warm when it's 5 below outside," Blankenship noted. "We had guests when there was a negative wind chill of 15, and there was no problem."

He said the restaurant staff did some trouble-shooting the first week they had the domes open. "We've gone to buy propane gas heaters to keep the gas flowing nicely. We learned we have to open them up and air them out a little bit, because when condensation freezes, and you start to heat you get a rain forest effect in there. We don't want anyone dripped on," Blankenship said. "But we've worked out a lot of kinks this year, and overall they have been very successful for us."

Booked for after-dinner cocktails

An added benefit, according to Blankenship, is late-night bookings. "We have never booked a lot of late-night reservations at the Longfellow Grill, although we are open until 11 p.m. But we have had people booking the domes at 9 or 9:30 p.m. for after-dinner cocktails. We did not expect that, and we're happy it brought some people in at times that we had not been busy before."

Blankenship said the idea for setting up the domes came from David, the restaurant owner, who was out in Washington, D.C., last year and saw a number of domes set up outside the Watergate Hotel, lined up along the Potomac River. So they tried them at the Longfellow Grill.

"We were going to have

them go up right after we took down the patio, but we had to build bases for them and get them off the ground and didn't get them going until January," he said. "But the plan is next year, the minute the patio furniture is removed, the domes will go up. We can have them in that more moderate November, when it's chillier but we are not dealing with negative temperatures and snow."

He said this year the hope is to keep the domes up until at least mid-March, depending on the weather.

Pick your own music, lights

Lighting for the domes is part of the make-it-your-own experience that customers can enjoy, according to Blankenship. "We have LED lights that you can download an app to. You can have stagnant lights or blinking lights or a rain effect. If the lights are all red, that's a signal for your server."

Although the wait staff provides the restaurant's standard of service, they also don't want to be zipping the dome open because they want patrons to enjoy a private experience.

"We also have Blue Tooth in there so customers can have their own music. When you book a private room in a restaurant, you don't get that all the time," Blankenship said. A selection of games is also available, and "newfangled" Polaroid cameras for photo opportunities.

Blankenship said he has not seen any other domes on Lake Street or in downtown Minneapolis. But Hudson, Wis., has some along the river.

"They are untapped real estate for us in the winter," he added. "There was some suspicion by guests, wondering if you could really eat out there. But now that the ball's rolling, and there are social media posts, it's snowballed and is steamrolling. We have been booking a lot."

COZY HYGGE EVENING

A customer describes her dome dining experience: Jan Lysen joined her husband and two other couples for a recent visit to the Longfellow Grill to experience eating in one of the domes.

"Although we have gone to the Longfellow Grill, this was our first time in the dome," she noted. "It was in the high 30s on the Sunday we went, and it was a nice experience."

She said the staff slipped in and out of the dome quickly, never letting in a big blast of Arctic air.

"We went around 6 p.m., and the lights were on, and we did not change them. There also was music on, and we did not change that. You can control the music, but we just had a nice time talking to each other and paid little attention to the details."

She said a little blanket was also provided if they needed it, and their server popped in and out a few times, nothing intrusive.

"We could hear each other talk, which isn't always the case in a noisy restaurant," Lysen added. She suggested other visitors might like to try the options for lights and music at the beginning of their dinner hour.

The friends who gathered were of Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish nationalities. "It was like a Hygge for our environment. It was a nice and cozy and friendly experience."

Kids love the domes

The biggest challenge in using the domes is maintaining the temperatures. "We had some really cold nights, and if it wasn't for one of my assistant managers recommending these propane heat blankets, I wouldn't have known they existed," Blankenship explained. He said staffing was another piece to work on, but he has had dedicated servers for every night of the week."

He said he needs to thank the youngsters in the neighborhood who have noticed the domes on their way home from school and persuaded their parents to bring them for dinner. "We have had birthday parties and a couple proposals. It has definitely got a new car smell right now, but it will be interesting to see if it becomes a trend and if other restaurants put them up next year."

Blankenship advised anyone with any questions about dining in the domes to call the restaurant for more information.

"We are making outdoor eating a thing here at Longfellow Grill," said Blankenship.



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