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Hiawatha students learn about culture through stories and song

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Longfellow resident and folksinger Larry Long is helping children understand different cultures through stories and song. Through his "Elder's Wisdom, Children's Song" (EWCS) program, he is working with students at Hiawatha School, who interviewed three community elders and worked with them to create songs based on their stories.

The celebration will take place at 2 p.m. on Feb. 13. It is sponsored by Community Celebration of Place in partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools and West Metro Education Program. Sanford Middle School will also have an EWCS celebration at 2 p.m. on Feb. 12.

Created 30 years ago by Long, his EWCS intergenerational program is supported through his non-profit Community Celebration of Place. The program uses story and song to overcome barriers sometimes imposed by age, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and class.

Long, a Smithsonian Folkways recording artist, has come back to Hiawatha to do his EWCS program several years in a row.

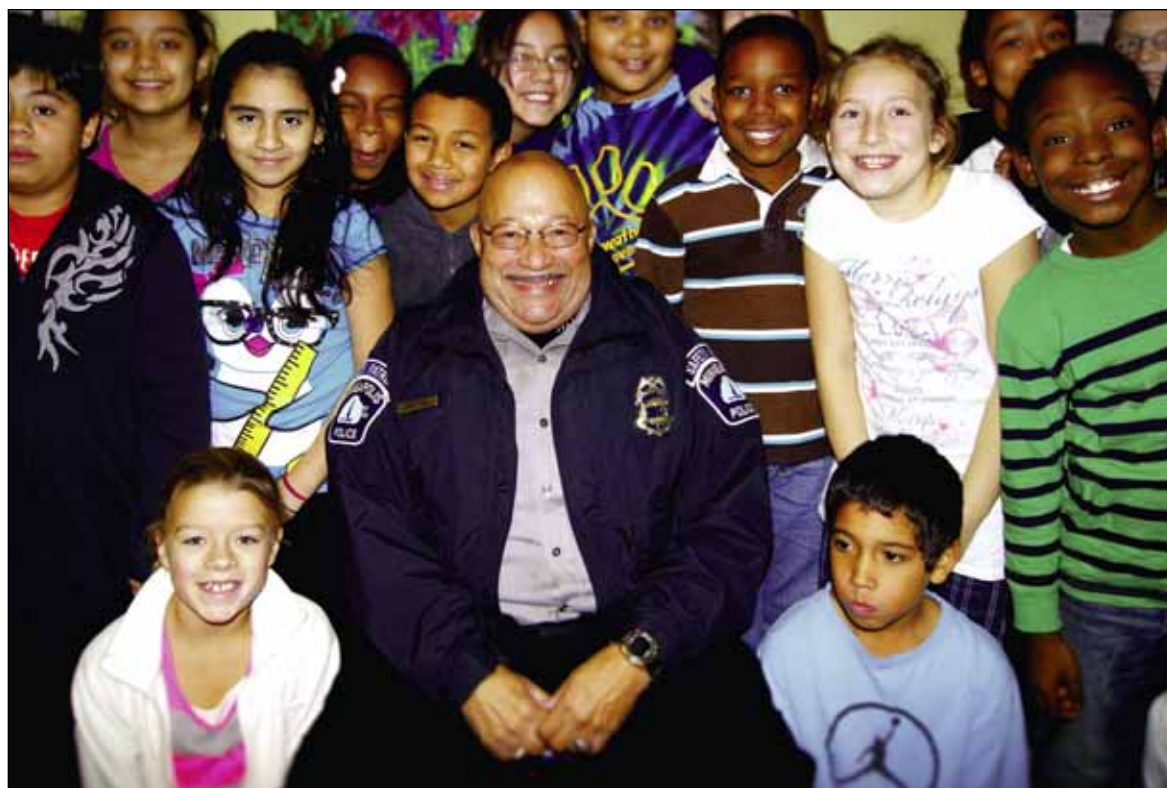
"My granddaughter goes there now," he said. "She's in kindergarten. I live in the neighborhood. It's my neighborhood elementary school. There's a special connection there. I come back because I love Hiawatha School."

Even though Long has been doing his EWCS program for 30 years, he never tires of meeting new people.

"I'm always humbled by the people who come through the door," he said. "Elder's Wisdom, Children's Song helps teach resilience. The elders share some tough stories. It reinforces life can be tough sometimes, but you can persevere and learn from your mistakes."

The EWCS program has definitely changed since Long first started doing it.

"The entire process has been developed with the communities," he said. "I've written close to 1,000 songs and worked in 300 to 400 schools. I started out working in rural communities and then



Sanford School Elder Antoine Berryman (above) is a school patrol agent for the City of Minneapolis, who takes care of all the schools' patrols. At Sanford he is joined by Kathryn Jensen and Ken Rivera.

urban and suburban communities. The process gets better and better and more defined. Each school adds another dimension to tweak the program."

Young people can learn many things from the elders.

"They learn resilience and that they're not alone," said Long. "They learn they're part of the community. It takes a village to raise a child. One thing about Hiawatha that's really wonderful is all these elders come and read to the children. The school is very intergenerational."

The EWCS program helps communities by shining light on people's stories who rarely get heard.

"It builds bridges between the many cultures of communities we live in," said Long. "It helps celebrate untold stories or stories that are rarely heard. It shines the light on individuals in the community who we do not shine light on. The people we honor are not in the news. They are committed to mentoring and the generation coming up."

The three elders working with students are Antoine Berryman, Kathryn Jensen, and Ken Rivera. Berryman is a school patrol agent for the City of Minneapolis, who takes care of all the schools' patrols. Jensen is the grandmother of two students who went to Hiawatha. Rivera is a bilingual education assistant at Hiawatha, who is an artist.

Rivera decided to be an elder because he likes to do more than just work in the classroom.

"I always try to do extra activities," he said. "I like being a coach. I tutor after school. I like doing

things outside of the classroom. I enjoy the one-on-one work with the kids."

Since the word elder in EWCS is a title earned by being a good community citizen who cares for others, Rivera is thrilled to be chosen as an elder.

"I felt honored and excited," he said. "I didn't know what they were going to do. They're going to record the song for me. I never had a song written about me."

Rivera feels students can learn many things from his story.

"One thing they can learn is having a positive outlook on your

life no matter what happens," he said. "There are going to be tough times, but you need to find something to smile about. Right after a bad day, a good day is always right around the corner. Life can challenge us, but we can learn really good lessons from challenging situations."

Participating in EWCS is important to Rivera because he thinks students need good role models.

"There's a lot of negativity," he said. "A way to change that is having positive programs to show kids there are positive role models."

Jan Bauer, music teacher at Hiawatha, helps the students get the elders' songs all polished up with actions.

"It helps us as performers to tell the story," she said. "It helps the listeners to see the stories as well as hear it."

Bauer feels the EWCS program is important to Hiawatha because it's literacy-based.

"Children learn to write music, how to ask questions, and to take all the information about a person's life to make verses and lines and fit it into rhythms," she said. "All that stuff is literacy-based."

She hopes students learn that people are people.

"They don't have to be afraid because someone dresses or speaks differently," said Bauer. "We have a lot of history in our community as well as our nation that it's important to know. History comes alive through our elders' stories more than what you read in a book."

Building cultural literacy, Long feels the EWCS program just keeps on getting better and better.

"It builds greater cultural understanding of the community we live in and inspires people to make a place at the table for newcomers," he said. "People really see the joy of having many cultures in one neighborhood. I hope it inspires people to reach out to other people in the community who may come from different cultures."

For more information, visit: www.communitycelebration.org

There's a special connection there. I come back because I love Hiawatha School."

- Musician and local resident Larry Long

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Longfellow has its own burger at the Blue Door

By IRIC NATHANSON

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow has lent his name to a neighborhood, a school, a park and a grill. Now, the famed American poet has his own burger.

The menu at the Blue Door on 42nd Avenue features a "Bluecy Longfellow." The signature dish at this new neighborhood pub is a half-pound patty stuffed with blackberries, honey and goat cheese.

The "Bluecy Longfellow" is the latest creation from two local restaurateurs, Jeremy Woerner and Patrick McDonough, who operate the original Blue Door across the river on Selby Avenue in St. Paul.

Woerner and McDonough are following in the footsteps of Matt's Bar on 35th Street, the home of the "Jucy Lucy," so they have come up with their own "Juicy Bluecys." All the Bluecys have cheese baked inside, but each one has its own special identity. The flagship Bluecy comes with bleu cheese and finely chopped garlic. Other imaginative burgers at the popular Selby Avenue location include a breakfast Bluecy topped by a fried egg, and a Cajun version with pepper jack cheese and diced jalapenos.

"Now that we are here in Minneapolis, we felt this neighborhood needed its own Bluecy, so that's why we have the 'Longfellow,'" Woerner said.

"We are going to have many of the same items here that we have in St. Paul, including our soups, salads and homemade tater tots, but we will be tweak-



The "Bluecy Longfellow" is the latest creation from two local restaurateurs, Jeremy Woerner and Patrick McDonough, who operate the original Blue Door across the river on Selby Avenue in St. Paul and have just opened a Longfellow location at 35th Street and 42nd Avenue South. Pictured above: Patrick McDonough. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

They are built from wood we salvaged from the original building," Woerner said.

The tables include one that is 14 foot long and named for Longfellow. "This is a community table where people from the area can sit together," McDonough said. "We want the new Blue Door to become the kind of neighborhood place where half the people in the room seem to know each other."

The original Blue Door on Selby has been called a family friendly pub, but Woerner says the new Longfellow location is basically a restaurant that serves beer and wine. "In St. Paul, 80% of our revenue comes from food, and we expect to see the same percentage here in Minneapolis. This is not the kind of place where you come to drown your sorrows. It is a place where you can have a couple of beers with your kids sitting next to you in the booth."

At the new Blue Door Longfellow, beer gets top billing along with the Bluecys. There are 14 labels on tap, along with a hand-cranked beer cask. "We have local brands, that people know, like Summit and Surly, along with some less familiar labels," Woerner said.

When plans for the new pub were first unveiled more than a year ago, some area residents expressed concern about its impact on the surrounding neighborhood, which includes Sanford Middle School, directly across the street.

ing the menu here somewhat, McDonough added.

The new home of the Longfellow Bluecy is a rebuilt commercial building at 35th and 42nd Avenue, dating back to 1919, that had housed an appliance repair shop in recent years. "The building was in bad shape

when we began work on it, so we had to gut it, and start over," Woerner explained. "But we wanted to make the new place feel like it had always been a restaurant, so we have put in wood booths and used a lot of wood paneling on the walls. Everything in here is new, except for the tabletops.

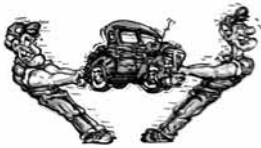
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Xcel cuts Hiawatha substation artwork by half to reduce costs

Midtown Greenway Coalition offers alternatives that would prioritize trail users, but Xcel is proceeding with reduction

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

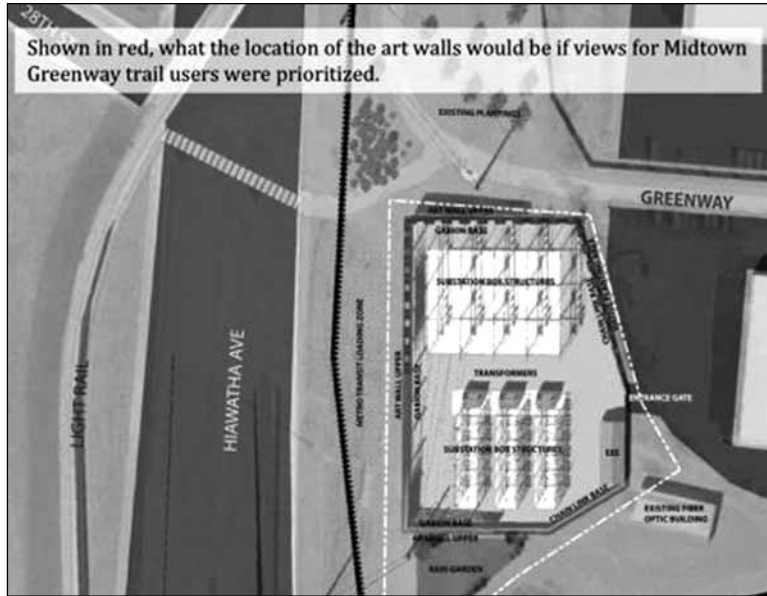
The new 3.25-acre Xcel substation at Hiawatha and 28th Ave. will no longer be screened on all sides by angled aluminum mesh walls.

Instead, Xcel is cutting back the amount of artwork on the facility by about half, a move that the Midtown Greenway Coalition says will negatively affect trail users.

"The last minute change to the substation design was a surprise and very disappointing," said Midtown Greenway Coalition Executive Director Soren Jensen. "We were excited about the original design, which was approved by a citizen advisory group convened by Xcel. That original design had artwork wrapping almost entirely around the substation."

When the design for the new substation was released in 2012, it garnered praise for being a unique and creative structure. The design was of a translucent cube that would glow yellow at night, complementing the blue-lit Sabo Bridge nearby. The plan was to have all four walls composed of extruded metal, a metal mesh surface that is semi-transparent. The metal would be given an anodized finish to color it. Additional color would come from lighting.

The advisory work group pushing designers to be creative included representatives from Xcel Energy, the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and community organizations. The group met for four months and conducted several open houses,



Shown in red, what the location of the art walls would be if views for Midtown Greenway trail users were prioritized.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition has proposed a number of alternatives that would not increase the project cost, but would provide artwork on the east and north sides. This would screen the substation from trail users, who come closer to the substation than drivers on Hiawatha do. Xcel is planning to place the screening primarily on the west side to screen the view from drivers on Hiawatha.

working to develop a substation design that would be technically feasible and aesthetically pleasing, according to Xcel representative Patti Nystuen.

After the group met, an engineering and budget analysis was completed. The designs filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission had reduced and re-engineered screening on both the Hiawatha substation, as well as the one on Oakland Ave. and 29th St.

"These revisions were necessary to meet safety and budget concerns of the original designs," said Nystuen. The Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission approved a substation screening budget for both substations of \$1.3 million.

"Xcel Energy tried to keep the integrity of the originally presented design with as much of

the wall as possible on all sides," said Nystuen.

She added, "Xcel Energy feels that the current wall design respects the guiding principles established through the advisory work group and respects the interest of the participating parties in the group's process."

The Midtown Greenway Coalition disagrees.

"The new design, which was not approved by the citizen group, reduces the artwork almost in half. As a result, it now looks more like a half-hearted attempt to screen an ugly substation," said Jensen.

Xcel has received 77 comments from citizens regarding the change. All but two asked that the artwork wrap around the north/northeast corner of the substation.

"We are disappointed that Xcel appears to be ignoring public comments, and is proceeding with the new design, which

greatly reduces the proposed art wall around the substation," said Jensen.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is requesting that the advisory work group be reconvened by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to review the design.

The Coalition has proposed a number of alternatives that would not increase the project cost, but would provide artwork on the east and north sides. This would screen the substation from trail users, who come closer to the substation than drivers on Hiawatha do.

Jensen stated, "Since the substation is mostly impacting the Midtown Greenway, the priority should be protecting the Greenway viewshed and minimizing the aesthetic impact to the trail."

Site work at the Hiawatha location behind Target has begun, and the project will be complete in 2014.

"It now looks more like a half-hearted attempt to screen an ugly substation."

- Midtown Greenway Coalition Executive Director Soren Jensen

Blue Door

Continued from page 2

"We are working hard to be good neighbors," Woerner said. "We will be composting 95% of our waste on site, so the place won't be littered with trash bins, and our equipment won't be generating noise pollution."

While the Blue Door doesn't provide off-street park-

ing, Woerner and McDonough expect that their patrons will be able to find on-street spots nearby. "There is a lot of on-street parking around Sanford. Our busy times are in the evenings and on-weekends when the school is closed, so we are not expecting any problems," Woerner said.

"We are hoping that a lot of customers will walk or bike here. We will have space for about 12 bikes on our racks. We

are not far from the bike trails on the Greenway and the Parkway, so it will be an easy bike ride to get to us."

The Blue Door Longfellow at 35th Street and 42nd Avenue will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. - Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. (As the Messenger goes to press, the Blue Door is planning to open during the last week in January.)

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Upcoming Nokomis East Events

Thursday, February 28: Winter Social and Silent Auction
Nokomis East Business Association, 6 – 9pm at the American Legion Hall, 5600 34th Ave S. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. www.nokomiseastba.com

Saturday, April 13: South Minneapolis Housing Fair
10am – 3pm, Mpls Sports Center at the Midtown YWCA
2121 East Lake Street. www.housingfair.org

Tuesday, April 16: NENA's Annual Neighborhood Meeting and dinner. 6:30pm at Crosstown Covenant Church
www.nokomiseast.org

And save the dates for:

Saturday, June 22: Nokomis East Neighborhood Garage Sale
Watch for applications in April. www.nokomiseast.org

Saturday, September 7: Minneapolis Monarch Festival
10 – 4pm, by the native plant gardens at Lake Nokomis
www.monarchfestival.org



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Viewpoints

Messenger

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Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.

~ Barbara Winkler

Planning the summer garden is a good way to get through February. As the month begins, the glow of the holidays is long past and we are usually in the midst of the coldest weeks of the year.

We survive, in part, by looking through seed catalogues and thinking about what to plant this year. It used to be that one had to wait to do this until the catalogues arrived in the mail. But now, the pages of possibilities are just a click away on the Internet.

Though the catalogues are now online, the dreaming has not changed. I sit by the window, looking at the winter outside — and then glancing at the pages of garden catalogues online. This year, my garden dreams have focused on three websites:

- Seed Savers Exchange (www.seedsavers.org). A labor of love based in Decorah, Iowa, Seed Savers specializes in saving and sharing heirloom seeds.
- Seeds of Change (www.seedschange.com). "Spring dreaming" from the little town of Spicer, Minnesota



Hiawatha Notebook

By TOM GILSEAN

Dreaming of a summer garden

- Albert Lea Seed Co (www.alseed.com). This is the company whose catalogue gets me thinking about growing soybeans in the backyard or behind the coffee house. I haven't yet, but this could be the year.

How about you? What seed catalogues get you dreaming about your summer garden? Let me know and I'll pass the information along to other readers. You can write to me at the address which appears at the end of this column.

* * * * *

I've been thinking lately that Lake Nokomis needs a good monster. Something like the Loch Ness Monster, only a lot more friendly. A sea creature on the order of Puff the Magic Dragon.

It wouldn't be the first 'monster' for a Minneapolis lake. You may recall that Cedar Lake had a monster for awhile. It was the creation of the WCCO Radio duo of

Nokomis library. She would be 'prairie gold' in color, the same as the old Minneapolis Moline tractors. And for a name, I suggest Beulah. Then we could sing that old children's song:

She never ate an enemy
She never ate a friend
For Beulah the beast
was a vegetarian.

Besides her duties on the lake and in the library, she could be in parades and at neighborhood events.

All right, now it's your turn. Comments and suggestions about Beulah are welcome. See you back here in March; with any luck it should be warmer.

(Tom Gilsean has been writing a column for the Messenger since 1997. You can write to him via email at tomgilsean@gmail.com. Or write to him the old-fashioned way in care of the Messenger.)

Spring feels a long way off at the end of January, but with a busy schedule approaching, the next couple months will fly by. Coming up are the South Minneapolis Housing Fair (April 13), NENA's Annual Meeting (April 16) and two Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) events — a Winter Social and Silent Auction on Feb 28, and the NEBA Annual Meeting on April 23.

Housing Fair

The 2013 South Minneapolis Housing Fair will be an all new kind of fair — new location, new activities, new ideas. There will still be plenty of contractors who will talk with you about large and small remodeling projects, home repairs, maintenance and so on, but there's also much more.

The growingly popular Hennepin Fix It Clinic will be at the Fair; artists and craft people will showcase their work and help you with redecorating ideas; and short demonstrations on a variety of topics will replace the old format of 90 minute workshops. South High Community Education will offer follow-up classes on the demonstration topics in Spring and Summer.

The "Ask an Expert" section will be back, along with a birdhouse making activity for children, neighborhood organizations, and the "House of Pressure" will demonstrate energy saving methods.

The Fair will be held April 13, 10 am — 3 pm, in the Minneapolis Sports Center at the Midtown YWCA, 2121 East Lake Street. The new venue offers space for additional activities such as the Fix It Clinic. People can bring something they want repaired (for example, a lamp with a damaged cord) and volunteers at the clinic will help fix it, showing the client how it's done. It's an idea that is catching on around the world, and recent Hennepin Fix It Clinics have drawn good crowds. The clinic will run 10 — 2 PM at the Fair.

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH AND DOUG WALTER, NENA STAFF

Gearing up for Spring Events

The housing fair is produced by a group of six neighborhood organizations, including NENA, South High Community Education, and a business representative.

NEBA Winter Social and Silent Auction

The Nokomis East Business Association is having its first annual Winter Social and Silent Auction on February 28, 6:00 — 9:00 PM at the American Legion (5700 34th Ave S). The event will feature live music, appetizers from local restaurants (Al Vento's, Oxendale's, DiNoki's Pizza, and others), and beer, wine, coffee and soft drinks.

NEBA invites residents, businesses, including home-based businesses, professional practices, and community organizations to be a part of this event. It will be a great time to meet people in the business community, enjoy a drink and check out some unique items in the silent auction.

Tickets for the event are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and include food and drinks. Businesses that join NEBA before the event will receive two free tickets. Tickets can be purchased through NEBA's website: nokomiseast-ba.com or by dropping off a check at McDonald's Liquor (attn: Mike Hennessy).

NENA staffer Rita Ulrich is organizing the silent auction (in her capacity as a NEBA Board Member). If you can donate an item for the silent action, please contact her at (612) 724-5652 or rulrich@nokomiseast.org.

offer — time, organizing skills, knowledge of the neighborhood, writing, fundraising experience, planning projects, or other skills you think can help make a difference, consider running for a Board position.

Three at-large seats and one representative for each of NENA's four neighborhoods (Wenonah, Minnehaha, Morris Park, Keewaydin) will be elected at the April 16 meeting. Even if you're not sure what you can do, call us if you are interested. We can answer your questions and talk about what you might like to work on. The most important quality for a Board member is dedication, followed closely by a willingness to learn. To learn more, call (612) 724-5652.

Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

NENA Board: 7 PM, Thursday, February 21 at NENA, 3000 E. 50th St.

NEBA Winter Social and Silent Auction: 6 - 9 PM at the American Legion, 5700 34th Ave S.

South Minneapolis Housing Fair: 10 AM — 3 PM, Saturday, April 13 at Midtown YWCA, 2121 E. Lake St.

NENA welcomes requests for accommodations. Call (612) 724-5652 or email rulrich@nokomiseast.org. Please give us as much notice as possible, but no less than 4 business days.

Last-minute schedule changes are posted on our Calendar page at www.nokomiseast.org or you may call the office (612) 724-5652.

Letters to the Editor

MCWD Clean Water Open House Feb. 13

As Minneapolis City Council members, we have dealt with a lot of difficult issues but there's one question we hope we never have to answer: What would our city be without our beautiful lakes?

Hundreds of people can be found enjoying our clear lakes on warm summer days, but that makes it easy for us to take their condition for granted. In other cities where water quality is poor and aquatic invasive species like Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Water Milfoil have taken over, the lakes

and their surrounding communities suffer. Just because Lake Nokomis and other local lakes are healthy now doesn't make them immune to those issues. We need to make sure we have a plan in place to prevent them from becoming a problem right here in our own backyard.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has partnered with the City to do some great work to preserve lakes and creeks in our area, and now they want to continue their efforts to keep our local water in great shape. They're asking you to weigh in about clean water at a public open house to be held on Wednesday, February 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at

the Bakken Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue South.

Taking an hour of your time to share with the Watershed District what you want to happen to our local bodies of water will help with the planning, so we don't ever have to worry about answering what would be a devastating question, 'what would our city be without our beautiful lakes?'

Council Member John Quincy, Ward 11
Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy, Ward 12

Wabun's new playground will be city's first Universal Access one

Construction to begin this spring on auto camp-themed playground that will make it easier for those with disabilities to use



Those with disabilities will easily be able to access 90% of the features at the new Wabun playground through the use of ramps. There will also be an area for those who need a quiet play area. "I love the quiet area and the accommodations for the autism spectrum," said District 3 Parks Commissioner Scott Vreeland. While the artificial turf planned for the playground has been controversial, proponents point out it is cheaper than other options for Universal Access playgrounds.

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Over 60 years ago, Minneha-ha's Wabun Park provided respite to travelers. Later this year, it will provide a place where children of all abilities can gather together at an auto camp-themed playground.

This summer, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board will construct the city's first Universal Access playground at Wabun, replacing the equipment there that was installed in 1973. At the park, those with disabilities will be able to use 90% of the play features, a figure significantly higher than the average.

"I truly believe that bringing children together from a variety of backgrounds and varying abil-

ities will benefit all of us," said Peggy Halvorson of Falls 4 All, the non-profit that raised \$760,000 for this project together with People for Parks.

"We learn, by playing together at an early age, to accept and understand our differences and see each other as worthwhile, compassionate and whole beings."

Universal Access playgrounds go a step farther than those that meet the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. While ADA standards call for paths and ramps wheelchairs can traverse, in a universal access playground all ramps are wide enough for wheelchairs and kids don't have to be transferred out of wheelchairs to use equipment. The surfacing is

soft enough to cushion a fall.

There are currently only three such playgrounds in Minnesota: Rochester, Red Wing and St. Cloud. A fourth, Madison's Place, in Woodbury will also be under construction this summer.

WHY BUILD A UNIVERSAL ACCESS PLAYGROUND?

In the United States today, one in five have disabilities, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Minneapolis Park Board Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Toby Broadrick pointed out that number is expected to rise to 25% of the population in the next decade.

Continued on page 12

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Exploring imperfection as an acceptable part of humanity

Thursday, March 14
Enjoying the Seven Deadly Sins:
Risky Business?

Thursday, March 21
The Healing Hope of Reconciliation:
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ACCREDITED BUSINESS

New bar/restaurants come to East Lake St.

By JILL BOOGREN

Hungry hearts and souls – and thirsty people, too – now have two new places to go for food and drinks on East Lake St., each with its own spin on familiar fare.

The first, Parka, a coffee bar/restaurant, opened in January in a space shared with and open to Forage Modern Workshop. It's a three-part partnership between Victory 44, Dogwood Coffee Co. and Rustica Bakery, with renowned Victory 44 Executive Chef Erick Harcey taking the helm.

Open for lunch and dinner, with coffee and bakery items available for breakfast, Parka aims to give you all the comfort of your favorite coat and make you feel right at home. It's a loving tribute to Minnesota and the far North, with its wooden deer head wall hangings, the ceramic white squirrel perched on the countertop and the elaborate Bear Fox Chalk rendition of a 1928 portrait of a bundled-up Inuit family.

The menu, according to Manager Josh Cook, "is a riff on what your Mom used to make you if you grew up in Minnesota." For starters you can try ham and pickle tots, with house-made cheese whiz, truffle and pickles. Or rabbit meatballs on mini hoagies with apricot mostarda, pistachio aioli and beet chips. Entrees include Mom's meatloaf sandwich and a beer can chicken with popcorn grits, piquillo peppers and hot sauce.

Three taps feature beer exclusively from Indeed Brewing and include Day Tripper Pale Ale, Midnight Ryder American Black Ale, and Stir Crazy Winter Ale or other seasonal. Wine, bottled beer and specialty coffee drinks are available as well.

"Stick around long enough, and we'll treat you like family,"



Patrons in parkas visit Parka, a new coffee bar/restaurant on E. Lake St. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

said Cook. "Most of all we hope people feel like they've gotten high on service and food at affordable prices in a casual and playful atmosphere."

It's easy to feel right at home alongside the warm and beautifully inviting Forage Modern Workshop, which opened last fall. A design shop/showroom that feels part gallery and part vintage boutique, Forage features hand-crafted furniture and home decor from skilled artisans, many of whom are local. From a playful child's toy to one-of-a-kind coffee tables and chairs, these are truly imaginative pieces.

More than just the physical space, Parka shares ideals, aesthetics and a community with Forage. If there's a unifying theme, it's that fine craftsmanship, be it of furniture, decor, food or drink, can make the world a brighter place.

Zeke's Unchained Animal, opening four blocks west of Parka in the old Italian's space, has four chef/co-owners, none of whom go by the name Zeke: Sean Cooke, Scott Hinson and Riley Chaffee,

all graduates of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts; and Antara Busse-Rein, who is currently enrolled in The Art Institutes International Minnesota.

If the name of this restaurant/bar makes you think it's Where the Wild Things Are, don't go in there ready to "gnash your terrible teeth and show your terrible claws" just yet. It's not exactly unhinged. Cooke describes it as having sort of an industrial look but classy and upscale. A bar, but definitely not a dive bar.

It's getting a whole remodel, so anyone who was there for Italian's won't recognize it. The owners are dedicating a section of the restaurant to the former Lake Street Garage. That includes hanging a picture of the building given to them by the Lake Street Council which, according to Cooke, was taken from across the street where the streetcars used to run.

The menu will offer gourmet bar food: pizzas, burgers, appetizers. Look for familiar offerings with a few twists. Pizzas may include classic pepperoni and Italian-style margherita, but there's also a "Not-So-Minnesota-Nice

Pizza" that has chorizo, jalapenos, sauteed onions and peppers, and cayenne "to give it a really big kick."

The Unchained Burger is Cooke's creation, which he calls one of the top three things he's ever eaten. It's a lamb burger, with caramelized onions, cheddar and pepper jack cheese on a ciabatta roll. There will be vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free dishes as well.

"It's all going to be made by hand, made from scratch, made with love," said Cooke. The chefs are committed to using local ingredients whenever possible. "We'd love to provide information on proximity of farm to table and have everyone know where its coming from and why it's better, how we can guarantee it's more fresh, which will guarantee great taste and show our commitment to the best food possible."

They'll feature local beers, too. Of nine taps, one is 1919 root beer. With the other eight, they plan to offer a range of beers to suit a variety of tastes and will rotate seasonals from Harriet Brewing.

After people weighed in on Facebook, the co-owners decided against having a TV in the bar. "[People] said they'd like a place where you can go focus on your friends and family, the atmosphere... and not be distracted," said Cooke. Instead, look for live music.

"It'll be more whimsical, give you a chance to hang out with musicians and hear them play, rather than sit down and watch them on stage," he said. A musician himself, Cooke loves getting together with other musicians and doing a show they've never practiced before. "It's a lot more fun for the musicians and a lot more fun for the audience."

Zeke's Unchained Animal, ex-

pected to open in February, will be open for breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Both establishments are pleased to be part of an East Lake revival.

"It is exciting to be on E. Lake St. in an area that has been seemingly, not forgotten, but sort of passed by," said Parka's Josh Cook. "We want to honor the history and honor the neighborhood and the roots that are here and also be part of revitalizing the area."

Zeke's Sean Cooke agrees. "We're really happy to get this location," he said. "This particular stretch of Lake between the river and Hiawatha is a big up and coming area."

Cooke thinks more restaurants create healthy competition in the neighborhood. "If we all make these good places that have nice variety and make people want to come here for one restaurant, it'll help the whole area. It'll bring life to what used to be a dead area."

Ruth Romano of the Longfellow Business Association welcomes them all. "It's fabulous news," she said. "We've been waiting for a long time."

Zeke's Unchained Animal

is at 3508 E. Lake St.
Hours: M-Th 11 a.m.-midnight;
F-Sat 11 a.m.-1 a.m.; Sun 9 a.m.-midnight
(breakfast hours TBA)

Parka is at 4021 E. Lake St.

Hours: M-F 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
(kitchen opens at 11 a.m., closes 3-5 p.m., coffee bar stays open)

Forage Modern Workshop

is at 4023 E. Lake St.
Hours: T-Sat 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Questions?

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Longfellow Community Council

Serving Longfellow, Hiawatha, Cooper, and Howe neighborhoods

So Long Solotaroff

By the time that this article goes to print Joanna Solotaroff, LCC's Community Organizer, will already be working in her

new position as an audio book producer in New York City. Joanna was the creative genius behind many of LCC's programs, events and activities. Joanna was the perfect compli-

ment to LCC and had a real knack for community engagement. Joanna's warmth and thoughtful nature helped LCC to build many new partnerships and relationships throughout the Greater Longfellow community. Community volunteers who worked with Joanna (block club leaders, businesses owners, LCC committee members and staff from local community organizations) will remember her as bright and talented. Her enthusiasm for sharing information and promoting ideas helped to provoke the same in others. Working with Joanna on and off for 4 1/2 years and has been a mix of energy, comedy and genuine fun. Organizing in a community the size of Greater Longfellow is not an easy task but Joanna was a natural and LCC and the residents of this community were huge beneficiaries of her talents and depth of commitment. Although Joanna has moved on, her roots are still in Minneapolis and I hope and expect to see her face around the office and neighborhood in the future. I know that everyone will join me in wishing her the greatest success and happiness. Melanie Majors, LCC Executive Director

Join the LCC Board of Directors – One neighborhood seat is still open!

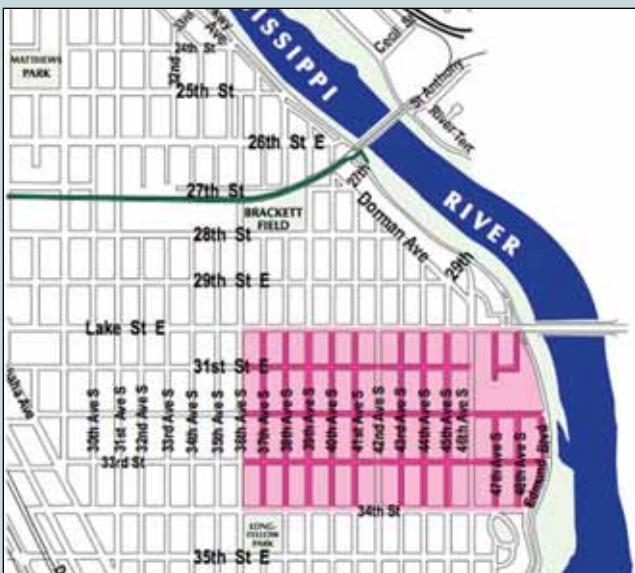
The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) has an open seat in the Hiawatha neighborhood. The term for this seat will expire in April 2013 so it is the perfect opportunity for someone who would like to make a short-term commitment to see what serving on the LCC Board is all about. If you are interested in more information about the LCC board please contact Melanie Majors either by phone at (612) 722-4529 or via email at melanie@longfellow.org

Longfellow Garage Sale Day in 2013

By popular demand, LCC will coordinate a neighborhood sale day sometime during the Summer of 2013. The event will likely be similar to other neighborhood sales days, where many individual and block sales are held at the same day and time. Details will be finalized in the coming months. We would love your help or ideas for planning the event! If you would like to help out or have an idea to share, contact Spencer at spencer@longfellow.org or 612-722-4529 ext 5. And be sure to spread the word to your neighbors!

Cooper Street Resurfacing

Streets in portions of the Cooper neighborhood will be resurfaced in 2013. Resurfacing removes part of the pavement surface and places a new layer of asphalt over the entire street surface. The work typically takes 2 days for a given stretch of street, one day for pavement removal and a second day for asphalt placement. There will be an assessment associated with the project, which will appear on property tax bills paid in 2014. The assessment rate is \$0.20 per lot square foot for residential properties. For a 5,000 SF lot, the assessment would be \$1,000. The City will coordinate mailings and a public hearing regarding the project in late Spring or early Summer. FFI contact Spencer.



2013 LCC Chili Cook-Off Winner!

Congrats to Mike Linzbach, the runaway winner in the popular vote for best chili at the 2013 LCC Chili Cook-Off! Mike took home a great bundle of prizes from local businesses, including Frattalone's Ace Hardware, Peace Coffee, Mother Earth Gardens, Riverview Theater, Riverstone Salon Spa, and The HUB Bike Co-op. Mike's chili's great flavor and moderate "heat" had wide appeal. The recipe is available on our website longfellow.org so you can try it out yourself!

Other winning recipes included Alex Tsatsoulis and Katie Tharp whose Black Bean Sweet Potato Chili won "Best Vegetarian Chili," Richard Parnell whose bike-themed art won "Best Presentation," Ken Koense for "Best Spicy Chili," and Tor Flatebo for "Best Medium Chili." Thanks to everyone who participated, to the great local businesses that donated prizes, and to Council Member Gary Schiff for emceeding the event!



Mike Linzbach had tough competition at the Longfellow Chili Cook off but took home Grand Prize. Council member Gary Schiff and LCC's Joanna Solotaroff offer their congratulations. Photo by Christine Marlo.

Welcome new LCC Board Members!

The LCC Board of Directors welcomed three new Directors elected at the January meeting. Allison Johnson and Katie Roth are the new representatives for the Longfellow neighborhood. Kyle Rosenquist is the representative for Cooper neighborhood. Allison grew up in the Longfellow neighborhood, moved back as an adult and is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. She currently works for a non-profit affordable housing developer and is very interested in the changes happening on East Lake Street. Katie Roth moved into the Longfellow neighborhood last April and is a planner with Metro Transit. Katie was attracted to the area because of its transportation nodes and proximity to the Mississippi River. After being in the neighborhood for almost a year she views it as a very strong community and likes being a part of the community engagement efforts both professionally and personally. Kyle Rosenquist has lived in the neighborhood for 3 years. Kyle wants to be a part of the "front-end" of things that are happening in the neighborhood and is also very interested in the revitalization efforts on East Lake Street. Kyle, Katie and Allison are all excellent additions to the LCC Board and will be great representatives of their neighborhoods. Thank you all and welcome to LCC!

Calendar of Meetings and Events

February 2013

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

ADVANCEMENT

Wednesday, February 6
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Fireroast Café
3800 37th Ave

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, February 11
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org

RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Monday, February 11
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Hiawatha School Park
4305 42nd St. E

LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, February 12
12:00 - 1:30 pm
St James AME, 3600 Snelling Ave

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, February 12
6:30 - 8:00 pm
FFI: longfellow.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, February 21
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Brackett Park
2728 39th Ave S
FFI: melanie@longfellow.org

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, February 26
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Check website for meeting location

Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55406

Phone: 612-722-4529

www.longfellow.org

Melanie Majors
Ruth Romano
Spencer Agnew

Executive Director
Office Staff
Housing and Environment
Coordinator

melanie@longfellow.org
ruth@longfellow.org
spencer@longfellow.org



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). You can also go to our website, LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com and enter the information in the online Event Calendar.

Fabulous Fish Dinners return

The fabulous Fish Dinners are returning to St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, E. 29th Street at 32nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis (accessible entrance.) These dinners are offered on the six Fridays of Lent, from February 15 through March 22, and are highlighted in the new book by James Norton, "Food Lovers' Guide to the Twin Cities"! Served from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., the dinners feature baked and fried fish, meatless spaghetti, potatoes, cole slaw, rolls, desserts and beverages. Ticket prices: Adults, \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9, Age 6-12, \$5 and children 5 and under eat for free. Classic Church Bingo is played in the gym from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and there are mini-raftles, 50/50s and a major cash raffle. Additional parking is available one block north in the Sullivan School lot, with shuttle bus service. For more info, call 612-724-3643 or visit www.saintalbertthegreat.org.

Stay financially fit

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a presentation about personal "financial fitness" on Tuesday, February 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st Street. Learn about staying on top of your finances. Suzy Wheeler with Family Means/Consumer Credit Counseling Services, will discuss personal budgeting, making a spending plan that works for you, and tips for living within your means. Call Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information.

Joint community meals set for 2013

The 2012 Community Meals were such a success that Minnehaha Communion Lutheran, the Volunteers of America Residential Reentry Center, and the Longfellow Community Council are partnering again in 2013. Mark your calendars for the 5th Wednesdays of the month, beginning January 30th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the MCLC fellowship hall. Come join together as a community to enjoy fellowship and make new connections! Meal is free to all (donations will be accepted).

MayDay Parade Community Meetings

The MayDay Parade Community Meeting will be held Monday, February 12, 7-9 p.m.; Tuesday, March 26, 7-9 p.m. At 1500 E. Lake Street.

Planning has begun for the 2013 MayDay Parade & Festival and we need your input!

Everyone is invited to one or both of our open brainstorming meetings. Bring your ideas, concerns, hopes and dreams about building a sustainable future. Tell your friends and neighbors!

LBA meets Feb. 14

Longfellow Business Association meets Thursday, February 14. Can you think of a better way to spend an hour on Valentine's Day? Hennepin County staff will give an update on the Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction (CSAH 48) project scheduled for 2014, including project schedule, concept layouts under consideration, and their understanding of current issues or concerns businesses have regarding this project. There will be V-Day treats too! Join us Thursday February 14, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Minnehaha Communion Church, 4101 37th Avenue South (Minnehaha Ave @ 41st St). FFI Ruth 612-722-4529 x1

Garden Club Feb 13: Fast Forward to Wildflower Garden

Thoughts of the earliest spring blooms lead us right to the amazing Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Lauren Borer, resident naturalist, shows us a year in the Garden, beginning with Spring trillium, bluebells and trout lilies, continuing through Summer's lady slippers and blazing stars, and the finale of Fall's goldenrods, grasses and autumn colors. And for all of you already eyeing that sleeping vegetable bed, Charlie Bowler, Dowling Community gardener, will present his tips for choosing and growing the many dozens of heirloom tomatoes and peppers he raises. (Some available at Dowling's annual May plant sale!)

Garden Club events are free and open to the public. Time: 7-9 pm, February 13, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave South.

Find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub> and <https://sites.google.com/site/longfellowgardenclubminnesota>

Concordia Academy to perform at Faith

Concordia Academy, Roseville, MN, will perform during the regular worship service at Faith Ev. Lutheran, 3430 East 51st Street, on Sunday, February 10 at 9 a.m. A small group from their larger choir will share a variety of music. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be collected at the end of the service.

Learn Dances from Around the World!

Tapestry Folkdance Center offers

various dance programs such as Daytime Dance without Borders, Contra, English Country, Bollywood, Waltz, Scandinavian, Country/Western and International Folk Dance to name a few. You are sure to find something you like. Join us for some healthy fun while meeting new friends and learning dances from around the world! Tapestry is very family and budget-friendly. Prices vary. To learn more about each dance, please visit www.tapestryfolk-dance.org or call 612-722-2914.

Winter Pasty Sale at Epworth Feb. 2

The Winter Pasty Sale at Epworth UMC is Feb. 2. You must order in advance; please specify meat or vegetarian pasty. Cost is \$5 each, payable when you pick up your order after 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at the church, 3207 37th Ave. S. Order by calling 612-724-8942 or e-mail your order to EpworthOffice@mplseppworth.com. Please be sure to include your name, phone number and how many pasties you are ordering.

Zipp's presents 3rd Sweethearts and Spirits event

Zipp's Liquors is proud to present the Third Annual Sweethearts and Spirits: Beer, Liquor and Wine tasting event. Join us on Saturday, February 9th, from 6:30-9 p.m. at The Minneapolis Eagles Club (2507 E 25th St.). All proceeds will benefit Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership (www.sng.org/justice.html) Tickets available at Zipp's or at the door.: \$20 for one or \$30 for two. This popular event may sell out - get your tickets early! Enjoy samples of beer, wine and liquor. Eat delightful foods and treats from local businesses and partake in Zipp's now famous silent auction. Stay for the after-party - Third Street Brewhouse will tap a keg of Sugar Shack Stout in the Eagles bar.

Cribbage Tournament at St. Albert Church

2nd Annual Cribbage Tournament at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, Sunday,

February 10 at 1 p.m. All ages are welcome for singles cribbage, double elimination. Bring cribbage boards and cards. Free beverages and snacks, door prizes, and trophies for adult and youth winners. \$10 entry fee is requested but no one is turned away. All proceeds benefit the Domestic Violence Prevention program at Holy Rosary/Santo Rosario parish. Questions? Call 612-724-3643 or visit www.saintalbertthegreat.org. St. Albert's is located at the corner of E. 29th Street and 32nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

Frolic, Food, and Fun at Mardi Gras dance!

A Mardi Gras Dance will be at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37 Ave. S. Saturday, Feb. 9. Come and dance from 7 to 10 p.m. to music from all generations. Wear your best costume and dance away the night. Snacks will be provided; everything is free. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by adults; no child care provided.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

Bethlehem Covenant
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Pastor Ryan Eikenbary-Barber
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Children especially welcome
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Sunday School at 9:45 am
Classic Worship at 11 am
February 13 ~ Lent begins with
Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 pm

Christ Church Lutheran
3244 34th Ave. • 612-721-6611
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
Childcare Provided
Education Hour at 11:00 am
Pastor: Kristine Carlson
A welcoming congregation
www.christchurchluth.org

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Education: Adults at 9:45 am;
Children and Youth, 11:30 am
(Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)
Rev. Pam Armstrong

Faith Evangelical Lutheran (LC-MS)
3430 E. 51st St. • 612-729-5463
Worship 9:00 am
Fellowship Hour 10:00 am
Education Hour 10:30 am
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dan Matasovsky

Holy Trinity Lutheran (ELCA)
2730 E. 31st St. • 612-729-8358
www.htlcmpls.org
Sunday Worship 8:45 & 11:00 am
Education opportunities for all ages 9:45 am
Childcare available
Pastor: Jay Carlson
Traditional Worship - Contemporary
Message - A Call to Social Justice
All are welcome - No exceptions

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church
5011 31st Ave. S. • 612-729-2323
www.lakenokomis.org
Summer Worship at 9:30 am
Sunday Worship at 8:00 am & 10:30 am
(nursery; fully 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
Sunday Mass 9:30 am (Childcare available)
Saturday Mass 5:00 pm
Daily Mass 8:15 am M,T, Th, F
(Handicapped accessible)
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
www.saintalbertthegreat.org

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000
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
Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
www.stpeders.net

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Sunday Worship Schedule
8:30 am Traditional, 11 am Contemporary
Feb. 3 & 10: One Service, 10 am
Ash Wed. Service, Feb. 13, 7 pm
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.

I have spent this week alone; really alone. Mr. M. was out of town on business. My friend and co-worker, Liz, was out of town. My sister was tied up with work, and I haven't seen my neighbors in a month. This week was the perfect storm. It was a great time to paint the basement floor, and get ready to move the living room TV and cabinet to the basement. Yes sir, it would be just me and the dog, or the dog and I if my sister's reading this. It'll be a retreat, without retreating anywhere, except to the basement.

The original idea for renovating the basement, was to give Mr. M. a place of his own to watch hockey. Officially, the players and management have reached an agreement to start up again. Halleluia! Mr. M.'s been lost without his favorite sport. I've observed



The Old White House

By SHERRI MOORE

An almost free basement floor

him, walking through the house, holding a well-read Popular Mechanics magazine, talking about maybe taking up racing again. He's even mentioned Nascar! Now that hockey will be back, I hope he forgets racing. Hopefully, a completed basement will help.

The old basement floor had been primed. When we removed the carpet, some of the glue came up, some didn't. I sanded with a 60 grit sandpaper, on the end of a stick, (think Swiffer floor dusters).

What perplexed me were the holes in the cement along the walls. Mr. M. said that's how the carpet I bought had been installed. That was in the late 80s, that carpet really held up! It was wall to wall, which meant, big nails around the perimeter, going into the cement.

I painted the floor, avoiding the holes, with light gray porch and cement paint. Again, I used the Stick, putting the roller on the end to avoid painting on my knees. It was necessary to paint the

edges with a brush, but I crouched down for that, avoiding any knee to concrete contact.

After Mr. M. returned from his business trip, he helped me pick out a cement repair that looked like cement in a mustard bottle. It was easy to squirt a bit in each hole, and since it was liquid, it was self leavening. What a great product! It couldn't get easier! Once it dried, I touched it up with a little paint.

This was a very cheap way to

finish the floor. Now, in the future, if there is any backed up sewer, (storm in the early 90s), there will be nothing to do but remove the water. People pay a lot of money for cement countertops, I got a whole floor for free!

The cost for the paint and sand paper was only \$30. Of course, I bought an area rug at Ikea for \$60, to warm up the floor a little. Very little money, very little upkeep. What could be better than that? Now I need some new furniture. I can use the money I saved on the floor!

(Sherri Moore is a freelance writer and resident of the Nokomis neighborhood. She and Mr. M. are in their twentieth year of renovating their old white house. Sherri welcomes your comments and can be reached at sherri.moore92@msn.com.)

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Learn from master gardeners at free presentations in February at Hennepin County Libraries

Daydreaming about gardening while dealing with our wind chill factors? Or dreading an upcoming season of weeds, turf problems, and mystifying plant care? Hennepin County Library is offering free Master Gardener programs in February to improve your gardening success. Some require registration in advance.

February topics are Best Plants for Tough Sites, Care of Houseplants, Small Space Vegetable Gardening, Landscape Plants for Winter Interest, Edible Landscapes, Annual Flowers for Minnesota and Dry Soil. Nine Master Gardener events on additional topics are scheduled in March and 12 in April.

Master Gardeners are University of Minnesota-trained volunteers who have completed at least 48 hours of horticultural education at the university, 12 hours of continuing education and 50 hours of volunteer service to become a certified Master Gardener. To remain certified, Master Gardeners complete 12 hours of continuing education and 25 hours of volunteer service each year (www.hennepinmastergardeners.org). In 2012, 291 active Master Gardeners in Hennepin County provided more than 19,500 hours of volunteer service.

Marilyn Arnlund of Maple Grove is beginning her fourth year as a Master Gardener and also is trained as a Minnesota Tree Care Advisor through the University of Minnesota. A deputy fire marshal in Maple Grove and in her 28th year as a firefighter, Arnlund thoroughly enjoys her volunteer service as a Master Gardener and has presented several sessions at Hennepin County libraries, including Hennepin County Library - Maple Grove.

She trained as a Master Gardener because she loves gardening, especially flowering perennials and tree and shrub care, and wanted to learn more about them and share her gardening skills with others. "It's so much fun," Arnlund said. "You meet so many people who have the same passion as you do."

Continued on page 11

Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be in the Messenger before Feb. 18 for the Feb. 28 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Messenger Classifieds, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Want ads must be mailed to the Messenger before Feb. 18 for the Feb. 28 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denisw@aplacetoremember.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

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ture stories on a free-lance basis. Pay is based on small stipend per story. Journalism students or graduates are preferred, but not required. Prior newspaper experience a must. Send resume, cover letter and clips to: Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger, 1885 University Av. S., St. Paul, MN 55104.

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Master gardeners

Continued from page 10

Which gardening challenge is she asked about most? "Pests - especially at Farmers Market booths and on our hotline" (612-596-2118). She volunteers at the Farmers Market in Maple Grove, but said Master Gardeners staff booths at many Farmers Markets around the Twin Cities. For locations, go to www.hennepinmastergardeners.org.

What is the most common mistake people make when gardening? "Putting the wrong plant in the wrong place," Arnlund said. "We say, 'The right plant in the right place.' When you buy a plant, read the tag. Does it need sun? Shade? Moisture? Will it grow too big for the location?"

Master Gardeners welcome your questions at Hennepin County Library presentations. Following is the Library's February Master Gardener schedule. For more information about Library events: www.hclib.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6-7:30 p.m. **Master Gardener: Edible Landscapes East Lake Library** Registration required, begins Jan. 22. Register online or call 612-543-8425.

Learn the how-tos of edible landscaping. Fruits, vegetables, berries and edible flowers can easily become a part of your home landscape design.

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New playground

Continued from page 5

"Too many playgrounds in their design tell kids and adults with disabilities that they are not welcome — Everything from sand surfacing to no ramps that allow access to the upper play elements," observed Broadrick. "Some playgrounds don't even have an accessible pathway to the playground and Wabun is a classic example of that!"

Two years ago, four accessible picnic shelters, a restroom building, and a zero-entry wading pool were constructed at Wabun to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

"It makes perfect sense to put a playground that is fully accessible on that site so that the people that need that kind of amenity can feel included and respected," said Broadrick.

"I sincerely hope that the Longfellow community is proud to be a part of something that will have a lasting and important impact on so many lives," said Halvorson.

WHAT WILL THE NEW PLAYGROUND LOOK LIKE?

The inspiration for the playground design at Wabun came from the area's history as an auto tourist camp in the 1920-1950s.

Elements within the new playground will reflect that histo-

ry, including a play 1920s-era vehicle, a 1930s-style camper that sways, and a log-cabin aesthetic. In addition to two separate play areas for ages 2-5 and 5-12, there will be a quiet area for kids that need to avoid the over stimulation of noisy, active play. It will have a play fire pit, boulders and tents.

"I love the quiet area and the accommodations for the autism spectrum," said District 3 Parks Commissioner Scott Vreeland.

Feedback from various surveys showed a preference for the two play areas (2-5 and 5-12) to be close together so that a parent can stand between them and watch both areas at once.

"I love how the design is somewhat 'upside down' in that there are not so many ramps, but a large walkway that brings the access to the top of the equipment," observed Halvorson.

Some residents have expressed concern about the artificial turf planned for the area. "Fake grass in our oldest regional park is not authentic, and its unchanging unnatural green will distract visitors who come to experience a natural area," said Minneapolis resident Lisa Hondros.

Halvorson pointed out that the more traditional surface for accessible playgrounds, a poured-in-place surfacing with a rubberized matting overlay, is much more expensive, and the Park Board is saving money by opting to use the artificial turf instead.

Park Board Commissioners

Park board holds off on one Minnehaha Park playground

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The Park Board held off approving the Minnehaha Park North Plateau playground design at its Jan. 16, 2013 meeting. It will review the plan again in February. The North Plateau playground is located off 45th St.

"There needs to be a little more clarity about what that is actually going to look like," said Commissioner Carol Kummer, who represents the Nokomis and Powderhorn neighborhoods.

While there was a professionally done, 3D rendering of the Wabun design, a similar drawing was not completed for the North Plateau playground. According to Park Board planner Andrea Weber, this was because the park staff do not have the capability to make these 3D designs themselves. The one for Wabun was completed by the playground manufacturer that designed the park. At the North Plateau playground, the park board did not accept a design from a single manufacturer, but instead pulled in pieces from



The Park Board held off approving the Minnehaha Park North Plateau playground design at its Jan. 16, 2013 meeting. It will review the plan again in February. The graphic above is an illustration of a draft of the plans in early stages of design.

several different ones.

New classic pieces will be arranged in orthogonal groupings. Freestanding slides, fulcrum see-saws, merry-go-rounds and a dome climber are in the older play area. Balance beams, stepping pods and crawl tunnels are in the younger play area. Sand play includes diggers, a sand table and classic molded metal animal spring rockers and concrete play animals to recall the "Longfellow Gardens" Zoo, which was once nearby.

The swings and the climbing

structure currently at the park will remain; they were built by a WPA work crew in the 1940s. Designers worked around the existing trees when planning. There will be a play area for ages 2-5 on the east side, and an area for ages 5-12 on the west. A sand pit will be on the south side. The colors for the park will be subdued, natural tones, and the materials used will be metal and wood.

"Parents are excited about seeing a play area similar to what they had as kids," said Weber.

debated the issue during both of their January meetings on the plans, but decided to proceed with the artificial turf. Commissioner Annie Young reminded the public that this playground will be a different play area than others in the city, and it needs to

be accessible by those in wheelchairs. While she personally dislikes the artificial turf, she thinks that it will work well for this type of use.

Construction is expected to begin in spring of 2013. A ground breaking will occur in

April 2013, and a grand opening in September 2013.

In addition to a new playground in the Wabun area of Minnehaha Park, the playground off 45th St. will be redone. The entire cost for both park playgrounds is \$1.5 million.



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