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Is Minneapolis targeting students of color for suspension, transfer?

Critics see race and class inequalities in system

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Does Minneapolis Public Schools target students of color when deciding who gets suspended and who is transferred to another school?

Some charge that it does, and say that the system is fundamentally flawed.

"Transfers represent larger problems of race and class inequalities in the district," observed South High School student Elise Sommers.

South High parent Lynette Vizenor pointed out that this spring, her daughter will graduate with only one-fourth of the Native American students who entered the All Nations program with her in ninth grade. The rest have dropped out or received academic transfers out of the school.

"There is still segregation and racism," Vizenor remarked. "There is a problem with administrators."

SUSPENSIONS AND TRANSFERS INSTEAD OF EXPULSIONS

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) hasn't expelled a student in 10 years. Instead, it has relied on a system of out-of-school suspensions and academic transfers, moving an average of 277 students each year.

Statistics show a racial disparity. At South High, Native American students make up only 6.7% of the student body, yet they accounted for 17.5% of the out-of-school suspensions in 2009 (the most recent year statistics are available through the U.S. Department of Education). Black students comprise a quarter of the student body but made up half of the school's suspensions.

Overall in the school district, 52% of the suspensions are of African American boys compared to a mere 6% of white boys, pointed out Kate Towle, the adult

adviser of South High School's s.t.a.r.t. (students allied for racial trust).

Critics charge that the system itself is racist, and that there's no indication that students of color have more disruptive behavior than white students.

In March, Brandon Royce-Diap of MN Solutions Not Suspensions spoke to s.t.a.r.t. about the racial gap in suspensions and other disciplinary actions. "We talked about how the language of discipline policies is unclear, allowing teachers to interpret them with their own biases," recalled Towle.

POLICY CHANGED IN 2012 FOLLOWING LAWSUIT BY STUDENT

When student journalist Elise Sommers began researching an article for the school newspaper, the Southerner, on the district's new transfer policy, she discovered that many don't know the details of the system.

"Every level of administration I talked to at South (deans, vice principals, principal, other district people) were unsure as to the exact process of administrative transfers," said Sommers.

The Minneapolis Public School district's new transfer policy is supposed to clear up the ambiguity surrounding academic transfers, but it is still too early to see whether the revised system will make a change, according to Sommers.

The policy was revised in Au-



"We need to honestly address how our systems entrench racial, social, and cultural inequalities, not just in discipline but every aspect of our structures," says South High student Elise Sommers.

gust 2012 following a lawsuit Jonah Kaplan and his family lodged against the district after his transfer from Southwest to Washburn.

The policy was expanded to outline communication to families about the transfer, as well as objection and review.

"The main reforms that need to happen across the board with administrative justice in the district is to introduce more transparency," said Sommers. "Parents, teachers, students, and administrators need to be involved in the conversation of how best to balance the student's needs and the community's."

"We also need to honestly

address how our systems entrench racial, social, and cultural inequalities, not just in discipline but every aspect of our structures."

RESTORATIVE MEASURES PROGRAM SEEKS TO ADDRESS UNDERLYING ISSUES

A report from the Council on Crime and Justice in 2008 pointed out that studies have shown little evidence that suspension is useful to prevent future student misbehavior. It cited a 1998 study that showed that out-of-

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Becketwood-LOLA Art Fair scheduled for June 15



The necklaces (above) were designed by Shirley Dahlgren, one of the artists who will be participating in LOLA show.

Becketwood Cooperative and the Longfellow League of Artists (LOLA) are partnering to sponsor an Art Fair and Sale on Saturday, June 15. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Becketwood, 4300 West River Parkway.

The show will feature the work of about 30 Longfellow artists who will display and sell their hand-crafted items including jewelry, paintings, textiles, sculptures, and photos.

The June 15 show will serve as a preview of LOLA's annual Art Crawl on August 24 and 25.

For more information, call 612-746-1002.

If you aren't a Messenger Facebook friend, you might have missed this last month:



New documentary opening on Frac Sand Mining • Performance of the ANCIA Saxophone Quartet • Faith Evangelical Spaghetti Dinner • Cinco de Mayo week at Midtown Global Market • Laughing Waters Studio hosting 10th annual art sale • South High graduate awarded a Fulbright Scholar appointment • Riverview Apartments receives a Best In Real Estate Award • "Storytelling from a Transgender Perspective" at Nokomis Library • Seward Garage Sale registration and sale • Falls 4 All Committee awarded Volunteer Group of the Year Award • What was selling at the Midtown Farmers Market • Minnehaha Academy boys' varsity baseball team takes part in "Miracle League" • East Lake Library Spring Book Sales • Classes open on honeybees and how to keep them • Meeting of the Longfellow Faith Forum • Nokomis Library sculpture to be re-installed after renovation • Tapestry Folk Dance Center celebrates 30 years • Art exhibit on the human form • Lake Street Council receives Mpls Heritage Preservation Award • Transition Longfellow shows film, "Edible City..." • MN Transportation Museum looking or volunteers • Cooking demos at Midtown Farmers Market • Photos from the Unity in the Community event • 38th annual Conf for Neighborhoods held in Minnehaha Park • Longfellow Garden Club's annual plant swap • New documentary opening

Nice Ride bikes come to South Minneapolis

By JILL BOOGREN

The green bikes are going even greener, as Nice Ride Minnesota expands its bike share network to reach local parks and trails.

Look for stations at Lake Nokomis, Minnehaha Park, West River Parkway, Coldwater Spring, and Fort Snelling. Thanks in part to a National Park Service grant to support its Alternative Transportation Project, it will now be possible to explore the Mississippi River using Nice Ride bikes from Fort Snelling up to Webber Park. This section of the river is part of the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area.

Usually stations are placed in high density areas, sometimes at the request of developers who want stations nearby, said Melissa Summers, customer care manager for Nice Ride Minnesota. But people often request stations near the parks (Lake Calhoun is one of its most popular stations).

"We're really excited to be able to expand into the area along the river," said Summers, suggesting it's a good way to let people try the service. "It makes it a lot more convenient."

Hennepin County also provided funds to add stations along transit corridors. One is at Lake Street and 27th Ave. S., near Gandhi Mahal, and two more are along the Hiawatha light rail



People take Nice Ride bikes out for a spin across the Sabo bridge. (Photo provided by Nice Ride Minnesota.)

line, now called the Blue Line, near the 38th St. and 46th St. LRT stations.

"Having the bikes at rail stops is pretty smart," said Deb Alper, who has been involved in a multi-year project as a volunteer with the Sierra Club's Land Use & Transportation Committee to produce "Great Transit Trips to Parks," a map and guide to taking transit to parks. While their

guide emphasizes transit options, they know biking can be an important part of the trip.

As an example, someone could take a train or bus to the 46th St. station, then hop on a Nice Ride bike to explore the river and parks.

"For folks who don't have bikes or who have visitors coming and need an extra bike, these are key spots," said Alper. She

added that the stations are particularly well placed for those who want to stay on trails and aren't as comfortable on roads.

Nice Ride bikes are designed for quick trips, so having more stations along a route is key. Additional usage fees kick in after just 30 minutes, so the idea is to ride from one station to another and park the bike. Then when

you're ready to ride again, whether it's after a quick visit or a full day of work (or play), you pick up another bike and go to the next stop. There is just one fee of \$6 for the day (or people can get an annual subscription for \$65), and you can take as many short trips as you like within that 24-hour period.

Bike sharing serves both commuters and leisure users. According to its annual report, Nice Ride found a majority of riders have a one-year pass, and among subscribers, most trips are for work, school and to run errands. But plenty of people get day passes as well.

Over 575,000 trips have been taken on the green bikes since their launch in June 2010. The season runs from April through November.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Nice Ride's title sponsor, also helped fund the stations, bringing the total to 170 stations and over 1500 bikes in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Of the 24 being added to the network, nine stations are in the the Longfellow Nokomis neighborhoods.

Ride on!

Details and a map of stations are at niceridemn.org.

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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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Chicago Avenue businesses relish community connection

Classic car show scheduled June 2...

By JAN WILLMS

There must be something special about a neighborhood that can boast of businesses that have been in the area for 30, 40 and even 50 years. And according to Michelle Dean, who is a life-long resident of the area and a strong advocate for the business community, there is.

Dean, who is employed at Southside Chiropractic, said there is a wonderful mix of merchants from 48th and Chicago

southward to 58th, and she can cite the longevity of most of them.

"The businesses survive because the neighborhood has such a commitment to them," said Dean, who is a member of both the South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance that focuses on business around 48th and Chicago and the newer Diamond Lake Community Alliance that promotes, empowers and supports all business in the community at

large.

"There are over 100 businesses between 48th and 57th streets," Dean said. "Pepito's has been here over 50 years, and the Parkway Theater nearly 50. As you move south, you run into We Love Kids daycare. That has been there over 30 years, I know, because my daughter went there."

"Family Dentistry has been here since God was a boy," Dean continued. "And Huey's Chow Mein is a fixture."

Dean notes Aqualand Aquarium Center, the tropical fish store at 54th and Chicago, and Exquisite Cleaners on 56th that has been in business over 25 years. "I think I got my first goldfish at Aqualand," she said.

"The community prides itself in involvement and safety," she claimed. "When businesses close, the neighborhood is not as safe. But it's unheard of to have a community with businesses as long-lasting as these."

She credits participation in the community as another factor that figures in to the longstanding tenure of many businesses.

"Many of the business owners also live in the community," Dean said. "There is something about this place where people come and stay."



Hakan Sezer pours coffee for a customer at Sovereign Grounds. (Photo by Jan Willms)

She said her mom, who has since moved out of state, asked her recently to go down to Huey's Chow Mein and sample a meal for her. Chicago Avenue also has a variety of businesses that serve the neighborhood, but also are destination locations for residents in other parts of the Metro.

"There's a little coffee shop on the corner of 48th and Chicago; you might pass by and not know it's there, but when you walk by you smell the owner roasting his own coffee and the aroma is wonderful," Dean said.

Hakan Sezer, who has owned Sovereign Grounds for 17 years, said he is actually hoping to move to the corner of his building and expand his coffee shop. He has a collection of books for his customers to enjoy while they drink his coffee and sample his sandwiches, and also a large play area for children.

"I'll have more space for the

children to play," he said. Sezer said part of the reason that businesses thrive in the area is that each business brings more people into the neighborhood, and all the merchants benefit from that.

"The businesses also stay open after 5," Dean added. "If someone is driving back to the community after a day's work, they know they will be able to do business after they reach home."

Although the economic downturn was hard on Chicago Avenue businesses, like everywhere else, Dean said some creative ideas helped them thrive.

She said Dr. Lee Ann Herfort from Southside Chiropractic has been on one corner of Chicago for 20 years and the other corner for nine. "One of the things she believes in is staying in the neighborhood," Dean said.

Continued on page 10



Dave Roberts poses with some fish at Aqualand Aquarium Center. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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," said 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.

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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.

This month, let's take a look at some of the letters I've received recently.

First, Juan Martinez wrote to say he was not happy to read my column about Cinco de Mayo in the May issue of the Messenger. He suggests the holiday has become just an excuse for drinking and partying. He's got a lot of company there, including my friend Ray Roybal who has complained for years that the celebration of Cinco de Mayo has been so completely taken over by beer companies that the holiday's original purpose has been forgotten. Ray, who was a key figure in the founding of the Chicano Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, gave up on Cinco as a day to celebrate Mexican-American heritage and put his energy instead into Mexican Independence Day (Sept. 16).

Second, a letter from Mike Casey responding to a March column about bicycles. "How about a bike license to pay for all these bike lanes," he writes. He mentioned the addition of bike lanes to Park and Portland as one example. "It's about time you bikers paid for something you have been getting for free."



Hiawatha Notebook

By TOM GILSEAN

About your column: Letters from readers

Also, I received a letter from Brian Fitzgerald. He wrote in response to my suggestion of a tool lending library. The owner of Reddy Rents at 44th and Hiawatha, Fitzgerald said the company has lot of tools for rent. I checked the company website and found plenty of tools to help get those home and yard improvement projects completed. The list includes everything from drills and saws to picks and pruners. There were some surprising items, too, including animal traps and chimney sweep brushes.

Meanwhile, a column I wrote in 2011 has gotten a new life online. I had posed the question: What happened to lint before there were dryers? One reader suggested that was the origin of "tumbleweed." Another speculated that the lint was made into socks.

that get away, but instead worry about those left behind. "Give those reliable, single socks that didn't run away a big pep talk," he says. "Thank them for sticking around. If you do that publicly where the other matched socks can hear this, I've found that less of them disappear and run away." Sounds like good advice. But I do wonder what people will think if they see my talking to my socks in the laundromat.

(Tom Gilsean has been writing a column for the Messenger since 1997. He welcomes your comments. You can reach him via email: tomgilsean@gmail.com, by phone at 612-723-0259 or on Facebook. You can also write to him in care of the Messenger.)

Nokomis East Garage Sale, June 22

The deadline to register for the Nokomis East Neighborhood Yard and Garage Sale is Monday June 10. Last year, 115 houses participated in the sale. People are finding it a good way to clean out clutter, downsize and simplify and make a little money at the same time. Shoppers find bargains and unexpected treasures.

From the surveys we have received after previous sales, we know that people who had at least two sales on their block sold more than those who were the only sale on the block. So ask your neighbors to participate—the more sales on the map by you, the more shoppers it will draw.

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

We put all registered sales on a map and address list along with a description of your items. The map will be available online and at select neighborhood businesses on June 18. To be on the map, you must be located south of Minnehaha Parkway and East of Cedar Avenue. Being listed and on the map is free.

All you need to do is register by June 10, and then organize your own sale. You can pick up a registration form outside of our office, or download it from our website: www.nokomiseast.org and return it to the NENA office at 3000 East 50th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Or you can call the NENA office at (612) 724-5652, and we will take down the information.

This will be a rain or shine event, advertised from 8

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH AND DOUG WALTER

Neighborhood Garage Sale and other summer news

AM until 4 PM. You can set your own hours and extra days beyond the advertised time, and note it in your description. Did we mention it's free?

Start Planning for National Night Out

Just a reminder that it's time for block clubs and block leaders to do their initial planning for National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 6. You can find out much more on the City's NNO website: www.minneapolismn.gov/nno/

Bossen Area Litter Cleanup washed out

It's the thought that counts, right? The cleanup, scheduled for Saturday, May 18 was canceled just minutes before we were to start. With metal-framed canopies and litter grabbers, the frequent lightning strikes and nearly 2" of rain made it just too dangerous for volunteers. Several did show up however, and we would like to thank them for their dedication. The event will be rescheduled in the future, perhaps in the fall.

Minneapolis Monarch Festival – Saturday, Sept 7

Plans are well underway for the fifth annual Minneapolis Monarch Festival, Saturday, September 7, 10 AM – 4 PM

uses music, dance, visual arts, education, and games to inspire appreciation of monarchs, habitat conservation, and preservation of the Monarch Migration.

This year, preserving the migration is even more important. This past winter saw a 59% reduction in the number of monarchs that made it back to Mexico compared to the winter before.

Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

Livability Working Group: 6:30 PM, Monday, June 10, at NENA, 3000 East 50th St.

Nokomis East Neighborhood Garage Sale 8 AM – 4 PM. Register by June 10 by calling 724-5652 or download the form online at: www.nokomiseast.org

NENA Board: 7 PM, Thursday, June 27 at NENA.

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

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

Greenway Glow to Light up the Greenway on June 22

Art, music, bikes, and a giant catapult - what more could you ask for?

By JACKIE BLAIR
Midtown Greenway Coalition

Looking for a fun event where you can be outside on a warm summer night, ride a bike, watch and participate in art, and munch on some great food? Look no further!

Join us for the second annual Greenway Glow: Illuminated Art Festival and Night Bike Ride on June 22. The Greenway Glow is two events in one: a free art festival and a fundraising bike ride. All money raised will be

used to protect and enhance the Midtown Greenway.

To register for the fundraising bike ride, simply go to www.greenwayglow.kintera.org. Riders will enjoy free food from Bar Louie, drinks from New Belgium Brewing, glow-in-the-dark t-shirts and much more!

If you're not interested in the bike ride, please join us for the free art festival on the Greenway, starting at 6 p.m. and lasting until midnight. There will be something for everyone – live music, 3-minute plays, mobile

karaoke, and even a giant catapult that launches magnetic LED lights onto a metal target.

Registration for the bike ride is \$25 by June 3rd (\$30 after/at the event), and adult riders must also raise at least \$75 in pledges for the Greenway (youth under 18 are not required to raise funds).

The art festival is free, with no registration required. A full schedule and more information will be posted to midtowngreenway.org in June.

See you on June 22!



Join us for the second annual Greenway Glow: Illuminated Art Festival and Night Bike Ride on June 22. The Greenway Glow is two events in one: a free art festival and a fundraising bike ride.

I am writing this column in the middle of April. It snowed again! That's bad enough, but Old Man Winter saw fit to begin with rain, then sleet, and topped it off with snow. Oh, it's all so dreadfully disgusting! Last year, I admit, it was an usually early spring. Not this year! Hopefully, when the paper is delivered to your doorstep, we will be in a good, solid spring.

Since I couldn't clean out the garage and get started on the gardens, I had to find something else to work on in our house. I went to my trusty list hanging in my pantry and chose the wall behind the stove. Last fall I was considering putting up glass tiles, or tin ceiling tiles, but nixed both ideas due to cost and the aggravation factors. Last Friday, the white wall became most irritating, so I decided to paint it the darkyellow gold I painted on the rest of the kitchen walls. It was easy, it was cheap.

There was still something missing. I waited a couple of days to see if I would feel differently, but on Monday, still felt the same way. Later, before meeting friends at Barnes and Noble, I decided to stroll through Michael's and see if anything caught my eye. I settled on stenciling something on the wall for a little interest. It took me quite a while to pick out a stencil pattern, which looks like a French wallpaper design. It's not the fleur de lis, which I



The Old White House

By SHERRI MOORE

Little projects, behind the stove

decorated with when I first married Mr. M. It's more like a royal thingy dingy. There was also a squiggly border, just in case I needed it.

To my surprise, the larger, French-looking stencil pattern was taller than the wall behind the stove. There's an over-the-range microwave which I forgot to allow for. In the end, I only really had to use a little of the border. Stenciling is something I've always enjoyed, so doing a small border was fun. The leftover sage green paint from the living room looked beautiful!

The larger stencil, the French thingy dingy was perfect on the wall next to the stove, high enough to be visible above my pot of kitchen utensils, and low enough to still be under the microwave.

I stood back to admire my work, and noticed we had never finished the side of the cabinet, which was where my eye floated up to. A quick trip to Home Depot, and I came home with a little sixteen inch piece of quarter

round and a square piece of scrap maple. The total cost was five bucks. Once holding them both up, the square piece of maple was too thick.

Later that night, Mr. M. found a piece of beadboard, cut it to fit, and glued it on. I stained the pieces with some leftover golden oak stain, making the side of the cabinet look

finished.

Isn't funny that the cabinet has been unfinished since we put in the new microwave five years ago. All of a sudden, one day, I had to finish it. What's that about? I think the more I'm at home, the more I see little projects that need to be finished ASAP. We can chalk it up to a long winter too.

As I laid on the couch and looked into the alcove, my eyes focused on the popcorn ceiling. I realized I was looking at my next project!

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour brochure came today. As always, there are a lot of great renovated houses to visit. I plan on going, I hope you are too!

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

Minneapolis Roosevelt High School Foundation to launch hall of fame

Beginning with its inaugural class in 2014, the Minneapolis Roosevelt High School Foundation will launch the Roosevelt High School (RHS) Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame will recognize the accomplishments of RHS graduates, and former RHS staff and contributors who have

brought pride and inspiration to Roosevelt, the community and society. Dan Dymoke, chairman of the Hall of Fame committee, said, "The recognition of these individuals is intended to highlight and encourage a tradition of excellence at RHS."

With over 50,000 graduates

since its opening in 1921, many Roosevelt graduates have had distinguished careers, including a former Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, a Nobel Laureate, many prominent professional athletes, noted authors, university professors, and prominent political figures. In

addition, there are many former RHS staff members and community members who have supported RHS in a distinguished manner.

The RHS Foundation Hall of Fame committee is currently taking nominations for the first group of 2014 inductees. Candi-

dates nominated will be screened and chosen by a selection committee, and approved by the Foundation Board of Directors. Nomination forms may be obtained on the Foundation's website: <http://roosevelthigh-foundation.org/hof/hall-of-fame-nomination-form/>

Submit your upcoming events to our online calendar: <http://www.longfellownokomismessenger.com/submit-an-event/>

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Come join us for our 80th annual Svenskarnas Dag at Minnehaha Park on June 23 - ethnic concerts, displays, food and loads of all fun.

Minnehaha Park hosts 80th annual Svenskarnas Dag

Come join us for our 80th annual Svenskarnas Dag at Minnehaha Park on June 23 - ethnic concerts, displays, food and loads of all fun. Come enjoy this Swedish event! It's likely to be the best gathering of the summer (midsummer)! Flowers, food and fun for all!

Come join us at Minnehaha Park from 10:30 'till 5 in the afternoon (it may be the best 6+ hours of fun of the summer)! Our entertainment, activities, and vendors will be centered around the main Band Shell located near the Pavilion in the center of Minnehaha

Park's beauty.

Among our terrific entertainment performers are: The Swedish group Bjarv, The Scandinavian Quartet -saxophones, "Allt for Sverige"-Swedish Television stars, Joel Karlsson - Swedish troubadour, plus local performers including the American Swedish Institute & St. Paul Male Chorus, The Svenskarnas Dag Girls Choir, the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers, Twin Cities Swedish Folk Dancers and much more. Additionally, we'll be presenting the Swede of the Year awards and crowning the 2014 Miss Sven-

skarnas Dag! Of course you won't want miss our annual Mid-sommarstång raising!

In addition to delightful authentic Swedish foods and hand-crafts available for purchase like Thor'sax and silver Viking helmets, vendors will be offering lots of Swedish / Scandinavian delicacies' like Swedish pancakes, lingonberries, rice pudding, Swedish meat balls, cake brod, lemon fruit drinks and lots of other comfort foods.

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Lake Street Council's Wisdom named one of Minnesota Business Magazine's (Real) Power 50

By JAN WILLMS

She has been described as an advocate and a cheerleader for Lake Street. Someone who has a knack for getting things done and making things happen.

These are the reasons Joyce Wisdom, the executive director of the Lake Street Council, was recently named as one of the Minnesota Business Magazine's (Real) Power 50.

The winners of the Minnesota (Real) Power 50 are 50 individuals who are the linchpins in their Minnesota companies or agencies, the ones who make things happen. They are people who have made a strong impression on others with their skills and abilities as leaders of Minnesota business.

But ask Wisdom about her skills, and she will tell you that she is just doing her job.

"It is always good to be recognized," she admits, "but I am just doing what my job requires, and I like it."

She brings a theatrical background and experience with non-profits to the table, owning her own business and growing up in an area much like Lake Street.

"I grew up on a street very much like Lake Street," she recalled in a recent interview. "There was a beauty salon attached to our house, and I was warned early on about traffic."

Wisdom said she played on a softball team sponsored by a local business association, and that association also provided her with a \$500 college scholarship.

"I was lucky enough to grow up in a time when commercial corridors were thriving," she said.

Wisdom came to the Twin



Joyce Wisdom, the executive director of the Lake Street Council, was recently named as one of the Minnesota Business Magazine's (Real) Power 50. The winners of the Minnesota (Real) Power 50 are 50 individuals who are the linchpins in their Minnesota companies or agencies, the ones who make things happen. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

Cities in 1974 from St. Louis, MO, to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota in theater.

"Now I am more a patron of the arts," she said with a smile. "I knocked around some of the theater groups for awhile, but then I got hungry."

She worked at the Minnesota Historical Society and bought a housecleaning business, Broom Service, from a woman she met at the Guthrie, Carolyn Bye. She sold her business and started working for Frank's Nursery and Crafts.

In 1995, she moved to Detroit for a few months to work at a Frank's store there, but decided to

return to the Lexington store location she was managing in the Twin Cities. She bought her house, which is a couple blocks off Lake Street.

"There was no LRT then and not nearly as many restaurants at 27th and Lake," Wisdom said. "I was so smart. I just love it here; it's the best location in the world."

After working as program director for the ReUse Center and following a promotion to the Green Institute, Wisdom took over as executive director of the Lake Street Council in 2005.

"We were just breaking ground for the massive road con-

struction project," she said.

Wisdom has seen the businesses on Lake Street go through good times and bad during her tenure. She said the area, like many, has weathered people making an exodus from the city, shoppers heading to malls and stores that have been boarded up.

"But we have had businesses that stayed through it all, like Ingretson's and Roberts Shoes, that has been here about 80 years. A lot of businesses stayed through the tough times so that when newer businesses and immigrants come, they have something to build on," she said.

She said the road construction was a challenge for the community. "I knew what was going on, and I told people to ask me how things were when the bills came due."

"We lost no businesses during construction, but when the assessments came through we started losing businesses." She said this was around 2008, and merchants faced a double whammy—assessments and the recession.

"Those were our first down years since 1995," Wisdom said. But with a lot of effort and working with community partners, she said that things have started turning around.

"We are keeping businesses and getting new ones, and in 2012 we started back in the other direction again."

The biggest project the Lake Street Council has undertaken is the Museum in the Streets, which features three bilingual heritage discovery walks through the neighborhood. The walks, with historic plaques in front of businesses, promote the knowledge of stories, events and the traditions of Lake Street.

"That project has kind of put us in the hole," Wisdom said, "but we forged ahead. We're struggling financially, but none of us regret it."

In fact, the Lake Street Council was just awarded the 2013 Minneapolis Heritage Preservation award for the Museum in the Streets project. The award is given for implementing community building in a manner that is effective, educational and exceptional in its own right.

Continued on page 9

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Baseball draws families together

Liga Hispana de Beisbol holds games on Sundays at Bossen Field

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

On Sunday afternoons from May to October, local families fill up Bossen Park to watch Liga Hispana de Beisbol (LHDB) players play the game they love.

Games start at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. each week. This year, there are eight teams in the league, which is also known as the Hispanic Baseball League. The number of teams varies each year, according to the number of players interested. Players ranging in age from 14 to 46 and their families come early to practice and ready the field. The chairs of fans are set up in the shade, near the food stand, and children join fathers on the field

to practice their catching and throwing skills.

"The family gets to come out and watch the games together. It's a nice activity for the family," said Aaron Johnson. Over the years he's been a player, coach, manager and scorekeeper for the Liga Hispana de Beisbol.

"I have more fun coming to the ballpark on a Sunday afternoon with my friend than staying home and watching TV," Johnson added.

"Everyone is so friendly," observed shortstop Jorge Alanis, 22. Alanis was recruited to play on the Piratas team by a co-worker. All of the members on his team come from the same town in central Mexico in the

state of Michoacan, and some played together as children.

Alanis has been playing baseball since age 6. He pointed out that kids in Mexico don't have the opportunities to play ball there on Little League teams like they do in America, but that doesn't stop them from playing baseball.

What pulls him to the game? "I love everything about baseball," Alanis said.

Jose Salazar has been playing for various teams since he was 14 years old, both in Mexico and in the U.S.

"I liked baseball since I was born," he observed.

Salazar didn't think he was very good, but someone suggested he try pitching. He found his



On Sunday, May 19, the Cardinales played against the Piratas at Bossen Field. There are eight teams in the league, which is known as the Liga Hispana de Beisbol, or the Hispanic Baseball League. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Continued on page 9



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The 80th annual Svenskarnas Dag/Swedish Heritage Day Midsommar will be held in Minnehaha Falls Park in Minneapolis on Sunday, June 23. The event begins at 10:30 and runs until 5:00. We have a fantastic slate of entertainment from Sweden. The following talent is scheduled to perform. Joel Karlsson - Swedish troubador, the Swedish group Bjarv, The Scandinavian Quartet - Saxophones, plus we will have our great local performers like the ASI & St. Paul Swedish Male Choruses, Svenskarnas Dag Girls Choir, Vasa Junior Folk Dancers, Twin Cities Swedish Folk Dancers, and more. As usual, we will be presenting "Swede of the Year" awards to very worthy recipients, and we will be crowning our new 2014 Miss Svenskarnas Dag. We will also have an expanded number of exhibitors and vendors this year. We welcome your attendance. There will be activities and fun for all ages. This is a free family friendly event. Visit www.svenskarnasdag.com or call Ted Noble at 612-825-8808.

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Baseball

Continued from page 8

niche, and has been pitching ever since. To him, the benefit of the league is that he gets to do something that he enjoys. Salazar played for the LHDB for three years, left to play elsewhere, and then returned. There are currently three Hispanic baseball leagues in the Twin Cities area, meeting in the cities of Minneapolis, Chaska and Brooklyn Park. All average 8 to 10 teams.

The Liga Hispana de Beisbol started with six teams, and it has grown from there, observed Salazar.

Like Salazar, other players have come and gone in the league over the years. Some who have left

the LHDB have returned to Mexico to play professionally. The number of Hispanics playing Major League Baseball in the U.S. has also grown in recent years. Today, Latinos make up 27% of Major League Baseball players in the United States. Recruiters are increasingly eyeing countries in South America for talented players.

LEAGUE GROWN WITH HISPANIC POPULATION

The LHDB was begun informally in 1997, and grew along with the immigration of Hispanic workers and their families into Minnesota and particularly south Minneapolis. In 2000, Hispanics accounted for 7.6% of the total population in Minneapolis. That rose to 9.5% by 2010.

The Liga Hispana de Beisbol was incorporated as a Minnesota not-for-profit corporation in 2006. It has office space provided free of charge in the home of the board president Alfonso Cruz Mestizo and no paid staff.

The cost per team this year is \$550, which team members divide up amongst themselves. Sponsors cover the cost of uniforms.

"The LHDB has become increasingly sizable and important, moving from small pick-up games and family picnics to a fairly large organization with many teams," pointed out Pass, a Phillips resident who has helped raise money for the group.

Former Twins baseball player Tony Oliva and his brother Re-

naldo Oliva has been steadfast supporters and are often seen at games.

The season kicks off and ends with a BBQ that players, their families and supporters are invited to. Throwing out the first balls of the 2013 season on May 5 were former Twins player Tony Oliva and league supporter Carol Pass.

Ask Alfonso Garcia why he shows up on Sundays and the answer is simple. "I like to play baseball," Garcia responded. He appreciates how all of the players get along with each other.

"You have to do something on Sundays," said Salazar. "We do it just for fun."

"We have fun," agreed LHDB Manager Arturo Cruz.



Before games, kids practice hitting and play catch with league players. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



The first players to arrive at Bossen Field on Sunday mornings prepare the field. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Wisdom

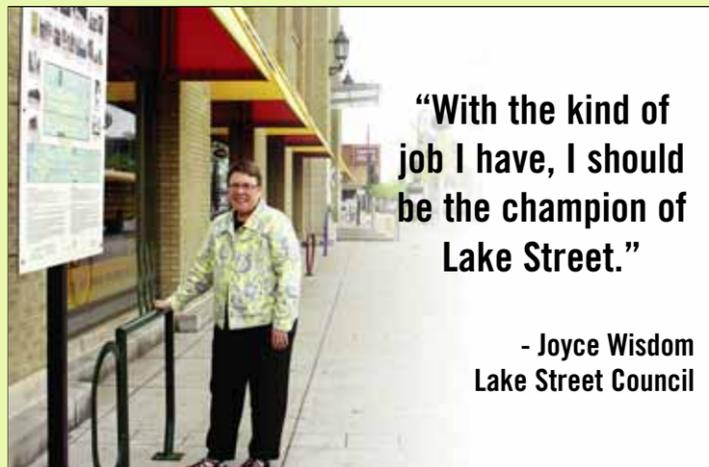
Continued from page 7

Wisdom spends much of her job as executive director talking to businesses, both old and new, that grace Lake Street. She has her ear to the changes of the city and is always there to listen to any problems or ideas a business owner might have.

She said Minneapolis does have a lot of regulations, and she is there to try and help a new business make its way through the myriad of requirements. She said the council also does its best to promote Lake Street.

"Since 2006, we have had Visit Lake Street marketing," she said. "We have billboards at the airport, radio notices and brochures. We distribute about 30,000 brochures every year, mostly through the Minneapolis Convention Center."

She said the council is trying to track sustainable initiatives that various businesses are undertaking, following who has done what with solar panels and rain gardens. She emphasized



"With the kind of job I have, I should be the champion of Lake Street."

**- Joyce Wisdom
Lake Street Council**

that Lake Street is going green and is very bike friendly.

Students and business owners are also teaming up to work on storefronts.

"There is something different all the time," Wisdom said. "This job utilizes skills I bring to the table and hardly a day goes by that it doesn't stretch my skills."

She shares her nearby home with Helen, whom she married four years ago in Ridgefield, CN. Wisdom said she never thought marriage was going to be a part

of her life, and the fact that her marriage will now be recognized by the state of Minnesota is thrilling.

Meanwhile, she continues with her role of cheerleader and advocate for Lake Street merchants, all a part of business as usual for her.

"If you meet me and I am not enthusiastic, you had better nudge me in the elbow and tell me it's time to move on," Wisdom claimed. "With the kind of job I have, I should be the champion of Lake Street."

"Some people wonder how we have survived in hard economic times at our clinic. One way has been to keep a constant presence in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger. This cost effective advertising has shown us that South Minneapolis is like a small town in a big city; residents are very loyal."

**- Michelle Dean
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Minnehaha Academy's boys' varsity baseball plays in the west metro's 'Miracle League'

Minnehaha Academy's boys' varsity baseball team recently spent the afternoon playing ball in the west metro's "Miracle League." The Miracle League is a charitable organization that provides children with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league. As you can see from these photos, there is something about playing the game of baseball that lights up kids' eyes. The Miracle League gave these children the opportunity to get out in the sunshine and enjoy playing the game of baseball with some 'big boys' from Minnehaha.



MA player and Minneapolis resident Calvin Treichler with Metro League player and Ben Mortenson (also MA player); and Ford Schroeder (Minneapolis resident and MA player) playing catch with his Metro League player.

Chicago Ave. businesses

Continued from page 3

She said her business has gone door to door with coupons as well as continuously advertise in the two community newspapers.

"When times were tough, we did not charge for services to people who were sick," Dean said. "We want people to know they have a place to go."

Dean said that First Course, a restaurant at 56th and Chicago, offered a \$5 sandwich night for families when the economy was down.

"People who could normally not afford to go out were able to take their family out one night a week for a healthy meal," Dean related. "You have to know your neighborhood. And most residents know the business owners by first name."

David Roberts, an employee at Aqualand, the tropical fish and fish tank store that has been family owned and operated since 1966, said it is a traditional family business that started in the community and elected to stay there.

"We serve customers from the neighborhood, like the family that comes in to buy its children their first goldfish. But we also serve the fish keeper looking for a particular type of fish, and that definitely makes us a destination business," Roberts said.

"We do a lot of work with the community," he added. "We are going to be having some



Molly Torrey, manager of Sassy's Knitwear, shows some of the organic clothing the store features. Torrey says new businesses feel welcome on Chicago Avenue. (Photo by Jan Willms)

school kids paint a mural on the side of the building."

New businesses feel welcome on Chicago, also, according to Molly Torrey, manager of Sassy Knitwear, co-owned by Molly O'Brien Black and Sarah Grudem.

The store, near 48th and Chicago, sells handmade clothes for women and children.

"We feature hand-dyed organic clothes or upstyled textiles," Torrey said. "We have been in the Twin Cities for five years, selling mainly at Farmers Markets. We opened here last September, because many of our customers live in the area and there is a lot of good foot traffic."

The neighborhood has four main events during the year, according to Dean. The 4th annual Classic Car Show, sponsored by SCABA and the Street Kings car club, will be held from 10 am to 4 pm on June 2. There is a bike race in July, a picnic in the park at 54th and Portland in July and a big fall festival.

"These are big events, where everyone participates," Dean added.

She stops to consider the neighborhood she has always called home.

"You know, I haven't met one client who comes into our business who says they don't love living here," she said.

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Neighborhood solar and insulation programs grow across the Twin Cities

A quiet revolution is taking place across the rooftops, attics and walls, and community meeting rooms of a number of Twin Cities neighborhoods. Groups of residents are coming together to make the transition to a clean, efficient, and community-based energy future, working together to tighten up their homes' energy use and generate clean energy in the neighborhood. Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF), a co-op of community members, has emerged to help residents work together to cut costs and simplify the process of contracting home efficiency and clean energy improvements.

The second phase of Cooperative Energy Future's bulk buying programs is launching May-August, with deadlines for residents and groups of neighbors to sign up by August 15th 2013 and to commit to projects by September 15th, 2013. The four programs currently offered include:

- The Grow Solar residential solar bulk buy,
- The Neighborhood Insulation group contracting program,
- Weatherization Work Parties scheduled by block groups to help neighbors weatherize, and
- A sign-up process for future community-owned solar projects on community buildings

Details about these programs can be found at <http://cooperativeenergyfutures.com/bulk-buying/>, where dates and locations of educational workshops and events where interested residents can learn more will also be posted.

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COMMUNITY WARMING PARTY WEDNESDAY JUNE 5TH AT THE SEA SALT EATERY

Join your neighbors and LCC staff and board members at The Fourth Annual Community Warming on Wednesday, June 5 at Sea Salt Eatery in Minnehaha Park. This party is a chance to mingle with your neighbors in an iconic setting in the Greater Longfellow Neighborhood. We are celebrating everything great about Longfellow—and rightly so, as we are the Best Neighborhood in Minneapolis (thanks City Pages!) Bring the whole family to this outdoor event! There will be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. The Sea Salt Eatery is located at 4825 Minnehaha Ave. Event from 5:30-8pm. FFI Jessica: jessica@longfellow.org



Longfellow Garage Sale Day

Come check out over 100 sales at the Longfellow Neighbor-

hood Sale Day on Saturday, June 1st! All sales will be open from 9am to 3pm. Many will open earlier or stay open later. Maps will be available for download on our website at www.longfellow.org/sale approximately one week before the sale. A detailed list of sales will also be available on our website. Maps will be distributed to neighborhood coffee shops, so stop to pick one up as you start your morning. If you have any questions, contact Jessica at jessica@longfellow.org.

LCC Board of Directors – Hello, Goodbye, and Thanks for Sticking Around

On April 23, 2013 the general membership of Greater Longfellow elected its new Board of Directors including six new members who will bring new experience and capacity to our organization and neighborhood.

Please welcome to the 2013-2014 Board: Leslie Mackenzie, Alex Vitrella, Leaf McGregor, Trevor Russell, Guthrie Byard, and DeWayne Townsend. A couple of these members have been on the Board before and have committed again to serving the community through leadership on the Board. The others are first-time members who will bring new energy and creativity to the work of LCC.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to those Board members who

have ended their terms with the LCC Board. Special thanks to Allison Johnson, Kyle Rosenquist, Don Hammen, Lisa Vecoli, Karen Boberg, and Marisa Helms. All of these individuals were instrumental in helping LCC to remain a strong and vibrant organization, providing programs, projects and activities for all residents of Greater Longfellow. All volunteers of Longfellow are valued and appreciated for dedicating their free time and energy to working on the tough issues as representatives of the community. Longfellow residents can be assured that their interests and concerns are at the forefront of the work of the Board.

Thank you as well to those Board members who remain on the LCC Board, continuing to assist in the management and forward direction of the organization: Katie Roth, Christine Marlo, Mike Linzbach, Eric Day, Sasha Jensen, Andrew Johnson, Vicki Farden, John Sulzbach and Melissa Erjavec. All of these Board members continue to attend committee meetings, sit on task forces, represent LCC at community events and provide oversight and management of the organization.

It takes the hard work and dedication of volunteers to make an organization like LCC successful and sustainable. The LCC Board of Directors past, present and future deserve kudos for their participation.



Save the Date!

The Longfellow Annual Corn Feed is on Thursday, August 8th at Longfellow Park.

Calendar of Meetings and Events

JUNE 2013

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

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, June 10
6:30 - 8:00 pm
check website for location
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org

RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Monday, June 10
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Hiawatha School Park
4305 42nd St. E
FFI: yer@longfellow.org

LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, June 11
12:00 - 1:30 pm
check website for location
FFI: yer@longfellow.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, June 11
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: yer@longfellow.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, June 20
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Brackett Park
2728 39th Ave S
FFI: melanie@longfellow.org

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, June 25
6:30 - 8:00 pm
check website for location
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org



Join us on Tuesday, July 30 for our Share the Gorge Event

Join us for our 9th annual Share the River Gorge event on July 30th from 6pm to 8 pm at West River Parkway and 35th Street. This is your chance to score FREE ice cream, enjoy FREE family canoe rides down the Mississippi River, and mingle FREELY with neighbors! This gathering is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Volunteers are always welcome! If you are interested, please contact Yer at yer@longfellow.org. See you at the Share the River Gorge get-together! Sorry – no rain date.

Longfellow Community Council

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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.

Rummage Sale at St. Albert's May 30-June 1

Huge Rummage Sale at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Clothes, furniture, housewares, books and much more. Preview Sale Thursday, May 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. Pay \$5 to shop while selection is best. Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$3 "Meal Deal" during the day with grilled hot dog, chips and lemonade. Bag Sale on Sunday, June 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. Fill a tall kitchen bag for \$3 or large black trash sack for \$5. www.saintalbertthegreat.org

Scandinavian Quartet in Concert June 22

Saturday, June 22, at 7 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave S). This is the second American tour for the Scandinavian Quartet after a wonderful reception last year. If you heard them, you will want to hear them again. If you missed them, you are getting a second chance to hear these four talented saxophonists who met at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm Sweden. Listen to a sample of their music at www.scandinavianquartet.com A reception will follow. Free-will offering.

LBA hosts 8th Annual Legislative Update June 13

Longfellow Business Association hosts its 8th Annual Legislative Update with Representative Jim Davnie, Senator Patricia Torres Ray, and Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin on Thursday, June 13, 11:45 - 1:30 p.m. Gandhi Mahal (3009 27th Ave S) will serve a fabulous buffet of Indian specialties. Lunch is \$10/person. RSVP to ruth@longfellow.org or 612-722-4529 x1. This meeting is co-hosted with Seward Civic & Commerce Association and West of the Rails Business Association.

Brake for Breakfast June 12

After a two-year hiatus, the biggest bike-to-work breakfast celebrating Bike Walk Week in the Twin Cities is back! The Minnesota Environmental Fund, a workplace giving program for Minnesota-based environmental organizations, is sponsoring the resurrected event along with the tenants of the Greenway building that had organized the event from 2008-2010. The event will

provide a free breakfast for bikers and walkers on Wednesday, June 12th from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. in the parking lot, right off the Midtown Greenway. Mayor R. T. Rybak and many other elected officials will join us.

For breakfast we will be serving pancakes, eggs, oatmeal, yogurt and muesli, granola bars, and Peace Coffee and juice. We are expecting between 300 and 500 (or more) walkers and bikers. The HUB bike co-op is also offering a free bike check clinic and handing out free bike patch kits. Additionally, Eureka Recycling will be working with us to compost and make this a zero-waste event.

This event is part of Bike Walk Week (www.bikewalkweek.org) and is sponsored by Minnesota Environmental Fund (MEF) and Co-Sponsored by: Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), Civia, Energy Center of Wisconsin, Envision Minnesota, Eureka Recycling, Great Plains Institute, Headwaters Foundation, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Nonprofits Assistance Fund, Peace Coffee, SOS Building Services, Inc., The Energy Conservatory, Wellington Management, Will Steger Foundation

For more information and to register for the free event go to <http://brakeforbreakfast2013.eventbrite.com>

Garden Club meets June 12

You'll never look at Hens and Chicks the same way again!

Succulents are one of the latest "new" things in fun gardening. Master gardeners Claire Kari and Lynn Meyer will construct a "living picture" using a several different types of succulents, and also demonstrate how to use succulents to make a fairy garden in a large flower pot. Mary Beth Upton will do a short presentation on propagating and caring for succulents - she has over a hundred in her collection!

Garden Club events are free and open to the public. Time: 7-9 p.m., June 12, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave South.

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

Neighborhood Fun Day June 8

Come join your neighbors at an outdoor celebration on Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Kids' games, inflatables, music, food, face painting, cake walk - all free! Bring your family and friends! Hosted by Trinity of Minnehaha Falls, 5212 41st Avenue S. Call 612-724-3691 for more details.

'Creativity & Conversation' at Bethany Lutheran

Creativity & Conversation at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave S), downstairs in the Fireside Room of the Office Building. Meet the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. The second Saturday a craft is introduced with an opportunity to create your own. (There is a small materials fee.) On fourth Saturdays, bring a craft of your own to work on during a lively spiritual discussion. There will also be a table for leather-working available each week. On June 8, we will do Broken Pot Sculpture - re-creating out of brokenness.

Protecting Vulnerable Seniors

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a presentation about vulnerable seniors on Tuesday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st Street. Find out who meets the definition of a "vulnerable" senior/adult and what formal and informal supports and safeguards are available to them. A brief introduction to the Minnesota Vulnerable Adult Act will also be included. Presented by David Broberg, Senior Social Worker with Hennepin County.

Author Talk: Doug Mack East Lake Library - June 6

When freelance writer Doug Mack found his mother's 1963 "Europe on Five Dollars a Day" guide, he decided to use it to tour Florence, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Venice, Rome and Madrid, and find out what has and has not changed. Don't miss his lively presentation of "Europe on 5 Wrong Turns a Day" on Thursday, June 6, 6:30 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Call 612-543-8425 to register or register online at: <http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/Registrar.cfm?SessionNo=24287>. Sponsored by Friends of the East Lake Library.

South grad awarded Fulbright Scholar appointment

Longfellow resident and South High graduate Anders Bjornberg has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar appointment. He is currently in the Sociology Program

at Binghamton University in New York.

Anders graduated from Beloit College in 2007, Magna Cum Laude with Honors Thesis in History "The Subaltern in the Partitioning of the Indo-Pakistan Borderlands."

He received his Master's Degree in 2011.

Of note: Ander's wife, Kasia Paprocki, also received a Fulbright Scholar Award.

Both plan to spend 2014 in Bangladesh.

Epworth holds block party, dance June 22

Epworth United Methodist Church invites you to a block party and street dance Saturday, June 22, 6-9 p.m. The street will be blocked off in front of the church at 3207 37th Ave. S. We'll be cranking up the summer music from lots of decades for "Dancing in the Street." Phil's Food Truck will provide free mini-donuts and cold water. Door prizes and fun for all ages. Children are welcome with a caring adult, but no childcare will be available. For admission, bring non-perishable food items for the Food Shelf. For more information, contact Epworth, 612-722-0232 or epworthoffice@mplsepworth.com or find Epworth on Facebook.

Minneapolis Roosevelt High School Foundation to launch hall of fame

Beginning with its inaugural class in 2014, the Minneapolis Roosevelt High School Foundation will launch the Roosevelt High School (RHS) Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame will recognize the accomplishments of RHS graduates, and former RHS staff and contributors who have brought pride and inspiration to Roosevelt, the community and society. Dan Dymoke, chairman of the Hall of Fame committee, said, "The recognition of these individuals is intended to highlight and encourage a tradition of excellence at RHS."

With over 50,000 graduates since its opening in 1921, many Roosevelt graduates have had distinguished careers, including a former Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, a Nobel Laureate, many prominent professional athletes, noted authors, university professors, and prominent political figures. In addition, there are many former RHS staff members and community members who have supported RHS in a distinguished manner.

The RHS Foundation Hall of Fame committee is currently taking nominations for the first group of 2014 inductees. Candidates nominated will be screened and chosen by a selec-

tion committee, and approved by the Foundation Board of Directors. Nomination forms may be obtained on the Foundation's website: <http://roosevelthighfoundation.org/hof/hall-of-fame-nomination-form/>

Local optometrists offer exams for no charge

Even if no eye or vision problems are apparent, the American Optometric Association recommends scheduling your baby's first eye assessment at 6 months. Although infants cannot respond verbally, the first year of life is an ideal time to conduct an extensive eye assessment. This a critical time for eye and vision development and although problems are not common, it is important to identify children who have them at a young age. Vision development and eye health problems are easier to correct if treatment begins early.

Things that the Optometrist will test for include: Ocular Mobility, alignment, & binocular potential; eye health problems including functionality of the tear ducts and clarity of the ocular lens; Visual acuity: looking at excessive or unequal amounts of nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism; eye diseases including retinoblastoma (a common pediatric cancer of the retina); Pupil function.

Twin Cities Optometrist, Dr. Mike Hanen-Smith feels so strongly about the importance of proper visual growth and taking a proactive approach to improving and maintaining a standard of vision for all of his patients that he is a registered InfantSEE™ volunteer.

InfantSEE™ a public health program, managed by Optometry Cares® - the AOA Foundation, is designed to ensure that eye and vision care becomes an essential part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Under this program, participating optometrists, like Dr. Hanen-Smith, provide a comprehensive infant eye assessment between 6 and 12 months of age as a no-cost public service

"Evaluating the proper development of your child's eyes is crucial," says Dr. Hanen-Smith. "Eye assessment should be a complement to the well-baby care that each infant deserves and the InfantSEE™ initiative assures that these evaluations are available to our youngest patients. InfantSee helps make vision care services available to communities where they are needed."

To learn more about InfantSEE™ visit www.infantsee.org or contact Dr. Hanen-Smith at the River Lake Clinic at 612-722-1003 or www.RiverLakeClinic.com.

Just Beachy!

Sandcastle concession to open soon at Lake Nokomis

By JILL BOOGREN

After several years of being shuttered, the little building at the big beach of Lake Nokomis is about to fling open its windows for service once again, as Sandcastle. But don't look for an ordinary snack shack.

You'll just as soon get a chilled gazpacho soup as a bag of Skittles, a watermelon salad as an ice cream Drumstick, or fish tacos as popcorn.

The eclectic menu comes from Chef Doug Flicker of Piccolo (and formerly of Auriga), who co-owns the enterprise with his wife, Amy Greeley, and longtime associate Chele Payer.

Only one menu item originated at Piccolo, a sweet pea falafel. Everything else is being created for Sandcastle. His signature hot dog, The Dog Flicker, is a beef frank with kimchee, cilantro and fried egg.

Flicker "likes to have fun with his food," said Greeley. "He's always putting a little twist on things to make it a little more fun and interesting."

The building will have a grab and go window on the beach side,

so people swimming, walking, rollerblading, or biking by can get a quick treat.

There will also be a patio, where people can relax and take in the lake view for a while, and — yes! — even enjoy a glass of beer or wine (pending approval of their liquor license). These will have separate windows where you'll place an order and then be notified when it's ready. There will not be any indoor seating.

This summer, the patio will be transitional seating for about 100 people, in a fenced in area with a tent and tables. Think beer garden, but family friendly. A community picnic.

"It's not a bar setting," said Shane Stenzel, manager of use and event permitting for the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, which is in charge of all outdoor landscaping, including the patio, additional park seating, planting, and pathways.

In time the patio will be built to fit. Stenzel said they'll be assessing traffic patterns before constructing any permanent structures, which will most likely begin in the fall. Existing tables may get



Longfellow residents Amy Greeley and her husband Doug Flicker pose with their dog, Phoebe, on the beach at Lake Nokomis. Their soon-to-be-open Sandcastle concession is shown being renovated in the background. They co-own the enterprise with Chele Payer (not pictured). (Photo by Jill Boogren)

moved, removed or fixed up. To ease traffic flow, the bike and canoe rentals might be moved to the other end of the beach.

Meantime, Sandcastle owners are on the hook for all of the work being done to the building itself. This is no small price tag considering the building had been shut down due to code violations, and upgrades were needed for everything from plumbing and electrical, to the roof and walls.

Together, building and equipment will cost about \$500,000. It's a huge investment, but it helps to have Sea Salt and Tin Fish as successful examples of how this can work in our parks.

Green building design and operations is important to the owners. Using Locus Architecture with eco-conscious John Booth of The Big Room as their contractor, they're maintaining the footprint of the former building. Thermally-treated (instead of chemically-treated) wood is being used, and they're exploring whether they can install solar to cover some of their

energy use.

The establishment will be as near zero waste as possible. Compostable plates, cups and flatware will be used. Whatever can be reused will be, and they'll recycle the rest. A master recycler has helped with logistics, and Eureka Recycling will be in charge of hauling out.

According to Steffanie Musich, president of Friends of Lake Nokomis and member of the Citizens Advisory Committee that evaluated proposals for operating the concession, their mindfulness for waste control and minimization were among qualities that made Sandcastle so attractive. "That they were taking their environmental mindset to the next level really appealed," said Musich. Right down to the Agua Frescas

they're serving, in which watermelon that isn't needed for the melon salads will be used for flavored water. Likewise with ginger, strawberries, and rhubarb, when in season.

In the survey, which drew over 600 respondents, people also said they wanted a variety of options, healthy alternatives, locally-sourced fresh ingredients, and beer and wine.

"Sandcastle checked all the boxes," said Musich.

Flicker acknowledges that providing food for the wet and hungry masses will be a departure from serving up small plates at Piccolo's 36-seat dining room.

"It will be so different from what I do on a daily basis," he said. He looks forward to the seasonal work and having the "experience of summer camp," his summer job on the lake.

Greeley said she's eager for the neighborhood to come out and spend time there, and for people to have a place to hang out.

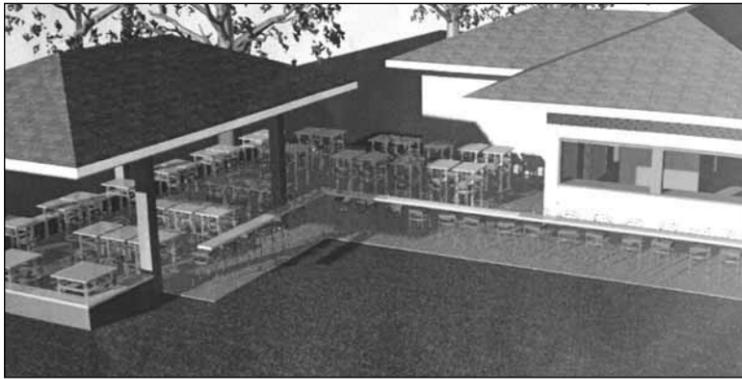
"We're so excited to have this space," said Greeley. "We just don't have that anywhere else, right next to the beach."

True. And what's not to love about gazing out over the lake and enjoying a warm breeze with a cool beverage and a bite to eat? Sandcastle beckons you to "Eat like a King," where robes and finery are optional, and flip flops reign.

Musich plans to paddle to Sandcastle from her home near the south side of the lake and is excited about the pork sandwich.

"I make a mean pulled pork," she said. "But the one that Doug puts together is kind of magical."

Sandcastle is expected to open at the end of this month. Future seasons will run from April through October.



A rendering by Locus Architecture of a possible seating area with pavilion at the new Sandcastle restaurant/concession at Lake Nokomis.

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Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
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Education Hour at 11:00 am
Pastor: Kristine Carlson
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www.christchurchluth.org

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

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

Holy Trinity Lutheran (ELCA)
2730 E. 31st St. • 612-729-8358
www.htlcmpls.org
Sunday Worship 8:45 & 11:00 am
Education opportunities for all ages 9:45 am
Childcare available
Pastor: Jay Carlson
Traditional Worship - Contemporary
Message - A Call to Social Justice
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Minnehaha United Methodist
3701 E. 50th St. • 612-721-6231
www.minnehaha.org
Traditional Service 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship 11:00 am (Sept.-May)
10:30 am (June-Aug.)
Education for all ages 10:15 (Sept.-May)
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(Childcare; Wheelchair Acc., Braille)
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Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
www.stpeders.net

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Sunday Worship Schedule
One Service: 10 am (through Sept. 1)
VBS June 17-21, 9 am - Noon
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays 7 pm

Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:

Minnehaha Food Shelf,
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Minnehaha Depot Volunteer Interpreter

The Minnesota Transportation Museum is looking for volunteers to help create a welcoming environment and provide friendly, warm, outgoing visitor services at the Minnehaha Depot, located in Minnehaha Park. Volunteers will interpret the history of the Depot, and other sites (Steven's and Longfellow Houses, Wedding Pergola, Park Pavilion, various statues, the Minnehaha Falls, and other elements) within Minnehaha Park. The Minnehaha Depot, owned by the Minnesota Historical Society and operated by the Minnesota Transportation Museum, is open on Sundays and Holidays, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Volunteers should:

- Be interested in local history;
- Be friendly, outgoing, service oriented;
- Have the ability to make visitors feel welcome and answers their questions in a pleasant manner;
- Be comfortable dealing with large groups of visitors;
- Strong verbal communication skills;
- Be comfortable in an environment that might require flexibility and adaptability;
- Have the ability to handle multiple tasks, if needed;
- Require a minimum of direct supervision, and;
- Be able to stand and walk for extended periods.

For more information, please contact:

Aaron Novodvorsky
Site Manager, Minnehaha "Princess" Depot
Minnesota Transportation Museum
612-759-6943 (cell)

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Want ads must be in the Messenger before June 17 for the June 27 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 June 17 for the June 27 issue.

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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 preferred.

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Schools

Continued from page 1

school suspension often serves as a relief to teachers but does not address the student's issues that led to the behavior.

Minneapolis Public School's Restorative Measures program is working to change that, according to social worker Chul Schwanke of the MPS Student Transfers Office. This partnership with Legal Rights is in its fifth year.

For a student to enter the Restorative Measures program, he or she must have committed an expellable offense, one that is so severe a police report could be filed for it. It could also be for an ongoing offense or if the school and parent/s agree it is in the

best interest of the student.

The most common incidents involve drugs, weapons and assault, according to Schwanke.

A transfer "sends a message to the other students at the school that there will be severe consequences," said Schwanke. If a student has brought a weapon to school, "How do you think the other students would feel about that student coming back?" he asked.

A FRESH START

A transfer will bring about change in behavior for some students and not for others. "It's up to the student," Schwanke said.

He stressed, "It's a fresh start."

Through the Restorative Measures program, the student also makes amends for what

he/she did. For one student who was moved because of an assault, making amends meant telling his story to middle school students.

"It was a very appropriate thing to give back to a future generation of kids at the risk of doing the same thing," said Schwanke.

The student attends one of several alternative programs within the city that the district has contracts with. The most commonly used options are Menlo Park Academy, Loring Nicollet Bethlehem, and MERC Alternative High School.

After one quarter within the alternative program, students are given the option to return to their original schools (unless there is a victim involved who attends there). Fifty percent of students have experienced success and opt to remain in the new

program for the remainder of the school year, pointed out Schwanke.

One of the challenges the Student Transfers Office faces is equity between schools, said Schwanke. "We never like one school to send out more transfers than they are getting."

Because of transportation issues, the district keeps most of its transfers within the same geographical area. Thus, students typically move between South and Roosevelt, Washburn and Southwest, or Edison, North and Henry.

THE BEST OF A BAD SITUATION

The first step in the Restorative Measures program is to hold a Family Group Conference with

school staff and family members. "I tell parents, 'I'm here to make the best of a bad situation,'" remarked Schwanke. Schwanke is empathetic towards the students he comes in contact with, feeling a shared experience with marginalized students. "I am a person who was adopted, born in another country, spoke another language, and didn't look like any of my peers or my teachers when I was growing up," Schwanke said. "The phrase 'Therefore but the grace of God go I' holds special meaning to me as I could have very easily been 'one of those kids.'"

He leaves the judgments about whether the system itself is flawed to others and instead focuses on what he can do. "I don't want to see anyone left behind," said Schwanke.

Roosevelt to reopen on June 1 after 15-month renovation

The public is cordially invited to celebrate the reopening of the landmark Hennepin County Library - Roosevelt, 4026 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis, on Saturday, June 1 after a 15-month renovation and addition of a multipurpose community room. Ribbon-cutting will be at 9:30 a.m. Doors open at 10 a.m.

Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Library Director Lois Langer Thompson and Hennepin County Library Board President Jill Joseph will offer brief remarks. Explore the renovated library through a scavenger hunt, try out iPads available for in-library use and check out the

refreshed collection.

The building was completely renovated. Accessibility and technology upgrades also were part of the project.

"For almost 90 years, the Roosevelt Library has been a community focal point that has enriched the lives of Standish, Ericsson and Hiawatha neighborhood residents," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "Now the library is bigger and better than ever. I hope everyone who loves libraries will stop by on June 1 to celebrate Roosevelt Library and the free access to information, learning and literature that all public libraries represent."

Managing librarian Amy McNally said, "The Roosevelt Library is a very vibrant small library in a very engaged and diverse community. Many families with young children use the library, as do high school students after school and lots of seniors during the day. We think patrons will love their renovated library, and we welcome everyone to explore it on reopening day and beyond."

Opening day activities are sponsored by the Friends of the Roosevelt Library. Stop by the Friends' sign-up table to join this group of library supporters. New members will receive a thank-you gift.

Classifieds

Continued from page 15

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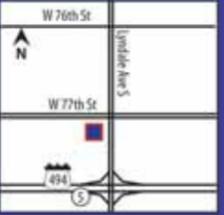
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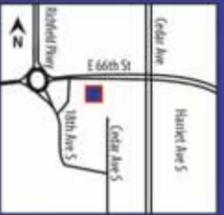
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