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Longfellow  
Nokomis

# Messenger



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## 'Extremely affordable' housing project planned at 45th and Hiawatha

*Amber Apartments to provide a step between homelessness and citizens who give back to their communities*

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

An "extremely affordable" housing project in Longfellow will bridge the gap for people who are working but still don't make enough to afford a standard rent payment.

Amber Apartments is being built by RS Eden, a niche player in the development world that provides affordable housing with support services, explained President and RS Eden CEO Dan Cain.

"The expectation is for people to move from a level of dysfunction to function," said Cain.

The company manages or owns nine buildings in the Twin Cities, totaling 550 units, that help people get off the streets and into stable housing. The company began with just three staff members and now has 180 employees. In each building, there are also services aimed at dealing with problems that contributed to homelessness, including addiction, mental health issues, lack of education, and more.

The goal of the Amber Apartments in Longfellow is to provide efficiency, single-occupancy units at about \$600 a month.

"We're not giving people a handout, but a hand up," explained Cain. "They have to do the work, but we provide the opportunity."



RS Eden Chief Financial Advisor Paul Puerzer (left) and President and CEO Dan Cain hold up an illustration of Amber Apartments, an 80-unit building that will provide extremely affordable housing along Hiawatha and 45th Ave. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



RS Eden President and CEO Dan Cain hopes the city will consider constructing a pedestrian bridge near 45th and Hiawatha to serve residents, including high-density housing projects at Amber Apartments and the Snelling Yards site. Right now, people regularly cross Hiawatha near 45th instead of walking down to the crosswalk at 46th. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

### Low barrier housing

RS Eden employees envision filling Amber Apartments with tenants who are working but don't make enough to afford market-rate housing—even what's labeled as "affordable." Maybe they're working at a couple of part-time jobs. Or, they work next door at Walgreens or Cub as a cashier earning minimum wage.

"This will allow them to continue in the process of working

and being responsible citizens, and not have to spend 50% or more of what little income they have on rent," stated Cain.

Residents at RS Eden apartments often can't pass background checks and don't have high credit scores. So RS Eden offers "low barrier housing."

According to RS Eden Vice President of Supportive Housing Lois Mueller, "Many of the people we meet have histories that have resulted in multiple

barriers to securing housing, making it easy for landlords to screen them out. RS Eden's commitment is to 'screen people in.' We look for reasons to believe that a prospective tenant will make it, and become a good neighbor."

RS Eden focuses on creating intentional communities in their buildings. "We look for people who have buy-in to a culture of pro-social values and beliefs," explained Cain. "They may not have always been that, but now they want to contrib-

ute to the community and take responsibility for their own lives. There are any number of barriers that people have had to overcome to make that full leap from where they're coming to where they're going."

He added, "It's breaking the cycle."

Right now there are some people who aren't being served by the housing projects RS Eden already offers as they aren't technically homeless because they're

*Continued on page 2*

## Program focuses on seniors at risk of isolation and loneliness

By JAN WILLMS

It is nearly 5pm on a Monday, and Longfellow resident Jim Buskirk is anticipating a visitor. He is looking forward to conversation and a challenging game of tic, a card game similar to gin rummy.

Emily Wildberger has finished her work day as a project manager for Target Corporation. She is nearing the due date of her pregnancy and is tired and ready for a nap.

But all those feelings disappear as she looks forward to meeting her friend Jim, hoping that this evening she might actually win a card game with him.

Buskirk and Wildberger are part of a program initiated by Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly (LBFE), 1845 E. Lake St. The mission of the organi-

zation is to end social isolation and loneliness among older adults in the Twin Cities.

Although the program of visiting companions has always been a part of LBFE, a new project, Neighbor Connect, is starting now in the Longfellow neighborhood.

"Through Neighbor Connect, Longfellow community members will forge a path toward creating isolation-free blocks to ensure everyone, even those who live alone, are connected and feel a sense of belonging," said LuAnne Speeter, communications director for LBFE.

Both Wildberger and Buskirk can attest to the benefits of connecting with each other. They began their visits last January.

*Continued on page 3*



Longfellow resident Jim Buskirk (left) is visited by Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly volunteer Emily Wildberger every other week. (Photo by Jan Willms)

## Affordable housing project

Continued from page 1

staying with a mom or brother or friend. Amber Apartments will provide a place for those people, said Mueller.

When RS Eden opens a new building, they often find that police calls go up in the area. It's not because there is more crime in the RS Eden building, but because the residents of the RS Eden building are calling in about the crime they see in the streets around their homes, observed Cain.

One of the first steps RS Eden took in getting this project off the ground was to visit with the Longfellow Community Council and garner support.

"We look for a neighborhood that will support the transition for people to become involved in their communities," stated Cain.

It wasn't until the LCC Neighborhood Development and Transportation Committee approved the project that RS Eden purchased the property.

### Five-story, 80 unit building

Amber Apartments will be located on the property that now houses the Bell Laboratory building, just north of Walgreens along Hiawatha Ave. and kitty-corner from the upcoming Snelling Yards housing development. It does not include the historic Flair Fountain structure.

The five-story, 53,950 square-foot building will sit on one acre. It will include 80 efficiency units that range from 418 to 518 square feet. A parking lot will have 40 spaces, or about a half space per unit, and there will be inside storage for bicycles. One-third of the property will be green space along what planners hope will soon be the Min Hi Line linear park.

The entrance to the building will be off 45th rather than Hiawatha.

The building will sit directly across from the 46th St. light rail station, and planners expect that most residents will not have a car. It was the proximity to a light rail station and A Line Bus Rapid Transit that drew RS Eden to this site.

"For low-wage workers, the expense of owning and operating a dependable car presents one more barrier to success, but not having a car means not having access to jobs, health care, and other necessary amenities," remarked Mueller.

Cain hopes that the city



Amber Apartments is being named after RS Eden President and CEO Dan Cain's daughter as a legacy project to honor the 46 years he's been with the organization. The majority of the \$18 million cost of the project will be covered by various grants and low-income housing tax credits, but RS Eden needs to raise \$700,000. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

will consider constructing a pedestrian bridge near 45th and Hiawatha to serve residents, including high-density housing projects at Amber Apartments and the Snelling Yards site.

### Donations needed

Amber Apartments is being named after Cain's daughter as a legacy project to honor the 46 years he's been with the organization.

The majority of the \$18 million cost of the project will

be covered by various grants and low-income housing tax credits, but RS Eden needs to raise \$700,000. Donations can be made via the website at [www.rseden.org](http://www.rseden.org).

Planners expect Amber Apartments to be fully funded by the end of 2019, and to start construction shortly after that. It will take 10-11 months to complete.

### An affordable housing crisis

Minneapolis is in high need of

affordable housing, according to Mueller, who pointed out that the city is in need of tens of thousands of affordable housing units according to a study by the Dougherty Financial Group. The definition of affordable housing is housing costs that are 30% of a person's income. To afford rent payments of \$700-\$900 a person must make between

\$2,100-2,800.

Rental vacancies in the Twin Cities have dropped to 2.4 percent while the unemployment rate has dropped to 2.9 percent resulting in low rental vacancies and strong rent growth, according to the Dougherty study. Meanwhile, the compensation for private market workers in 2017 increased just 1.4 percent, making it difficult for low-income wage earners to find housing.

"There has been a lot of attention recently on the homeless encampment along Hiawatha Ave., but we've been facing a crisis in homelessness far before those tents went up—it just hasn't been quite as visible," remarked Minneapolis City Council member Andrew Johnson. "The Amber Apartments proposal helps address this crisis by creating some units for homeless individuals and families, along with providing necessary support services, such as helping them get and keep jobs. It also creates additional units that help address the affordable housing crisis hitting many major cities, including ours, with runaway rents that push working families out and destabilize their lives.

"We need more development proposals like this and I am thankful to have RS Eden as a partner in these efforts."

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## Program for seniors

Continued from page 1

"I found out about the program through the NextDoor app," Wildberger said. She had started working as a companion in college, so it was something she knew she wanted to do and something she knew was needed in the neighborhood. A native of South Carolina, she moved to the area with her husband, who is Minnesotan that grew up in the Longfellow neighborhood.

"She just started coming every other Monday," Buskirk said. The pair think Buskirk's daughter Shelly, who lives in Atlanta, may have been the one who contacted LBFE to find a volunteer to visit her father.

"I have been in this house since 1964," Buskirk noted. "I was in the army during the Korean War, and I was married for 35 years. That was wonderful."

He attended Augsburg College, where he met his wife. They raised three children. Bus-

kirk worked as a mailman, later being promoted into management. "I did that for 35 years, also," he said.

Buskirk has a great love of sports, which he shares with Wildberger. She, in turn, has taught him about her dog and love of fantasy fiction. "Being a mailman, Jim did not like dogs very much," she said.

Wildberger said she went through some training and received a little bit of information about Buskirk. "We went out for dinner a couple of times, at Carbone's and Applebee's," she said, "so you could see if you liked me. And I guess you did."

These days, with Wildberger's advancing pregnancy, they usually meet at Jim's house and play cards and visit.

"We don't really have that much in common," Wildberg said. "But that's good because we can learn new things from each other. I am learning about baseball, basketball, and football. And Jim is an expert on TV shows."

For his part, Jim has learned about her husband and

the little pink house they share with her dog. And he has met her brother, Drew, who came over to play cards with them one day.

Forming these connections is what LBFE is all about. According to Speeter, the organization started in Paris in 1946 and was first in the United States in 1959. It opened in the Twin Cities in 1972.

As well as helping form friendships between elders and other community members, LBFE has a program called Friendship and Flowers, in which homebound residents receive visits and homemade cookies on a monthly basis.

"We have focused Neighbor Connect in the Longfellow area to try and get as many elders connected as possible," Speeter said. "There are about 1400 elders over the age of 65 in the Longfellow community who live alone and are more at risk of isolation and loneliness."

She said the program primarily works with elders who do not have a strong family connection nearby or a strong social network, but anyone

who feels isolated can benefit.

"We get referrals from lots of different sources," Speeter explained. "Sometimes from family who lives out of town, or from social services. Some people just call up and say they would like to have a friend."

Speeter said Longfellow was chosen as a pilot project for Neighbor Connect because of the number of elders living in the community and also because some tools were already in place, such as organizations like the Longfellow Community Council and Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors. "We are partnering with them to focus on this neighborhood, and then replicate Neighbor Connect in other communities," Speeter said.

"So many people are on social media these days, and you just don't see them out in their yards and interacting with each other. We hope this program will bring greater excitement and greater awareness among community members."

For Buskirk and Wildberger, the evidence of the success of the program is already in place.

Next Deadline: Sept. 17

Next Issue: Sept. 27

"I play cards on Thursdays with a male friend, and every other Monday with Emily," Buskirk said. "I really look forward to those days. The best thing out of the relationship is getting to know her and having a friendship."

"The best thing is friendship," Wildberger agreed. "Jim is a part of my community. People at work ask if I have won at cards. It's fun, and we talk."

"I don't think the age difference is a barrier. I think it is nice for us to be this far apart in age. He has raised three children and has grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It is nice to have someone who has experience with family life."

For anyone in the Longfellow community interested in becoming a part of Neighbor Connect, contact Ann Fosco at [afosco@littlebrothersmn.org](mailto:afosco@littlebrothersmn.org) or 612-746-0725.

The volunteers with Transition Longfellow create opportunities for South Minneapolis neighbors to get to know one another while also learning how to live more sustainably and prepare for changes ahead. Visit [www.transitionlongfellow.org](http://www.transitionlongfellow.org) for more details on these and other activities.

**Transition Parents & Kids Play Group** meets Sat., Sept. 1, 10am-noon, at Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave. S. Join with other parents who are concerned

# Transition Longfellow

By LESLIE MACKENZIE

## Transition Longfellow plans Movie Night, Parent Group in Sept.

about raising resilient kids, living a sustainable, less consumer-oriented, low-waste family life. Share conversation, resources, and ideas. In September, the group will be visiting a farmers market or a farm to learn about sustainable food production.

**The Book Group** meets Thurs., Sept. 13, 6:30pm, at Moon Palace Books (3032 Minnehaha Ave.) to discuss "The End We Start From," by Megan Hunter. In this short novel, the reader is taken along on the



journey of so many refugees fleeing flood, fire or civil unrest. The mother telling this tale of escape from a London now underwater is making the dangerous trip with a newborn. The author has done a masterful job of capturing the laser focus of a new parent and the search for safety amidst uncertainty experienced by so many refugees. A quick and compelling read. (This book is newly available in paperback on Sept 1; Moon Palace will have copies available.)

**Movie Night** is scheduled for Fri., Sept. 21, with a potluck at 6:30, and a movie at 7-9pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S. Share a potluck meal, then watch the documentary "Joanna

Macy and the Great Turning." Macy shares her understanding of these times we live in, when everything we treasure seems to be at risk. This is not a film about despair, but about the opportunity we have to come alive to our truest power and participate in the Great Turning, the third major revolution of human existence, after the agricultural and industrial revolutions. The good news is: that's what's happening all around the world. "Arguably the greatest interview of our time with one the wisest women of our time. Heartbreakingly inspiring, practical and transcendental, transformative words that Joanna Macy has conjoined so beautifully in her life and work,"

Paul Hawken, author of "Draw-Down." Donation accepted.

Each Friday, Transition Longfellow sends out a Step-by-Step Preparedness Email with actions you can take that week to become more prepared for extreme weather. Sign up for the series at the website, [www.transitionlongfellow.org](http://www.transitionlongfellow.org), where you can also find past emails.

## MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

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125 First Ave. NW, PO Box 168

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### Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

### Managing Editor:

Calvin deRuyter, [editorial@deruyternelson.com](mailto:editorial@deruyternelson.com)

### Advertising:

Denis Woulfe (651-917-4183);  
[denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com)

### Production:

Tim Nelson

### Contributing Writers:

Tesha M. Christensen, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren,  
Matthew Davis, Margie O'Loughlin,  
Stephanie Fox

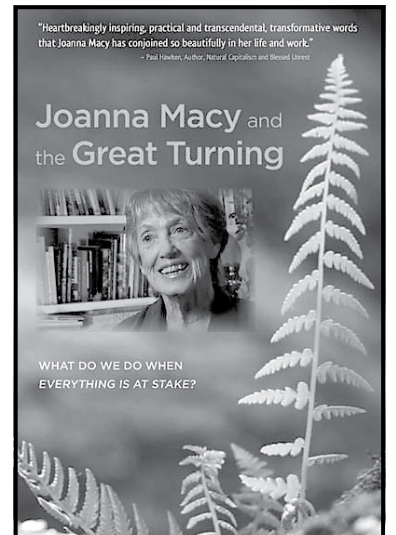
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The movie "Joanna Macy and the Great Turning" will be shown on Sept. 21 for this month's Movie Night. (Photo from Internet source)

## Tapestry

### Folkdance Center

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Sunday

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3748 Minnehaha Ave. S.

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[www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org)

## Nokomis Days

Discover Nokomis Days on Sept. 8 and 9 in the Nokomis East neighborhood! Spend the weekend exploring our quiet, family-oriented community through three celebrations that highlight different facets of Nokomis East.

Start with the Minneapolis Monarch Festival on Sat., Sept. 8, 10am-4pm, with art, dancing, music and make and take activities. The festival happens at 49th St. and Woodlawn Blvd.

Then, enjoy a glass of beer and live music while your kids visit the balloon artist, face painters, and caricature artist at the Lake Nokomis Community School Big Tent Event. It's hours of fun in the Oxendale's Market (5025 S. 34th Ave.) parking lot on Sat., Sept. 8, 5:30-10pm.

Cap off the weekend with a visit on Sun., Sept. 9 to the Nokomis Block Party hosted by the Nokomis East Business Association. This event is packed with local foods, arts and crafts, music, games, kids activities, raffles, and more. Head to Oxendale's Market at 5025 S. 34th Ave. from 11am-3pm.

## Monarch Festival – Festival de la Monarca 2018

This year's 10th Anniversary Minneapolis Monarch Festival will occur on Sat., Sept. 8, 10am-4pm. The Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly's amazing 2,300-mile migration from

Minnesota to Mexico with music, food, dance, hands-on art, native plant sales, and plenty of opportunities to get up-close with monarch butterflies, learn about their habitats, and what you can do to make a difference.

Festival participants can listen to music from Salsa Del Soul and other acts, make their own art print, get up-close with monarch caterpillars, tag and release a monarch butterfly, play games, and much more.

Visit the Minneapolis Monarch Festival website at [www.monarchfestival.org](http://www.monarchfestival.org) for the full line-up of music, food, art, activities, and native plant sale in-

# NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

4313 E. 54th St.

## Nokomis Days blends Monarch Fest, Big Tent Event and block party

### Upcoming meetings and events:

09/05/18, 6:30pm: NENA Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee, NENA Office, 4313 E. 54th St.

09/08/18, 10am: Minneapolis Monarch Festival, 49th St. and Woodlawn Blvd.

09/12/18, 6:30pm: NENA Green Initiatives Committee, NENA Office

09/22/18, 10am: Fall Neighborhood Cleanup, Crosstown Covenant Church, 5540 30th Av. S.

09/27/18, 7pm: NENA Board Meeting, NENA Office

Web: [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Nokomiseast](http://www.facebook.com/Nokomiseast)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/NokomisEast](https://twitter.com/NokomisEast) • Email: [nenan@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nenan@nokomiseast.org) • Phone: 612-724-5652



This year's Monarch Festival will take place Sat., Sept. 8, 10am-4pm. (Messenger archive file photo)

formation. These activities are all free and open to the public. No registration is required.

The Festival will be held just east of the Lake Nokomis Community Center in the area surrounded by E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Woodlawn Blvd., and E. Nokomis Pkwy. The festival is co-hosted by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

### Apply for a NENA Board Seat

NENA is seeking applicants for the vacant Board seat from the Minnehaha neighborhood. If you live (homeowner and renter) in the Minnehaha neighborhood, you can nominate yourself (most common); or any NENA member can nominate a Minnehaha

neighborhood resident as an applicant for the Board. Completed nomination forms are due on Wed., Sept. 12.

The NENA Board of Directors will review all applications and appoint a new Board member at its Sept. 27 meeting. This is a replacement appointment

from September 2018 to April 2020.

Visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) for more information and an application.

### Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Litter is not only unsightly, but it also can have devastating effects on local water quality. Join us for a neighborhood cleanup and get to know the NENA Green Initiatives Committee. The event is on Sat., Sept. 22, from 10am-12:30pm at the Crosstown Covenant Church parking lot (5540 30th Ave. S.). Volunteers that show up between 10-10:30am get free coffee and doughnuts. Bring a pair of gloves you do not mind getting dirty. RSVP on the NENA Facebook event page or just show up!

### BARK!ART Dog & Art Festival

Announcing BARK!ART Dog & Art Festival, Sat., Sept. 15, 12-8pm and Sun., Sept. 16 from 12-5pm at Off-Leash Area's Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St. E. This new two-day family festival will be hosted by Off-Leash Area with community partner Canine Coach. BARK!ART will bring two communities beloved by Off-Leash Area—dogs and art—together in a festival featuring all-ages outdoor talent shows, dog-related business and artist booths, and a new production by Off-Leash Area called "Paws and Effect," starring a dog!

Learn more by visiting the BARK!ART Festival page at [www.offleasharea.org](http://www.offleasharea.org). The festival is supported by a 2018 MRAC grant.

### Sign up for NENA News

Get your neighborhood news delivered to your inbox every other Wednesday. Sign up today at [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org). Once you sign up, you'll receive updates on news and happenings for your neighborhood.

## Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

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3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768

[www.bethlehemcov.org](http://www.bethlehemcov.org)

Rev. Matthew Kennedy

Contemporary Worship – 9:00am

Traditional Worship – 10:30am

Espanol – 1:30pm

Sept. 9 - Gathering Sunday

Worship 10:30am

Block party to follow: 11:30-1

Fall worship schedule starting Sept. 16

Contemporary Worship – 8:45am

Traditional Worship – 11:00am

Espanol – 1:30pm

### Epworth United Methodist

3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232

[www.epworthumcmpls.org](http://www.epworthumcmpls.org)

Pastor Steven Reiser

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

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Upcoming:

September 9: Coming Home Sunday

September 12: Beer & Bible @

Merlin's Restaurant

September 21 - 22: UMW Fall Rummage

Sale

September 23: Bagel & Bible

October 13: Harvest Festival

### Minnehaha Communion Lutheran

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[www.minnehahacommunion.com](http://www.minnehahacommunion.com)

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Sunday School – 9:45 am

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10 am Coffee & Fellowship

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Sunday of the month.

September 9: Our Work, God's Hand

Sunday

September 16: Rally Sunday, picnic lunch

and activities beginning at 10:30

September 23: Faith Formation resumes (9

am for youth, 10:30 for adults)

(Handicap acc., Braille)

### Trinity Lutheran Church

of Minnehaha Falls

5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691

[www.trinityfalls.org](http://www.trinityfalls.org)

Pastor Matt Oxendale

Sunday Worship 10:00 am (thru 9/2)

Sunday Worship 10:30 am (beg. 9/9)

AA Sun & Tues 7:00 pm

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# Residents call for compromise at Hiawatha Golf Course

After four years of disagreement, some are optimistic and others apprehensive about new Park Board direction

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Neighborhood residents are being asked to compromise and come together over the Hiawatha Golf Course after four years of disagreement.

Standish resident and Hiawatha Golf Course Community Advisory Committee (CAC) member Sean Connaughty pointed out that compromise was achieved by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) commissioners during a 6-2 vote on July 25.

"Although it gives nobody everything they want, it meets the basic needs of all constituents including Lake Hiawatha. Homes will be protected, climate resiliency restored, pollution mitigated and the golf course preserved as a 9-hole course," observed Connaughty.

"Picture an ecologically run 9-hole course, which maintains the key community asset of Hiawatha Golf Course in a reduced pumping scenario, honors the African Amer-



On July 25, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners passed a resolution directing CAC members to reduce pumping at the golf course while also maintaining a minimum 9-hole course. Voting in favor were Commissioners Musich, Forney, Vetaw, Cowgill, Meyer, Bourn; voting against were French and Severson. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Some wetland areas already exist on the golf course land, including this pond in the northwest corner. Under the reduced pumping scenario, lowland areas of the course will be flooded and unsuitable for golf. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

ican history and provides habitat and public access to spaces unusable for golf.

"I am just one person in this community and an appointee on the CAC, but I accept this compro-

mise," Connaughty said. "Let's get excited about the near future. May the CAC move forward now with the business of the master-planning process."

Last year commissioners directed the CAC to begin a master planning process for the golf course property. Some CAC members felt that their official charge was not specific enough, and asked that the board, which had changed following the 2017 election, look at the issue again.

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners did that on July 25 and passed a resolution directing CAC members to reduce pumping at the golf course while also maintaining a minimum 9-hole course. Voting in favor were Commissioners Stephanie Musich, Meg Forney, Letrisha Vetaw, Jono Cowgill, Chris Meyer, Brad Bourn; voting against were Londel French and Kale Severson; AK Hassan was absent.

The golf course is currently pumping 242 million gallons of water each year in a circular fashion to keep water from flooding the course, which sits two feet below the lake, although it only has a permit through the Minnesota DNR for 36.5 million for irrigation. Commissioners directed CAC members to reduce pumping by 70% to 94 million gallons.

The revised compromise resolution was drafted by new At-Large Commissioner Vetaw, who resides in Southeast Minneapolis.

### Some optimistic

According to District 5 Commissioner Musich, "I am optimistic that the public planning process utilized by the MPRB will be able to proceed in a productive way now that the new board has reaffirmed the decision made by the previous board.

"The adopted resolution respects the past while considering the future of this park land and the need to design an ecologically diverse landscape that reduces pumping while protecting nearby homes from groundwater intrusion, and is resilient to the impacts of climate change."

Musich pointed out that the property will continue to be operated as it is today until a master plan is adopted by the board and ready to be implemented. The park's planning division estimates the process, including procuring funds, will take at least five years.

Ryan Seibold of Friends of Lake Hiawatha is pleased with the park board decision.

"I think it is wonderful that plans will prioritize cleaning up the water, adding more habitat for wildlife, and restoring ecosystems in our city and neighborhood," said

Seibold. "The decision to redesign this public space to be flood-resilient and ecologically-driven is the most sustainable decision the board could make. Protecting our water resources and dealing with climate change is important now and in the future. As a community member, I hope that the CAC as a whole will collaborate effectively with the park board on this positive direction forward."

### Some apprehensive

However, some community members remain apprehensive.

"As someone who lives in a former wetland area that has been developed for residential purposes and has personally experienced the cost of fluctuating groundwater levels, I am apprehensive to say that adding more water to an area, allowing it to go back to its natural state, is a good idea—especially, when you are now taking away a floodplain (Hiawatha Golf Course) that has historically protected the area," stated CAC member Joan Sohlt, who resides near Lake Nokomis.

"The concern that was expressed at the meeting is that we do not understand the hydrology in the neighborhood adequately to understand with high enough certainty to assure that pumping at the golf course will impact that water levels in the neighborhood," pointed out Dana Lonn, an engineer who lives between Nokomis and Mother lakes and supports keeping the 18-hole golf course.

"There is a significant concern that reduced pumping will result in a further raising of the water table which put some homes at risk. Some of the park commissioners see the issue as a very narrow decision as whether we are pumping only to save the golf course. The decision may be that narrow. However, a number of the commissioners and many in the neighborhood see the decision to be much more complex than that," said Lonn. "We are advocating for a more comprehensive study to understand the implications of reduced pumping at the golf course."

Residents associated with the Nokomis/Hiawatha Water Sustainability group are asking for an unbiased study from United States Geological Society (USGS) to more fully understand the interrelated issues of water management in the area.

This issue is being evaluated by the Lake Nokomis Groundwater and Surface Water technical team, which is composed of representatives

Continued on page 7

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# Dowling Community Garden celebrates 75th anniversary

Photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN



Dowling Community Garden celebrated its 75th anniversary on Aug. 18. The three-acre garden space is located on the grounds of Dowling Environmental School, at 46th Ave. and 39th St. S. Dowling gardeners live in Minneapolis and surrounding communities, are culturally diverse, of all ages and abilities, and come together to share their love of gardening.



Jerry Foley (right) was the opening speaker. "Our garden is the granddaddy of the growing movement of community gardens," he said. "We contribute about 4,000 lbs. of fresh, organic produce each year to food shelves and meal programs." Pictured at left is State Senator Patricia Torres Ray, a neighborhood resident and longtime garden supporter.



Dr. Lloyd Winfield (center) is principal of Dowling Elementary School. He said, "This garden is about community with a capital 'C'. We've been grateful for longstanding partnership between the garden and our school."



Activities included heirloom tomato tasting and a display of vegetables grown on-site. Dowling Community Garden is committed to organic growing. The low annual membership fee includes access to water, compost, and a variety of garden tools.



Photo right: The day of celebration included kids' activities, a proclamation delivered by Rep. Jim Davnie from Governor Mark Dayton, and a speech by Minneapolis mayor Jacob Frey.



A dozen bakers contributed cupcakes for the birthday celebration.



Photo above: Dowling Community Garden was started in 1943, as part of the Victory Garden movement. Home gardening was a way to support the troops in World War II. It freed up canned food to be shipped overseas. The garden today has 190 plots and about 250 gardeners. It's one of only two remaining Victory Gardens in the country.



Photo left: Gardener Terry Barnes in the pollinator plot she created as part of her volunteer service hours at the garden. Every gardener contributes four hours of service each summer.

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# Local Art Studio focuses on resilience against oppression through art

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The storefront at 3260 Minnehaha Ave. has been home to artist Ricardo Levins Morales and his four-person staff since January. Sandwiched neatly between Peace Coffee and Two Betty's Cleaning Service, the art studio and shop welcomes visitors to the neighborhood.

Levins Morales said, "Somebody stopping in for the first time might be surprised to see posters, cards, buttons, bumper stickers, and calendars for sale that address a lot of different political issues. I've been asked, 'How can I delve into so many issues in my art?' I say, 'For me, there is only one issue that runs through everything I do: building resilience in the face of oppression.'"

The artist experienced oppression first-hand in Puerto Rico, the country of his birth. He lived there with his activist parents until he was 11. When they left the island in 1967, the anti-colonial movement was very strong. His parents chose to re-settle in Chicago. Their family life was tough though, and Levins Morales ended up living on his own from the age of 15. He didn't finish high school and began immersing himself in the mass political



Artist Ricardo Levins Morales said, "I was born into a farming family on a mountain in Puerto Rico. Nothing in my life blinked, beeped, or had a pause button. From that, I learned a certain kind of patience—and to speak of the world through a narrative of abundance. When people are behaving in ways that are harmful to others, it almost always comes down to a perception of scarcity." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

movements of the time.

"The movements I got drawn into were about restoring power to people whose power had been taken away,"

Levins Morales reflected. "My first published piece of art was a flyer I drew for the Chicago Black Panthers when I was just a teenager. I have always

made art about what's important to me. When I was five, I drew chickens. When I was eight, it was pirates. For all the years that have followed, it's been about art as a process of truth-telling. It only becomes political when you're in an environment that's full of lies."

While Levins Morales never got a traditional art education, he said, "Growing up in Chicago, I was surrounded by art in the form of posters, murals, and newspaper cartoons. When I saw a style that I loved, I would try to figure out how to do it, and to absorb the artist's techniques."

He started out working in linoleum and woodblock printing, eventually teaching himself silk screen printing and, about 25 years ago, got interested in a medium called scratchboard. To make his images, Morales scratches through an ink coated surface to reveal a contrasting layer of white clay underneath. To complete the colorful, vibrant process that is his signature style, Levins Morales colorizes the scratchboard with watercolor, and can digitize his images for in-studio printing.

In much the same way, Levins Morales helps communities to scratch through the

surfaces of a struggle—and get to what can heal them. "The art I make is meant to stimulate people's emotional immune systems, to help them deal with the toxicity of our culture," he said. "The process of working with groups doesn't vary all that much. People come into the studio; they talk, and I listen. Together we try to find what's encouraging in a difficult situation, what's hopeful. A lot of what I do with my art is to re-frame narratives for communities that have been traumatized. It doesn't mean that the art itself is telling horrific stories. Even in times of struggle, people need to laugh, and to look at beautiful things."

The new space on Minnehaha Ave. has room for art making, sales, and community gatherings. "We feel more visible here," Levins Morales said. "We're easier to find, and it's a good place for us to disseminate the art. We've had several high school and college art classes come to visit, youth groups, seminary students, students of Latin American history and culture, and student organizations. This shop is intended to be a reservoir of resilience in times of trouble. Everyone is welcome."

## Hiawatha Golf Course

Continued from page 5

from the city, the park board, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Lonn worked for Toro Company in Bloomington for 48 years and was connected to the golf industry. "The MPRB has not done their homework on the impact of a golf property," Lonn maintained. "Properly managed golf is an environmental asset to the community. The view by many is that it is a toxic waste dump. That is just not true."

## What's being done about the trash on Lake Hiawatha?

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Sean Connaughty, Standish resident and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) volunteer steward of Lake Hiawatha, continues to push for a solution to the large amount of trash that drains into the lake.

Since 2015, he's picked up 4,500 pounds of trash from the lake. That doesn't include the amount others have picked up.

Connaughty, who also serves on the MPRB Hiawatha Golf Course Community Advisory Committee, plans to continue working with the community and various agencies to help design and develop a new wetland complex and



Photo left: Since 2015, Standish resident Sean Connaughty has picked up 4,500 pounds of trash from the lake. That doesn't include the amount others have picked up. Connaughty, who also serves on the MPRB Hiawatha Golf Course Community Advisory Committee, plans to continue working with the community and various agencies to help design and develop a new wetland complex and mitigation system for the north pipe storm sewer which drains 920 acres of Minneapolis storm sewers into the lake without trash mitigation. (Photo submitted)

mitigation system for the north pipe storm sewer.

Here's how he envisions an effective mitigation system.

"It must deal with the following pollutants: trash, sediment and waterborne pollutants including chemicals and phosphorous," Connaughty said. "An effective mitigation system will use limited mechanical intervention to capture

the creek was straightened, the lake dredged and the wetlands filled in to make Hiawatha Golf Course. Restoring wetlands to portions of the property will also reduce the impact of future floods on nearby homes (as shown in recent flood models created by Barr engineering).

"The result of all this work will be a massive improvement in water quality for Lake Hiawatha," Connaughty said.

He continued, "No longer will 920 acres of South Minneapolis dump its pollution directly into Lake Hiawatha. The newly inundated wetland spaces that aren't usable for golf will provide new habitat and areas of public access for nongolfers."

Connaughty also plans to work with the community to design a public art space that is integrated into the natural spaces that are created in these new wetland areas.

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# Share the Gorge 2018 celebrates the urban wilderness

Photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

This year's Share the Gorge began under parting storm clouds on July 25. The annual ice cream social and community gathering celebrates the Mississippi River Gorge, with its easy access to the urban wilderness in the heart of the city. Share the Gorge is hosted by the River Gorge Committee of the Longfellow Community Council.



Michaela Neu (right) is the Youth and Community Outreach Specialist for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. Among other resource materials, she passed out copies of the newly published "Good Neighbor Guide" which addresses responsible water stewardship practices for homeowners. At left is Marya Macintosh, River Gorge Committee member. The committee always welcomes new members and meets the first Wednesday of each month from 7:30-9pm at the Longfellow Recreation Center.



Hennepin County Forestry staff Jen Kullgren (left) and Shane De Groy had three words of advice for homeowners, "Don't plant maples!" Kullgren said, "The Asian Longhorn Beetle isn't knocking on our door yet, but it's likely coming—and its preferred food source is maples. The best thing we can do for our urban forest is to diversify our tree planting choices."



Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) was on hand with resource information. The organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and the 10th anniversary of its popular Gorge Stewards volunteer program. For more information about volunteering, contact Amy Kilgore at [akilgore@fmr.org](mailto:akilgore@fmr.org).

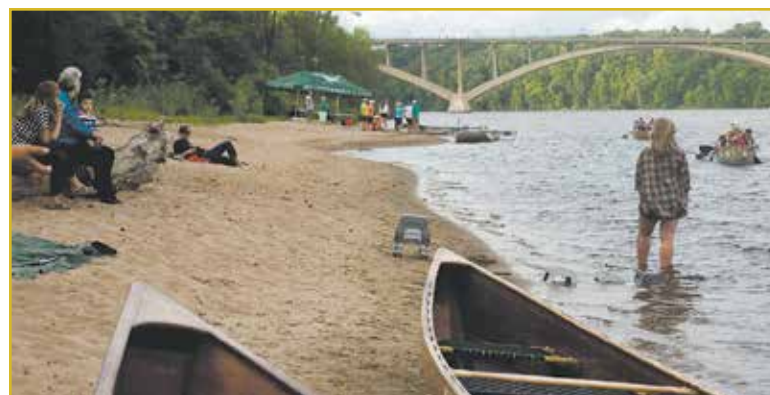


Once again, the East Lake Dairy Queen donated boxes of Dilly Bars to the Share the Gorge event. Thanks to owner Jim Lee for his generosity.



Lyndon Torstenson of the National Park Service steadied a boat as it prepared to launch.

Photo right: Paddlers of all ages and experience levels were welcome to paddle the Voyageur canoes provided by Wilderness Inquiry.



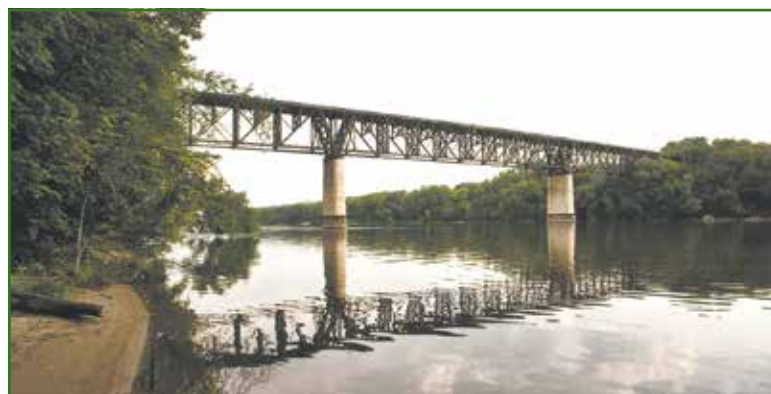
## Extend the Greenway Partnership commissions bridge study

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Midtown Greenway is a 5-1/2 mile long bicycle and pedestrian trail through the heart of South Minneapolis. The trail begins near Lake Calhoun at Chowen Ave., and travels east across the city. It currently ends at W. River Pkwy. near 27th St. in the north Longfellow neighborhood. More than 35 organizations from both Minneapolis and St. Paul are working together in the newly formed Extend the Greenway Partnership. Their goal is to extend the Midtown Greenway over the Mississippi River and through St. Paul.

The extension of the Greenway would convert the Short Line Railroad Bridge (just north of 27th St.) into a bicycle and pedestrian bridge. Up for consideration is whether or not the train would continue to use the railroad tracks. CP Rail owns and operates the bridge; it runs one train per day there, on average, and serves three remaining customers along the Hiawatha Ave. corridor.

Soren Jensen, executive director of the Midtown Greenway Co-



The Short Line Railroad Bridge as seen from the beach near 27th St. and W. River Pkwy. The question being asked in the engineering study currently underway is, "What would it take to make this bridge safe for public use, as an extension of the Midtown Greenway into St. Paul?" (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

alition, said, "We're pleased to report that a drone we hired to begin our engineering study of the Short Line Railroad Bridge was launched in late July. Information captured by the drone will be used to create a 3-D map of the bridge. Engineers from the local firm Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. will complete the study, estimating the cost and

efforts needed to make the bridge safe for biking and walking. We anticipate that the study will be finished in late summer."

"I've been with the Midtown Greenway Coalition for seven years," Jensen continued, "and the question I get asked most frequently is, 'Why doesn't the Greenway cross over into St. Paul?'"

Jensen provides the answer, "Apparently, when the final stage of the Greenway was completed ten years ago (the section that runs through Seward and Longfellow), Hennepin County commissioned an engineering study of the bridge. They determined that it had structural flaws, but they didn't estimate what it would cost to make the bridge safe for public use. There are many of us who thought it warranted another look. We believe this extension would benefit a lot of people because the Greenway is a major commuter corridor. It would be a tremendous addition to the Twin Cities biking infrastructure."

Jensen concluded, "We didn't want this to be just an effort of the Midtown Greenway Coalition, so we built a solid partnership of organizations across both sides of the river. Our partners reached out to all of their members and supporters on social media with the details of this project. We ran a crowd-funding campaign for one month, with a goal of raising \$45,000 to hire two drones

and an operator, and to use the expertise of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to conduct the engineering study. Thanks to the reach of our partner organizations, we exceeded our goal and raised \$47,000. Some of our partners in (or very near) Longfellow include The Birchwood Café, Brackett Neighbors, Hiawatha Academies, the Longfellow Community Council, Seward Re-Design, and Nice Ride Minnesota."

All organizations who share this vision are welcome to join the Extend the Greenway Partnership. The partnership seeks to include elected officials, government agencies, neighborhood groups, non-profits, and businesses from both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

For more information or to join the partnership, email Soren Jensen at [soren@midtowngreenway.org](mailto:soren@midtowngreenway.org). Check the website at [www.midtowngreenway.org](http://www.midtowngreenway.org) to learn the date and location of the next public meeting in September. The results of the engineering study will be discussed at that time.



# 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 planned Sept. 21-22

The annual Epworth United Methodist Women Rummage Sale is planned for Fri.-Sat., Sept. 21-22, 9am to 3pm, in the Epworth UMC Gym, 3207 37th Ave. S. Find new uses for gently-used items donated by the congregation at a price you'll love. Proceeds from the sale provide the funds for the mission programs sponsored by Epworth United Methodist Women. There will be treats for sale in the kitchen during this event.

### Faith Book Club meets Sept. 1

The Faith Ev. Lutheran Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month from 10-11:30am at the church, 3430 E. 51st St. The book for Sept. 1 is "The Book of Jonah" by Joshua Max. Join the group for coffee, treats, and conversation in the basement fellowship room. The planned book for October is "The Shadow of the Wind" by Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

### LGBTQ support group meets Saturdays

A support group for LGBTQ adults living with mental illness meets weekly on Saturdays, 1-2:30pm, at Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St. This free support group is sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and led by trained facilitators who are also in recovery. For information call David at 612-920-3925 or call 651-645-2948.

### Garden club meets to discuss foraging

Join the Longfellow Garden Club on Wed., Sept. 12, 7pm, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S., for their monthly meeting.

As you pass through Longfellow neighborhoods, you may have noticed yards bright with yellow dandelions, walks blocked by gigantic rhubarb clumps, or heard bees buzzing as they dive bomb apples or pears beneath a small tree bent with fruit.

These and other fruit, flowers, and hops from neighborhood yards are scouted and picked—*foraged*—by Jeff Zeitler to go into the production line at his Urban Forage Winery and Ciderhouse, 3016 E. Lake St. Out come bottles of dry apple wine, cherry apple hard cider, pear cider, and even some dandelion wine and honey mead.

As an experienced landscape architect, Zeitler understands how food-productive a yard can be. Using ideas from permaculture, he talks about

planting a community of edible plants, from fruiting trees to shrubs to perennials to annuals, scaled to the size and resources in the yard. He will talk about how he uses what he finds to produce wines and ciders, and the kind of changes we can make in our yards to enable them to be more productive.

You can stay connected with the Longfellow Garden Club at [www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub](http://www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub).

### AA and NA meets

Every Monday night there is an AA meeting at 7pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), and every Tuesday and Wednesday night there is an AA meeting at 7:30pm. On Thursday night, there is an NA meeting at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

### September events at LS Healthy Seniors

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a monthly Senior Social/Health Talk on Tues., Sept. 18 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. The presentation is entitled "Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's." If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts about Alzheimer's.

"Coloring Jam" is an open coloring session for older adults that is planned for Wed., Sept. 26 from 1:30-3:30pm at Trinity Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St. Spend time coloring and relaxing. Healthy Seniors will provide a variety of coloring books, markers, crayons and colored pencils. A class fee of \$4 covers all supplies. Registration is required by Sept. 20. To register, call 612-729-5799 or email [info@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:info@LShealthyseniors.org).

Tai Chi Easy exercise classes are held on Mondays from 10:30-11:30am starting Sept. 10 and going through Dec. 17 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Classes cost \$5 and discounts may be available for lower-income seniors. Tai Chi is a low-impact, slow-motion exercise that's adaptable to individual abilities. Movements vary between sitting and standing and help improve breathing, coordination, flexibility, and strength. Registration is not required.

A free monthly Diabetes Support Group for adults will be held on Wed., Sept. 12 from 1-2:30pm at Trinity Apartments (in the dining room), 2800 E. 31st St. Anyone with diabetes is invited to attend. Call Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information.

A three-class series on "Rock Art" (acrylic painting on small stones), will be held on

Mondays, Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 at Trinity Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St. Classes cost \$4 each, and all supplies are included. Registration for the Oct. 3 class is due Sept. 27 by calling 612-729-5799 or email [info@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:info@LShealthyseniors.org).

LS Healthy Seniors is always looking for "Friendly Visitor" volunteers and volunteer drivers to help seniors live independently. Call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 or email [info@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:info@LShealthyseniors.org) for more information on activities, services, and volunteer opportunities.

### Telling Our Stories to meet Sept. 28

"Elder Voices Telling Our Stories" will meet 10-11:30am on Fri., Sept. 28 at Turtle Bread Company (4205 34th Ave.). People will have an opportunity to describe their retirement journeys including what is challenging and energizing.

Topics will include a brief update on a Senior Dialogues project introduced two months ago. There will also be an introduction to the Minneapolis Advisory Commission on Aging and the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy.

### Bagels and Bible scheduled Sept. 23

You're invited to join the Bagels and Bible group once a month in the Sonshine Room at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. This month on Sun., Sept. 23, 9-10am, they will cover a synopsis of Genesis and a launch into Exodus. All walks of life and faith welcome. Come and enjoy great discussion and fellowship with a light breakfast! Future meetings will occur on the fourth Sunday of each month.

This event follows the same curriculum as Beer & Bible on the second Wednesday each month.

### NA group meets twice weekly

A Narcotics Anonymous group meets every Wednesday at 7:30pm, and every Friday evening at 7pm at Faith Evangelical Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Float Fridays at Rick's this fall

Rick's Place, 4307 E. 54th St., will sponsor Float Fridays through early Oct. Get \$2 ice cream floats (root beer, coke, cherry coke) every Friday, 5-9pm, with all proceeds going to Every Third Saturday and help support veterans and their

*Continued on page 10*



### Minnehaha Commons breaks ground

On Thurs., Sept. 13, 4pm, community leaders, public officials, neighborhood residents and others will gather at 3001 E. Lake St. to celebrate the groundbreaking of new housing development by Alliance Housing.

By fall 2019, 44 adults, 55 years old or older, will call Minnehaha Commons home. All residents will be very low income; most will have experienced homelessness and may have been screened out by other landlords due to their housing, credit or criminal history. Alliance Housing owns and/or manages similar properties in South and North Minneapolis.

"According to the Wilder Foundation's homeless survey, seniors are the fastest growing segment of homeless people locally," said Alliance Housing Inc. Executive Director, Barbara Jeanetta. "Alliance Housing was ahead of the curve when we conceived this project more than ten years ago. Our organization is uniquely positioned to successfully house this population because of our previous experience serving seniors in rooming houses." Jeanetta continued, "Our tenant service coordinators and property managers build trusting relationships with tenants, discuss problems, identify options for maintaining housing stability and increasing self-sufficiency, and assist tenants to choose their community services. It is a proven program, and we look forward to bringing this exciting new development and its related support services to serve seniors in south Minneapolis."

Alliance's partner, Touchstone Mental Health, will provide a range of support services to ensure tenants can remain stably housed. Cermak Rhoades Architects managed the project design. General Contractors are Watson Forsberg in partnership with TRI Construction. Broen Housing provided financial packaging and preparation. The Longfellow Community Council, Councilmember Cam Gordon, and Representative Jim Davnie welcomed the project to the neighborhood by providing letters of support.

The groundbreaking guests expected to provide brief remarks include Commissioner of DHS Emily Piper, Minneapolis Councilmember Cam Gordon, Alliance's board chair Ben Olk III, Longfellow Community Council board member Lisa Boyd, and a current Alliance Housing tenant. Ingrid C. Arneson Rasmussen, Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, will provide a blessing honoring the homeless family that lost their lives when the McMahon Bar, the site of the new building, burned. The development is expected to be completed by September 2019.

\$10.8 million in funding was provided by a variety of sources including a State of Minnesota Department of Human Services Live Well at Home grant, Minnesota Housing's Housing Infrastructure Bonds and 4% tax credits. The City of Minneapolis' Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Hennepin County's Affordable Housing Incentive Fund, the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities Local Housing Incentives Account, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines's Affordable Housing Program also provided financial support. Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Thrivent, and the Sisters of Carondelet provided early support.



## In Our Community

Continued from page 9

families. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a sweet treat to celebrate fall. For more information about Every Third Saturday and what they do, visit [www.everythirdsaturday.com](http://www.everythirdsaturday.com).

### Nokomis seniors plan upcoming events

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) would like to invite the public to the following programs and events. Unless otherwise noted, events are held at Nokomis Healthy Seniors, 4120 17th Ave. S., in the Bethel Evangelical Church building. All events are free, open to all, and no reservations are required unless noted otherwise.

Join Nokomis Healthy Seniors on Fri., Sept. 7, from 1-3pm for a free Diabetes Support Group at Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave. S. Call NHS at 612-729-5499 for more information.

On Tues., Sept. 11 at 1pm there will be a free Low Vision Support Group meeting at

Nokomis Square Co-op, 5015 35th Ave. S.

NHS will host a Health and Enrichment program on "Transitional Care Options: The Choice Is Yours!" presented by Leslie Williams, Patient Care Liaison, on Wed., Sept. 12 at 1:30pm. It will be held at Nokomis Square Co-op.

Join Nokomis Healthy Seniors for "Lunch and a Movie" on Thur., Sept. 13. The meal will start at 11:15am; then everyone will watch the movie "Quartet" in NHS's own theatre inside Bethel Church. The 2012 movie is about a home for retired musicians and stars Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. All are welcome, but reservations are required by calling 612-729-5499.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors Book Club will discuss "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls, on Thur., Sept. 20, 11am. It will be held at Bethel Evangelical Church, and all are welcome to this free book club. (Watch the movie based on the book on Oct. 11.)

A free Caregiver Support Group meets Thur., Sept. 27 at 1pm, and is designed for those caring for an older adult. No

RSVPs needed. Held at Nokomis Healthy Seniors, inside Bethel.

### Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the Hope Room at Living Table Church, 3805 E. 40th St. Anyone with a desire to stop gambling is welcome.

### Junket closes; now explores online ops

Junket, the social enterprise which had operated from the corner of 41st St. E. and Minnehaha Ave. since 2012, closed its doors the beginning of August.

Junket sold vintage and secondhand goods out of the storefront with a mission of reducing waste, encouraging reuse, and inspiring mindfulness about the life cycle of material objects. Now, they're preparing for what's next: online shopping options, pop-ups, and partnerships around town, with more

announcements yet to come.

"We see unmet demand within online creative/maker and zero waste communities, and we're motivated to help drive not only a change in offerings but more importantly, to drive new expectations for what's possible," says founder Julie Kearns.

### First Aid Course planned Sept. 15

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., will be hosting a free Youth Mental Health First Aid course on Sat., Sept. 15, from 8am-5pm.

Participants will learn what to do in a mental health crisis by reviewing risk factors and warning signs and learning common support options. The course is designed for adults who regularly interact with adolescents, including teachers, school staff, coaches, youth group leaders, and parents. (Please note, this class may be too basic for those who work in mental health services.)

This free class, valued at \$170, is sponsored by Fairview Community Health and

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church.

Please register by Sept. 12 at [Fairview.org/mhfaclases](http://Fairview.org/mhfaclases), by calling 651-326-0088, or by emailing [ketaylor@healtheast.org](mailto:ketaylor@healtheast.org).

### Projects underway at Longfellow Park

Two improvement projects got underway at Longfellow Park and Recreation Center in August: installation of new equipment at the playground and replacement of the recreation center roof. Construction on both projects will take place through September.

The roof replacement at Longfellow Recreation Center is funded by NPP20, a historic agreement between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the City of Minneapolis. NPP20 helps address racial and economic equity across 160 neighborhood parks and provides \$11 million annually to maintain, repair and replace facilities.

Continued on page 11

# Classifieds

## Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by September 17 for the September 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](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger Classifieds*, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before Sept. 17 for the Sept. 27 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Messenger's* website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

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## In Our Community

Continued from page 10

### Beer and Bible with Epworth set Sept. 12

Whether you're new to the Bible, new to beer, or well-versed in both, you're invited to join the Beer and Bible group once a month at Merlin's Rest, 2601 E. Lake St. The next event is Wed., Sept. 12, 6:30-8:30pm. This month, we continue our conversation about the Book of Exodus. All walks of life and faith welcome. Come and enjoy great discussion and fellowship—beer is optional.

### Fall Kick-Off event scheduled Sept. 9

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., will sponsor their Fall Kick-Off event on Sun., Sept. 9 after the 11am worship service. The entire community is invited for pulled pork sandwiches and a salad and dessert potluck. The event will be outside weather permitting. Bring your favorite salad, side dish, or dessert to share. There will be fun activities for the kids along with Sunday School registration.

### Squirrel Haus opens new exhibit in Oct.

Twenty established and emerging artists and their topic expert team members are creating social and environmental justice works, transforming the cutting-edge art space Squirrel Haus Arts into an inviting and magical universe which draws the visitor into a thought-provoking, interactive journey with the intent of inspiring action in our community.

The "See. Say. Do." exhibit has two opening events at Squirrel Haus Arts, 3450 Snelling Ave.: —Fri., Oct. 5, 5:30-7:30pm - Friends of ACW Fundraiser, followed by a dance performance of Borealis Dance Company (tickets: \$75, reservations required). —Sat., Oct. 6, 7-10pm - Public Opening Night, with the artists and their expert/authentic voices in attendance.

### Danish Center sets breakfast schedule

The Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy., has announced their new season schedule of Æbleskiver Breakfasts. Upcoming breakfasts are scheduled for Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 (with the Art Fair), Jan. 20,

Feb. 17 (Valentine's Day Brunch), Mar. 17, Apr. 14, and May 12 (Mother's Day Brunch).

Cost for regular "all you can eat and drink" breakfasts is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu includes æbleskiver, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee. (Brunches have a different cost and menu.) Every breakfast runs from 9:30am-12:30pm, and no reservations are required. For more information, call 612-729-3800.

### Torres Ray on her protest arrest

Patricia Torres Ray, Minnesota Senator and Congressional candidate, commented on her July 31 court appearance following her June 29 arrest.

"The federal government's zero-tolerance immigration policy is inhumane and insidious," said Torres Ray. "We must hold those in charge accountable and we must hold those who profit from the government's policies accountable."

Torres Ray's comments refer to her arrest at the protest of a Bloomington, MN business that profits from the separation of families at the US border. Torres Ray appeared in court alongside fellow protesters. Charges were pleaded down to a petty misdemeanor with a fine.

"As an immigrant myself, I understand the yearning for a better life for yourself and your family," said Torres Ray. "I am disgusted that our nation of immigrants would callously turn its back on those that come in search of the same opportunities. I am proud to have exercised my First Amendment rights and I am proud to stand in solidarity with the families that have been treated reprehensibly by our government."

### Greenway Glow raised \$22,000+

Despite an unwelcome thunderstorm early on, the skies cleared and Greenway Glow Arts Festival and Bike Ride ended up with a perfect evening July 28 for the Greenway Glow! Thanks to the participants in the VIP Bike Rides and event sponsors, over \$22,000 was raised for programs for the Greenway!

It was one of our best Glows ever, with close to 40 artists and installations and thousands of cyclists riding glowing bikes in the Greenway.

The VIP BIKE RIDES kicked off with a ride to the Family Glow at the Ivy Building and Vine Arts Center, where kids

could create "make and take" art, play with Legos and bubbles, get ice cream, and more. Art and performances continued at Vine Arts Center until Midnight.

The night ended with the After-Glow Party at the Midtown Global Market, featuring Taco Cat tacos and craft beer from Eastlake Craft Brewery.

### Rummage Sale scheduled Oct. 6

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., will hold their Annual Rummage Sale on Sat., Oct. 6. The sale runs from 9am-1pm with bag time starting at 12 noon. Lunch is served with the best sloppy joes and homemade bars available for purchase.

### Blood Drive planned at Faith Sept. 9

Faith Ev. Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St., will host a blood drive from 9:30am-3:30pm on Sun. Sept. 9, in conjunction with the NEBA Block Party. The Blood Drive will be held in the lower level of the church. You can sign up by going to the American Red Cross web site or call the church office at 612-729-5463. At this time you can also stop in and take a walking tour of the inside of the church.

### Dog & Art Festival slated Sept. 15-16

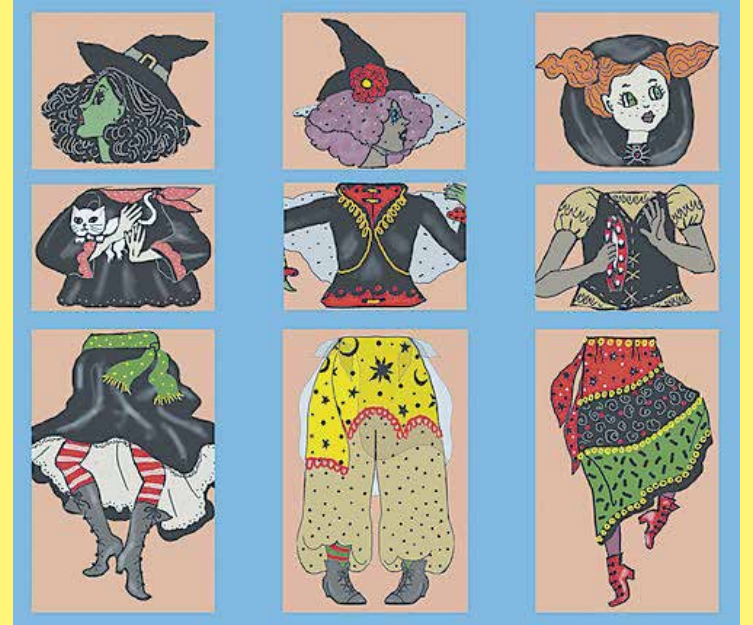
Off-Leash Area, 3540 34th Ave. S., will sponsor their inaugural BARK!ART Dog & Art Festival, Sat., Sept. 15, 12-8pm and Sun., Sept. 16, 12pm-5pm at the Off-Leash Art Box. The festival is a two-day event for dogs and their art-loving families and friends in the Nokomis neighborhood.

BARK!ART brings together two communities beloved by Off-Leash Area—dogs and art—together in a fall festival featuring all-ages outdoor talent shows, dog-related business and artist booths, and a new production by Off-Leash Area that features a live dog. BARK!ART will be hosted by Off-Leash Area along with community partner Canine Coach.

Headlining BARK!ART will be the new mainstage production by Off-Leash Area called "Paws and Effect," starring a real dog! "Paws and Effect" is a family-friendly production exploring the journey of a girl who doesn't fit in and a stray dog she befriends who teaches her how to show love and acceptance to others. Featuring OLA's signature award-winning interdisciplinary style, the performance will blend company choreographer, Jennifer Ilse's highly theatrical movement with Paul Herwig's elaborate visual set design using live projected animation. It's a show for audiences comprised of adults, kids, and their dogs. "Paws and Effect" will feature dog-friendly seating, along with opportunities for audience participation (or should we say 'pawticipation!').

The BARK!ART Talent Show will offer folks from throughout the community an opportunity to share their talents with performances featuring their own dogs. BARK!ART's Talent Show will invite participants to create an original performance with themselves and their dog. Finalists will

## DanceCo plans October performance



Following the success of its first self-produced performance last October, DanceCo is premiering "Which Witch is Which??" to Minnesota audiences in October.

DanceCo, a dance-theater company in the Twin Cities, was built on the creative vision and collective experience of Longfellow residents, husband-and-wife team Brittany and Matthew Keefe. DanceCo's creative focus is to produce original dance for young audiences and their families.

"Which Witch is Which?? is an interactive whodunit-style dance-theater piece with wizards, witches, muggles and a lot of fun. Can you help solve the case of the missing key?" —Matthew Keefe

Featured performers include Heather Cadigan-Brockman, Nicky Coelho, Benjamin Johnson, Stephanie Fellner, Brittany Keefe, Hannah Benditt and Rebecca Surmont.

There will be pre-show workshops (20 minutes before curtain) teaching the audience dance moves to become part of the show and, new this year, a craft to help transform the kids into magicians.

The Keefe's are seasoned dance professionals with roots in the Twin Cities. Their collective work ranges from performing with numerous professional dance companies to teaching, choreography, stage management, administration and leadership roles. Complete bios can be found online at DanceCoMN.com.

"Which Witch is Which??" will premiere at the Avalon Theater, 1500 E. Lake St., Oct. 16-21, 2018.

Tickets \$10 for kids, \$12 for adults, with free lap passes for 2 years and under. You can purchase tickets online at [www.artful.ly/store/events/14530](http://www.artful.ly/store/events/14530), or at [DanceCoMN.com](http://DanceCoMN.com).

compete for a best-in-show "Lily Award." BARK!ART will round out its festival activities with booths featuring businesses and artisans specializing in goods and services for dogs, dog families, and dog-lovers. Community partner Canine Coach will be on site conducting interactive dog training and agility demonstrations.

BARK!ART Dog & Art Festival will take place indoors and outdoors at the Off-Leash Art Box, the Twin Cities newest alternative performing arts space. The Art Box is an intimate and fully equipped dance & theater space located in the Nokomis neighborhood, less than a mile from the Minnehaha Regional Dog Park.

### Pellinger to perform at Riverview Cafe

Minneapolis singer-songwriter Jim Pellinger plays a solo acoustic show at the Riverview Café, 3753 42nd Ave. S., on Fri., Sept. 14, 8-10:30pm. The concert is appropriate for all ages, with no cover.

Jim Pellinger has performed at colleges, clubs, coffeehouses, and festivals throughout the upper Midwest as well as Central America. He has released several albums and singles, on his own label, Door To Door Music, and has a song in the Baseball Hall of Fame. His latest release, "Procrastination," is available on Apple Music, Spotify, and many other fine digital music vendors. Learn more about Pellinger at [www.jimpellinger.com](http://www.jimpellinger.com).

### Redinger receives Cultivator Grant

Heather Redinger, from Friendship Academy of the Arts (2600 E 38th St.), has been awarded a \$1000 Cultivator Grant from the Affinity Plus Foundation.

Through unique programming at the Academy that incorporates projects, community art events, and local artists, Redinger will demonstrate the importance of being an impactful member of society. Students will have the opportunity to work with local artists to learn, share life experiences, explore art and become contributing members of society.

The foundation awarded ten \$1,000 grants to elementary, middle- and high-school teachers across Minnesota to support their unique educational opportunities focused on making positive impacts on Minnesota communities. Cultivator Grants support programming that emphasizes citizenship; community involvement; financial education; volunteerism; ethics; and respect.

### Submit your news

If you are an organization located in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger delivery area, you can submit your event, special program, or noteworthy news to us for consideration. Submit your item by email to [editorial@deruyternelson.com](mailto:editorial@deruyternelson.com). The deadline for the next issue is Mon., Sept. 17 for the Sept. 27 issue.

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# Local author earns national Pinckley Prize for debut novel

By JILL BOOGREN

Standish resident Marcie R. Rendon won the 2018 Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction for her debut novel "Murder on the Red River" (Cinco Puntos Press). Her book was also a finalist in the Western Writers of America 2018 Spur Awards in the Best Western Contemporary Novel category.

On being recognized in two distinct genres, Rendon said simply: "Wow. Wow! I'm happy, you know?" An enrolled member of the White Earth Nation who has lived in the Twin Cities for more than 30 years, Rendon also notes what the awards aren't: Native American.

"Often our work gets categorized into a Native American category, and neither of these awards is a Native American award." Not that she wouldn't also welcome that. But she's glad her novel "moves outside of a certain box."

The story follows Renee ("Cash") Blackbear, a Native American woman entering adulthood after a traumatic childhood, and her longtime friend Sheriff Wheaton, as they work together to solve a murder that takes place along the Red River. More a refined character portrait than a bracing whodunnit, the story moves quietly and deliberately across the Red River Valley—in Minnesota and North Dakota, on and off the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

Rendon paints a landscape both raw and familiar and sketches a protagonist to match. You can see the fields of wheat stubble and dirt caked on the soles of boots, smell the inside of the bar and hear the crack of pool balls on the break. Cash, in turn, is tough as nails, resourceful, edgy and funny.

She's also a different character altogether than the one Rendon started writing about.

Rendon has been writing her whole life, deciding in 1990-91 to make her living as a writer doing "anything that pays." This has included journalism, children's books (she wrote "Powwow Summer: A Family Celebrates the Circle of Life"), plays, and poetry.

A fan of Stephen King, Rendon enjoys reading crime fiction. She started writing a couple of crime novels herself but shelved them and instead set about writing the story of a woman who writes poetry, goes to Nashville and writes country music.

But instead, in came Cash, this no-nonsense character who demanded her story be told.

"Cash appeared, and it was like 'No, no no no, that's not the story we're doing,'" said Rendon. It was a struggle at first, but once she started writing it just flowed. "This was the story that was there to be told."

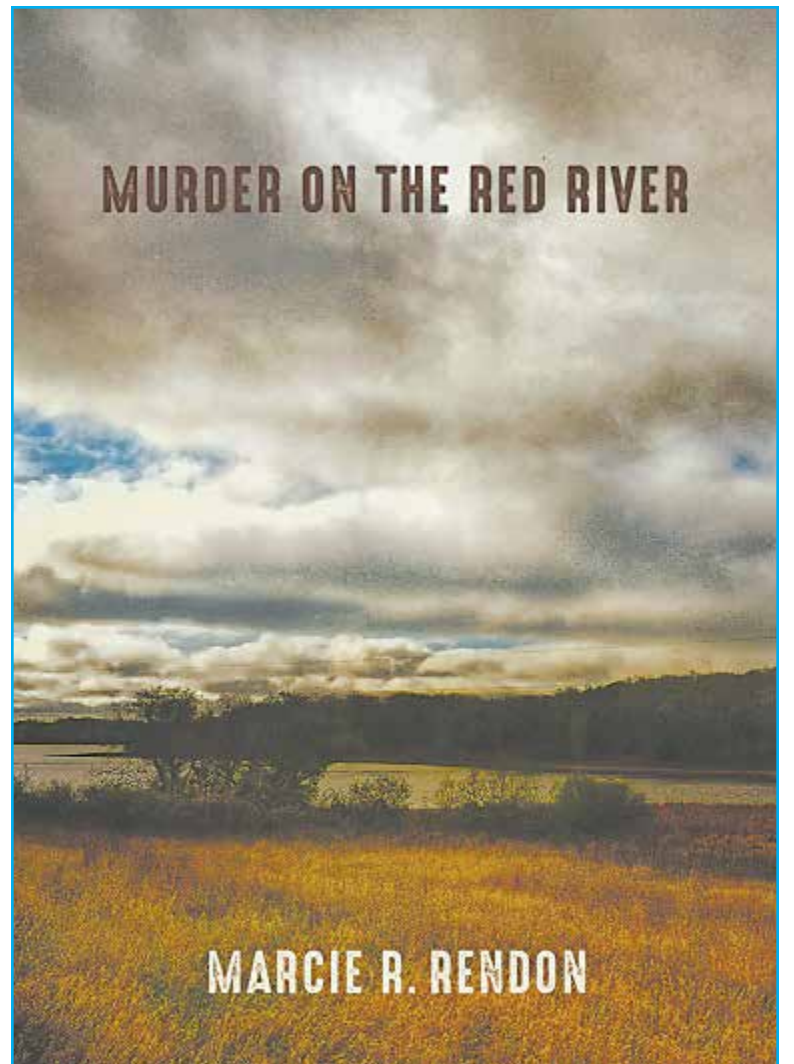
Cash is a product of the foster care system, a part of her life the author presents as not something extraordinary, just blunt fact. In writing her story, Rendon didn't set out to educate people ("I intended to write a murder mystery that anyone could enjoy"), but here it was: Cash's experience, so commonplace for Native Americans but foreign to most Minnesotans.

"So many people don't know this history of the taking of native children," she said, referring to the government practice early last century of sending Native children away to boarding schools and then during the 1950s and '60s of adopting kids out to white families.

As described in her Author's Note in the novel's end pages, one in four Native children were taken



Author Marcie R. Rendon. (Photo by Rebecca McDonald)



Murder on the Red River book cover. (Photo by Joseph J. Allen)

from their families and placed in non-Indian homes or institutions (the percentages were higher on the White Earth and Red Lake reservations) before the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act mandated that welfare agencies work to place Indian children with their biological family first, or an extended family of the tribe.

"When you meet native people, everybody has a story about social workers and foster care," said Rendon, who lived in the Red River Valley and White Earth area until she was 24 or 25 years old. "I was just writing a part of life... much in the same way that someone who grew up in the Bayou in Louisiana would write about it."

Representation is important to Rendon. An avid reader when she was growing up, she could never find any books about Native American people like her. It was all Plains Indians and Edward S. Curtis photographs and cowboys and Indians.

"I wanted pictures and stories about who we are now," said Rendon. "As an artist, writer, who does plays, poetry, now novels, I wanted other Native people to see themselves."

Her children's book "Powwow Summer" shows a contemporary family going to a contemporary powwow: people in cars, a mom in shorts putting her child in dance regalia, and going to the powwow.

"I want to be able to do that for us. I think it's important not just for Native people but for everybody in this diverse world," she said. "It's hard to know the value of your existence when you have no picture of yourself. I want to be able to give people that, [the sense that] they do matter, they do exist, that their pictures and lives are just as important and valuable as anyone else's."

Rendon also gives voice to others through the Women's Writing Project, a COMPAS program in which she and fellow writer/poet Diego Vázquez Jr. teach women in county jails to write.

Participants write poetry and read it aloud to each other. Their work is published in a book, and the writers do spoken word reading to other women in jail. It builds confidence and gives them an opportunity to get up and say, "What I have to say is important."

Rendon sees injustice within the criminal justice system, where for some of the women the only reason they're in jail is that they haven't been able to make bail. They're in for minor offenses, but

they don't have bail money, so their children are either with family or in foster care. The writing becomes a positive outlet.

"Diego and myself, we're using this writing so that women have some idea that there's some other thing that they do, that art as itself—whether as writing or visual art or dance or creating videos, hair styling, sewing—all those things are healing," said Rendon. "The more you can put your energy into creating, your

brain doesn't drift over into the noncreative things you can be doing with your time."

You can hear more from Rendon as she joins other panelists at PEN America's "BreakOut: Voices From the Inside" at the Weisman Art Museum on Sun., Sept. 9, 12-4pm. The program is free and open to the public.

Rendon is also bringing Cash and Wheaton back in a second crime book by the same publisher in April 2019.

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