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By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Minneapolis' first female police chief didn't set out to hold the highest position in the city's police department.

"Little girls don't generally grow up wanting to be police officers, let alone the police chief," Janeé Harteau pointed out.

Her goal, instead, was to be really good at whatever position she held. As Assistant Chief to Chief Tim Dolan from 2010-2012, "I was just trying to be a really good assistant chief," said Harteau, who is openly gay.

In hindsight, Harteau sees how all of her past experiences over the last 26 years prepared her to be chief.

"Looking back now, I can clearly see I was meant to sit in this chair," she said.

Her past positions include working as a patrol officer on the street, hostage negotiator, SWAT team member, supervisor on the Street, Narcotics, Organized Crime and the Gang Unit, commander of the Crime Lab, inspector of the First Precinct in downtown Minneapolis, and Deputy Chief of the Patrol Bureau. She was the first president of the SafeZone collaborative and helped create of the Downtown Courtwatch Program. Early in her career, Harteau and former patrol partner Holly Keegel filed a discrimination and sexual harassment complaint against the Minneapolis Police Department that led to changes in policy and training, plus disciplinary action against several officers.

"Every experience gave me the insight, skills, and fortitude I need," Harteau observed.

ROLE OF CHIEF THAT OF PARENT

Harteau is one of only three other women leading major city police departments in the United States right now; the others are Kimberly Jacobs in Columbus, Ohio, and Cynthia Lanier in Washington, D.C. The total number of female police chiefs in the United States is not high, at only 2%, according to the Center on Women and Policing. In Minnesota, only 11 of 342 police chiefs are women. Despite being in a profession dominated by men, Harteau does not try to act like a man, but instead stays true to herself.

"I have the eye of an eagle and the heart of a lion," she noted.

Harteau is quick to recognize that each decision she makes has a human impact, and thus she doesn't decide anything lightly.

"I see the role the role of

Meet your new police chief

Janeé Harteau sees role of chief as that of a parent



"I see the role the role of chief as that of a parent," said Minneapolis' new police chief Janeé Harteau. She knows that not everyone will agree with all of her decisions, but she works hard to be accountable, operating on the principle that "sometimes a little explanation goes a long way." Harteau is the city's first female police chief. She is also openly gay, and is of French Canadian and Native American heritage. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

chief as that of a parent," Harteau said. She knows that not everyone will agree with all of her decisions, but she works hard to be accountable, operating on the principle that "sometimes a little explanation goes a long way."

Calling herself a "futurist," Harteau stated, "I see this department five years from now and how good we are."

Some people question: if things are working well now, why not leave it be? "If you don't nurture it, it won't continue to be good," Harteau observed. Because of that, she has focused on training since taking over the department. In early February, days off were cancelled so that all staff could attend a two-day training session focused on law enforcement practices. As part of the training were her guidelines for commitment, integrity and transparency, part of the path to what she labels the Minneapolis Police Department 2.0. The last major training initiative at the police department was in 1997, and it was focused on new technology.

Harteau is proud of the department as it is now, pointing out, "We're trendsetters nationally in a lot of ways." Hot spot policing tracks emerging trends and patterns, and randomized patrols ensure that officers go through a problem area in 15-minute intervals.

Harteau aims to "get cops out of cars and bring a beat philosophy to neighborhoods." She recognizes that no one knows

their neighborhood better than the people who live there, and she wants to engage their help to understand crime trends and manage problems.

Sharing information on the positive things officers are doing is also important to Harteau, who plans to use social media to accomplish that goal.

A PEOPLE-BASED JOB

After graduating from Duluth Denfield in 1982, Harteau, who is of French Canadian and American Indian heritage, entered a medical secretary program, but quickly learned it wasn't for her. "I knew I wanted to be more than an office worker," she ex-

Harteau values police work for its connection to people. "I can't think of a job more people-based than policing," she observed.

Officers see both perpetrators and victims, and often work with people at their worst. How does she keep from getting cynical? "When the tragedies occur, I've always focused on the good things," Harteau explained, such as the victims she can help. She reminds herself that she sees only a small percentage of the population that is bad. She makes sure that she has friends outside of law enforcement to give her perspective. And she spends time with her 14-year-old daughter.

"Looking back now, I can clearly see I was meant to sit in this chair."

- Minneapolis Police Chief Janeé Harteau

plained. She heard about the two-year law enforcement program at Hibbing Community College and enrolled there. Harteau joined the Minneapolis Police Department in 1987, and has been here ever since, working her way up the ranks.

Harteau also makes time to give back to her community. She currently volunteers at Youthlink, a non-profit that serves homeless youth; and Cornerhouse, which provides resources for abused children.

MINNEAPOLIS IS HOME

Minneapolis "feels like home" to Harteau. She's had the option of leaving many times over the past 26 years, but could never say goodbye to the Minneapolis community. "I like the mix here," she explained. "I like the department. We're a much more educated department here than in other cities." Only Minnesota and California require that their peace officers earn at least an associates of arts degree.

Education is a priority to Harteau, who earned a bachelor's degree in police science and a master of arts in public safety administration, both from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from St. Mary's in March 2013. She is also a graduate of the Senior Management Institute of Police in Boston, Mass. and the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety's Police Staff and Command School where she was the Franklin Kreml Leadership Award winner.

Harteau is not only a student, but also a teacher. She currently trains law enforcement leaders nationally for Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety and is an Assistant Professor at St. Mary's University of Minnesota in the School of Police Science.

A frequent traveler because of her teaching role, Harteau is always excited on the return flight when she sees the Minneapolis skyline. It's a view she loves, and when it comes into view Harteau knows she's home. "There's not much you have to leave for," she observed. In particular, she values Minneapolis for its arts and culture.

HARTEAU UNPLUGGED

When she's not working, Harteau stresses "unplugging" from technology. She and her life partner, Holly Keegel (a sergeant with the Minneapolis Police Department), disconnect from their own cell phones (Harteau has two). They have not yet gotten a cell phone for their 14-year-old daughter Lauren, and Harteau tells her that someday Lauren will thank her for it.

"I want her to stay engaged in the moment," explained Harteau. She doesn't think that can happen when people are "hyper-engaged" in text-messaging, Instagram, and Facebook at the same time.

With two parents on the police force, it isn't surprising that Harteau's daughter is considering a career in police work, too.

Harteau said, "It would be cool if she were walking in the door when I was walking out."

New businesses burglarized in Longfellow

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Two of Longfellow's newest businesses, Forage Modern Workshop and Parka Restaurant, were burglarized in the early morning hours of Thursday, April 18.

The Blue Door Longfellow at 3448 42nd Ave S., had been burglarized four days earlier.

The Blue Door building and the facility Forage and Parka are located in are owned by Michael Smith and James Brown.

Forage Modern Workshop and Parka Restaurant are located side by side at 4021 and 4023 East Lake Street. They share the space,

with Parka occupying the west side of the room.

According to Business Manager Rebecca Cook, the glass front door at Forage was smashed and the frame of an inside door broken shortly before 5 a.m. on April 18. In the few minutes it took police to arrive, the burglars went through both businesses, stealing the till from Forage and the till and safe from Parka.

However, no other items were taken.

Luckily for Forage, the till had only some change as money is stored off site, said Cook.

Parka was hit harder. Both the till and the safe, which had the night deposit and server tips inside, were stolen.

"We feel fortunate that everyone is safe. Stuff can be repaired. It's just money," said Cook.

She expressed gratitude for "security systems and the Minneapolis Police Department."

The door was repaired right away that morning, and both businesses were open as usual.

Via the Forage Facebook page, Cook encouraged their customers to order coffee, beer, and/or a meal from Parka within the next few days to help make up for what was lost. "As a new business, it can be super disheartening to have something like this happen," observed Cook. "It would be fun for them to get a little extra boost for their business."

Forage sells modern (1930 to present) furniture and home goods online and in the Minneapolis brick and mortar store. It opened in September 2012.

Parka opened in January 2013. It's a three-part partnership between Victory 44, Dogwood Coffee Co. and Rustica Bakery.



Forage Modern Workshop manager Rebecca Cook holds a piece of the door frame that was broken off when burglars broke into the business in the early morning hours of April 18. Some money was taken, but no merchandise or equipment. Check out the Messenger website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com for a short video clip interview with Rebecca Cook about the robbery. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Forage Modern Workshop and Parka Restaurant, located at Lake and 41st Ave. were burglarized at about 5 a.m. on Thursday, April 18. Both businesses are new to Longfellow. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

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Now it's easier than ever to keep in touch with the Messenger. Letters to the editor and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail at denis@deruyternelson.com. Be sure to send copy in the body of the e-mail, and please mark whether the copy is a letter, a news release for publication, or perhaps just your thoughts on the last issue. Don't forget to write!

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St. Paul officials and Ford discuss demolition plan for plant

By JANE MCCLURE

The former Ford Motor Company plant in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood will be coming down soon as city and Ford officials work on demolition plans. Most buildings at Ford Motor Company's closed Twin Cities Assembly Plant are in substandard condition and meet the eligibility tests for redevelopment tax increment financing (TIF) under state law. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) voted earlier this year to approve a resolution that is the first step in establishing a future TIF district.

The resolution also executes a demolition agreement between the city and Ford. Ford officials hope to start demolishing buildings soon, taking down all buildings on the 122 acres it owns atop the Mississippi River bluff. The demolition process is expected to take about a year.

Demolition of the buildings on the 22-acre river parcel of the property is not planned at this time, according to a city staff report. Those structures will be reviewed for potential reuse during sale of the property by Ford Land to a master developer, which is expected to occur in 2015-16.

St. Paul Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert said the HRA action doesn't mean that TIF necessarily will be used in redeveloping the Ford property. "I want to make clear that this is a

placeholder," he said. The action to make initial findings will help a developer use TIF if it is needed later.

In the future, if TIF funding is needed for redevelopment of the site, the HRA Board will be asked to authorize the establishment of a redevelopment TIF district.

TIF is one of the few resources the city has available to provide infrastructure, such as streets and utilities, for the Ford property. But a city staff report states that "The developer intends to submit an application to the HRA for tax increment assistance in connection with a proposed development to be constructed by the developer or its successors or assigns on the Property, which application will request that the HRA include the Property in a redevelopment TIF district."

Because Ford owns the property it would be considered the developer in terms of the first steps toward a future TIF district. But Ford officials have made it clear that the company intends to sell the property in the future and not redevelop it.

The HRA vote doesn't require that TIF be used at the site in the future but does preserve the option if the chosen developer or developers decide TIF is needed. Ford plans to sell the property to a developer or developers but wants to clear and clean up the site before it is marketed.

Not does this first step com-



The former Ford Motor Company plant in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood will be coming down soon as city and Ford officials work on demolition plans. The plant has been closed for more than a year.

mit a future developer to any specific type of redevelopment. A community task force has studied site options for several years and came up with various scenarios for mixed use development including light industrial, commercial, residential and institutional uses. The site is currently zoned for industrial use and would have to be rezoned for other uses.

Jay Gardner, director of real estate for Ford Land, said Ford needs to preserve options for future redevelopment and that is why the TIF district process is un-

derway. "We recognize that future developers of the site will have to invest substantially in infrastructure such as streets and utilities," he said.

Although there is interest regionally and nationally in the property, Ford has not selected a developer or developers. Those kinds of decisions may be many months away. But Gardner said regardless of how the property is redeveloped, it's important to have the option of TIF as a resource.

"Having a TIF district in place will also help us market the

site," Gardner added.

The plant has been closed for more than a year. A decommissioning and demolition site plan was approved in December 2012 by the St. Paul Planning Commission. During the months of February and March, contractors are preparing the buildings for structural demolition. Most utilities to the buildings will be disconnected, except as needed for security and fire suppression. The last of the asbestos is being removed. Demolition will start later this year.

The timing of the TIF request is affected by the timing of building demolition. Consultants hired by Ford Land recently studied the property, in preparation for the TIF request. The consultants found that the property does meet state law to qualify for future TIF status.

Before the buildings come down, the site must be declared "blighted" by the city. That is an initial step in creating a TIF district and is required by state law. Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert said that given the buildings' age and condition, it may be easier to get the finding of blight with the structures still in place.

Tolbert said that Ford or any future developer or developers would have to go through several more steps before a TIF district is approved by the HRA and City Council. This would include a public hearing or hearings.

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Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Crosstown Covenant Church,
Parking & entrance: East 56th St. at 29th Ave.

Meet your neighbors while enjoying a pasta and salad buffet from Fat Lorenzo's. Watch the amazing KetzalCoatlucue Aztec Dance Group perform. Elect your neighborhood Board representatives, see who wins the "Best of Nokomis" Noki Award, and more. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated!

KetzalCoatlucue dancers at the Minneapolis Monarch Festival | The parents and staff of Lake Nokomis Community School received the Noki Award in 2012

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Viewpoints

Messenger

For more information on submitting letters or news announcements to the Messenger call Denis Woulfe at 651-645-7045.

Winter and spring have been dueling with each other for weeks. First there would be a warm day and we would cheer and put away our winter coats. Then another cold day would blow in and we bundled up again. Even to week ago, people were still carrying their winter coats.

We're hoping now that spring has been declared the winner of this annual duel. The signs are all around us.

But one can't be absolutely sure. A look back at weather records shows that more snow is still possible. On April 29, 1984, for example, a snowstorm brought over six inches of snow to Minneapolis. And twice during the 20th century (1935 and 1946), there were May storms which brought at least three inches of snow. Latest recorded snow for Minneapolis: A trace on May 28, 1965.

You can look at these and other weather records at a website maintained by the University of Minnesota:



...There are twelve months in all the year, as I hear many men say. But the merriest month in all the year, is the merry month of May

— From "Ballad of Robin Hood"

...On the Ojibwe (Chippewa) calendar, May is Waabigwanii-giizis, the month of the flower moon. Visit the website of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission for information on ordering a calendar:



Hiawatha Notebook

By TOM GILSEAN

Winter and spring: It's an annual duel

...Seen any Maypoles lately? Up until 40 years ago, they were a common sight in communities around the US. There are plenty of people who remember dancing around a Maypole holding a colored streamer. But you won't find many of these May celebrations anymore. Perhaps your hometown is one of the places which has kept this tradition alive. I'd love to hear about communities which still have a Maypole.

...Q: If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring? A: Pilgrims!



Celebrating our Latino heritage

Tortillas are manufactured on 27th Avenue South (Tortillerias La Perla). Ofrendas are created at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Mexican pastries are baking at Midtown Global Market (Panaderia el Mexicano). A Mexican grocery flourishes on Lake Street (El Norteno). A Ballet Folklorico dances at Twins Fest. These are just a few of the signs of the Latino influence in Minneapolis.

Sunday, May 5 is Cinco de Mayo — a good time to celebrate this Latino influence in our city. Cinco de Mayo

is a Mexican and Mexican-American holiday which commemorates a victory of the Mexican army over the French in 1862. This year is the 151st anniversary of a battle at Puebla, Mexico, in which an under-equipped Mexican army of mestizos and Zapotec Indians defeated a much stronger French army. The battle was not the biggest, nor even the turning point in efforts to get the French out of Mexico. But the Mexican victory was unexpected and gave a psychological boost to Mexico.

Cinco de Mayo is now widely celebrated as a cultural holiday throughout the US as well as in Mexico. There are Cinco fiestas in Minneapolis, as well as in communities all over Minnesota, Iowa and other Midwestern states.

In Minneapolis, this Mexican-American celebration is relatively new. But in a number of other Midwest communities, including Fort Madison, Iowa and St. Paul, Minnesota, Cinco de Mayo celebrations go back a century or more.

For more about Latino history in Minneapolis (and Minnesota), head to the library and look for a book called "They Chose Minnesota," a marvelous collection of historical essays. One of the chapters focuses on Mexican-Americans.



(Tom Gilsean has been writing a column for the Messenger since 1997. You can reach him via email at tomgilsean@gmail.com. Or by phone at 612-723-0259. You can also write to him in care of the Messenger, 1885 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55104.)

For a lot of NENA volunteers, and monarch butterfly enthusiasts everywhere, this is going to be the summer of the monarch. We know that it's a critical year to increase the number of butterflies migrating to Mexico this fall from Canada, Minnesota, Iowa and points south. For that to happen, more monarchs need to survive their journey north, more eggs need to survive to the caterpillar stage, and more caterpillars need to become butterflies, and start the cycle over again.

It seems daunting to consider how many monarchs have been lost in recent years and think that there is anything we can do to reverse the trend. But there is. The problem is loss of habitat, and habitat can be created here—in the city, in your yard, neighbors' yards, in parks, along county roads in the suburbs, and many other places. With more habitat, especially milkweed (the only plant that monarch caterpillars eat), more monarchs will survive.

You can learn a little bit more about monarchs at our Annual Neighborhood Meeting on April 30, and a lot more at the Growing Monarch habitat Workshop on May 11.

Annual Neighborhood Meeting

Join neighbors on Tuesday, April 30 for NENA's Annual Neighborhood meeting where we will start at 6:30 with a buffet dinner from Fat Lorenzo's. We'll have displays and handouts on monarch habitat conservation, the Nokomis Naturescape and the Gateway Gardens projects. We will also have registration forms to sign up for the May 11 "Growing Monarch Habitat" workshop.

KetzalCoatlucue Aztec Dance Group has graciously agreed to join our meeting, and will dance at approximately 7:00 pm. To quote an online review, "it is tough to top the artistry, passion and cultural storytelling of the Ketzal-Coatlucue."

Elections are always a part of our annual meeting, and this year seven Board positions are up for election. We will elect three at-large members plus one representative from each neighborhood: Minnehaha, Wenonah, Keewaydin and Morris Park. A number of positions are currently open due to attrition, so consider giving back to your neighborhood by serving on the Board. For more information and a candidate packet, please contact the NENA office: rulrich@nokomiseast.org or 612-724-5652.

The Annual Neighborhood Meeting will be at Crosstown Covenant Church (29th Ave at 56th St), 6:30

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH AND DOUG WALTER, NENA STAFF

Let's make this the Summer of the Monarch

— 9:00 pm. We'll present highlights from last year, recognize our very special volunteers, and present the Noki (Best of Nokomis) Award to "an outstanding business or organization whose work has made significant contributions to Nokomis East."

Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop

Learn how to grow the plants that monarchs need to survive in your own yard at the Saturday, May 11 "Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop." So much habitat has been lost, especially in the last decade, that the migration (the longest insect migration in the world) is endangered.

Small urban gardens can make a difference. This workshop will provide you with the plants, knowledge and resources to host monarchs this summer—a critical year for increasing monarch numbers.

The presentation will cover: 1) Monarch butterfly life cycle, migration and required habitat needs, 2) Best plants for local monarch habitat and how to plan your garden, and 3) Resources for learning more about native plants and monarchs.

Saturday, May 11, 2013, 9:30-10:30am or 11:00am - noon Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway

Registration Fee: \$25 (includes a "Garden-to-Go" kit with 12 plants). The workshop is free without the garden kit. Register by May 3 to reserve your garden kit. Registration forms are available at www.nokomiseast.org or by calling the NENA office: 612-724-5652.

Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

NENA Annual Neighborhood Meeting: 6:30 – 9:00 pm, Tuesday, April 30, Crosstown Covenant Church, 29th Ave at 56th St.

Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop: 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM, Saturday, May 11, at Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

Livability Working Group: 6:30, Monday, May 13 at NENA, 3000 E. 50th St.

Board of Directors: 7pm, Thursday, May 23, at NENA.

Nokomis East Neighborhood Garage Sale: 8 AM – 4 PM, Saturday, June 22. Find registration forms on www.nokomiseast.org or call the

NENA office.

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.

Spaghetti Dinner May 3

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 East 51st Street, will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, May 3, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Food will be provided by Fat Lorenzo's. Tickets will be on sale for Adults – \$10 and children \$6, under 5 years of age- free. Call the church office at 612-729-5463. Proceeds will to Trinity First Lutheran School and Faith's Mission House.

Tapestry: Fabulous at 30!

Come party on Saturday, May 18th from 7-11 p.m. to celebrate 30 years of Tapestry Folkdance Center. The event will be held at Tapestry at 3748 Minnehaha Ave South. There will be a Contra Dance featuring Pat O'Loughlin, Patrice Pakiz, and Tim Reese with caller Beau Farmer, plus International Dance (details to be announced). Enjoy a variety of sampler "join-in" sessions, such as Bollywood and English Country, in the small studio, showcasing various Tapestry dances. Come and shop at the annual Bizarre Bazaar, play some board games, have some birthday cake and wish Tapestry a happy birthday! Check out Tapestry's website, www.tapestryfolkdance.org, for more info. Hope to see you there! (Admission: \$10 members; \$12 others. No passes)

Safety improvements being made on Greenway after Molotov cocktail nearly hits biker

Greenway Coalition urges bikers, walkers to call 911 if they see anything suspicious and let police decide if it's serious

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Safety efforts on the Midtown Greenway are being increased after a Molotov cocktail thrown off the 15th Ave. bridge narrowly missed hitting a rider in early April.

While making his regular deliveries via bicycle for Peace Coffee on Wednesday, April 3, 2013, Drew Ditlefsen, 27, heard glass shatter and immediately smelled toxic fumes as flames spread across the Greenway behind him. The bomb burned for about a minute.

Two preteen juveniles were arrested in connection with the bomb a week later. It was not clear what their motive was, but according to the police, they did not have adult help in making the incendiary device that nearly struck the bicyclist.

SAFETY MEETING WITH CITY

On Friday, April 12, Greenway Coalition members met with the Minneapolis police and public works staff to discuss safety improvements. "The meeting was scheduled before the incident, but has taken on a new urgency," noted Greenway Coalition Executive Director Soren Jensen. Recommendations came from the Coalition's Crime Prevention Task force, with assistance from Council Member Gary Schiff and his team.

The Coalition asked for more lights and cameras, espe-

cially on stairs and ramps. Earlier this year, volunteers used light meters to figure out where the darkest spots are on the 5.5-mile-long trail.

New signs were also on the list, both to let people know where they are when on the trail, plus signs on the cameras telling possible perpetrators that they are being filmed. "Cameras don't do much to prevent crime if the bad guys don't know they are there," observed Jensen.

In the wake of the April 3 incident, some (including Ditlefsen) have suggested that fences be installed on the bridges in order to prevent items being tossed down onto the Greenway.

There are more than 40 bridges in the Greenway, observed Jensen. "It would be hugely expensive to put fences on them, and quite ugly if they were the black chain-link kind," he said. "Many people think black chain-link fences would destroy the character of the historic bridges and bring more harm to the Greenway than good. If the fences could somehow be artistic, that might be worth considering, but it would also drive up the cost."

City representatives listened to the requests made by the Greenway Coalition, but did not make any decisions.

SAFER THAN MOST CITY STREETS

Jensen pointed out that the Green-

way is safer than most city streets. "Not only is it protected from traffic, but there are only a few major crime incidents reported on it annually, out of an estimated 1.5 million bike trips taken on it each year. There are very few major streets in our city that can claim to have only a few crimes committed

on them each year."

He added that while items are thrown at bikers from bridges occasionally, Jensen has only heard of one biker ever being hit by anything serious, such as a rock or glass bottle.

"This is not to diminish the seriousness of the recent inci-

dent, which was very dangerous, but it does provide some perspective. We have reports of things being thrown at bikers all over the city, not just on the Greenway," said Jensen.

Coalition volunteers bike along the Greenway each night, even in the winter, as part of the Trail Watch safety patrol.

"We could always use more volunteers," said Jensen.

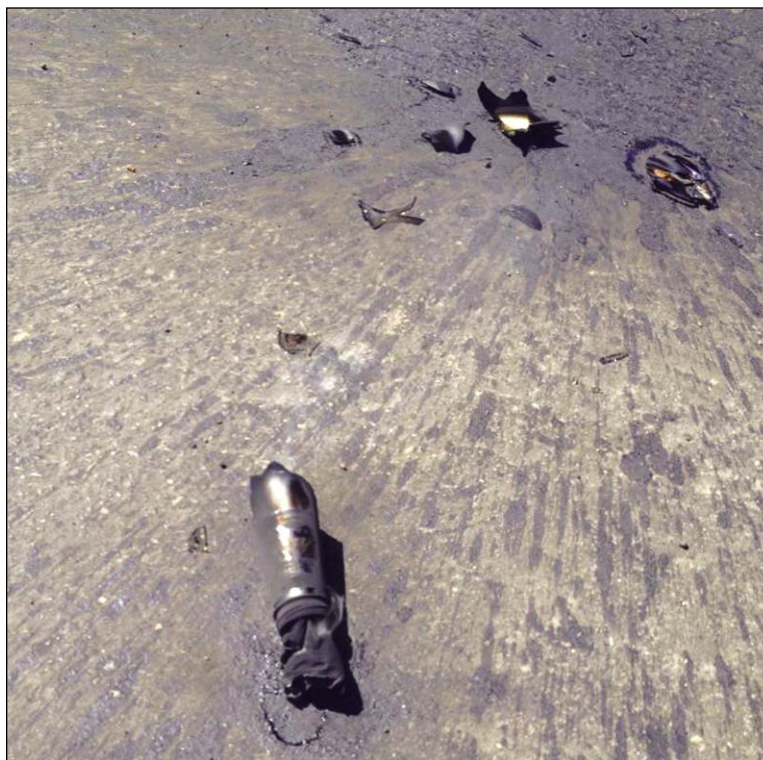
The Coalition keeps a list of incidents that have occurred on the Greenway on its web site. Browse <http://midtowngreenway.org/about-the-greenway/safety/incidents/>.

CALL 911

On average each year, there are 2-3 assaults reported after 10 p.m. "The story each time is almost always the same - a group of youth pushes someone off their bike and robs them," said Jensen.

He added, "We almost always hear from other bikers who saw the two or three youth loitering under a bridge or near stairway and did nothing. They just sped up and biked past the group, rather than call 911. Then, the next biker got attacked.

"Just think what would happen if everyone always called 911 when they saw something suspicious, including groups of people loitering at night in the Greenway. It seems like some people are reluctant to call 911, for whatever reason, which makes our city less safe."



Bicyclist Drew Ditlefsen, 27, snapped this photo minutes after a Molotov cocktail thrown from the 15th Ave. bridge onto the Midtown Greenway by two kids narrowly missed striking him. He heard the glass shatter and smelled the fumes. The flames spread across the Greenway and burned for about a minute. Ditlefsen rides along the Greenway several times a day while making deliveries for Peace Coffee.

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Residents turn out despite spring snow to hear Ward 12 candidates debate

By JILL BOOGEN

Nearly 100 people slogged through wet snow April 11 and filled the Roosevelt High School media center to hear candidates for City Council in Ward 12 debate.

Candidates included incumbent Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy, Andrew Johnson of Target Corporation and president of Longfellow Community Council, and Chris Lautenschlager of Altered Esthetics and board member of the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA).

The one-hour forum, co-sponsored by SENA and Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, was moderated by Marion Hall of the Minneapolis League of Women Voters. Questions were submitted on paper by the audience, and candidates were held to strict time limits. Residents came ready to listen.

The first question asked what candidates will do to ensure that all members of Ward 12 are engaged in issues impacting the ward. Colvin Roy said she sends a monthly e-newsletter and pointed out that she was the sole member of the City Council to vote against ending the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and turning it into a centralized program, the Neighborhood and Commu-



Incumbent Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy responds to an audience question at a Ward 12 candidate debate held in the Roosevelt High School media center. Candidates Andrew Johnson and Chris Lautenschlager are seated in the middle and right, respectively. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

nity Relations department (NCR). She said she now uses the NCR to reach people who aren't organized by geographic boundaries, such as members of the Latino community.

Johnson said he would con-

nect through Facebook and e-Democracy and attend board meetings for every neighborhood group in Ward 12. He said he was extremely upset that Colvin Roy voted against taking back NRP funding, prompting ap-

plause, and said we need to put more money and more emphasis back in neighborhood organizations.

Lautenschlager said his role at SENA has been to redevelop their online presence and that

"we need to continue working in social media."

In response to a later question that was specifically about funding for neighborhood organizations, Lautenschlager said he's in favor of fully funding them and making sure they're as strong and viable as the NRP once was.

Colvin Roy said we could see new revenue streams if the legislature provides Local Government Aid again, which has been cut by \$450 million since 2002, and from the downtown stadium sales tax.

Johnson said he would increase funding for neighborhood organizations back to the NRP levels.

"I'm afraid we're doing it all wrong. We're taking money out of our neighborhoods and focusing it downtown," Johnson said.

On the question of reducing property taxes, Johnson said one of the key ways is to increase economic prosperity, and that there are too many ordinances that place burdens on small business owners. He pointed to Sam Nestingen, owner of Parkway Pizza, and said it is "absolutely ridiculous" that if they want to change their menu, they have to ask the city for permission first.

Continued on page 7

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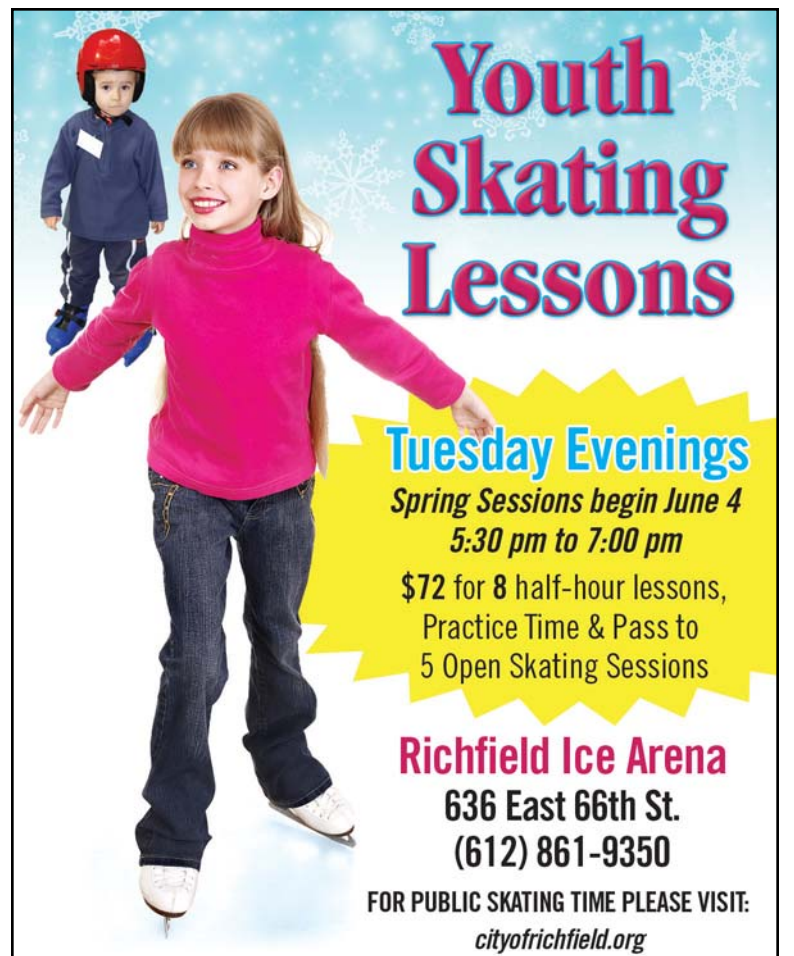
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St. Albert the Great's huge rummage sale begins with a Preview Sale on Thursday, May 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. Pay \$5 and shop while selection is best! Shop on Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 6:30 p.m. and fill bags from 9 to noon on Sunday for \$3 to \$5. Clothing, shoes, house wares,

furniture, linens, jewelry, collectibles and vintage items, toys, books & CDs and much more for men, women and children. Accessible entry behind the statue on the corner of E. 29th St. and 32nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. 612-724-3643. www.saintalbertthegreat.org



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Debate

Continued from page 6

Lautenschlager said the most important way to avoid raising property taxes is to build the tax base, and that an effective way to do that is to work on transit-oriented development, creating more sustainable and affordable housing along our transit corridors.

"It's been proven time and again that businesses are willing to invest in communities that invest in transit, and people want to live along those corridors as well," he said.

Colvin Roy agreed that the way forward is building a tax base. With the economy coming back, the wind is behind us to build street cars, she said.

"When you build a fixed guideway like light rail or a streetcar, property owners will invest along those lines," said Colvin Roy.

When asked about the Vikings Stadium, Johnson said that despite the state of Minnesota saying the city could ignore the City Charter, Colvin Roy, who voted for the stadium deal, took an oath of office to

honor it (the Charter says funding for a stadium over \$10 should go to voter referendum).

"It doesn't matter if it was legal to do, it was wrong. It violated the spirit of what voters intended to do, and as a result it is the largest corporate welfare giveaway in the history of Minneapolis and Minnesota," he said, drawing a big applause from the audience.

Lautenschlager said he's a fan of the Minnesota Vikings, but he's "not a fan of bad deals." He said Minneapolis didn't get the best deal, and neither did the state, calling the policy for gambling to fund their end of it "ridiculously regressive."

Colvin Roy said she looked at the money. "That's not city money. Sales taxes are collected every day in every business and sent to St. Paul [where] the Legislature decides where it can be spent." She said it isn't a new sales tax but a repurposed sales tax that will add two-to-one extra money coming back to Minneapolis.

On the question of how the city should respond to climate change, Colvin Roy said she lobbied at the federal level for an energy efficiency block grant program.

"You can see the effects on

businesses and homes in our community," she said. "Energy efficiency zero-interest loans are paid back in two years, reduce energy, help small businesses."

Both Johnson and Lautenschlager said they support exploring options to municipalize energy, which would convert our energy utilities to city ownership when the 20-year contract with Xcel Energy expires in January.

"I believe it helps us keep our energy more clean, more local, more affordable, more reliable," said Lautenschlager.

Colvin Roy addressed the issue as part of a later question, saying she would vote to approve \$250,000 to hire experts to do an "energy pathway study" to help find the best way to get cleaner, reliable, affordable energy.

Candidates were asked to share their ideas for bicycling, and Colvin Roy said it needs to be an easy and safe choice for anybody who wants to do it. She said the city can use money

already set aside for capital improvements wisely and strategically.

Johnson said he's an avid cyclist and thinks the 30 miles of protected bikeways the city is adding over the next ten years isn't aggressive enough, adding that Chicago put down 30 miles of protected bikeways in 18 months. He said he disagrees with Colvin Roy's vote against the bicycle coordinator position and favors having someone at the city who is strongly planning for biking.

Lautenschlager said he would make sure there were "cycle tracks," or protected bikeways, on Minnehaha Ave. He wants to improve safety on other bikeways, improve crossings at Hiawatha Ave., and expand Nice Ride.

In a later question about firefighters, Colvin Roy said she voted against the bicycling coordinator because she was working to keep firefighters on the job.

"The only reason we still have a ladder truck at the 38th St. fire station is me," she said, adding that most of the runs every year are not for fires but for medical.

"We need those firefighters," she added, to applause.

At one point Hall asked whether candidates would abide by the DFL endorsement. Lautenschlager, who is seeking the endorsement of the Green Party, drew some laughs when he said "Surely, I'll abide by the DFL endorsement, but it has no applicability to me."

Both Colvin Roy and Johnson are running as members of the DFL party and said they would abide by the endorsement. The DFL Ward 12 convention is April 27th. The next posted Green Party meeting is May 18th.

Ranked choice voting, in which voters cast their votes for candidates in order of preference, will be used in city elections this November.



Residents listen closely as candidates respond to a dozen questions submitted in writing by the audience. Residents asked questions related to the Vikings stadium, taxes and clean energy. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

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Register for the Longfellow Garage Sale Day - Deadline Approaching!

Sign up today for the 2013 Longfellow Neighborhood Garage Sale Day on Saturday, June 1st. Sales will go from 9am to 3pm. Registration information is available online at www.longfellow.org/sale or by contacting Spencer at spencer@longfellow.org or 612-722-4529 (ext. 5). Maps and lists

of sale locations will be available on our website and at our office the week before the sale date.

Neighborhood Priority Plan

What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood? What are the most important assets that should be preserved and strengthened? Let us know! LCC is looking for your input on the priorities that should guide our work for the next several years. Provide your input by filling out a short survey on our website at www.longfellow.org/priorities. We'll also be conducting outreach at events this Spring and Summer, so stop by the LCC booth at events like the Midtown Farmer's Market, River Gorge Ice Cream Social, and Longfellow Cornfeed to fill out a survey in person!



I SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

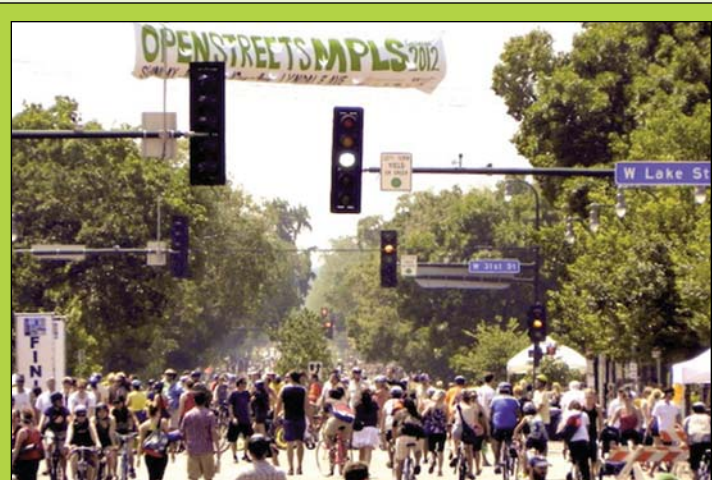
SAVE THE DATE! The 9th annual Share the Gorge Ice Cream Social is scheduled for July 30th from 6 pm to 8 pm on West River Parkway and 35th Street! Don't forget, there will also be tours of the rare Oak Savanna and canoe rides along the river for the whole family and friends! This event is free and open to the public. Contact Yer Lor at yer@longfellow.org or 612-722-4529 ext. 2 to see how you can get involved! We hope to see you there neighbor!

State of the River Report

The State of the Mississippi River Report held on April 17th at Minnehaha Academy was a great success with over 70 attendees! The National Park Service and Friends of the Mississippi River, who are both instrumental in maintaining the river's every day health, gave remarkably informative presentations about the dangers of triclosan in products we use daily, the presence of Asian Carp in the river, and more! This event would not have been possible without the grand leadership of the River Gorge Committee; please give them a big round of applause for their hard work and dedication!

LCC/VOA Community Engagement Partnership Continues

LCC has just received a Neighborhood Partnership Initiative grant of \$10,000 from CURA at the University of Minnesota to continue the LCC/Volunteers of America (VOA) Community Engagement Partnership project, which was recognized by Ward 9 Councilmember Gary Schiff as the 2012 Neighborhood Project of the Year! In addition to VOA, Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers and Minnehaha Communion Church will be assisting the project by providing gardening education and hosting community meals, respectively. This gardening project will bring on 6-12 inmates transitioning from prison in VOA's programs to enhance community relations. They will be in charge of nurturing the garden, attending civic engagement workshops, and hosting three FREE community meals! Help support our community members by attending the first meal on May 29th from 6-7:30 pm at Minnehaha Communion Church.



Open Streets Minnehaha - Sunday, August 11th

An Open Streets event is coming to Longfellow this summer! Open Streets events close down a street for a few hours to allow recreational activities like walking, biking, yoga, and other activities. Open Streets events have been held on Lyndale Avenue on one day each summer for the past two years. Thanks to a grant obtained by the City of Minneapolis, four events will be held this year, including one on Minnehaha Ave on Sunday, June 11th. Check out <http://openstreetsmpls.com/> for more info.



LCC at Midtown Farmers Market Saturday, May 25

Please stop by our table at the Midtown Farmers Market on May 25th from 8am to 1pm to say hi to the staff and find out about programs and events that are happening in Longfellow throughout the summer. LCC will also be looking for input from neighborhood residents on the priorities of LCC for next year.

Calendar of Meetings and Events MAY 2013

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

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 1
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Fireroast Café
3800 37th Ave
FFI: jessica@longfellow.org

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, May 13
6:30 - 8:00 pm
check website for location
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org

RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Monday, May 13
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Hiawatha School Park
4305 42nd St. E

LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, May 14
12:00 - 1:30 pm
check website for location
FFI: yer@longfellow.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, May 14
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: yer@longfellow.org

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, May 28
6:30 - 8:00 pm
check website for location
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 16
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Brackett Park
2728 39th Ave S
FFI: melanie@longfellow.org

Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55406
Phone: 612-722-4529
www.longfellow.org

Melanie Majors	Executive Director	melanie@longfellow.org
Ruth Romano	Office Staff	ruth@longfellow.org
Spencer Agnew	Housing and Environment Coordinator	spencer@longfellow.org
Yer Lor	Community Engagement Coordinator	yer@longfellow.org
Jessica Buchberger	Communication & Events Manager	jessica@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.

Longfellow Garden Club Plant Swap May 25 at Sanford

Is this the year you thin out the rudbeckia and tame those perennial grasses? Or are you looking for joe pye weed or Russian sage to liven the boulevard?

Whether you have give-away bags of too-successful perennials or are looking for flower bed or boulevard fillers, the Longfellow Garden Club's annual Plant Swap is the place to come.

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

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

Note: the 2013 Swap is later due to spring precipitation forecasts. Weather permitting, we'll have a mini-tour after the Swap of a native plant woodland garden here in the neighborhood.

Garden Club events are free and open to the public. Find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub> and <https://sites.google.com/site/longfellowgardenclubminnesota>

League of Longfellow Artists 2013 call for artists for art crawl

Are you an artist living or working in the greater Longfellow neighborhood? LOLA invites you to join our fifth annual art crawl. Our group embraces cultural diversity in the arts, and media of all kinds. The 2013 Art Crawl will be held August 24 and 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The League of Longfellow artists is a group of artists and arts supporters dedicated to bringing exposure to the work of artists in the Greater Longfellow neighborhood. The organization began as a small grassroots effort in 2009, and now flourishes as an annual art crawl.

The Art Crawl is a self-guided tour (map provided) of exhibits at artists' homes, gardens, or studios, and at supportive local businesses throughout the Longfellow neighborhood. Joining LOLA is a great way to show and sell your art, while giving patrons a glimpse of where and how you do your work. Registration closes May 1, 2013, but late registrations will be accepted through May 10.

Participation in LoLa is open to artists living/working in the greater Longfellow neighborhoods. Visit the LOLA website, www.lolaartcrawl.com, and select "artist registration." Download and print the PDF form, which

contains all the required information. Every participating artist must submit a completed registration form and a \$25 fee post-marked on or before May 1, 2013. Please register one artist per form.

Questions? Contact art crawl administrator Bob Schmitt, bob@laughingwatersstudio.com, 612-333-1881.

East Lake Library Book Sale planned May 18-19

East Lake Library's spring book sale offers thousands of books for very cheap prices - hardcovers are \$1 and paperbacks are .50. All children's books are .50!

Your extra books are welcome to participate! Send the Friends an email for a book pickup between April 25 - May 10: eastlake@supporthclib.org

Find the Friends at: <http://www.supporthclib.org/group/east-lake-library/>.

Mother's Day Brunch at Danish Center

The annual Mother's Day Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 12, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Danish American Center located at 3030 West River Parkway. The breakfast includes an egg dish, aebleskiver, Danish pastries, "rug-

brod" (pumpernickel) with cheese, fruit and coffee.

The cost for adults is \$9 for members and \$11 for others. All children are \$6 and under 5 are free. No reservations needed - just come! For more information, call 612-724-7705. Hope to see you there for this well attended event!



Finn Enke

'Storyteller from Transgender Perspective' presented May 11

Finn Enke, Associate Professor of History, Gender and Women's Studies, and Director of the LGBT Studies Certificate Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, will be visiting the Nokomis Library to present a program on May

11, 1 p.m. The program title is "Storytelling from a Transgender Perspective." Enke is herself transgender, and she is the editor of the book *Transfeminist Perspectives in and beyond Transgender and Gender Studies* (2012).

Enke will be reading from her forthcoming work *With Finn and Wing: Growing up Amphibious in a Nuclear Age*, a graphic novel written from the perspective of a child sorting out the meaning of gender, bodies that cross categories, war, and survival. She will also discuss the value of stories, the ability of stories to convey perspectives that as yet have no name, and works by transgender authors. There will be a Q and A session following the author presentation. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Nokomis Library.

For more information, please contact Amy McNally, Senior Librarian at Nokomis Library. 612-543-6803, amcnally@hclib.org.

MN Teen Challenge May 5 at Faith Church

MN Teen Challenge will be at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 East 51st Street, during the 9 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 5. They will present musical selections and testimonials. A free-will offering will be collected.

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Message - A Call to Social Justice
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Saturday Mass 5:00 pm
Daily Mass 8:15 am M,T, Th, F (Handicapped accessible)
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Sunday Worship Schedule
8:30 am Traditional, 11 am Contemporary
May 19-Sept. 1, One Service, 10 am
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Open Streets event planned for August 11 on Minnehaha

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Slow down and appreciate Minnehaha Ave. during this year's Open Streets event on Sunday, Aug. 11.

Open Streets Minneapolis is a free event that invites everyone to enjoy Minneapolis streets without the presence of motors. Citizens bike, walk, skate, zumba and more on streets that have been closed to traffic. Musicians perform concerts, exercise instructors lead classes, and businesses hold special events.

Organizers believe this was the way streets were meant to be.

"This event will be a unique and new opportunity to fall in love with the great urban neighborhoods like Longfellow again," said Kristi K. Adams, co-chair of

the Longfellow Business Association. "Often times, when we choose a different mode of transportation in our busy lives, we are able to slow down and appreciate the wonderful diversity that exists in our urban habitat. Plus, it's free!"

Open Streets grew from the idea Colombian idea of Ciclovía. Since 1976, on Sunday mornings and holidays certain main streets of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, and other municipalities are blocked off to cars for the exclusive use of runners, skaters, and bicyclists. Almost 2 million people participate weekly. The concept has spread across the world, and the first Open Streets event was held in 2010.

Organized by the Minneapo-

lis Bicycle Coalition, the first local Open Streets event was held on Lyndale in 2011. It drew 5,000 people.

Open Streets Minneapolis is one of over 70 initiatives in North America modeled after the Ciclovía of Bogotá, Colombia.

This year, there will be four Open Streets events in Minneapolis, one in each quadrant of the city. Lyndale and Lowry are in the southwest, there will be one in northeast, and Minnehaha Ave. is in the southeast.

According to organizer Colin Harris, Minnehaha Ave. works from the city's perspective because there is a good detour nearby (Hiawatha Ave.). It also works from a neighborhood perspective because it links a busy commercial corri-

dor (Lake St.) with an iconic park (Minnehaha Park).

Open Streets Minneapolis seeks to promote healthy living, local businesses, sustainable transportation and civic pride.

"Benefits include having a street for a day reimagined for recreation (thinking about streets as public space)," pointed out Harris.

Some business owners have fears that the Open Streets events will hurt their business for the day, Open Streets representatives work to address their fears. Some zoning restrictions are relaxed for the day, and in the past, businesses have held sidewalk sales and other special events, such as concerts. Open Streets representatives have heard from business owners who

were absolutely amazed at how long people stayed, and their desire to stay longer. It brought them new customers.

"The event will be a great opportunity to showcase Minnehaha Ave. businesses prior to reconstruction," observed Longfellow Community Council staff member Ruth Romano.

"Businesses enjoy Open Streets because of the thousands of people walking and biking by - going at a speed that allows them to better notice their surroundings and engage with businesses," said Harris. "The street will be much quieter than normal and residents will see old friends and meet new ones."

Learn more at openstreetsmpls.com.

Reddy Rents celebrates golden anniversary with event series

Hiawatha Reddy Rents, a family-owned general equipment rental store in Minneapolis, is celebrating 50 years of providing quality equipment and advice to their customers.

Jack Fitzgerald and his uncle formed the company in 1963 to serve contractors and homeowners. They quickly outgrew their original location at 4909 Excelsior Blvd. in St. Louis Park and moved a few years later into a

larger building at 4911 Excelsior Blvd.

In 1976, Jack purchased Rent A Trailer at 4155 Hiawatha Ave. in South Minneapolis to open his second store Hiawatha Reddy Rents. In 1984 we moved into a larger facility at 4411 Hiawatha Ave. Today we offer Truck and Trailer rental, along with Remodeling, Landscaping, and Construction Equipment and Propane sales. We serve the Do It

Yourself, Small Business and Contractor markets. In 1989, Jack moved his St. Louis Park store to a larger building at 3320 Republic Ave. Since that move, the St. Louis Park store has added a full line of trailers, a propane exchange service and a fleet of rental cars.

Jack passed away in 2008 after a battle with cancer but his children continue to run the business. Today Reddy Rents has

a staff of over 25 people who help their customers get setup with the equipment and advice needed to get the job done.

During 2013 the company will be adding new equipment and will be hosting a series of events to celebrate their 50th anniversary. One of the events will be a floor sanding class which will be held the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. where participants will have to opportu-

nity to use floor sanders on an actual hardwood floor. The company will also host their annual Ladies Day in the fall of 2013. Other events will be listed on their Facebook page and the company's website (www.ReddyRents.com) throughout the year.

Reddy Rents looks forward to serving the equipment rental needs of the metro area for the next 50 years!

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SCABA sets annual car show for Sunday, June 2

The South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance ("SCABA") has announced that its 4th Annual Classic Car Show will be held on Sunday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the intersection of 48th Street and Chicago Avenue in south Minneapolis. As in other years, the car show will feature a wide variety of classic cars and trucks from the 1940's through the 1980's - and even some cars older than that! Also, as in other years, there will be FREE ADMISSION to the car show! Everyone is invited to stop by and "stroll through the past" while dreaming about the cars from yesteryear!

Mike Kmiecik, president of SCABA, has affirmed that the Street Kings Car Club of Minneapolis-St. Paul will again co-host the car show, as it did for the first time in 2012. "Last year's car show was the first one we produced with the Street Kings as our co-sponsors, and it was our best car show ever," stated Kmiecik. "It really helps to have an experienced car club such as the Street Kings to partner with in producing our car show." Kmiecik wanted to clarify that the car show was open to anyone who wanted to exhibit their classic cars or trucks. He also added that the car show would feature a "bounce house" for kids, as well as a D.J. who would be "spinning" classic '50's - '80's tunes, plus a "beer garden" - in addition to the great restaurant choices around the 48th and Chicago intersection.

Continued on page 11

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Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be in the Messenger before May 20 for the May 30 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 May 20 for the May 30 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

ACCOUNTING & TAXES

Individual and corporate tax returns prepared for small and medium sized companies. Accounting and payroll services performed in addition. Vern Teichroew Accounting, 612-726-1544 or vteichroew@comcast.net. 3-14

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EMPLOYMENT

The Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger is looking for local reporters to write news and feature stories on a freelance 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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For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. B-12

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Interior/exterior painting, enameling, plaster patching, free estimates. Bob. 651-633-5565. 12-13

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New! New! New! Longfellow Offices now leasing 10 green offices. Hardwood floors, high ceilings with pressed tin, amazingly sound-proofed, lobby for visitors. Perfect for wellness practitioners, therapists, and other quiet professionals. Call Karen 612-749-6987. Pictures and details at <http://www.postlets.com/rtpb/9083035> 5-13

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Car show

Continued from page 10

Kmiecik noted that there was a small registration fee for each vehicle registered in the show: \$10 for pre-registered vehicles; \$20 for day-of-show registrations. Anyone interested in entering the car show should register their car or truck at 48-chicago-carshow.eventbrite.com. Those interested can also check out SCABA's website at 48chicago.org for more information.

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What's Cookin'...

By COLETTE MULLENMASTER

Buck Brothers Construction with Joe & Bob Buck. Celebrating 30 years!

CM: How and where did Buck Brothers get its start in Minneapolis?

JB: My brother, Bob, and I grew up in a 1920's home just across the river in St. Paul. We've kept our local connections - I live in Seward and Bob is in St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland. In the early 1980's, after remodeling on our own homes, we realized that we had a talent for overcoming the challenges of updating "vintage" housing. Buck Brothers Construction was the result.

From the start we've focused on what we term "urban core" neighborhoods, developing a great respect for the original craftsmanship and quality of these homes. We've slowly built our business on principles of providing the best quality and service. The long-term relationships we've developed are a core value of our business and our clients use us for multiple projects over the years. Our staff has between 10-20 years with our company, and our long standing sub-contractors are chosen for their knowledge of older homes.

CM: What is it that Buck Brothers Construction considers as the best thing about doing business in the Longfellow and Nokomis community?

JB: I've lived in the neighborhood for almost 40 years, and presently serve as the president of the Seward Civic and Commerce Association. I have watched and participated in the growth and changes that have marked those years. We've greatly appreciate the value Longfellow and Nokomis residents have for their homes and neighborhoods. The two things we consistently hear from our clients is how they "love the character of their home" and "couldn't leave their neighbors". These homes were originally built with high standards and wonderful detailing. Our company is committed to maintaining these values, and building proj-



Bob and Joe Buck

ects that seamlessly blend in with their original design.

CM: Is there a special memory or time over the years that comes to mind to share with the Messenger readership?

JB: One project that stands out for me is the transformation of the "Birchwood Dairy" into the "Birchwood Café". I live around the corner from the café, as I did when Cy and Dell operated it as the "Birchwood Dairy". Back then - as now - the building served as a "neighborhood news hub". It was a rare day that I didn't stop there, either for a dozen eggs or for some neighborhood chin wagging.

When Tracy and Susan bought the property and approached us about renovating it into a café, a clear goal was to maintain its standing as a neighborhood icon. If ever a commercial project mimed the characteristics of residential - this was it. It was a great collaborative process, and we valued the trust they placed in us to shepherd the renovation. The same longstanding relationships have resulted - some of my kids have waited tables there. And, as we all know, the original "Birchwood Dairy" traditions live on - although now the eggs come with rosemary potatoes.

Buck Brothers Construction Inc.

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TIP!

Helpful Tips on "Choosing a Remodeling Contractor"

For many of you contemplating a remodeling project, the first challenge is to find a reputable contractor to perform the work. By considering estimates from a few contractors you are able to make the best choice on who to hire for your project. Use these tips as a guideline to follow as you search for the right company.

Contact the MN Department of Commerce 651.296.4026 to verify that the remodeler is licensed.

Request a list of completed projects similar to yours and in your neighborhood.

Questions to ask while meeting with contractors:

Do they office or live in your area?

Do they have extensive experience with your type of house or project?

Is remodeling their career, can you count on hiring them again in a few years?

Ask for samples of their contract, payment schedule, change orders and drawings.

Use the interview with them to find your comfort level with them both professionally and personally

Who will run the project during construction? Who are their employees?

How is financing of the project structured? What protections do you have?

Trust your "personal radar" in the interview - would you trust them in your home?

Do they communicate well? Do they hear and respond to your ideas?

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