

SWEEP UP, RAKE UP, PICK UP!



Nokomis resident Mandy LaBrecche (second from left) was recently recognized for her dedication to the Adopt-a-Drain Program. She adopted the 10,000th storm drain in this metro-wide program. Also present for the ceremony were 12th Ward council member Andrew Johnson, fellow adoptee and neighborhood resident Jillian Kaster, and Minneapolis City Engineer Bryan Dodds. (Photo by Terry Faust)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Everyone knows that trash is no good for lakes, rivers, and streams. But do you know that natural debris such as leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste also pollute the waterways? When these natural pollutants are swept into the storm water system, they end up in the nearest body of water. Eventually the organic matter will break down, release phosphorous, and stimu-

late the growth of algae.

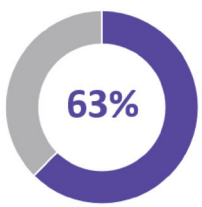
The Minneapolis Adopt-a-Drain Program was created in 2016 to help address this problem. Minneapolis joined a metro-wide program when it was launched last year.

The concept is simple, and it's working. Residents learn about Adopt-a-Drain and volunteer on the program website (www.adopt-a-drain.org). Adopt-

a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood, and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution. Volunteers commit to keeping a storm drain unimpeded. Storm drains flow directly into local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants.

ADOPT-A-DRAIN >> 8

Percent of Current K-8 MPS Students who would change schools based on this model:



SCHOOLS REVISED?



Minneapolis Public Schools has proposed some sweeping changes that would affect where 63% of its students attend school beginning in fall 2021. Parents brought their questions about high school changes to a meeting at Roosevelt High on Feb. 24, 2020. More >> 2 (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Coronavirus Pandemic

Community response to a global situation

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

"We are continuing to bake bread because we believe in the power of such a basic food," said Christopher MacLeod of Laune Bread, a microbakery and bread delivery service in South Minneapolis. "To our subscribers it carries a lot of meaning – it is a weekly ritual for many of them, but it is also nutrient dense and life sustaining."

As restaurants closed to sit-down customers and with it their pick-up sites, MacLeod and his partner, Tiff Singh, asked themselves what they should do. Should they continue baking and delivering bread? Is it safe and smart?

"We are healthy, but that isn't a guarantee, and it is scary. It gives us a lot of anxiety," they admitted. "We have both been sitting in front of our computers hours on end every day corresponding with our subscribers and others who ask for bread, watching the news rapidly change, and trying to develop new logistical systems and also health and food safety procedures."

They decided to discontinue pick-up locations and do delivery only. They dropped the \$1 bike delivery fee, moved to car delivery, and narrowed their delivery area. They made some changes to reduce risk, including heavily cleaning and sanitizing surfaces and their hands during the bake, and wearing food safe gloves and face masks at all times after the bread comes out of the oven and during the delivery.

Their business is flexible because it is relatively small and operates without a storefront.

This week they added a second bake to keep up with demand and to offer people a chance to purchase bread at whatever price they could afford. "In 24 hours, 51 loaves of bread have been donated through our subscribers and the community at large," observed MacLeod.

"We want to keep offering sustenance, but beyond our regular members – last week we donated 20 loaves (we donated 10 and our members paid for 10) through our members

to people who needed them: school teachers, elderly neighbors, hair stylists, and families. It's a language of humanity – the meaning of our bread spreads beyond the bakery to those who buy it, to those who are gifted it."

Of those donated loaves, five went to a subscriber who shared them with others.

"Your bread fed: me, my partner teacher who is caring for her mother as she recovers from having her gallbladder removed, a friend of our gym teacher who was in need, the teacher I did student teaching with who just had to adopt the younger (half) sibling of one of her kids, and a teacher who is in treatment for breast cancer," wrote the woman. "Thank you, from all of us."

MacLeod and Singh recognize the situation is precarious and at some point they may discontinue baking bread, but right now they're focusing on supporting their community and are being supported in return.

"We are a small business, but the ingredients we bake with make a big difference to many people," they said.

Annual fish fry attendance drops, church works to encourage parish family

Each year, hundreds of people line up at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Longfellow for the Friday night Fish Fry during Lent.

But not this year.

As Governor Walz declared a peacetime emergency on Friday, March 13, church volunteers debated whether to continue with that night's fish fry. "We did go ahead and do the dinner on March 13 because it's a little like stopping a locomotive on a dime to try to cancel at the last minute," observed Erin Sim, the church office and communications manager.

"Gallons of coleslaw were ready, and many pounds of fish thawed. We served about 425 people that night, as opposed to the 1,100-1,350 we might have done on a regular third night. But even Archbishop

PANDEMIC >> 9



As kids get out in nature, they learn more about themselves

PAGE 5



HOME & GARDEN: All Energy Solar celebrates 10 years

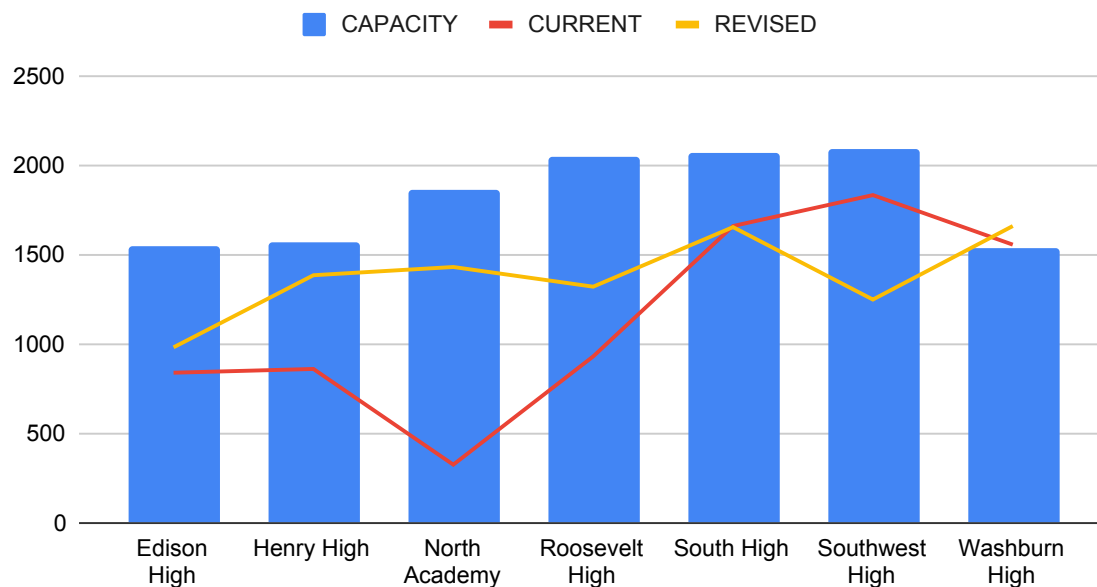
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If you can sew, you can help

PAGE 10

Numbers at MPS High Schools



By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Here's what you need to know about how the Minneapolis Public School Comprehensive District Design would affect high schools.

- High school transition would begin with 2021-22 incoming ninth graders.
- 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students would remain in current high schools until graduation.
- This proposal aligns high school boundaries with middle school attendance areas to keep middle school cohorts together.
- It builds enrollment on the north side. Right now, North High is at 17.5% capacity with only 326 students.

Career and Tech Ed

The district is seeking to centralize its Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs by consolidating classes at three sites.

- 1) North Tech Center at North High: engineering, computer science-information technology, robotics, and web and digital communications
 - 2) Northeast Tech Center at Edison High: business, law and public safety, and agriculture
 - 3) South Tech Center at Roosevelt High: auto, construction, machine tool, welding, and healthcare
- Schools that lose their CTE programming could opt to have

after-school programs and clubs, or use school budgets for elective courses.

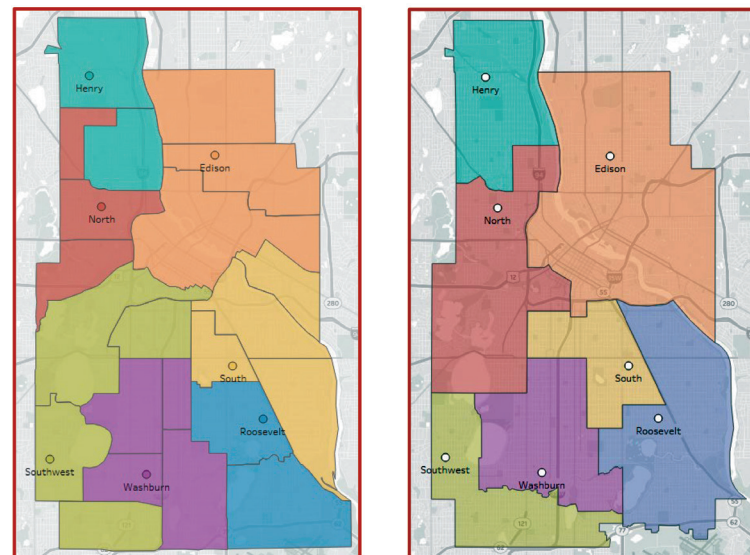
- Currently, across MPS, CTE is up to 82.2% underenrolled

Vote planned in April

In December 2017, the district began comprehensive design with system-wide assessment, and the school board authorized the superintendent to create recommendations for changes in the district at its Oct. 19, 2019 meeting. The district released its high school plans to the public in late February 2020. The board plans to vote on the design in April despite community requests to take more time.

SCHOOLS REVISED?

Minneapolis schools propose major overhaul

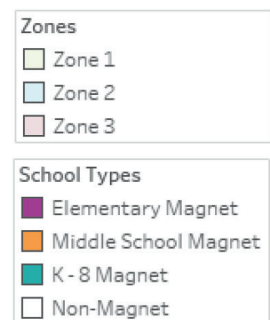
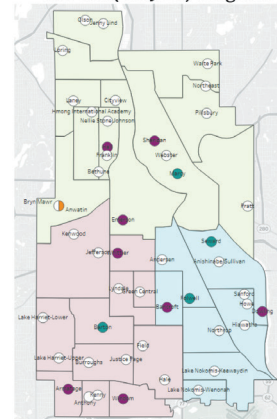


High School Boundaries

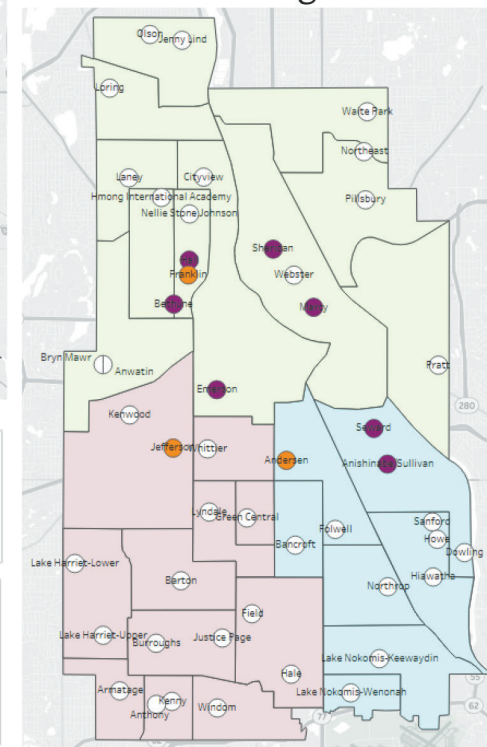
At left: Current

At right: Proposed revision

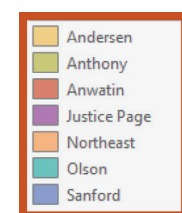
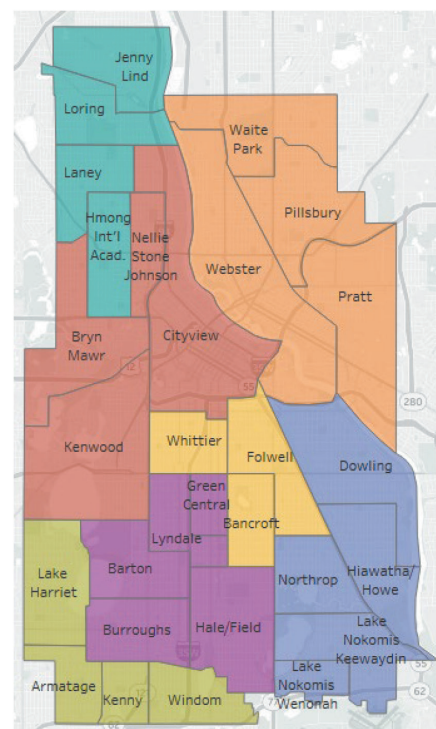
Current (2019-20) Magnets



Model 2 Magnets



Under the proposed plans, K-5 and 6-8 magnet schools would be moved so that they are more centrally located, markedly changing school options in South Minneapolis. The district would stop offering K-8 options, which are heavily used by immigrant groups. Several magnet programs would go away, including Folwell, Dowling, Bancroft, Windom and Armatage Montessori. Note colored dots.



Which elementary schools feed into which middle schools is modified under the proposal in an attempt to reduce transportation costs and create stronger community schools.

All graphics but top table courtesy of Minneapolis Public Schools. Find detailed presentations on the district's web site.



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AREA C NOT DEEMED EMERGENCY

But community members concerned

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Over 150 people turned out to hear the latest findings about Area C from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in a packed meeting room at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Feb. 20, 2020.

The topic of discussion, called Area C, is a dump site where the Ford Motor Company dumped unknown quantities of industrial waste, including solvents and paint sludge, on the floodplain of the Mississippi River below the bluff near its St. Paul assembly plant between 1945-1966.

MPCA hydrogeologist Amy Hadiaris has been monitoring ground and surface water in Area C since 2007. She presented the most recent data and summa-

rized the position of MPCA by saying, "Clean-up is needed, but we do not see this as an emergency situation."

Community members expressed a deep level of concern about the dump site during the meeting, submitting a half-inch-thick stack of index cards with questions for MPCA staff to address.

Friends of the Mississippi River Executive Director Whitney Clark asked the last question of the evening. He asked, "Is it right for the Ford Corporation to leave their waste for future generations to clean up?"

Someone then called for a show of hands for how many people would have Ford remove it all if they could – and nearly everyone in the room raised theirs, including MPCA staff.

In this investigative stage, nine groundwater monitoring wells will be added to the exist-

ing 10. Friends of the Mississippi River and the Capitol Region Watershed District requested and support this increase in monitoring activities.

Hadiaris explained, "MPCA has a set process for evaluating the safety of ground water. We are testing for 65 volatile organic compounds, and 80 semi-volatile organic compounds. One of the big concerns is lead, which was added to all paints of that era."

At the request of MPCA, the Minnesota Department of Health reviewed site data to assess health risks related to Area C. It was determined that only minimal threat exists if trespassers contact contaminants in soil or other physical hazards. There are no other ways for people to come in contact with contaminants, unless they trespass on the site.

To further discourage trespassing, MDH recommends re-



Area C (background), as photographed from the opposite bank of the Mississippi River, is just south of the Ford Bridge. The Ford Motor Company dumped unknown quantities of industrial waste, including solvents and paint sludge, on the floodplain of the Mississippi River below the bluff near its St. Paul assembly plant between 1945-1966. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

pairing broken fence segments and adding signage between the Hidden Falls Regional Park walking trail and the southern boundary of Area C.

Waiting for two+ floods

Hadiaris said, "This is a contemplative process. We will wait for at least two flood events be-

fore making a clean-up decision and presenting it to the Ford Corporation."

There will be another community information meeting once MPCA completes its feasibility study. To be placed on the email update list for Area C, contact Sophie Downey at sdowney@fmr.org.

CenterPoint completing work in Longfellow

CenterPoint Energy is completing work this spring in the Longfellow neighborhood as part of the utility's pipeline modernization program.

The work on natural gas lines is occurring along selected streets between Dorman Ave. and Lake St. and between 36th and 48th avenues.

Last year crews from Michels Corporation, CenterPoint Energy's authorized contractor, began the replacement of selected natural gas mains in Longfellow. In March crews returned to finish the remaining gas main installations, connect gas service lines to the new mains and move any inside residential gas meters to the outside of homes.

This work is expected to be finished by early summer. Depending on the coronavirus situation, indoor work to move meters may be delayed. The CenterPoint Energy pipeline work is being coordinated with the city of Minneapolis street resurfacing program.

Customers will experience a short disruption of gas service while their new gas service lines are installed. Crews may also have to dig on customer property



in the utility easement to complete this work. Q3 Contracting, CenterPoint Energy's authorized contractor, will permanently restore the areas affected by this work.

There will not be any major street closures, as crews will work on only one side of the street at a time. However, some lane and parking restrictions can be expected in areas where active construction is occurring to keep both the public and construction personnel safe. Local access will be maintained.

For more information or

to sign up for updates, visit CenterPoint Energy's Construction Zone website at CenterPointEnergy.com/Construction.

Questions can also be directed to CenterPoint Energy at the following contacts. Please refer to the Minneapolis – Dorman Avenue Area project or the number 90934619:

- Information Hotline at csv.constructionservices@centerpointenergy.com
- Restoration Questions at csv.restoration@centerpointenergy.com

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Take the same precautions you would to avoid colds and flu.



Wash your hands.



Stay home when sick.



Cover your cough.

For more information, visit health.mn.gov
HOTLINE: 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903

mn DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Longfellow Business Association's 2nd Annual fundraiser:
Where There's a Will, There's an LBA.

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❖ 100% of the proceeds go directly to the LBA ❖

Thursday, April 30,
appointments every hour
Kennedy & Cain, PLLC
Employees, friends and family are all welcome to participate.

\$500

Set up an appointment and get an estate planning packet by contacting Kim at kim@longfellowbusinessassociation.org



Longfellow Business Association

at the intersection of community & business
info@longfellowbusinessassociation.org
612-298-4699 | P.O. Box 6318
Minneapolis, MN 55406

For over 25 years, the LBA has been working to ensure a vibrant business climate by monitoring issues that impact our local businesses, as well as providing advocacy, networking, resources and marketing. We're here to support you through the COVID-19 pandemic.



We may be practicing social distancing, but neighbors still want to shop with you. Let them know how by advertising in this monthly section. Keep your small business top-of-mind for customers in this changing time.

Let them know if you're offering delivery services, reduced hours, and specials. Share your safety measures and what you're doing to help the community.

Let's come together



CONTACT DENIS TODAY! 651-917-4183
Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

SPECIAL RATES

The Motley Conversation

Messenger

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

Is this really happening? I don't know about you, but I've asked myself that more than a few times the past weeks as we've gotten the news that more and more things are shutting down. Schools and colleges. Barber shops, optometrists, fitness centers, theaters, museums, and concert halls. Restaurant and coffee shops (although they're still doing take-out and delivery as of press time). Sporting events. Government and courthouse buildings. We're all being encouraged to stay at home, and socially distance when we're out for only the essentials. Jobs are on hold. Education is on hold. Lives are on hold.

But are they?

Sure, we're living in unprecedented times as we watch the world battle the coronavirus pandemic. And it involves making changes to our daily lives in big and small ways.

But that doesn't mean we can't still connect with each other, continue learning, and grow as people.

I have a friend who has spent a large part of her adult life in an abusive relationship, one that has continued to be traumatizing past the divorce because they have a child together. She sent me this the other day, and I found it so inspiring, I wanted to share it with *Messenger* readers:

"I've done a whole lot of work in the past few years on handling difficult things emotionally. The most impactful things I've found and work to



Too Much Coffee

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN, Tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Gratitude, radical acceptance and seeing the silver lining

model for my child are 1) gratitude; 2) radical acceptance; and 3) purposefully and consistently focusing on the silver linings.

"I highly recommend spending time reading about radical acceptance. It's been super helpful to me. It's basically about letting go of worrying about what you can't control, but actually spending time reading about it is really helpful and a good thing to model for kids I think. The goal is to teach them resilience and use this experience to train their way of thinking for the inevitable obstacles life will throw in their path.

"To some extent this is helping me now, that I've already done this work in my head and in my son's. We are looking at this as the best time in our life because we are together. We are safe. We have everything that we need. This will end. So we may as well enjoy it."

This doesn't mean that she's not finding it tough to simultaneously work and school her child at home. It doesn't mean that sometimes tears don't overtake her. And it doesn't mean she's going around pretending this isn't happening because she's

focused only on the good without seeing the bad.

What it does mean is that she's accepting this current situation as she has other tough things in her life, and she's focusing on what she can control. Herself. She can manage what is within her own grasp and she can decide what she tells herself. Mindfulness techniques and prayer have been powerful ways to get through difficult times for centuries.

New today is how we can use technology to connect while we're staying at home. My kids have discovered the joys of Messenger Kids and Facetime this week as a way to see, talk to and play with their friends without physically being in the same room. This, is, indeed a different life on screen than disappearing into a video game. I've connected with folks via Google Hangouts, GoTo meetings and Zoom video conferencing. We held a virtual birthday party for my niece. Then there's regular phone calls, texting, emails, and letters – and a printed newspaper Editorial page. I asked via the *Messenger's* Facebook page what folks are doing right now to stay occupied

and connected.

Rebekah Peterson said: "My elementary age kids are posting a video daily to their classmates (using a private Facebook group) asking one question (what was your favorite part of the day, show and tell, etc.), and asking the students in their class to respond with a short video. They love seeing their friends via video."

Others have created private Facebook groups for their block, and focused on getting to know and help those closest to them. Nokomis East Business Association launched a new Instagram account: 34aveneba.

Morgan L'Argent shared this group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flatten.the.curve/>. Folks are organizing some really creative and innovative things via Facebook. Some hung shamrocks in their windows for kids to look for as they walked by on St. Patrick's Day. Musicians are live-streaming concerts, and comedians are doing live comedy hours. Others are doing live meditation and mindfulness. There's a Live Cat Stream and the Auburn Squirrel Project. (Yep!)

Peter Danbury posted: "In-

spired by a story about Italians doing something along these lines, some south Minneapolis neighbors on Nextdoor had the idea of a nightly community sing-along, with people singing through a window or from their porch or front stoop every evening at the same time. A lot of us liked the idea, and we settled on singing John Lennon's Imagine at 7 p.m."

If dancing is more your jam, turn on the lights in your house once it gets dark, open the shades, and dance like a maniac in your living room. Maybe you'll find yourself doing a dance off with the neighbors.

Others are simply slowing down; baking bread, cooking a meal, reading a book, journaling, figuring out how to conserve things, and planning their gardens.

Our children are watching us (all of us, not just parents and grandparents) and learning how we handle crisis. When they look back on this time in their lives, they will remember how they felt. They will remember the emotional climate in their homes during the coronavirus pandemic. They will remember the board games and movie nights and walks through the park – the dance parties and songs from our front stoops.

Let's come together for their sakes – and our own.

I'd love to hear more about how you're connecting and managing. Email, reach out on Facebook or Instagram, or send me a letter.

Letters to the Editor

Responsibility for taking gender out belongs to men

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter in response to one published in the February *Messenger*.

Mr. Mark Brandt wrote, in response to your article "It should never have happened," to suggest a "slight rewrite" to a sentence on page 2, column 3: "Like many men, he didn't really start showing his abusive side until..."

Mr. Brandt suggested "Like many eventual abusers..." claiming that "would take the gender out of it," as he felt the sentence you wrote "was a little unfair to my gender."

I suggest the responsibility for taking the gender out of domestic violence belongs to the 71% of abusers who are men. They are the only ones who can do this, by stopping their abuse of women, children, and other men.

There are, of course, two gen-

ders involved. The gender of the victims is mostly female, except for half of the children.

Reading about domestic violence often elicits automatic reactions from women ("If my partner ever raised a hand to me, I'd be out of there immediately.") and men ("But what about women who abuse men?").

Please, before shutting off what you're reading with an automatic response, listen to the end of the story. Then look for more information about domestic violence. These excellent articles include a lot of information. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is another good resource.

Helen Hunter
St Paul

Thanks for sharing story on overlooked dark side

Dear Editor:

I wanted to thank you and Leigh Ann Block for her bravely coming forward to share her story about her daughter Mikayla Olson Tester.

It is such a sad story and of course Leigh had to relive it all over again. How brave of her!!

Thank you, Tesha, for reporting carefully and eloquently an often overlooked dark side of our society.

Corinne S. Rockstad

Send in letters, press releases and more!
Email tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com

Mindset Shift During a Pandemic

I'm stuck at home	→	I get to be SAFE in my home and spend time with my family
I will get sick	→	I will self-isolate and wash my hands, this will significantly DECREASE my chances of getting sick
I will run out of items at home during self-isolation	→	I have prepared for this and I will use my items wisely. I have everything I NEED for now
Everything is shutting down, I'm panicking	→	The most IMPORTANT places, such as medical centers, pharmacies and grocery stores, remain open
There is too much uncertainty right now	→	While I can't control the situation around me, I CAN control my actions. Doing breathwork, calling loved ones, getting enough sleep and proper nutrition, prayer, and doing activities I love at home will all help during this time

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Messenger

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News for you!

The Longfellow Nokomis *Messenger* is a monthly community publication in the Longfellow and Nokomis areas of Minneapolis, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. Visit our website for our calendar and publication dates.

Story ideas always welcome.

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

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Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183
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Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

This issue of the *Messenger* is printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Approximately 95-97% of material that enters the print facility is recycled.

TMC
PUBLICATIONS CO



Delivery provided by: Fresh Heir

If you have a problem with delivery, call 612-345-9998 or email the editor. Mail subscriptions are available at \$40 a year.

Design & Layout:

Tesha M. Christensen

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jane McClure, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Margie O'Loughlin, Matthew Davis, Stephanie Fox, Terry Faust, Iric Nathanson

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

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ADVENTURING OUTDOORS

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Winter River Adventure Challenge is a new field trip being piloted at Fort Snelling State Park for Minneapolis and St. Paul Public School students. It is a collaboration between the National Park Service (NPS) and their non-profit partner, Mississippi Park Connection.

The program is designed to introduce fourth grade students to basic orienteering skills and, as a side benefit, meets some of the geography standards for that grade level. It also gives students a chance to have a blast outside in winter – working together in teams while enjoying the natural surroundings along the Mississippi River.

Seven different Twin Cities Title I Schools participated in this year's Winter River, for a total of 11 different visits. A Title I school is one where at least 40% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The Winter River Adventure Challenge begins in the classroom, before anybody sets foot outdoors. NPS River Educators visit each classroom to help students prepare well in advance for their field trip.

David Kappelhoff is the education coordinator for Mississippi Park Connection. He said, "A lot happens on the sides of this program. Students get to see what it means to be in a more natural and wooded area during winter. Students walk between

the five stations that are set up for them to explore. Each station offers a blend of simple orienteering activities, recreation and nature awareness.

"They might see signs of wildlife like an eagle's nest or animal tracks in the snow while they're walking. Someone in the park might have built a snow shelter, or a cross country skier might pass by. Even experiencing an outdoor satellite bathroom can be a memorable experience."

Taking ownership, feeling successful

Before their field trip, students learn that they will be staying outdoors for two and one-half hours. One of the goals of this program is to help students prepare for winter activities by learning to dress properly. River Educators introduce the idea of dressing in layers to stay warm outdoors.

Students are encouraged to inventory what winter clothing they already have – and then to work with teachers, families, neighbors, and friends to get the rest. The program has a small collection of boots, mittens, hats, and coats that can be borrowed if a student arrives inadequately dressed on the day of their field trip. REI has donated to this collection, as has Wilderness Inquiry (another programming partner), and Bogs Footwear.

"Students start to formulate



The Winter River Adventure Challenge introduces fourth graders to five different outdoor stations set up at Fort Snelling State Park. Each station offers a blend of simple orienteering activities, recreation, and nature awareness. David Kappelhoff, Mississippi Park Connect Education Coordinator, said, "So many people in Minnesota complain and stay indoors all winter! This program is teaching students that they can enjoy cold weather. This positive connection to winter early-on creates an adaptive mindset and builds confidence." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

new questions and ideas about what it means to be outdoors in winter. They prove to themselves that they can have fun, if they come well-prepared. They learn to take ownership for their own warmth – and they can feel successful for having prepared themselves for the cold."

During the classroom visit, students are introduced to different kinds of maps. They are shown a map of Fort Snelling State Park, and start to identify basic map symbols they would not see on a mobile phone map app. Students are encouraged to start thinking about maps and symbols, and to connect them to

their physical surroundings.

They are also introduced to the National Park Service arrow-head symbol, which they will see again on their field trip day. Fort Snelling State Park is included in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. This area protects a 72-mile corridor along the Mississippi River including the section that flows through the Twin Cities.

Three options for students

Winter River Adventure Challenge is funded by a grant from the National Park Foundation through its Open Outdoors for Kids initiative. It is also sup-

Every Kid Outdoors

- Fourth graders are eligible for a free National Park Pass through a federally funded program called Every Kid Outdoors.
- The voucher program grants free entry for fourth graders, all children under 16 in their group, and up to three accompanying adults to most federally managed lands and waters.
- The pass does not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping or boat rides. For more information, go to <https://everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm>.

ported by staff at Fort Snelling State Park, and has direct staffing help from Wilderness Inquiry, NPS rangers, NPS River Educators, and NPS volunteers. To learn more about volunteering for this program, email NPS Volunteer Coordinator Paula Swingley at paula_swingley@nps.gov.

Winter River is one part of a three-part program designed to get urban students outdoors – and into the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area – over the course of a typical school year. Working River takes place in autumn, and introduces students to the historic St. Anthony Falls area. Living River takes place in the spring. Aboard a riverboat, students learn how the Mississippi River plays host to a unique eco-system for fish and mussels.

Educators interested in scheduling any of these three river programs can contact David Kappelhoff at dkappelhoff@parkconnection.org.



LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Longfellow Community Council COVID-19 Notice

Like everyone, we don't know the long-term implications of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We do know it's important that all of us try to do what we can to mitigate transmission and help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Therefore, ALL currently scheduled LCC meetings are canceled/postponed until further notice.

As your neighborhood organization, we want to provide resources and information to help ease the current uncertainty of our community. However, we're not medical professionals and this current health crisis is unprecedented, so unfortunately, we don't have a strategy in place to address this situation. We are working on ways to hold LCC Board Meetings remotely.

If we are able to hold conference call meetings, we will advertise on our FB page so that residents will be able to listen in, if they are interested. Check with the Center for Disease Control for updated information, and guidance. Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

No Pie Charts! Only Pies!

Our annual general membership meeting and resource fair, No Pie Charts! Only Pies! was scheduled for Tue, April 21. At this meeting, we would have held our annual elections for open seats on our Board of Directors, as well as presented our proposed bylaw amendments. **This meeting is also CANCELLED.** Proposed bylaw amendments will be publicly shared once we have a new general membership meeting scheduled, at a future date.

Make a difference in your own backyard. Join the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) Board of Directors

Joining the LCC Board of Directors is an excellent opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making and leadership of the community. Board members (normally) meet monthly to review funding requests, respond to emerging needs of the community and plan for future events, activities and programs. Board members are also required to attend at least one committee meeting per month and to participate in LCC sponsored events.

All levels of experience are welcomed on the LCC Board of Directors. You need only an interest in the community, to live in the

Longfellow, Cooper, Howe or Hiawatha neighborhood and a commitment to participate in meetings a few hours a month. LCC welcomes diversity and encourages people from all walks of life to join our board. When the full spectrum of the community is represented through leadership, our neighborhood reaps the benefit.

Anyone interested in more information about the LCC Board should contact LCC Executive Director Melanie Majors via email at melanie@longfellow.org.

The LCC offices are closed until further notice. Staff will be working remotely and can respond via email.

Love doesn't have an expiration date.

Even though we've reached the end of our designated February

fundraising drive, we hope you'll still consider donating to LCC throughout the year whenever giving works best for you.

We love working for Greater Longfellow all year, just as much as you love living here. We'll continue to provide monthly fundraising updates as we work toward our \$15,000 goal. Currently, we're just over 20%, with \$3,546.

THANK YOU to the tremendously kind 59 residents who have donated! And THANK YOU to the generous neighborhood businesses/organizations, who've contributed to our fundraising efforts including: Mother Earth Gardens, River Lake Clinic, Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors, Belle's Toolbox, and Schooner Tavern!

Also, THANK YOU to everyone who has helped share our work by liking/sharing posts on social media. It's a huge help. Thanks for being a wonderful neighbor!



Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.722.4529 • www.longfellow.org

Melanie Majors, Executive Director
Justin Gaarder, Program Manager
Carly Swenson, Communications & Events Manager

melanie@longfellow.org
justin@longfellow.org
carly@longfellow.org

Home Improvement

All Energy Solar celebrates 10-year anniversary



Richard Franco's home as seen from the back yard. His 12 solar panels generate between 20-24 kilowatt hours on a sunny day. On a typical day, his family uses between 5-7 kilowatt hours. The surplus is sold back to Xcel Energy for .08 cents/kilowatt hour. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Richard Franco has an exterior Smart Meter that measures his home energy use in 15 minute increments. He also gauges his family's energy consumption (and availability) using an indoor meter and a smart phone app. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The numbers are in. The U.S. Department of Labor's statistics predict that over the next decade, solar installer jobs will grow more than any other occupation.

All Energy Solar is a company in the Midway that designs, installs, and monitors solar power systems for homes and businesses – and they've been doing it for 10 years. Their new, expanded headquarters in Energy Park made it possible for the company to stay in St. Paul during a time of significant growth.

The solar energy industry is booming, which is good news for the environment and for the economy. The jobs that are produced can't be outsourced or done by robots – the work has to be done by local people.

President and co-owner Michael Allen said, "Last year, we installed more than 1,000 solar

ALL ENERGY SOLAR >> 7



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We are a business rooted in healthy soil. Our all-natural methods rely on soil health to beautify landscapes, restore ecosystems, and protect pollinators, and we love sharing our soil secrets with everyone!

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Russ Henry,
Owner and Soil
Specialist

Here are 3 tips for growing healthy soil:

1) Keep the ground covered: Bare ground encourages weeds and damages soil. Use mulch, leaves, or ground covers, like creeping thyme, throughout the landscape.

2) Plant native perennials, trees, and shrubs: Native plants offer more nutrition for pollinators. Choose plants that bloom at different times so bees can find food in your garden every day of the growing season.

3) Transform your lawn: The best lawn is a garden. Eliminate mowing, fertilizers, and pesticides by transforming your lawn into garden space. Native landscapes are much easier to maintain than lawns!

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'The time is now' for solar power, according to co-owner Michael Allen

All Energy Solar

» From 6

power systems. This year, our goal is 1,250 installations. While our company has a six-state reach, the lion's share of our business is right here in the Twin Cities."

'They did the heavy lifting'

Richard Franco was an All Energy Solar customer in 2019; he had 12 solar panels installed on his home last spring. He said, "I'd been interested in solar panels for a while. There were tax credits and rebates in place, it seemed like a hedge against energy costs continually rising, and, of course, there are the obvious environmental benefits."

Franco had seen signs for All Energy Solar in his neighborhood, and appreciated that they were a local company. When one of his neighbors had solar panels installed by All Energy Solar, Franco knocked on his door. The neighbor described his experience as extremely positive, and Franco's would turn out to be as well.

In Franco's words, "They came out and evaluated everything, determining that my steeply-pitched, south-facing, relatively unobstructed roof was perfect for solar panels. They did all the heavy lifting, and got the logistical stuff set up with Xcel Energy. While I was making sure my homeowner's insurance would

cover solar panels, All Energy Solar didn't pressure me in any way."

Individualized assessments set them apart

Michael Allen was working in the solar energy industry for 10 years before he started All Energy Solar with his brother Brian a decade ago. He said, "It's easy enough to buy a solar energy system over the internet, but it will likely end up costing you more in the long run. We believe that individual attention is essential for having a system work optimally. If it isn't installed properly, it might not be up to code or pass the insurance inspection."

He added, "We model every home or business we work on in 3-D imaging, and interpret exactly how the panels will be integrated with smart, efficient design. There are trees and structures that get in the way of the sun. If the south side of a property is shaded, maybe the panels will have to be placed on the east or the west."

"Our consultants are highly skilled at site design, and every site is different."

All Energy Solar helps homeowners choose a system that is appropriate not only to their site, but also to their energy needs. Energy use is evaluated on a 12-month cycle, and those numbers inform the design of each solar power system.

Community solar gardens are growing in popularity, and Allen supports the idea – to a point. He explained, "When you look at it carefully, it's a continuation of the idea of renting electricity. Somebody builds a solar garden in an outlying area, pumps a lot of energy into the grid, and customers get a slight credit on their Xcel bill."

He believes the motivation for installing a home solar energy system is the same as what gets people to buy, rather than rent, their home. It's empowering to generate your own electricity -- and it's a sound investment."

'The time is now'

According to Allen, the technology of solar panels hasn't changed much over time. They use the same technology developed by scientists at Bell Laboratories in 1954. What has changed tremendously in the inversion technology that converts DC (direct current electricity collected from the sun) into AC (alternating current electricity that can be used in the home).

Solar panels typically come with a 25-year warranty. Once they're installed, they are relatively maintenance free. There is no need to keep them clear of snow and ice. The panels are dark colored, and will clear themselves on their own. Allen said, "Don't go up on your roof to check on them!"

The solar industry is a global industry, with the U.S. being – so far – a very small part of the market. According to Allen, "Not even 2% of the energy used in this country comes from renewable sources. Collecting energy from the sun is a simple, safe technology that we just haven't adopted in a big way. We have the opportunity to move forward with the Green Economy in this state and in this country, and revolutionize our infrastructure to be truly renewable. All of the technology is ready. The time is now."

For more information on installing solar panels on your home, or to learn about job opportunities with All Energy Solar, visit www.allenergysolar.com.

"We're proud to be part of this economic sector based on renewable energy. With Governor Walz calling for statewide carbon-free energy by 2050, awareness of the benefits of solar energy will continue to grow."

~ Michael Allen

Benefit this year

If you install a solar panel system in 2020, 26% of your total project costs (including equipment, permitting and installation) can be claimed as a credit on your federal tax return. If you spend \$10,000 on your system, you owe \$2,600 less in taxes the following year. The solar tax credit will be less in 2021, and will expire in 2022.

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Adopt-a-Drain: simple way to make a big difference and protect state waterways

>> from 1

Minneapolis leads cities

Program Manager Lane Christianson said, "2019 was a year of exceptional growth for the Adopt-a-Drain Program. We're thrilled to report that Minneapolis is leading all cities in total participants and adopted storm drains. We had 1,561 storm drains adopted with 825 new participants last year. Most participants take care of multiple drains; some do entire intersections. We ask volunteers to sweep/rake/shovel leaves, trash and other debris off the drain surface year round."

Volunteers can report as often as they like – but are asked to report their observations at least twice yearly, in the spring and fall via an online account. For those who don't have access to the online system, a reporting postcard is mailed out annually.

Christianson recommends

the following tools for making the job easier: broom, rake, gloves, snow shovel or dustpan, pail, and compostable yard waste bag.

He said, "Only the surface of the storm drain grate and the area around it should be cleaned. Do not remove the grate or otherwise attempt to clean inside the storm drain. If your drain is plugged, contact the city of Minneapolis at 311."

As part of the job, waste is separated and placed in the appropriate trash, recycling, or compost carts at the volunteer's home. Note that sediment or dirt collected in the spring is not compostable, as it likely contains chemical residue from deicers used over the winter and motor oil. Bag it, and put it in the trash.

Once these pollutants get into the storm water system and start to decay, organic matter releases nutrients (phosphorous is the biggest culprit) that feed algae and invasive plants.

When lakes get covered

with algae, sunlight can't reach the bottom and desirable plants start to die off. In the long term, the ecosystem changes so fewer aquatic animals, fish, and native plants can survive.

Make a big difference

Christianson said, "It doesn't take a lot of time to clean a storm drain, and it makes a big difference collectively. Volunteers like Mandy LaBreche, who recently adopted the 10,000th drain through our program, are eager to do something that makes a positive difference in improving local water quality."

Minneapolis participants receive a yard sign that helps spread the word about this volunteer program. For more information or to adopt-a-drain of your own, go to www.adopt-a-drain.org.



Friends Mandy LaBreche (left) and Jillian Kaster have both adopted drains in the neighborhood. Minneapolis is leading the way with number of drains adopted in the Twin Cities. These small yard signs advertise who has adopted a drain and help promote the program. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Prevent runoff pollution

- Rain and snow melt wash anything on streets and other paved surfaces down storm drains and into our waterways. Don't wash your car with detergents on paved surfaces. Help keep our water clean!
- Dog poop carries harmful bacteria. Pick up after your pet and dispose of waste in garbage bin.
- Leaves and grass clippings in the storm water system end up feeding algae – even though they look harmless. Keep organic matter off sidewalks, streets, and grates.
- Trash clogs storm water drains and causes street flooding. Properly dispose of trash in garbage bin.
- One teaspoon of de-icing salt pollutes five gallons of water forever. Use it sparingly. Sweep up and reuse excess. Use sand when temperatures fall below 15 degrees – salt will not work below this point.

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RIVER CLEAN UP DAY CANCELLED, BUT...



Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) hosts an annual trash cleanup in the river gorge every year for Earth Day. This year the event has been canceled, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Instead of gathering in the river gorge to pick up trash, FMR is encouraging individuals and families to pick up trash all throughout the month of April, to celebrate Earth Month while still maintaining a safe distance from others and avoiding large groups. "You don't have to go far, picking up trash from your sidewalk, boulevard or storm drain can have a big positive impact on the river," noted Sophie Downey. For more information on how these individual cleanups can make a difference, and how to share your good work, visit fmr.org/Earth-Day-2020. (Photo submitted)

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Coronavirus pandemic

>> from 1

Hebda came, as he hates to miss our Fish Dinners (which one of the local radio stations called "The Vegas of Fish Fries!").

The loss of revenue will have a huge impact on the church's budget, as it is one of two major fundraisers held each year, according to Sim. "We miss the 'fun raising' as well, because we have such a good time showing our guests a warm welcome and feeding them well."

The church is considering doing some variation of the dinners when it is safe to do so, perhaps tying fish 'n' chips in with its annual Bingo-Rama nights in July.

"Meanwhile, as with all the faith communities, we have cancelled our masses (daily and weekend) and all other gatherings until it's safe to offer them again. We are live-streaming our Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. mass using Facebook Live on our St. Albert the Great Facebook page and then archiving the result on our website: www.saintalbertthegreat.org, under the Worship with Us tab.

"Our small staff will take turns spending a day in the office, Tuesday through Friday, but otherwise will work from home to keep publishing the Bulletin
CORONAVIRUS >> 12

If you can sew, you can help

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

One critical need that has emerged over the past several days is the need for more personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and gowns, in hospitals and other health care settings. In recent days, doctors and nurses have warned that they are running out of equipment to stay safe as they diagnose and treat patients.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Allina Health, along with several community partners, have launched a statewide volunteer effort, calling for people to sew and donate facemasks for doctors, nurses, and other medical staff.

Michelle Hoaglund is the owner of Treadle Yard Goods, a well-established, much loved fabric store on Hamline and Grand avenues in St. Paul. Partnering with the non-profit Sew Good Goods, Hoaglund and her dedicated staff were able to put together 50 free kits with enough cotton fabric and elastic to make 28 CDC approved face masks.

Distribution of the kits began at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. By 1:05 p.m., according to Hoaglund, all of the kits were gone. The line of people, which had started to form at noon, stretched all the way to the end of the block and around the corner. People maintained a safe distance between one another, and many came to the store to buy their own material once the

free kits had been given away.

"It was," Hoaglund said, "beyond what any of us could have imagined." She estimated there were between 80-100 people waiting in line and mused, "People who sew are just not the kind to sit around on the couch in a time of crisis."

Treadle Yard Goods will likely continue to make more kits available and, at least at the time of printing, the store remains open for shopping. Check www.treadleyardgoods.com for updates.

If you would like to use fabrics you currently have in your own stock pile, note the following guidelines: be sure to use fabric that is 100% cotton: tightly woven for the front, flannel or other soft 100% cotton for the back. If you have any doubts about the content of your fabric, don't use it. Prewash all fabric on hot and dry on high heat to ensure pre-shrinkage. Area hospitals or other providers will sanitize the masks.

Instructions involve the use of elastic. If that is not available, you can make fabric ties (self-made ties or twill tape), one in each of the four corners. Each tie should have a finished length of 18 inches. To make your own ties, cut fabric strips 1 1/4" wide, fold in half and press, then sew both outer edges in to the middle with a single seam. Knot the ends to keep from fraying.

It is advisable to use con-



Michelle Hoaglund, owner of St. Paul's Treadle Yard Goods, handed out the first of 50 free fabric kits last weekend. Her store made the kits available for people to sew facemasks for health care workers. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

trasting fabrics, so there is an obvious front and back side.

In this extraordinarily difficult time for small business owners, Hoaglund said, "I made my peace with all of the uncertainty a few days ago. I thought, we can't control any of what is happening right now - but it's how you love your neighbor that counts."

Instructions and drop-off

points for the CDC-approved design, approved by Allina Health, are available at sewgoodgoods.org.

This link contains additional useful information: <https://blog.bluecrossmn.com/covid19masks/>

Many organizations in addition to hospitals have a need for masks including homeless shelters and funeral homes.

Classifieds & Service Directory

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by April 20 for the April 30 issue. Call 651-917-4183 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*, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417; e-mail denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com; or call 651-917-4183.

CRISIS HOTLINE

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

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In Our Community

Messenger

Please note that many local events have been cancelled or postponed due to the Governor Walz's order prohibiting gatherings of 50 or more. Due to the rapidly changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic, the Messenger is not printing any event notices in this publication to avoid printing outdated information. We are urging residents to practice social distancing and follow current guidelines from the Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Quilt Shop Co-op opening at former Glad Creations location

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The storefront at 3400 Bloomington Ave. S. housed a beloved fabric store called Glad Creations for 43 years. When the owners retired last year, dedicated employees and customers weren't willing to give up on their lively, well-established fabric arts community in the heart of the city.

After months of preparation, they have plans for launching the first ever, cooperatively owned and managed fabric store in the U.S. The Quilt Shop Co-op is already 300 members strong, and is reaching out to sewing enthusiasts near and far to become founding members.

Board member Amy Swanson said, "Our membership demographics show zip codes from throughout the Twin Cities and out-state Minnesota. People are passionate about supporting

the co-operative small business model, and about supporting fabric arts."

Become a member

A consumer-owned business relies on many community members investing in a business they care about. A one-time membership share at the Quilt Shop Co-op costs \$120. To become a member, mail a check to 3400 Bloomington Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407, or join online at www.quiltshopcoop.com.

Every member makes the same financial commitment, and receives the same benefits from the co-op's success. Benefits include special member-only events, being asked to influence inventory selection and class topics through periodic member surveys, quarterly member discounts and annual patronage refunds once the shop is profitable, access to the community meeting space, and the satisfaction of supporting a small business in the local community.

Former Glad Creations employee and co-op board member Jennie Baltutis attended a class sponsored by the city of Minneapolis for business owners interested in the co-op model (see side bar). With the help of program consultants, she wrote a business plan for the Quilt Shop Co-op and learned about financing options.

Baltutis said, "I learned that many small businesses are closing because their owners are retiring. We've seen a lot of that in the Twin Cities. According to U.S. Small Business Administration data, only 20% of small businesses listed for sale actually sell. Adopting the co-operative business model can keep a business alive well into the future. The fact

that a successful fabric store existed in this site for more than 40 years speaks to our customer base. It means that the feasibility study has already been done."

More than a store

A consumer-owned co-op is much more than a store. An elected board ensures the health of the co-op and represents its members. It seems particularly appropriate for a fabric store because sewing and quilting have deep roots in community.

Board member Amy Swanson said, "Having a co-operative structure allows us to dream big. We'll have a beautiful store that people can shop in, but maybe one day we'll also have a mobile sewing lab? People need to learn how to sew and to fix things. The ethos of a co-op says, 'What is best for your neighborhood, your community?' With this model,

Co-op training available

The city of Minneapolis offers a Co-operative Technical Assistance Program (C-TAP) at no cost for participants. The feasibility training is available to new co-operatives, and existing businesses interested in converting to a co-operative model. The program also provides one-on-one technical assistance.

The city believes the co-op model benefits community by:

- Acting as an economic development tool to reduce poverty and promote social cohesion.
- Increasing racial and ethnic diversity in business ownership.
- Supporting innovation, community building, and local investment by encouraging a more collaborative business model.

QUILT SHOP CO-OP >> 11



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Correction


In the article titled, "Rethinking waste in 2020," that printed in the March 2020 *Messenger* on page 6, we incorrectly listed pet waste as an item that is accepted in the organics program. It is not. The state would have to give permission for a composting site to accept pet waste, and they have not given anyone that permission at this point. We apologize for the error.



April 27
5:30 COMMUNITYTIME
6:00 MEETING /ELECTIONS

NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Annual Elections and Community Meal





Crosstown Covenant Church
5540 30th Ave S

Connect with your neighbors while you enjoy a free, family-friendly meal

Elect NENA Board Members for your neighborhood

Online voting will be available at nokomiseast.org until 4/24.

Subject to change per MN Health Dept. recommendations.

neighborhood **CHURCHES** welcome you!

Bethlehem Covenant Church
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
www.bethlehemcov.org
Pastor Rick Mylander
(Handicapped Accessible)
Contemporary Worship – 8:45am
Sunday School for all – 10:00am
Traditional Worship – 11:00am
Español – 1:30pm
Holy Week: Palm Sunday Worship 9:30am, Maundy Thursday 5:45pm, Good Friday 7:00pm, Easter Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00 with brunch at 10:00am
April 1 – Family Fellowship and Potluck starting at 5:15

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthmpls.org
Pastor Steven Reiser
Adult Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Children's Class 10:45 am (Childcare Provided ages 0-4) (Wheelchair Accessible)
Upcoming Events:
Beer & Bible @ Merlin's Rest at 6:30 pm 2nd Wednesdays
Bagel & Bible at 9:30 am 3rd Sundays
Auction - April 4 11:30 preview, Noon Start
Easter Breakfast 9:30, Easter Service 10:30

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.org
Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
In-person services temporarily suspended
All services will be live streamed
Check church website for details
9:45 am-online Sunday Worship
April 18-online Maundy Thursday, 7 pm
April 19-online Good Friday 7 pm
Easter Worship-pending online 9:45 am

Spirit Garage - The church with the really big door
3010 Minnehaha Ave.
www.spiritgarage.org • 612-827-1074
The Hook & Ladder Theater & Lounge
Pastor: Holly Johnson
Music: John Kerns and bands
Meeting and worshipping online during this wild time.
Check the website or facebook for details of how to check us out!
We're a casual quirky faith community with pretty good band-led music, progressive theology, strong coffee and a come-as-you-are vibe.

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. • 612-724-3643
www.saintalbertthegreat.org
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.

Sunday Mass: 9:30 am (Childcare available)
Saturday Mass: 5 pm
M, T, Th, F: Rosary at 8 am, Daily Mass 8:15 am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, First Fridays from 9 am to noon (Handicapped accessible)

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000
www.stpeders.org
Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
During the time of social distancing please go to our website and FB page for worship services and updates.
www.stpeders.org or on FB @ stpedersmpls (Handicap acc., Braille, Large Print)

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Pastor Matt Oxendale
Livestreaming worship: Sundays 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. and Holy Week/Easter.
Visit <http://www.trinityfalls.org> for the link and updated information.

PROJECT OF NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES
Minnehaha Food Shelf, serving people Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm
Call us at 612-721-6231 • Minnehaha United Methodist • 3701 E. 50th St.

Fabric, notions, community

co-op members will have a real voice in asking for what they want and need."

In order for the Quilt Shop Co-op to secure financing through their lender, Shared Capital Co-operative, they need to have a steady increase in membership.

Board chairman Steve Budas said, "It's essential that we double our membership in the coming months. In the short term, we are also looking for help with getting the word out to people that a beloved fabric store will live on in South Minneapolis. We have a strong six-person board and our financing application is in the final stages of review.

"In these months before we open, we need to establish social media accounts so that we can reach as many prospective members as possible. Ideally, we're hoping to find a couple of volunteers willing to work 2-3 hours per week on this." Email info@quiltshopcoop.com, if interested.



Quilt Shop Co-op board members (left to right) Steve Budas, Jennie Baltutis, and Amy Swanson. The empty shelves will soon be stocked when the first ever, consumer-owned fabric store opens in South Minneapolis this year. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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manage stress

Take time to talk with your child or teen about the COVID-19 outbreak. Answer questions and share facts about COVID-19 in a way that your child or teen can understand. Reassure them that they are safe.

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Trinity of Minnehaha Falls will be live
streaming worship services during Holy Week



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**ACCREDITED
BUSINESS**

Corona-Cautious Classic biking extravaganza



Neighbors got outside and built community near Bracket Park on Sunday, March 22, 2020 in an event that was the brainchild of young Brooks Sharratt, whose sister Ellen is shown on the bike at right. Above, Hans, Ann, and Eve Thorkelson cheer on the participants. One child at a time, at 10 minute intervals, vied for Fastest Lap or Most Laps in 10 Minutes and competed for costume/spirit awards. Drinks, snacks, signs, bells, bullhorns were encouraged.



Community response to a global situation

>> from 9

and trying to keep our parish family informed, encouraged and together in these days when we can't interact in person."

Kennedy Transmission offers home pick-up and drop-off

Kennedy Transmission CVT & Auto at 3423 E. Lake St. typically has appointments scheduled one to two weeks out as they are one of only a handful of shops in the U.S. that specialize in repair of CVT (Constant Variable Transmission) and Hybrid Drive systems. Their appointment calendar has dropped off dramatically the week beginning on Monday, March 23.

"I know a number of repair shops that have closed or are expecting to close very soon and this makes me very nervous. I have a small staff of very talented people who very much want to keep working as normal," said owner Matt Johnson. "At this point we are classified an 'essential' sector of the economy to facilitate transportation and as such plan on staying healthy and working through the duration if at all possible."

He has walled off the customer area from the front desk area with plexiglass, and employees are using the shop service door instead of the customer entrance. They are disinfecting door handles, countertops and hard surfaces throughout the day and doing a thorough bleaching at night. They are wiping down customer's steering wheels and gear shifters after completing work.

"Although some of these measures slow our workflow a bit, I think we need to do everything practical to mitigate the risk of virus spread," remarked Johnson.

"I have always said that we have the best customers and this has really been evident the past week," said Johnson. "I have received a lot of calls and visits just to check in on us and make sure things are going well. Our hope is that people are able to work and stay safe at the same time; and we can continue to maintain their vehicles. I think it is generally imperative that anyone showing possible symptoms of COVID-19 quarantine themselves to limit potential spread."

To help those with underlying health issues as well as those who simply want to limit their

time in public spaces, Kennedy Transmission has begun picking up customer vehicles and dropping them back off.

"We have also decided we would do whatever we can to provide basic help to our customers at no charge," said Johnson. "In particular, if someone in the neighborhood needs a tire aired up or a jump-start, I will try and be there in a timely manner and get them back on the road. Although it may be a little thing, I think if everyone helps a little here or there, we will weather this better together."

He is also making a few supply runs for neighborhood residents who need something from Target or Walgreens, fitting them in between his work responsibilities.

"If Italy, Spain, etc. have any parallel to the U.S. then things will get a lot worse before they get better," observed Johnson. "Minneapolis is a wonderful community and I think basic best hygiene, social distancing and common sense practices as well as supporting our neighbors will be the key to weathering this crisis."

Business organizations, neighbors support each other

Businesses in the neighborhood are facing the challenge of adjusting to the new information and restrictions that are coming out daily, observed Kim Jakus of the Longfellow Business Association. Those without direct contact with the public are taking precautions for their employees and workplaces. Restaurants and retail locations are being hit harder, reducing hours, laying off workers, transitioning to online orders, implementing pick-up or delivery options, and offering gift cards for later redemption. They're trying to figure out how to manage expenses, pinpoint which can be delayed and which still need to be paid.

"I see a lot of generosity from the community on Next Door encouraging neighbors to still support local businesses," Jakus said.

Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson has taken the lead on creating a Google spreadsheet listing all local businesses and whether they are still open or not. Find the link on his Facebook page.

The LBA, Lake Street Council and Redesign are partnering together to provide small busi-

nesses with information on resources available to them. They list items on their web sites and share them through regular email updates. Highlights include Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available for small businesses and monthly sales taxes have been deferred a month.

"We're connecting on how we can work together to support businesses in our geographic scope. Probably a lot of that will come on the tail end of this crisis and figuring out what recovery looks like," observed Jakus.

Trying to manage life in a pandemic

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Longfellow resident Don Hammen became selective about when he left his house. On March 15, he took a tape measure to church to ensure there was over six feet between him and others.

He decided to skip the Neighborhoods 2020 meeting the next day, although it pained him. But he was still planning to pull together Elder Voices (Telling Our Stories) at Turtle Bread as usual the fourth Friday of the month.

He stocked up on frozen foods and canned goods, and continued to use Meals on Wheels. As the week went on, he discovered that buying groceries through Cub Home Delivery was becoming harder. He could no longer place a delivery in the morning and get it later that day; instead, a Thursday order wouldn't come until Sunday.

Being dependent on mass transit, Hammen was confident he could continue to use it to get around. Things changed later in the week when Mass Transit announced new guidelines on how many people could be on a bus and restricting non-essential travel. "I can live with this but if they ever did a complete shut down I would have a real problem," said Hammen.

Complicating things is that his refrigerator appears to be dying.

He's wondering how "we are in this together" is actually playing out at the neighborhood level. Will social distancing mean social isolation?

"The fact of the matter is I'm still trying to figure out how to manage my life in this COVID-19 situation," Hammen said.