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Nokomis

Messenger



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Affordable townhomes planned at Riverview and E. 54th St.

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Sixteen affordable-housing townhome units will be built next year at E. 54th St. and Riverview Rd. in the Morris Park neighborhood.

According to Dean Carlson of Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), the units will be offered to young families that have recently been homeless.

The average age of the adults are 18 to 24, and the children are typically under age 5.

There are over 6,200 families on the MPHA wait list, with wait times ranging from three to seven years. In 2015, nearly 1,300 families sought refuge in a shelter in Hennepin County.

The new townhomes will be built on land that is currently owned by the city of Minneapolis, land that was cleared of two-story single-family houses by the Minnesota Department of Transportation in preparation for widening Hiawatha Ave. years ago.

The development is adjacent to Riverview Senior Apartments.

Kat Vann served on the original task force that worked with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to construct the affordable senior housing building. At the time, the task force envisioned adding affordable housing for families next door, she recalled. Vann is delighted to see that happening now.

"It's so inspiring to me," Vann said.

Ward 12 Council member Andrew Johnson pointed out that a community garden is planned for the backyard of the townhome area. "I see it as a great way to bring the seniors together with the young families," he remarked.

Two-story buildings won't have basements

The plan for the townhome development was presented to neighborhood residents during a meeting at Morris Park Recreation Center on Tue., Mar. 22. The event was organized by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and Council Member Andrew Johnson.

The city received four proposals for the site, and a review committee evaluated them according to how well they met development objectives. Among those on the committee were NENA Executive Director Becky Timm and Johnson's Senior Policy Aide Suzanne Murphy.

Two of the proposals includ-



Four buildings, with four units each, are included in the preliminary site plan for E. 54th St. and Riverview Rd. The two-story townhomes will be owned by the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, and will help young families transitioning from homelessness.

ed large, multi-story buildings, something that neighborhood residents had said they didn't

want during a meeting held last September, pointed out Johnson.

The MPHA proposal also



About 30 residents gathered on Mar. 22, to learn about the affordable housing development the city is pursuing at E. 54th St. and Riverside. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

provides the green space and affordable housing residents said was important, he added.

The majority of units in the development will have two or three bedrooms, and one will

have four bedrooms, pointed out architect Paul Mellblom of MSR Design. One will be handicapped accessible.

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Look HOO's in the HOOD

By JILL BOOGREN

A great horned owls' nest, housing two chicks, has Nokomis area neighbors and bird lovers flocking this spring to its site near Lake Hiawatha. Onlookers watching and photographing the nest over several days were surprised to find it had fallen, only to see a human-made nest hung lower in the tree, owlets in full view. A couple of days later the replacement nest was re-attached at the original height.

It was just another day at the office for The Raptor Center staff and volunteers, who responded quickly to phone calls by passers-by alerting them to baby owls on the ground.

According to Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director of The Raptor Center, it's common for great horned owls to use old hawk or squirrel nests that may be well constructed initially but lack structural integrity by the time owls move in.

"They don't do any home improvements," said Ponder. "They may reinforce it, then lay their eggs." This makes the nests vulnerable to wear and tear from the weather, wind, weight and a host of other factors. In this case, the nest had come down, babies and all.

The owlets were fairly exposed for a couple of days when their new makeshift nest was situated on the trunk about a dozen feet up from the ground. While an adult was always in a high branch nearby, none was sitting with the owlets as before. Accord-

ing to Ponder, the adult owls may not come down while people are there, but they're very attentive.

"They've got a lot invested in these chicks," Ponder said. "They don't abandon them."

Still, it was a relief to see the adult sitting with the chicks again when the replacement nest was moved back higher. It's a sign that the chicks still needed to be with their adults and that we humans

were having an influence on their natural behavior, Ponder suggested. While these are urban owls, and likely accustomed to the sights and sounds of the city, they recognize people as predators.

"If we're sitting there staring at their chicks that's going to be threatening," said Ponder.

To lessen stress on both chicks and adults, people should keep a respectful distance. Ponder

recommends using scopes or binoculars to observe from afar and to keep human activity as close to normal as possible, sticking to roads and paths and keeping dogs on leash. If owlets are on the ground—which can happen when they begin "branching" (leaving their nest)—leave them alone. The adults will be watching and will come down to feed them, but they'll likely wait until dusk or when no one is around.

These chicks, which hatched at the end of February or first days of March, should begin "branching" at about a month old and flying at 9-10 weeks. Great horned owls stay as a family unit until late summer, gradually learning to hunt on their own before moving on.

Whatever it is that captivates us about owls and other raptors seems to be deeply personal.

"They're so majestic. People have been fascinated with raptors all along. There's cave art with raptors. They've coexisted with humans. They're large, they have the power of flight, a piercing gaze," said Ponder. "There's something charismatic about them. It's a fascination that is deep within our human fiber."

The Raptor Center, while part of the University of Minnesota, relies on community funding and volunteers to do their work. Learn more at www.raptor.umn.edu. To report an injured raptor call 612-624-4745 during business hours, or 612-702-9924 after hours and on weekends.



An adult great horned owl keeps her two chicks warm in the original nest before it collapsed, likely due to wear and tear. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



The owl is back in the nest with her babies after the replacement nest is raised higher with the aid of a professional arborist. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Curious neighbors and bird lovers check out the great horned owls' nest near Lake Hiawatha. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

Classic 1957 Hi-Lo Diner opens on E. Lake St.

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

East Lake Street has always had an eclectic mix of businesses—used car dealerships, tattoo parlors, and restaurants. But it's never seen the likes of the Hi-Lo Diner, 1957 Fedora Diner that opened its silvery doors on, Mar. 28. A vacant Taco Bell previously stood on this site at 4020 E. Lake St. for eight years.

Only about 4,000 factory-built diners were ever manufactured in America. This one operated as the Venus Diner in Gibsonia, PA from 1957-2007. After idling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike until 2014, it was spotted by James Brown and Mike Smith, co-owners of Brownsmith Restoration. The two also co-own Forage Modern Workshop, which is across the street from the Hi-Lo Diner.

Brown said, "We'd been in the Forage building for nearly five years, all the while looking out the window at the abandoned Taco Bell and wondering how we could make that site better. I read an article about diner cars, searched around on the internet and found the Venus Diner. It struck me as a real Cadillac of a diner, so we bought it."

Brown and Smith have years of experience in construction and design, but they knew they needed savvy skills to help



James Brown, one of four co-owners of the Hi-Lo Diner, in front of the iconic diner he had shipped to Minnesota last year. He explained, "Diner cars are always built modularly, so they can be taken apart and put back together again on site. This one traveled all the way from Pennsylvania on the back of two semi-trucks. It's been the most complicated, and the most satisfying project, I've ever worked on." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

run the restaurant. As Brown said, "The creative partnership is what makes it all so fun." Jeremy Woerner and Pat McDonough, co-owners of the Blue Door Restaurants, were brought in as equal partners with Brown and Smith. The Blue Door folks will be responsible for operations of the Hi-Lo Diner, with executive chef Heidi Marsh managing the kitchen.

"You can expect classic American diner cooking," Brown said,

"with the very best local ingredients." In addition to that, Dan Oskey of Tattersall Distillery in NE Minneapolis has created the cocktail menu, complete with ice cream drinks for all seasons.

Brown grew up in the small Montana town of Ennis, population 800. Central to his and Smith's vision for the Hi-Lo Diner is, "creating a sense of Main St. on E. Lake." They want everyone to feel welcome, from young kids to high school stu-

dents to senior citizens. Rebekah Cook, a colleague of Brown's, added, "We're not trying to create a vintage experience here. None of the 40+ staff people will be wearing poodle skirts or roller skates. We're about creating classic food in an iconic setting, not about trying to live in the past."

The diner will be open long hours: Sunday-Thursday, 6:30am until 12:30am; Fri.-Sat. 6:30am until 2:30am. The patio will close each night at 10pm seasonally.

The diner will seat 70 (with 12 swiveling stools at the bar), and the patio will seat 50. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis (no reservations). Both the diner and the patio are handicapped-accessible.

The co-owners have gone to great lengths to keep the interior and exterior of the diner as original as possible. According to Brown, "We tore through five layers of upholstery on the booths to get down to the bottom, then matched that fabric exactly for color and texture." Just about the only thing they brought in were ceiling fixtures from Architectural Antiques up in NE Minneapolis. They also were able to save two walls and the freezer unit from the old Taco Bell.

Brown said of creating the Hi-Lo Diner, "I've never been more proud of anything I've done for work. This will be the one and only authentic diner in Minneapolis; the only other in the whole state is Mickey's Diner in downtown St. Paul."

Named for the Hiawatha-Longfellow neighborhood which has become its second home, the Hi-Lo Diner promises to be an affordable, family-friendly, tasty and memorable destination for many years to come.

Messenger

125 First Ave. NW, PO Box 168
Minneapolis MN 55369
651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Calvin deRuyter, editorial@deruyternelson.com

Advertising:

Denis Wouffe (651-917-4183);
denis@deruyternelson.com

Production:

Tim Nelson

Contributing Writers:

Tesha M. Christensen, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren,
Matthew Davis, Margie O'Loughlin, Loren Green

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22nd Annual Housing Fair planned Apr. 16

The 22nd Annual South Minneapolis Housing Fair is planned for Sat., Apr. 16, 10am-3pm. The event will be held at the Minneapolis Sports Center at the Midtown YWCA, 2121 E. Lake St.

This free one-day event connects homeowners with over 75 reliable resources for maintaining, improving and remodeling their homes. Visitors will be able to explore services, get answers, and make connections.

The South Minneapolis Housing Fair features building, remodeling and landscape contractors, financial resources, information sessions, neighborhood organizations, door prizes and special attractions.

In addition, the 2016 fair will focus on Smart Homes in-

cluding tech options, efficiency, and eco-friendly/green living.

Nine short (20 minutes) presentations will be offered. Info sessions during the Housing Fair are:

- Air Conditioning for Homes with Radiators, 10:30-10:50am;
- Setting your Home and Contractor Up for Success, 11am;
- Organic Turf Management, 11:30am;
- Learn How to Grow a Garden for Butterflies and Other Pollinators, noon;
- Sustainability for Small Spaces, 12:30pm;
- Steel/Metal Roofing, 1pm;
- Learn about the Design Build Process, 1:30pm;
- Typical Remodeling Return on Investment, 2pm; and

• The Do's and Don'ts of Green Remodeling, 2:30pm;

Special attractions include a booth sponsored by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) for a hands-on activity, making free, non-toxic cleaners which may be taken home. MWMO staff will assist you and answer any questions you may have. Others include Tech Dump (see the website www.housingfair.org for the limitation of items being accepted), an interpretive exhibit/demonstration site by The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) Tiny Solar House, and Build a Bird Feeder by Elpis.

For a list of exhibitors and a lot more information go to www.housingfair.org.

Letters to the Editor

Ward 12 resident takes issue with *Messenger* article about Councilman Andrew Johnson

To the editor,

I strongly disagree with Melanie Majors (Community Council LCC Executive Director) on Andrew Johnson and his "putting constituents first." There are a group of residents that live across from Minnehaha Falls that have been trying to work with Councilman Johnson about the parking situation in the neighborhood. Emails dating back three years shows that Councilman Johnson does not want to work with us, and all his "ideas" have not been put into action. How

long do we have to wait? Councilman Johnson is only for his own ideas and has definitely shied away from this issue.

M. Nelson
Minneapolis Ward 12

Editor's note: More than any other recent article in the Messenger, we received numerous phone calls that took issue with the article in last month's Messenger about Councilmember Andrew Johnson. Although we encouraged all of them to send a letter to the editor, only M. Nelson actually sent us a letter.

Townhome development

Continued from page 1

There will be a total of four four-unit buildings. The two-story-tall buildings will not have basements.

Each unit will have a front and back porch. In the back of the buildings there will be a play area, small shed, and community garden.

The plan is to keep as many trees on the site as possible and to plant shrubs to screen the back of the development from the Riverview Apartments. Rain gardens will be disbursed around the site to manage stormwater, said Mellbloom.

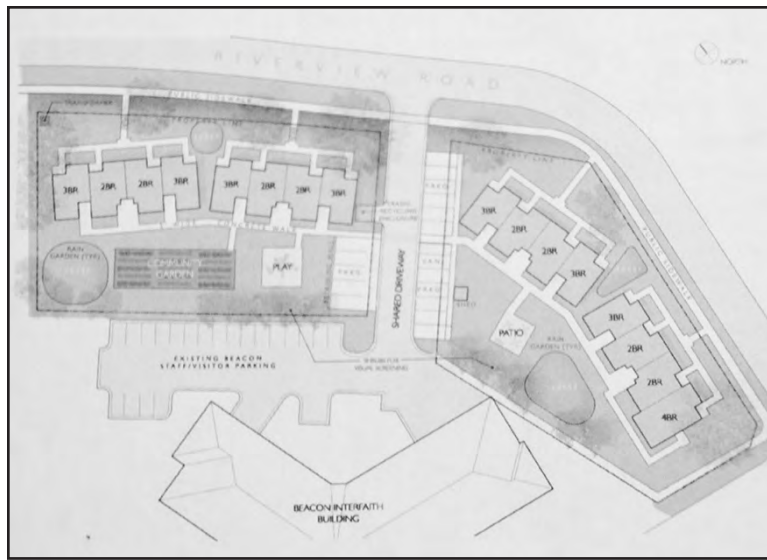
MPHA will handle outside maintenance and lawn care.

Small dogs will be allowed with a deposit.

Units will be inspected by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Residents will pay 30% of their income for rent, with a minimum of \$75 a month.

Through the Stable Families Initiative, job training and education will be provided to residents to raise income and increase self-sufficiency, pointed out Mikkel Beckman, who is a shared Minneapolis and Hennepin County employ-



The townhomes will range from two to four-bedroom units. Public benefits include a community garden and play structure. (Illustration provided)

ee. Residents will also receive training on basic home maintenance, such as how to change a light bulb and whether something is best suited for the sink garbage disposal or the trash can.

Carlson pointed out that MPHA operates 6,000 public housing units, and works with neighborhood organizations both during the development process and once a unit is occupied. A property manager will handle any complaints from residents or neighbors.

"If there's an issue, we'll be there," he said.

Too many cars on Riverside

There will not be any garages at the site. Instead, sixteen uncovered parking spots will be provided along the roadway that leads into the Riverview Apartment building, one for each unit.

Some attendees at the meeting expressed concern about the number of parking spots.

"I'm very concerned about the parking on Riverside," said local resident Greg Lemay. "We want our neighborhood to be as



According to Dean Carlson of Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), the units will be offered to young families that have recently been homeless. The average age of the adults are 18 to 24, and the children are typically under age 5. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

safe as it was before. I don't see that happening."

Carlson responded that MPHA manages 750-scattered-site housing units, and on average there is less than one car per unit.

Council member Andrew Johnson added that \$1,000 for a used car is a massive expense for a family that has recently been homeless. It's the site's proximity to the light rail station at the VA that makes it beneficial for an affordable housing project.

Hiawatha Lane resident Ileen Johnson pointed out that while the residents may not have more than one car, their visitors will all be parking on the street.

Riverview Apartment resident Jean Haworth appreciates the "no parking" signs that were put up following the Septem-

ber meeting, and said that the parking situation has been better when people obey the signs.

Parking in the area is complicated by its proximity to Minnehaha Park, which is located a few blocks to the west.

Apr. 22 deadline for comments

Neighborhood residents have until Apr. 22 to submit comments to the city's community planning and economic development (CPED) department. They can be funneled through NENA or council member Andrew Johnson's office.

The city council is expected to award exclusive development rights to MPHA in late May, and finalize construction drawings in February 2017. Construction will be complete by July 2018, and units are expected to be fully occupied by August 2018.



Eleanor Ostman Speaks at Healthy Seniors Dinner on April 28

Eleanor Ostman, long-time food writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, will present "Confessions of a World Traveling Professional Eater" at Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors 18th Annual Italian Dinner Fundraiser. Hear tales from her food column and 70+ world-wide trips. Her book will be for sale. (Gluten-free/vegetarian dinner options are available.)

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Reservations are \$35/person and must be made by April 22 by contacting Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors

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Local residents push Minneapolis Parks to ban use of pesticides

Russ Henry, Sean Connaughty, Ryan Seibold among those who support an organic park system in Minneapolis

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Local residents are pushing the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board to ban pesticide use on park land.

The group gained a small victory on Mar. 16 when the Park

Board Operations Committee agreed to discontinue the use of herbicide treatments in neighborhood parks where glyphosate (or Roundup) is the active ingredient.

The full park board is expected to vote on the issue during their Apr. 6 regular board meeting.

Over 1,500 people have signed a petition calling for a pesticide ban, 800 plus via a Move-On online petition, and 700 in person at last year's Monarch Festival.

More than 40 people attended the park board meeting in support of the ban, and 19 spoke for a transition to organic parks.

Park Board uses 150 chemicals

Leading the charge against pesticides is Longfellow resident and business owner Russ Henry.

Henry owns a full-service organic gardening company named Giving Tree Gardens and is the chair of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council.

"Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods are filled with parks where the Minneapolis Park Board currently allows and encourages pesticide use," said Henry. "Folks are often surprised to learn that the Park Board is using Roundup and a list of more than 150 dangerous chemical herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides."

Henry is pushing for a complete pesticide ban and believes it would go a long way to improving water quality in Minneapolis parks.

"Invertebrates like bees and butterflies, amphibians, fish, and small mammals all live at the water's edge in our parks. In bodies

of water near intense uses of pesticides, such as at Lake Hiawatha, no more frogs are singing in the spring, and the beach is closed much more than it's open due to water quality concerns.

"If we were to switch to organic management of spaces it would go a long way toward healing damaged bodies of water and encouraging wildlife to thrive."

Standish-Ericsson resident Sean Connaughty spoke for the lake during the Mar. 16 meeting. He talked about the struggles Lake Hiawatha is facing and symptoms of sickness he has observed, including the high phosphorous levels, toxic algae blooms, and disappearance of amphibians. Connaughty believes that one of the reasons driving this problem is that the land around the lake is occupied by a golf course that uses a whole array of chemicals, including Roundup, "to treat the turf surrounding this delicate and threatened ecosystem."

"Our children should be able to play and run in landscapes where there isn't a posted sign that says 'keep off' because it's too poisonous."

— Ryan Seibold

Connaughty added, "The parks can lead the way to more sustainable land use practices that can serve as a model for the community and help restore the balance to our natural systems which need our help, and which we need to survive as a species."

He is disappointed that this new ban is limited to neighborhood parks, and will not affect chemical use at golf courses, ball fields, or regional parks.

Friends of Lake Hiawatha founder Ryan Seibold also sup-



Standish-Ericsson resident Sean Connaughty speaks to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board on Mar. 16, in favor of banning Roundup. He was one of 40 people who attended the meeting in support of organic gardening. "I will maintain vigilance on behalf of Lake Hiawatha and continue to work to get an effective mitigation system for our storm sewers to stop the incredible trash problem," said Connaughty, "and will observe behaviors on the land that affect the water and wildlife. I am reaching out to the Governor to see if the lake can be helped in our states efforts to clean up our waters." (Photo submitted)

ports the switch to organic parks. "Parks should be safe and healthy for us all," said the father of two young children.

"The soils beneath our feet should be increasing in ecological services," Seibold said, "instead of degrading due to micro-organism die-off from broad spectrum pesticides. The frogs and ducks deserve cleaner water and land without chemicals. And, our children should be able to play and run in landscapes where there isn't a posted sign that says 'keep off' because it's too poisonous."

What's the harm in using Roundup?

Over the past seven years, there have been more than 2,400 uses of pesticides in the parks.

However, Henry pointed that the Park's Pesticide Fertilizer manager report does not include all of the chemicals applied to golf courses, as the tracking is still being done by paper there and is not digital.

Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the world today. The U.S. is the largest consumer, using approximately 20% of the world's Roundup, Mon-

santo's flagship product. The latest reliable figures from the U.S. Geological Survey record 280 million pounds of Roundup were used in 2012, nearly a pound for every American.

Henry referred to a Global Research article showing that over the years a large body of independent research provides a sound scientific rationale to confirm that glyphosate is toxic and poses more serious health risks to animals and humans. Among the many diseases and disorders, non-industry studies identified Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, infertility, miscarriages, and neural tube and birth defects. It is a causal agent for a variety of cancers: brain, breast, prostate, lung and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Other disorders include chronic kidney and liver diseases, diabetes, heart disease, hypothyroidism, chronic respiratory illness, and leaky gut syndrome.

Last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that Roundup is a probable human carcinogen. Increasingly, world-wide national health ministries are taking a hard second look at glyphosate's health and environmental dangers, and efforts are underway to ban the

herbicide. The Netherlands, Bermuda, and Sri Lanka have either banned or imposed strict limits on Roundup. France has banned its use in gardens. Brazil, Germany, and Argentina are considering legislative bans.

A review of existing data sponsored by Moms Across America found that out of 21 drinking water samples analyzed, 13 had glyphosate levels between 0.08 and 0.3 ug/L, well below the EPA's limit, but significantly above the European Union's limit of 0.1 ug/L.

"A few extremely powerful agricultural chemical companies have poured millions of dollars into research at major universities to convince policy makers that their products should be pronounced mostly safe, should be left relatively unregulated, and should be adopted as standard practice," observed Henry. "This has led to people adopting ecologically damaging aesthetic preferences at home such as the use of pesticides to enforce a mono-cropped grass lawn."

"This poisons the homeowner, kills the forage for bees and butterflies, and damages the

Continued on page 5

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

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Pastor Jo Bauman

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Pastors Derek Johnson & Matt Oxendale
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Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:

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Transition Longfellow provides sustainability activities and education for people in greater Longfellow and throughout the Twin Cities. Anyone can participate; everyone is welcome. For more information about the group and its activities, visit www.transition-longfellow.org.

Transition Longfellow helps neighbors get started growing food with its **Chard Your Yard** program. Using a "garden mob" of neighborhood volunteers, the group installs 3'x5' raised bed gardens in people's yards, with lumber from local lumberyard Hiawatha Lumber, and a rich soil/compost mix from The Mulch Store or Kerns. They install one bed per yard, at cost, and build community along the way as people work together and grow food together.

With support from the Longfellow Community Council's Environment Committee, four raised beds are available at half price for low-income persons, senior citizens, and four double-height raised beds for persons with disabilities. These are only available for residents of

Transition Longfellow

By LESLIE MACKENZIE

Transition Longfellow schedules April activities

Longfellow, Cooper, Howe and Hiawatha.

Register to receive a raised garden bed (must live in zip code 55406) or to volunteer on garden installation day. Sign-up begins Apr. 1 at <http://www.transition-longfellow.org/#!chard-your-yard/cx92>. (Sign up ends May 1 or when all 24 beds have been assigned.)

Using Permaculture Principles in Garden Planning is planned for Apr. 2, 10:30 to noon at the Riverview Wine Bar, 3747 42nd Ave. S. (enter through the coffee shop). Guest speaker Tom Jablonski, an environmental engineer from Transition North Twin Cities, will share the information he learned in a

permaculture design training and talk about how he has been applying permaculture principles to his suburban yard in Blaine. There will be time for Q&A about how to apply permaculture to your yard and life. Tom has worked for over 30 years as an environmental engineer. The event is free.

Learn to Knit is planned for Apr. 5, 6:30pm at Lake Coffee House (33rd and Lake St.) and every first Tuesday. New and experienced knitters gather to learn and practice knitting. Led by experienced knitter Susan Aguirre. Bring needles and yarn. Free.

The Inner Transition Discussion Group is scheduled the second Monday of the month

(Apr. 11), 7pm, at 2852 35th Ave. S. Group discussion and exploration of Carolyn Baker's book "Navigating the Coming Chaos: A Handbook for Inner Transition," exploring the emotional journey that will accompany a changing climate and a changing society. Facilitated by Deb Schanilec. Free.

Transition Movie Night and Potluck is scheduled for Apr. 15 at Bethany Lutheran, 3901 36th Ave. S. This month, Transition hosts guest speakers from the Citizens Climate Lobby. Paul Thompson will bring people up to speed on the latest climate science and explain the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal (originally developed by Republicans in

the 1980s) for legislative action to limit greenhouse gasses. Come for the potluck at 6:30pm (vegetarian options always available) or for the presentation and Q&A at 7:15pm. Free will donation will be taken.

Family Game Night Sunday is planned for Apr. 24, 6:30pm, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3901 36th Ave. S. Every month Transition gives the community a chance to gather for a fun, social activity. Game night features games for kids and adults of all ages. Everyone welcome; feel free to bring snacks to share. Free.

Watch our website for details on **bike-related activities**. The group is planning to offer a series of three bike-related classes in April and May, but the exact dates and location have not yet been announced. Check the website for details as they are announced about these workshops: "Biking in all Weather"; "Make Your Own Bike Pannier"; and "Planning Your Bike Trip (including how to include buses and light rail in your trip)."

Residents push for Roundup ban

Continued from page 4

soil making it easier for weeds to grow back."

The Park Board is not convinced

Henry is proposing that the Park Board do its landscaping the old-fashioned way, by hand. "We're already paying staff to be out there spraying; we might as well just have them mechanically removing the weeds with tools or by hand," he said.

"To transition to organic," Henry said, "we need to replace chemical fertilizers that encourage weeds with liquid compost extract that can be sprayed on to help encourage microbes in the soil which feed plants naturally. A transition to organic through-

"Many residents feel that it's time to move away from pesticides in our entire park system and I will work to lift up their voices till they ring in the commissioners ears."

— Russ Henry

out the parks system shouldn't happen overnight, but it should begin immediately."

District 5 Commissioner Steffanie Musich expects the board to discuss other aspects of the Minneapolis Parks Herbicide Use Report 2016 as part of

its budget planning process this year. She is concerned about the "significant costs associated with the recommended changes to staffing levels to further reduce our use of pesticides that cannot be accommodated in this year's budget."

The board will also be exploring the use of goats to control invasive species at two sites within the regional park system.

"Along with my colleagues, I support the MPRB's work to continue reducing the amount of pesticide used within the system by directing staff to follow our Integrated Pest Management Policy," said Musich. "I am also happy to support our naturalists and friends groups working throughout the city in educating park visitors about ways they can reduce the use of chemicals on their properties, too."

However, Henry is concerned that the current park board commissioners do not support organic parks, with the exception of Commissioners John Erwin and Brad Bourn, and points to the comments made at the March meeting.

"The more commissioners spoke, the more it was apparent that a transition to organic parks won't happen unless we elect



Longfellow resident Russ Henry of Giving Tree Gardens spoke in favor of a ban on pesticides during the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Mar. 16. After the meeting, he stated, "I feel encouraged and inspired by the more than 40 neighbors who turned out to ask the Minneapolis Park Board Commissioners to transition to organic parks. Folks spoke from their hearts and made thoughtful, well reasoned, science based arguments for why it's time to transition away from pesticides." (Photo submitted)

new commissioners," said Henry. "Commissioners Annie Young, Steffanie Musich, Anita Tabb, and Jon Olson all stated that they believe pesticides will always need to be used in Minneapolis Parks. Vice president of the park board Scott Vreeland went a step further

to let folks know that he thinks the Minneapolis Park Board should never transition to organic management."

Henry encourages people to contact commissioners to share their opinions.

"I will continue to engage with neighbors to bring the message of transition to the Minneapolis Park Board," said Henry. "Many residents feel that it's time to move away from pesticides in our entire park system, and I will work to lift up their voices till they ring in the commissioners ears."

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Seward Co-op Friendship Store finds its place in the neighborhood

Article and photos
by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Seward Co-op opened its second location in the Bryant/Central neighborhood last October. Located at 317 E. 38th St., two miles west of the Franklin Store, the Friendship Store signed up 1,000 new members in its first four weeks of operation.

According to Tom Vogel, marketing manager for Seward Co-op, the second store was needed for two reasons. "Most importantly," he said, "it was clear that the neighborhood needed a real grocery store, and we believed the Seward Co-op could fill that need. Secondly, our original store was maximized within months of being built. We determined that 15-20% of our members lived closer to the Bryant/Central neighborhood and would be likely to shop there."

The process of getting the store up and running was challenging. The Bryant/Central neighborhood is historically African American and has suffered from Minneapolis' now well-recognized pattern of economic disparities along racial lines. The Central Area Neighborhood Development Association (CANDO) and other community organizers pushed hard for agreements from the co-op that would guarantee an overall benefit to the neighborhood—not just to people coming in from outside. After months of negotiating, the Friendship Store is fully staffed and operational. And, it appears to be living up to its name.

"What we tried to create here," Vogel explained, "was a welcoming space where people could bump into friends and neighbors, shop or grab a quick



A view of the new Seward Co-op Friendship Store from the parking lot. The name was chosen to honor the Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church which stood on the site for decades.

bite to eat. The 10,000 square foot building is LEED certified (the most widely used green rating system for new construction), uses non-off-gassing paints and draws in natural light from large windows on the north side."

In addition to being a pleasant place to shop, it's also a pleasant place to work.

Hiring from within the neighborhood was one of the key points CANDO insisted on, and the Friendship Store has exceeded their own projections for neighborhood hires. "Before we had our Job Fair last fall," Vogel said, "we put the word out at Sabathani Community Center, Waite House and other gathering places in the neighborhood that we were going to be hiring. We worked closely with HIRED (work-force employment counseling) and as it turned out, 50% of our new hires live within a mile

of the store. At this point, 63% of our staff at the Friendship Store identify themselves as persons of color."

This is a huge change in employee demographics for the Seward Co-op; one that is important to the success of both the store and the neighborhood.

There are other ways the co-op is working hard toward being an authentic presence in the neighborhood. Both Seward Co-ops have 80% of their inventory in common, but the remaining 20% reflects the different neighborhood demographics. The Franklin store is in an area with a high population of East Africans, so they offer more food and deli items for the East African palette. The Friendship Store is in a neighborhood with more African-American and Latino residents, so their food and deli items reflect that.

At either store, if there's a food product or deli item that you'd like to see—put a comment in the comment box at the front of the store. Vogel said, "We're still developing Hot Bar selections for the Friendship Store, and we welcome new suggestions."

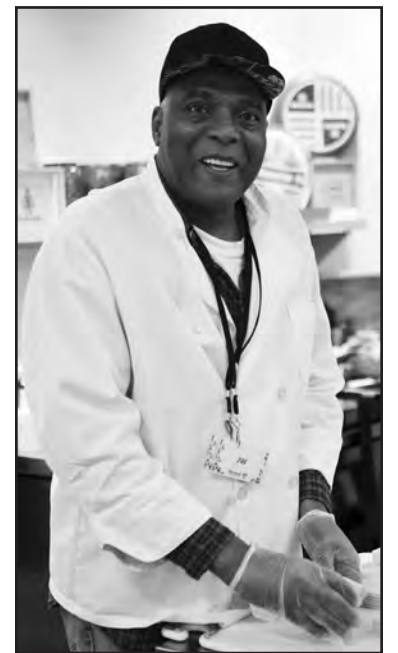
The Friendship Store has a plaque on the parking lot side that acknowledges the lineage of pastors of the Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, which stood on the site for decades. The church relocated further east on 38th St. some years ago and was happy to have a buyer for the site where the co-op is now. Senior Pastor Billy Russell was especially pleased that the new owner was a grocery store, agreeing that the neighborhood needed that.

Co-ops are membership based though anyone can shop there. "Between the two stores," Vogel said, "there are about 15,000 members." If you're a member at the Franklin store, you're a member at the Friendship Store, and vice-versa.

Membership costs \$75, and is refundable should you move. Payment can be made in full or on a payment plan. A member who receives any government assistance (SNAP, WIC, EBT or Social Security) is eligible for a program called NOURISH, which qualifies them for a 10% discount on everyday shopping.

Additional benefits of membership include a 10% quarterly discount and an annual patronage discount in years when the store is profitable. Members can vote for and run for the Board of Directors.

Members receive a monthly newsletter and, most importantly, the chance to shop according to



John Welton is a new hire in the deli section. He grew up in the neighborhood, and graduated from Minneapolis Central High School. Co-op staff start out at a livable wage of \$12.82/hour. Part of the reason prices are higher in co-ops is that 20-24% of the gross margin goes to support fair wages.

their values. Some of those values may include supporting local farmers in the production of real, healthy food, contributing to fair wages for co-op workers and investing in the neighborhood.

Also, the co-op offers classes for members and non-members to learn about shopping in a co-op, buying bulk, healthy cooking and more.

Vogel concluded, "We realize that our Friendship Store is a work in progress. We're new in the neighborhood, and we very much want to be a good neighbor."

This is your neighborhood.
This is your opportunity.
This is your time to get involved.

Nokomis East's 2016 Annual Meeting will provide updates on what the organization has been working on and the plans for the future. It's also an opportunity for members of our community to get involved. Each year neighbors from all over East Nokomis gather at this annual event, coming together to make their neighborhoods a better, stronger, and healthier place to live.

The 2016 Annual NENA Meeting will be held Thur., Apr. 28 from 5:30-8pm at the Cross-town Covenant Church, 5540 30th Ave. S.

At the meeting, residents can learn about many prospects for involvement in the neighborhood, from joining the Board of Directors, to serving on a committee, volunteering at events, and other ongoing NENA activities.

- The meeting will include:
- Food from Carbone's Pizza and Berry Sweet Kitchen
 - Opportunity to visit and see your neighbors
 - The NENA neighborhood report
 - Presentation of the NENA strategic plan
 - Election of board members
 - NENA volunteer awards

This year eight Board seats will be up for election—two seats from each of the neighborhoods of Keewaydin, Morris Park, Minnehaha, and Wenonah. Residents of these neighborhoods are encouraged to run. Board members serve a vital role by steering

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

3000 E. 50th St.

NENA Annual Meeting scheduled Apr. 28

the direction of NENA and help the association carry out its mission.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the info session on Apr. 2 and schedule a time to meet with Becky Timm, NENA's Executive Director, to learn more about serving on the Board.

To learn more about getting involved visit www.nokomiseast.org for more information and the Board Nomination Form.

Childcare and Spanish interpreters will be provided.

Volunteers needed for the Annual Meeting

We need volunteers for the 2016 Annual NENA Meeting on Apr. 28. Help with set-up, registration, and clean up, among other things. We will begin set up in the afternoon, and we will need help during the meeting as well. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. Please email Dave Colling at dave.colling@nokomiseast.org or call 612-724-5652.

Bike racks

To create more bicycle parking for local businesses throughout

Nokomis East, NENA and the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) are offering an opportunity for businesses and organizations to acquire a bike rack, or multiple bike racks, at no cost.

Using the City cost-share program, NENA will pay 50% of the total expenses and the City will pay 50%, leaving no cost to the business.

While final designs have not yet been completed, they are an inverted U-type rack that will say "Nokomis East." These racks will be installed on the right-of-way, near the street.

Go to www.nokomiseast.org for the sign-up form.

Monarch Workshop registration is open

NENA is offering its annual "Grow Monarch Habitat" workshop on Sat., May 14, 10am-12pm at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. This kid-friendly session offers a wealth of information for both beginning and advanced gardeners.

As the number of monarch butterflies has plummeted in the last few years, researchers and naturalists are urging people to

create monarch habitat in urban and suburban areas throughout the Midwest Corn Belt, to replace lost agricultural habitat, especially milkweed. This how-to workshop will provide the information and essential plants to get started.

The presentation covers the monarch life cycle, habitat needs, the role of milkweed, the annual migration and an introduction to the plants in the "Monarch Garden-to-Go." The kit is available in two choices and contains 12 local native host, nectar and shelter plants to get you started. There is a registration fee of \$30 for the kits, with a May 8 deadline. Attendance is free for participants who do not want the kit.

For information on the Grow Monarch Habitat workshop, the Minneapolis Monarch Festival or the Nokomis Naturescape, please call 612-724-5652 or email monarch@nokomiseast.org

NENA Home Improvement Loan Program

Whether by choice or necessity, start planning your next home project now with the help of a home improvement loan from NENA. Owners of one to four unit residences can apply for

up to \$15,000 to make improvements to their properties. Owner-occupants and investors may apply. Interest rates are either 2% or 3%, depend on income, and there are no income restrictions.

NENA also has available a limited amount of funds for our emergency repair loan program. Only owner-occupied households are eligible, and income restrictions do apply. There is a maximum loan amount of \$7,500 at 0% interest. The loan is due in full upon sale of the property or title transfer.

For more information or to request an application for the NENA loan program, call our partner, the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation's Housing Resource Center at 612-722-7141, or visit www.gmhchousing.org. Loan applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sign up for NENA News

NENA News is your guide to news, events and resources! Get your neighborhood news delivered to your inbox every other Wednesday. Sign up today at www.nokomiseast.org. Once you sign up, you'll receive updates on news and happenings for your neighborhood. You'll also be the first to see NENA's results of the strategic planning process we've done over the last year.

Three Longfellow-Nokomis residents have filmmaking role in 35th Annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival

By JAN WILLMS

As the 35th annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) approaches, cinephiles throughout the area are preparing for over two weeks of intense film-watching. The festival runs Apr. 7-23 at St. Anthony Main Theater, 115 SE Main, with over 200 films from more than 60 countries scheduled. This year, films will also be shown at Metro State, McNally Smith, Rochester Gallery 14, the Cathedral of St. Paul, the Basilica of St. Mary, and the Uptown Theater, offering a variety of venues for movie-goers. A part of the festival includes the Minnesota Made competition, feature-length and short films from Minnesota-based and Minnesota-native filmmakers. Here are the stories of three of them.

Paul Irmiter

Longfellow resident Paul Irmiter spends his days working in advertising. A professional photographer, he also makes TV commercials, but mostly creates Internet ads. Now he can add documentary filmmaker to his resume.

His film "Closer Than You Think: The Cuban Artist Project" began as an idea two years ago.

"It was a very quick thing," Irmiter recalled. "It started with someone I worked with in the advertising world. We had done a bunch of projects together, and she had founded the US Cuba Artist Exchange Program. She worked with all these artists and was going down to Cuba and wondered if I wanted to make a video."

After talking about the project, they decided to expand the video into a documentary. Irmiter interviewed a young traditional guitar



Paul Irmiter (above) came up with the idea for his film, "Closer Than You Think: The Cuban Artist Project," two years ago. He has a studio on 36th Ave. S. in the Longfellow neighborhood. (Photo by Jan Willms)

musician, a photographer, a painter and sculptor, another painter and a rapper.

"I was in Cuba two times for ten days," Irmiter said. "Some of the artists were also able to travel up to the US. We painted a mural on the side of my building." Irmiter has a studio on 36th Ave. S. in the Longfellow neighborhood.

Irmiter was able to get into Cuba on an artistic visa through the US Cuba Artists Exchange. He worked with an interpreter for the interviews. "I don't speak the language, but it's amazing what you can understand through body language and gestures," he noted. He said the translator was a wonderful tour guide as well as an interpreter. "I think it helped that I had a native Cuban along with me. I felt I got very good realism," he added.

Irmiter said that this project fell from the sky for him, but if it had involved Cuban baseball players or how to make cigars, he would probably have passed on it.

"That might be interesting, but I'm not passionate about it," he said. "But talking with artists who are figuring out how to be an artist and do that for a living and fit it in with family and life, that's really interesting."

Irmiter reflected that his conversations with the Cuban artists resembled conversations he has had all his life with American artists. "It's like this weird language that crosses borders," he said. "It doesn't matter what sex or color you are, it's amazing because their ambitions are the same as the friends I grew up with here. People are so much more similar than not."

Irmiter said he felt very much at home in Cuba, even when out in the middle of nowhere, in places he was sure no tourist ever frequented. He said the respect for artists in Cuba is high. "Being an artist is like being a doctor," he noted.

Thinking back on his experience, Irmiter said he tells people.

"One thing you don't want to do is direct your first film in a language you don't understand in a country that is very, very difficult to get into, with almost no resources. It's nothing short of a minor miracle that we pulled it off."

He said the extreme kindness of the Cubans greatly helped, however. As did his working in the advertising field. "Working in advertising is basically constant rejection. People are criticizing you and rejecting you and saying an idea is terrible. You have to have a thick skin and backbone to handle it."

That has helped prepare him for the rigors of filmmaking. It has also helped that he has spent a lot of time interviewing people for commercials, getting them to relax and laugh.

Irmiter said the learning curve in making his first film has been incredible, and it has been massive. "We documented a bunch of things not knowing exactly what we were getting, and a lot of footage was left out because it just didn't fit," he said. "It was like stitching their stories together in an interesting way and getting to know these guys."

Although Irmiter has not been that active in the Twin Cities film community, he said he has gotten lots of support from his Documentary Club. And he sees his career going in a new direction.

"I've always been very fearful of being an artist," Irmiter admitted. "But after watching these friends who say they have to paint, and if their paints are taken away, they would find a way, even paint with dirt if needed, I feel like I am inching a little bit closer to that. It is certainly scary, but for the first time in my life, I feel I could spend the majority of my time in artistic pursuit."



Nokomis resident Brandon Crowson will screen his first film, "The World has no Eyedea." (Photo by Jan Willms)

currently resides in the Nokomis neighborhood. He attended Minneapolis Community Technical College and earned a degree in screenwriting. Then he decided to make movies.

"I just took it upon myself to learn a lot about editing, visual effects, and that kind of stuff, and just ran with it, instead of racking up a lot of student loan debt with a bachelor's degree," he said. "We're living in an information age and a lot of that you can find on tutorials."

Crowson said his bread and butter for the past five years has mostly come from doing web ads for places like the Bed Bug Guys and Rivers and Trade Co. He shot an award-winning short comedy called "April 13" and did a couple

Brandon Crowson

Brandon Crowson was born and raised in south Minneapolis and

Continued on page 15

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Discover your creative side at local youth summer camps

Local options include Articulture, Ballare Teatro, Circus Juventas, Fort Snelling and Minnehaha Academy

By TESH M. CHRISTENSEN

Imagine you are a zookeeper, junior sleuth or engineer. Get lost in a colossal cardboard maze. Learn how to make a Rube Goldberg machine, ice cream, fused glass, and Lego movie. Hone your soccer and German skills. Rollerski, canoe, and dance.

That's just the start of the youth camp options available in the Twin Cities area. Browse below for more information on some of the camps offered locally.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

ARTICULTURE

A variety of art disciplines and mediums with themes like Claymation, theater, art car, or food as art offered for ages 4-18. Five-day, half- and full-day sessions available.

Cost: \$117-270

612-729-5151

<http://www.articulture.org>

BALLARE TEATRO

Calling all lost boys (and girls!), it's time to crow during the Neverland camp. Or, join characters from Eric Carle books, Disney Dance, Neverland, Monsters, Where the Wild Things Are, Dr. Suess, Superheros, and Star Wars, during these four-day camps for ages 3 to grade 1.

Cost: \$120-130

<http://www.ballareteatro.com/>

FORT SNELLING

Be an adventurer like Davy Crockett. Explore like Huck Finn. Experience the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Be a soldier for a day. Or, try out what life as an archeologist is like. Camps range from one day to one week.

\$60-\$250

612-341-7555

<http://www.mnhs.org/summer-camps>

LEONARDO'S BASEMENT

Girls and boys ages 6 to 17 can design and build their creative ideas, mixing art, science and technology during partial-day, weekday camps. There are more than 88 classes available over ten weeks. New this summer: Star Wars week.

Cost: \$185-370, scholarships available

612-824-4394

<http://www.leonardosbasement.org>

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

A variety of athletic, academic and enrichment programs are offered, including woodworking, Lego robotics, puddlestompers, geocaching, movie making, sailing, painting, rocket science, guitar, and more. Half- and full-day, one- to three-week weekday sessions. Camp Minnehaha, a full day camp for pre-k to grade 8, includes daily devotions, games, indoor and outdoor activities, daily swimming lessons and a weekly off-campus activity.

Cost: \$36-500

612-728-7745, ext. 1

<http://www.minnehahaacademy.net>

YMCA

Explore the variety of Y Summer Programs at over 60 metro-area locations. Programs include flexi-

ble three-, four-, and five-day options. There's something fun for everyone from preschool through grade nine.

Cost: \$80-350

http://www.ymcatwincities.org/child_care_preschool/summer_programs/

IN THE TWIN CITIES

ADVENTURES IN CARDBOARD

Construct giant castles, get lost in colossal mazes, build suits of armor and more during these five-day, full-day sessions for ages 8-17. Eight weeks offered at five different parks.

Cost: \$320

<http://julianmcfaul.com/612-532-6764>

ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY

Unleashed summer campers entering grades 3-10 spend a full week immersed in animal learning and fun. Camp sessions are held in St. Paul and Golden Valley (as well as three other locations).

Cost: \$300

<http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/camps>
763-489-2220

ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE

Solve mysteries of the past in this three-day History Detective Camp for ages 11-13. Or, young ladies ages 9-12 can step back in time in a unique Finishing School for Young Ladies day camp.

Cost: \$200-\$220

612-341-7555

<http://www.mnhs.org/summer-camps>

ART START

Got pre-school children ages 4-5 years? Register for "A Start with the Arts". "Camp CREATE" is offered for youth ages 13 years and older. Select classes are taught by professional artists from multiple arts disciplines— music, creative movement/dance, and visual arts. As a result of participating in this 5-day immersion experience, youth gain artistic knowledge and skills, learn about the people, geography, and environment of a place and create art works and performances inspired by the culture. Week 1, Galapagos; Week 2, Cuba. Includes options in drawing/painting, mosaics, puppetry, construction arts, movement/dance, weaving, clay jewelry, music and mixed media.

Cost: \$140-\$270.

651-698-2787.

<http://www.artstart.org/summer-immersion>

BLACKHAWKS OF ST. PAUL

Blackhawks offer several exciting half- and full-day soccer camps for players ages 5-18 that encompass a wide variety of activities and skills. Specialty camps focus on specific skills such as ball control, shooting, and goalkeeping.

Cost: \$75-175

651-894-3527

<http://blackhawkssoccer.org/>

CAMP COMO

Spend some time Monkeying Around with your primate pals; discover your creative side with Adventures in Art; take an African Adventure right at Como; or, try on the hat of a zookeeper or



At Friends School, there are seven weeks of adventures and fun planned for ages 4-14. (Photos submitted)

gardener in Behind-the-Scenes! Como's camps include "behind-the-scenes" experiences and meeting Como's plant and animal ambassadors up-close! Five-day, half-day sessions. Extended care available. In partnership with the Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM), Como also offers summer camp opportunities for youth, ages 8-18, with autism.

Cost: \$117-150

651-487-8272

<http://www.tinyurl.com/p3u4lqv>

CAMP SUNRISE

Camp and canoe while learning leadership and teamwork skills in a seven-day resident camp for youths age 13-18 who live within the city limits of Minneapolis or St. Paul. Held on the St. Croix River in Rush City and organized by YouthCARE.

Cost: free

612-338-1233

<http://www.youthcaremn.org>

CIRCUS JUVENTAS

Explore international circus arts at Circus Juventas. Five-day, full-day sessions offered for ages 6-18. Or make your own camp with Circus Sampler Days.

Cost: \$395

651-699-8229

<http://www.circusjuventas.org>

CONCORDIA

LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Experience cultural and language immersion; 15 languages to choose from. Resident camp for ages 6-18 and half-day programs offered.

Cost: \$240-\$4,400

1-800-222-4750

<http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org>

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT AT FRIENDS SCHOOL

From junior sleuths to budding lawyers to young artists, there are seven weeks of adventures and summer fun planned for ages 4-14 at the Friends School of Minnesota. Weekdays, half- and full-day.

Cost: \$100 to \$440

651-621-8941

<http://www.fsmn.org>

DODGE NATURE CENTER

Explore prairies, wetlands and woodland trails during full- and half-day, four-day camps offered for students entering 1-8 grades. Shorter sessions available for ages 3-6.

Cost: \$42-255

651-455-4531

<http://www.dodgenaturecenter.org/>

FARM TO TABLE

Make butter, ice cream and bread while learning about science, agriculture, and history at the Bruentrup Heritage Farm in Maplewood. Plus, students will play old-time games like townball and do arts and crafts. Three four-day sessions offered in July and August.

Cost: \$150

651-748-8645

<http://tinyurl.com/bhf2016>

FOCCI MN CENTER FOR GLASS

From fusing to casting to glass blowing, ages 9-18 are introduced to the mesmerizing medium of glass through immersive half-day, five-day experiences.

Cost: \$375-420

612-623-3624

<http://tinyurl.com/foci2016>

GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CAMPS

Speak, hear, sing, and create in German while exploring subjects ranging from history and art to science and music during five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for grades K-2 at the Germanic-American Institute.

Cost: \$130-270

651-222-2979

<http://gai-mn.org>

GIBBS MUSEUM OF PIONEER AND DAKOTA LIFE CAMPS

Travel back in time and learn about life in the 1800s. Explore seasonal Dakota activities including the maple sugar camp, wild rice village, life in the tipi, hunting games, methods of travel, language and song during the Say It In Dakota Camp. Three-day, half-day camps. Two-hour day sessions for ages 6-13 only \$19.

Cost: \$99

651-646-8629

<http://www.rchs.com>

HAMLIN YOUNG WRITERS

High school students ages 15-18 can explore the craft, prepare for college, and connect with other young writers in the Twin Cities while working closely with Hamline Creative Writing faculty and published authors.

Cost: \$400

651-523-2476

<http://www.hamline.edu/gls/youngwriters/>

JUGHEADS JUGGLING CAMP

Half-day, five-day sessions for beginners through experts ages 8-18 enhance hand-eye coordination, boost concentration, and build self-confidence.

Cost: \$110

612-229-3348

<http://jugheads.com>

LOPET ADVENTURE CAMPS

Roller ski, mountain bike, canoe and more during adventure camps for ages 9-13 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. Equipment provided during the full-day, five-day sessions.

Cost: \$200

612-604-5330

<http://loppet.org>

MILL CITY MUSEUM

Play music, get creative, bake bread and construct books while exploring the rich culture of the Minneapolis riverfront district. Campers aged 9-11 will explore a new experience each day at four arts centers, including Mill City

Continued on page 9

Build your summer!

Leonardo's BASEMENT



Project building classes for girls, boys and teens at a bigger and better workshop in south Minneapolis. Scholarships available. Class schedule and registration at leonardosbasement.org

Join Star Wars Celebration on Saturday, July 30!

Youth summer camps

Continued from page 8

Museum, the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Center for Book Arts and MacPhail Center for Music. Cost: \$225-\$250
612-341-7555
<http://www.mnhs.org/summer-camps>

MINNESOTA WALDORF SCHOOL

Experience good, old-fashioned summer fun at Minnesota Waldorf School summer camp. Outdoor games, natural crafts, water play, gardening, caring for the school's chickens, and much more are offered on a beautiful 8-acre campus. For children ages 3.5 to 5th grade. Cost: \$150/wk (half day); \$270/wk (full day).
651-487-6700 x202.
<http://mnwaldorf.org/summer-camp>

SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

Summer programs for youth ages 3 to 16 combine science, art, drama, and literature in ways that encourage kids to actively discover and examine concepts for themselves. Programs also offered at the Lee & Rose Warner Nature Center, the state's oldest outdoor environmental education facility. Cost: \$60-345
651-221-4511, 651-433-2427
<http://www.smm.org/classes>

SPIRIT TAE KWON DO

Fun, exciting camps that combine physical fitness and education are offered throughout the summer for school-age kids. Register early for discounts.
651-428-6170, 651-428-6172
www.istkd.com

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

Make Rube Goldberg machines. Take a writing workshop entitled: "A Week at Hogwarts." Learn about 3D printing and movie-making. Debate, play chess, take competitive math, debate, or learn how to be a better leader. Twelve options at SPA cover a broad range of academic, arts, and enrichment activities for grades 2-12. The Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth offers the Explorer-School for students in grades 4-6. Cost: \$169-425

651-698-2451

http://www.spa.edu/about_spa/summer_programs_2015/

STEM CAMPS

Use LEGO bricks, gears and motors to construct and program robots, or produce their a LEGO movie using the latest Stop-Motion Animation software. Opt to learn to code or create your own video game. Math Addvantage offers five-day, half-day camps for grades 2-8. \$215
<http://mathaddvantage.com>

STEPPING STONE THEATER

Learn about devised theater, music, and other performance art forms during these one- to two-week, half- and full-day sessions for those pre-K to grade 12. A sliding scale scholarship program is available for all on-site summer camps. Cost: \$125-475
<http://steppingstonetheatre.org>

ST. PAUL BALLET

Summer at St. Paul Ballet is a time to do something new that you've always wanted to try. Programs include workshops and camps for ages 3-22. It's a time to try out classical ballet, as well as other genres of dance such as flamenco, modern, and some surprises. Weekly and drop-in classes offered throughout the summer (\$8.50 to \$20). Cost: \$75-1,800
651-690-1588
www.spballet.org

ST. PAUL URBAN TENNIS

Located all over the St. Paul map, St. Paul Urban Tennis offers summer camp programs for all age groups. In addition to tennis lessons, they offer SPUT Sampler Camps (\$45) which offer a condensed version in 4 days of their acclaimed summer program, with a high dose of tennis instruction for players just starting out with the sport. Cost: wide range.
<http://stpaulurbantennis.org/2011-summer-program.php>

TEXTILE CENTER CAMPS

Sew, knit, felt, dye and more. Take home completed fiber items from three- and five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for ages 6-18. Cost \$87-370
612-436-0464
<http://textilecentermn.org/summer-camps>

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is not a comprehensive list of every camp in the Twin Cities. If you would like to be included in next year's guide, please send us detailed information on the camp.

Folwell school's "The Lion King" roars

Photos by JILL BOOGREN

Folwell Performing Arts Magnet students in grades 5-8 celebrated the circle of life in breathtaking performances of "The Lion King Jr." in March. The musical, directed and choreographed by Nancy Nair with musical direction by Jonathan Edington, was a moving portrayal of Young Simba's journey from impish youth to finding his place—and his pride—as a caring and responsible adult. The set, costumes and makeup, together with the cast's graceful elegance on stage, invoked the soul and beauty of Africa's people, landscape and wildlife. Seventh and eighth grade visual art students created the masks.



A Rafikette (Alanna Brewer, left) dances with lions (from left: Figen-sia Alcenat, Shanice Cox, Zoe Riordan) in the show's finale.



Nala (Heaven Calvert, left) and Simba (Malik Moton) perform "Can You Feel The Love Tonight."



Rafikis (David Newell, left, Tajahnae Demry-Hall, right) teach Young Simba (Malik Moton) to learn from the past.



Pumba (Rachael Petties, left) and Timon (Victoria Evans, right) teach Young Simba (Shanice Cox) to have no worries in "Hakuna Matata."



Young Nala (Zoe Riordan, left) and Young Simba (Shanice Cox) sing and dance in "I Just Can't Wait to be King."



Pumba (Rachael Petties, left), and Timon (Victoria Evans) contemplate the stars.

Friends School OF MINNESOTA
Summer Session at Friends School of Minnesota
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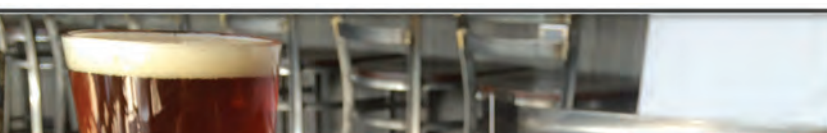
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www.fsmn.org

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- Local government/community organization news and events?
- Arts coverage?
- Feature stories on your neighbors?
- Monthly columns?
- School, church, and parks news?
- Photo features?
- In Our Community news announcements?

LET US KNOW! email: editorial@deruyternelson.com



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\$3 Select Craft Taps
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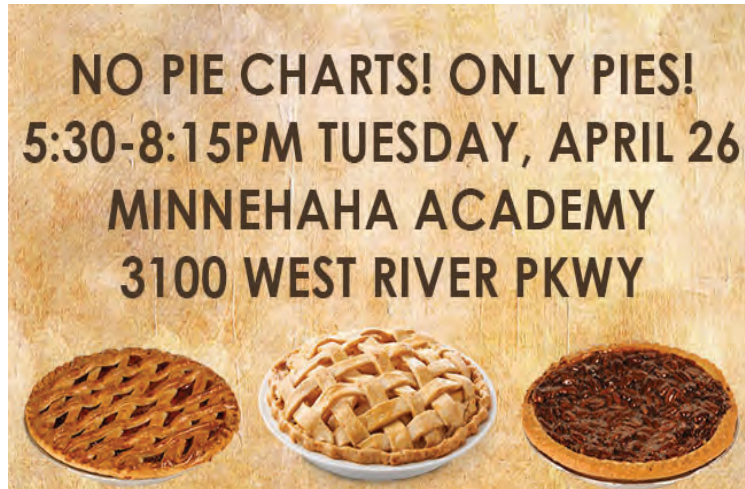
LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

No Pie Charts! Only Pies! Set for Tuesday, April 26th

The Longfellow Community Council's Annual No Pie Charts! Only Pies! Membership Meeting is set for Tuesday, April 26th. There will be a resource fair with local organizations and businesses from 5:30-6:30pm, followed by board elections and committee updates from 6:45-8:15pm.

This event is a pie potluck. Residents are encouraged to bring at least one pie to share with neighbors.

For more information or to sign up for our resource fair, go to www.longfellow.org.



Board of Directors Election

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

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

month and to participate in LCC sponsored events.

All levels of experience are welcomed. You need only an interest in the community, to live in the Longfellow, Cooper, Howe or Hiawatha neighborhood and a commitment to participate in meetings a few hours a month to participate on the Board. LCC also has an open seat for a business owner or designated representative of the business.

LCC welcomes diversity and encourages people from all walks of

life to join our board. When the full spectrum of the community is represented through leadership, our neighborhood reaps the benefit.

There are 10 open seats on the Board. Anyone interested in more information about the LCC Board should contact LCC Executive Director Melanie Majors either by phone at (612) 722-4529 ext. 14 or via email at melanie@longfellow.org or visit our website at www.longfellow.org.

Greater Longfellow Small Area Planning

The Longfellow Neighborhood Development & Transportation Committee is seeking passionate community members to help create a small area plan for the neighborhood. As East Lake Street is being transformed by new development and Hiawatha is quickly becoming a bustling transit corridor, small area planning can have a direct impact on the future of our neighborhood.

the Hiawatha and Lake Intersection. The purpose of this study is to develop potential solutions to improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment at the Hiawatha-Lake interchange while maintaining vehicle operations on Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue. The study is being led by the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County with assistance from Metro Transit and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Raingarden Volunteers Needed

The Environment & Transportation Committee is seeking volunteers to help with excavations for the 2016 Neighborhood Raingarden Project. The project excavations will take place on June 21st - 23rd. This project (approximately 40 rain gardens) will be a continuation and expansion of the successful 2014 project. If interested in joining the raingarden team please contact Joe at 612.722.4529 ext. 13 or joe@longfellow.org.

Hiawatha Lake Intersection Study Presentation at NDT

On April 5th, from 7:30 to 8:00pm the Neighborhood Development and Transportation Committee (NDTC) will meet with representatives from the city and country to discuss results from a recent transportation study regarding

COOPER HOWE

LONGFELLOW

HIAWATHA

NOTICE

Proposed Organizational Mission Change

At the January 21st 2016 LCC Board meeting, members approved a draft new organizational Mission Statement. The new Mission Statement reads:

To improve the well being of our diverse community through engagement, involvement and empowerment.

The original mission statement reads:

To improve the quality of life and develop a sense of community among the Longfellow, Cooper, Howe and Hiawatha neighborhoods and promote their wellbeing. The Longfellow Community Council will involve and empower the mem-

bers of the community in all its diversity to take action on issues affecting their lives.

The LCC Board of Directors is recommending approval of this new mission statement by the general membership of the Greater Longfellow neighborhood. The general membership will have the opportunity to vote on this change at the No Pie Charts - Only Pies Annual meeting on Tuesday, April 26th at Minnehaha Academy North. For details on this meeting please see the ad posted on this page, visit the LCC website at www.longfellow.org or contact LCC Executive Director Melanie Majors at 612-722-4529 ext. 14

Participate in LCC's Resource Fair

Local businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate in LCC's No Pie Charts! Only Pies! Resource Fair, set for 5:30-6:30pm Tuesday, April 26th. The event is a chance for community members to browse and get to know the

valuable resources in our neighborhood. The fee is \$20 for non-profits and \$25 for businesses. The deadline to register is Sunday, April 17th. To register, go to <http://www.longfellow.org/annual-no-pie-charts-only-pies-resource-fair/>.

LCC Calendar of Events

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

Tuesday, April 26, 5:30-8:15pm: No Pies Charts! Only Pies! @ Minnehaha Academy—North

Tuesday, May 10, 5:30-7pm: Happy Hour @ Du Nord

Friday & Saturday, June 10-1: Longfellow Garage Sale

Tuesday, June 28, 5:30-8pm: Summer Celebration @ Longfellow Grill

Tuesday, July 12, 5:30-7pm: Happy Hour @ Harriett Brewing

Wednesday, July 27, 6-8pm: Share the River Gorge Ice Cream Social Event

Thursday, August 11, 5:30-8pm: Longfellow Corn Feed @ Longfellow Park

Tuesday, September 13, 5:30-7pm: Happy Hour @ The Rail Station

Tuesday, October 25, 5:30-8pm: The Best Meeting Ever @ Minnehaha Academy—North

Sunday, November 13, 5-7pm: Chili Cook Off @ Gandhi Mahal

Longfellow Community Council

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

Melanie Majors, Executive Director
Joe Sturm, Housing & Environment Coordinator
Bonnie Horgos, Communications and Office Manager

melanie@longfellow.org
joe@longfellow.org
bonnie@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.

Healthy Seniors plan annual dinner

Eleanor Ostman, a long-time food writer for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, will present "Confessions of a World Traveling Professional Eater" at the Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors 18th Annual Dinner Fundraiser. Hear hilarious tales from her food column and 70+ international food trips. The event includes an Italian dinner (gluten-free/vegetarian options are available,) speaker and silent auction, and will be held on Thur., Apr. 28 at St. Albert the Great Church, corner of E. 29th St. and 32nd Ave. S. The social and silent auction begins at 5:30pm and the dinner, followed by speaker is from 6-8:30pm. Reservations are \$35/person and must be made by Apr. 22 by contacting Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 or info@lshealthyseniors.org.

Minnehaha

Munchkins story time

Come together for singing, story time and coloring at the new Minnehaha Munchkins Community Story Time. Offered on the fourth Thursday of each month, 11:30-noon, at the Minnehaha Academy Lower School library, families with youngsters (up to age five) are encouraged to come in to enjoy and share in this free event with their kids or grandkids. Upcoming events are Apr. 28, May 26, June 23, and July 28. The library is located at 4200 W. River Pkwy. Call 612-728-7763 to RSVP; drop-ins are also welcome.

Annual High Tea scheduled Apr. 17

The St. Helena Church Council of Catholic Women will present their annual High Tea on Sun., Apr. 17, from 2-4pm in Rowan Hall located at 3204 E. 43rd St. Luscious sweet and savory treats will be the afternoon fare. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Southside Singers. Hats and gloves are optional but add to the ambiance. The cost is \$10, and reservations are required. Call Lucy at 612-729-9445 by Thur., Apr. 14.

Roosevelt High to perform musical

"Urinetown: The Musical" will be performed at Roosevelt High School, 4029 S. 28th Ave. on Apr. 29 and 30 at 7pm. "Urinetown: The Musical" is a hilarious and irreverent story of greed, corruption, love and revolution in a time of a terrible water shortage. Directed by Kristi Johnson, musical direction by Jay Albright,

Anita White exhibits at Gandhi Mahal



Local artist Anita White has an exhibition of her Mexican and Romanian paintings, and life-size flamenco dancer silks, at Gandhi Mahal Restaurant, 3009 27th Ave. They were a part of the Taste the World exhibit in Longfellow in February. (Photo submitted)

with music by Mark Hollmann and lyrics by Hollmann and Greg Kotis. Pay what you can (\$5 suggested donation).

Annual Live Auction scheduled Apr. 2

The annual Live Auction will be held at Epworth UMC, 3207 37th Ave. S. on Sat., Apr. 2. Preview starts at noon. Live Auction starts at 12:30pm. You can bid on collectables, local business donations, furniture, home décor, gift cards, gift baskets for all ages, and other new or gently used items. The kitchen will be serving Sloppy Joes, all beef hot dogs, nachos and cheese, homemade sweets, chips, and other goodies. Contact Epworth at epworthumcplsmn@gmail.com or 612-722-0232. You can also find Epworth UMC Minneapolis on Facebook.

Blood Drive plans stop at Faith Apr. 15

Faith Ev. Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St., will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Fri., Apr. 15, 12-6pm. The American Red Cross Bus will be on the street directly in front of the church entry. To make an appointment or for more information call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter Faith EV in "Find A Blood Drive," or call Joyce, 612-729-5463.

Upcoming events at Healthy Seniors

"Services for Hennepin County Seniors" will be the presentation at the Apr. 19 Senior Social/Health Talk. The talk starts at 10:30am and meets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. County staff will provide an overview of services available to

seniors including Elderly Waiver, Alternative Care, initial and long-term care consultations, etc.

The Spring Senior Art Classes will be a watercolor series, held on Apr. 21 (watercolor basics), May 19 (guided abstract watercolor), and June 16 (guided scenic watercolor) from 1-3:30pm at St. Peder's Lutheran Church, 4600 E. 42nd St. Classes cost \$4/each. No previous experience is necessary. Pre-registration is required for each class.

Healthy Seniors also sponsors a monthly Diabetes Support Group for adults of all ages, a Low-Vision Support group for seniors, and gentle yoga classes for seniors. For more information, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

Patrick's Cabaret loses building lease

The executive director of Patrick's Cabaret, Scott Artley, has announced that the firehouse that has been the home of Patrick's Cabaret for the past 16 years has been sold. The sale ends Patrick's Cabaret's lease at 3010 Minnehaha Ave., and they will be required to vacate the building by May 31.

Artley said that while the organization is "disappointed, we embrace this development as an opportunity to refresh and restructure how we operate while remaining committed to our mission to support the growth and development of artists on the edge of culture."

"Since Patrick's Cabaret began in 1986, thirty years ago this April," Artley said, "it has existed in several locations. At our core, the Cabaret is a concept and community, not necessarily a place. Our approach to growing new art and new artists is a vital part of the Twin Cities arts ecosystem, and we're moving forward with the belief that this development challenges us to do

Zorongo stages "Lorca's Women"



Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre (3012 Minnehaha Ave. S.) will present "Lorca's Women," an evening of flamenco dance and music, Apr. 15-17, at The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts, 528 Hennepin Ave. A suite of dances will evoke the sensory symbols found in the poetry and tragedies of Spain's most beloved poet Federico García Lorca. Through sensual movement and the percussive power of flamenco dance, song, and guitar, this new work will bring Lorca's women across space and time. The performance will feature a cast of international dancers and musicians. Performance times are Apr. 15 and 16, 8pm; Apr. 17, 2pm. A flamenco community fiesta will take place on Sun., Apr. 17 following the 2pm matinee performance. Workshops by all of the guest artists will also be offered at the Zorongo studio. Tickets are \$30 (fees included), and can be obtained by calling 612-206-3600 or www.thecowlescenter.org/calendar-tickets/zorongo-flamenco. (Photo by Bill Cameron)

some more radical work directly in the communities we serve."

Annual breakfast scheduled Apr. 21

Store To Door will hold their annual breakfast on Thur., Apr. 21, 8-9am (registrations opens at 7:30am) at the Town & Country Club, 300 Mississippi River Blvd. N. in St. Paul. Store To Door helps seniors live independently and age with dignity. At the breakfast, you will find out how regular personal contact, access to nutritious food, and connections to community resources are helping local seniors to continue living in their own homes. The breakfast is free, but you do need to reserve your spot by calling Rosemary at 651-642-1892, or send an email to rosemary@storetodoor.org. Additional information will also be available online at www.storetodoor.org/donate/food-for-life-2016.

Holistic Moms meets Apr. 20 at Fuller Rec

Want your family to eat healthily but cringe at the prices of organic produce and free-range/grass-fed meat? Looking for ways to save money on healthy options? Come to the Holistic Moms Network Apr. 20 meeting

to discuss community-supported agriculture (CSA) and local buying clubs that can save you money on healthy food while supporting local producers. We'll also explain how our members can benefit from wholesale prices through Frontier.

Holistic Moms Network is a national non-profit organization that connects people who are passionate about holistic health and green living. The Twin Cities Chapter holds monthly meetings the third Wednesday of each month, 7-9pm, at Fuller Park Rec Center, 4800 Grand Ave. S. No matter where you are on your parenting or holistic journey, you are welcome. Children are also welcome. For more info, e-mail tcholicmoms@gmail.com or visit <http://twincitiesmn.holisticmoms.org> or www.facebook.com/HMNTwinCitiesMN.

Annual rummage sale scheduled Apr. 2

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church will hold the Annual Rummage Sale on Sat., Apr. 2, 9am-1pm. Bag time starts at noon. Lunch, with the best Sloppy Joes and homemade bars available, will be for purchase. The churches address is 4101 37th Ave. S.

Continued on page 12

In Our Community

Continued from page 11

Register now for birding in the gorge

The Mississippi River Gorge is one of the best places around for bird watching, and the best time to see and hear them is in May. Join local birding experts Dave Zumeta and Lee Pfannmuller for an exploration of the world-class flyway along the river gorge in Longfellow on May 7, 7-10am. Over 170 species have been observed in this area!

Novices and experienced birders are all welcome. Bring your binoculars (or let us know if you need a pair) and a water bottle. Wear sturdy shoes for exploring the river bluffs and forest and banks.

The hike is free, but RSVP is required as the number of participants is limited to 30. RSVP to joe@longfellow.org or call Joe at 612-722-4529. When you RSVP, you will be provided with the starting location for the hike.

Sponsored by the Longfellow Community Council's River Gorge Committee.

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.

Tapestry plans special April focus

Every Friday evening at Tapestry Folkdance Center, women and men join hands and move together to the beat of global music, celebrating cultures past and present.

In April, Tapestry Folkdance instructors Jan Morse (Apr. 1) Gina Bonsignore (Apr. 8), Nairy Digris (Apr. 15 and 22) and Terry McGibbon (Apr. 29) will bring to life the dances of Armenia and the Balkan countries.

The dances take place every Friday at the center (3748 Minnehaha Ave. S.). Lessons run from 7:30 to 9pm and a dance follows; cost is \$8 general, \$6 Tapestry members, \$5 students.

On Apr. 8, instead of folk dancing at Tapestry, Gina Bonsignore, a member of the Armenian Dance Ensemble of Minnesota (ADE), will teach Armenian, Eastern European and Middle Eastern folk dance at the Tula Yoga and Wellness Center at 99 Snelling Ave. N. in St. Paul. (Go to www.tulayogawellness.com for time and cost of this special dance program.)

Ensemble to perform at Mt. Olive Apr. 10

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents The Songs of Africa ensemble, a multi-cultural vocal and instrumental ensemble that teaches about Africa's music, its musical instruments, languages and cultures. Singing in more than 20 different African languages, their performances are audience-interactive, educa-

tional, and entertaining! African Musical Arts is a St. Louis-based non-profit organization whose mission is to foster a better understanding of Africa's cultures through the musical arts by presenting the music of African-descent composers and enriching America's overall cultural heritage.

The concert takes place at 4pm, on Sun., Apr. 10, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. A reception follows the concert in the church's Chapel Lounge. This event is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be received to support the Music and Fine Arts program.

E. Lake Open Streets planning begins

Business owners can get a head start on planning their participation in the 2016 Open Streets East Lake on Wed., Mar. 30, 9am at Peppers & Fries, 3900 E. Lake St. Staff of the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition going to talk about business participation, sponsorship opportunities, event logistics, and more. The meeting is hosted by the Longfellow Business Association and the Lake Street Council.

Open Streets East Lake is scheduled for Sun., July 24, 11am-5pm. Open Streets events aim to bring together local businesses, families, and neighbors to bike, walk, socialize, play and shop in their communities in a car-free environment.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

A new Gamblers Anonymous meeting meets Wednesday evenings at 6pm at Living Table Church, 3805 E. 40th St., in the Hope Room. Anyone with a desire to stop gambling is welcome.

Chess club meets at Nokomis Library

For all ages. Chess it out! The chess club meets from 4:30-6pm, the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, through May, at the Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave. S. Have fun learning the basics of chess, improving your game, mastering strategies, and meeting other chess fans of all levels. Walk-ins welcome.

Register for Bethany Salad Luncheon

A Ladies Salad Luncheon is scheduled at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.) for Sat., Apr. 30, beginning at noon. There be a variety of salads for lunch, followed by a program by singer/guitarist Michael Riddle. Tickets are \$8. Make reservations through the Bethany church office at 612-729-9376 or email office@bethanyon36th.com.

Library Book Sale scheduled Apr. 2-3

The Friends of East Lake Library (2727 E. Lake St.) invite you to the Library's Spring Book Sale on Sat., Apr. 2, 9-4:30pm and Sun., Apr. 3, 12-3pm. They have a great selection of books and

want to get as many as possible back into the community. Prices are \$1 for adult hardcovers. Adult paperbacks are 50 cents. All children's and teen books are also 50 cents. Saturday's \$5 Bag Sale starts at 2pm: the Bag Sale is in effect all day Sunday. Please, no scanners before noon on Saturday. If your Spring Cleaning turns up excess books, they may be brought to the Library anytime before Apr. 2.

Un-feathered friends focus of meeting

Come and visit the boys of Cub Scout Pack 38 on Thur., Apr. 21, 6:30pm at St. Helena School (3200 E. 44th St.) as they welcome some un-feathered friends (snakes, turtles, and amphibians) from the Minnesota Herpetology Society.

Cub Scout Pack 38 is active all summer long, with several events and campouts planned for boys and their families. Cub Scouts is for boys in kindergarten through 5th grade. For more information, contact Dan Fehler, cubmaster38@gmail.com, 612-724-6284, or see their website at www.BSAPack38.org.

Have a beautiful, sustainable lawn

April is the month we see our lawns wake up! A healthy lawn attracts our children, our pets and other wildlife, and even those of us who relish walking barefoot in that green carpet. You can have "barefoot" grass.

Join the Longfellow Garden Club to hear Dr. Sam Bauer, UMN Turfgrass researcher, as he shows how to grow a sustainable lawn using few (or no) chemicals, and with less water and mowing. Bauer also discusses organic lawn practices and the new low-mow grasses that do not need fertilizer or more than rain-water to look great.

The meeting begins at 7pm, Wed., Apr. 13, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. They will also hold the Silent Auction this evening, their only fundraiser that supports the speaker fund. Please bring an item or two to donate, and plan on bidding. Drop off auction items after 6:30, bidding from 6:50-7:15pm.

Meetings are free and open to everyone. You can find more information at www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub, or at sites.google.com/site/longfellowgardenclubminnesota.

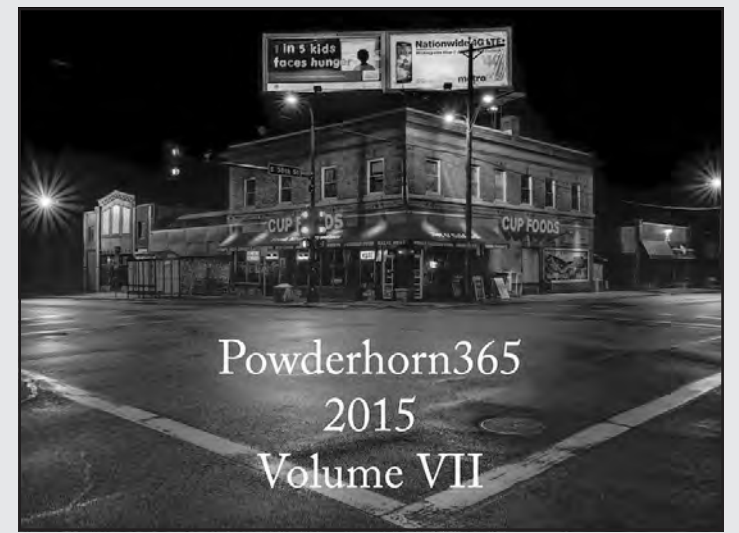
Pancake breakfast scheduled Apr. 24

The South High Foundation will hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sun., Apr. 24, 8am-noon at the school, 3131 19th Ave. S. The breakfast features all-you-can-eat pancakes, plus sausages, scrambled eggs, orange juice, milk, and coffee. There will also be great prizes donated by alumni, local businesses, and friends! Tickets will be available at the door: adults, \$6; children 10 and under, \$3.

Local student performs in concert

Daniel Stein performed in the MacPhail Center for Music's

Powderhorn365 photo book now available



Every day of 2015, a photo was taken to capture the life, character, activities, and scenes of the Powderhorn Park neighborhood. The seven weekly volunteer photographers, plus a few guests, snapped 365 interesting and artful photos, and all are now preserved in a photo book published by the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association. You can order the book by visiting the project's website, www.powderhorn365.com, and clicking on the link near the top: Powderhorn365, The Books.

This is the seventh year that PPNA has produced an annual photo book preserving the diligent work of observant neighborhood photographers. The photos can also be viewed online www.powderhorn365.com. (Choose 2015). The project continues daily in 2016, and those new photos can be seen on the same website. 2015's participant shutterbugs include J. Arthur Anderson, Jason Brown, Elana Dahlberg, Jillian Helleloid, Kristina Kvarnlov-Leverty, Warren Park, and Nickey Robare.

Musical performance at Hope Lutheran

A special presentation of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" will take place at Hope Lutheran Church, 5728 Cedar Ave., at 10am on Sun., Apr. 17. This action-packed, toe-tapping musical is being performed by the Jubilation Choir of St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Bloomington. A freewill offering will be taken.

Adoption support group meets monthly

The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 -37th Ave. S.) for parents and teens who have been adopted. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month (Apr. 5) at 6:30pm. Adoptive parents are provided with a confidential, nonjudgmental environment where they can support each other and share resources. Teens are invited to meet other teens who understand what it's like to be adopted. The teen group is not a drop-off group - parent(s) must attend the parent support group. For more info and to RSVP, contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or ginnyblade@nacac.org (parents); or Christina Romo at 651-644-3036, ext. 17, or christinaromo@nacac.org (teens).

Street sweeping begins rite of spring

Weather permitting, an annual rite of spring in Minneapolis is scheduled to start Wed., Apr. 13. That's when Public Works crews will begin the street sweeping program to clean up the dirt and grime melting ice and snow leave behind. Drivers should watch for temporary "No Parking" signs to

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In Our Community

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avoid a ticket and tow.

From Apr. 13 through May 9, sweeping crews will take care of nearly 1,000 miles of city streets. To make sure the crews can do a complete job, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets are clear of parked vehicles. Drivers need to follow street sweeping parking rules, or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.

Even though the citywide street sweeping program has not yet begun, crews have already started sweeping some commercial corridors at night. They are scheduled to begin sweeping and cleaning parkways Mar. 28. As is the case with the citywide street sweeping, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours before the parkway sweeping. Crews are scheduled to start sweeping alleys Apr. 5, or as conditions permit. Crews have also begun sweeping select downtown streets at night (as conditions permit), and temporary parking restrictions are being posted between midnight and 5am.

LBA plans annual meeting Apr. 14

Longfellow Business Association's Annual Meeting and Director Elections is scheduled for Thur., Apr. 14, noon at Parkway Pizza, 44th & Minnehaha Ave. S. Lunch is \$ 10 per person payable at the door. RSVP to ruth@longfellow-businessassociation.org or phone 612.361.2690.

Get your CSA now before they sell out

Spring has sprung and there are over 70 farms ready to start delivering vegetables and other locally produced foods to eaters in the Twin Cities region during the upcoming growing season. The Land Stewardship Project's 2016 Twin Cities Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm Directory is now available free of charge at <http://landstewardship->

project.org/stewardshipfood/csa or by calling 612-722-6377. CSA shares tend to sell out by early spring, so consumers are encouraged to contact the farms soon.

At their most fundamental level, CSA farms provide a weekly delivery of sustainably produced food to consumers during the growing season (approximately June to October). Those consumers, in turn, pay a subscription fee. But CSA consumers don't so much "buy" food from particular farms as become members of those farms. CSA operations provide more than just food; they offer ways for eaters to become involved in the ecological and human community that supports the farm. CSA farms have traditionally offered vegetables to their members/shareholders, but an increasing number of these operations are now delivering products such as meat, cheese, eggs and cut flowers.

FrameWorks opens plein air exhibit

The FrameWorks, 2022A Ford Pkwy. in St. Paul, will hold an opening reception for their next art show, "Bobs & Co.," featuring Bob Matheson and Bob Bonawitz, along with their friends Tom McGregor, Ivan Zaslavitski and Jim Henley. This group of plein air oil painters, each with their unique style, highlights the local Minnesota area. The reception is Sat. Apr. 9, 7-9pm. Catered food and beverages will be provided.

Also on display, etchings from artist Stuart Loughridge and sculpture from Art Videen. Loughridge recently added some etchings painted with watercolor to the mix. Videen's modern pieces have a great sense of movement and geometric shapes. FrameWorks is also featuring sculpture by Alexander Tylevich and a selection of prints, originals and cards from other artists.

Reconstruction Open House scheduled

The Longfellow Business Association is sponsoring a Minnehaha Ave. reconstruction project Open House on Wed., Apr. 6, 3:30-6:30pm at the Longfellow Park

building, 3435 36th Ave. S. Staff from Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, and CenterPoint will be on hand to answer questions and address concerns. Business owners are also encouraged to sign up for email updates at www.hennepin.us/minnehaha.

Students send two experiments to Space Station

On Mar. 22, Minnehaha Academy students in the International Space Station (ISS) project watched as their two experiments were launched into space on the Orbital ATK Cygnus spacecraft. Four students witnessed the launch in person from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Minnehaha Academy is the only school in the Midwest to offer this program according to Sam Terfa, ISS Science Teacher.

Team One's experiment is designed to study vibration cancellation in microgravity. Developing solutions that will dampen vibrations aboard the ISS is important because the high-resolution equipment that the astronauts use requires a vibrationless environment to work properly.

Team Two designed an experiment that will study the effects of light on the direction of plant growth in a microgravity environment. Phototropism is the tendency of the leaves and stems of plants to grow towards a light source. If the plant's light source moves, the plant's leaves will rotate towards the light source. Gravitropism is the tendency of the roots of plants to grow towards the center of the earth and for the leaves and stems to grow towards the sun. If the plant is tipped, it will change the direction of its growth to fit that tendency. Team Two's experiment will test how reactive plants are to a change in direction of their light source in the absence of gravitropism.

This is the fourth year that Minnehaha Academy students have sent an experiment into space, and the first year they sent two experiments. The students work as teams, and each person has a specific role, just as they would in a working lab. There are project managers, technical managers, mechanics, and software technicians, among others.



(Photo top) Closeup of the solar array on Jewel Properties Apartment, 3800 Minnehaha Ave. S. (Photo bottom) The solar array sits on the roof of the apartment building. (Photos courtesy of Applied Energy Innovations).

Solar workshop scheduled Apr. 16

A solar energy workshop will be held at Applied Energy Innovations (AEI), 4000 Minnehaha Ave. S., on Sat., Apr. 16 at 7pm.

At the workshop participants will learn more about the Xcel Energy's Solar*Rewards Program, how to finance your solar project with Center For Energy (non-profit) Financing and whether a choice to own outweighs the option to participate in a subscription of a Community Solar Garden (CSG).

The cost of solar has dropped 60% in the last five years. Solar*Reward rebates and tax incentives can reduce out of pocket by 50% and provide payback between 10-13 years or less and reduce your electrical bill! The non-profit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) has developed a low-interest finance program which complements the incentive annual rebate check issued by Xcel Energy.

Also, Legislation passed in 2013 allowed the creation and participation in off-site Community Solar Gardens. CSG's will be built throughout the outskirts of the Metro area and will allow those without an ideal roof for solar panels to still participate.

But which is the right choice for you? There are benefits to each and all Xcel ratepayers can participate.

Speakers from the Department of Commerce, MN Solar Energy Industries Association and local manufacturer Itek have been invited and will be available for questions. AEI President Dustin Denison will discuss the many pathways for you to participate in a carbon-free feature. Reduce your carbon footprint, produce your own energy, and support local products and contractors! You will also be able to workshop your specific site with a solar designer.

Participants are encouraged to RSVP at 612-532-0384. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/963245763711824>.

Snacks and beverages will be provided.

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

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger Classifieds*, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before **Apr. 18 for the Apr. 28** issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to 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

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SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

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Local residents in film festival

Continued from page 7

short skits for Funnyordie.com. But his entry in the film festival, "The World has no Eyedea," is his first feature-length film.

It is a documentary based on the short-lived but prolific career of Micheal "Eyedea" Larsen, a Minnesota musician, break dancer, published poet and philosopher who died in 2010 at the age of 28.

"I didn't know him personally, but I once went to a show of his in Flagstaff, AZ," Crowson said. "I'm the kind of fan who knows most of his catalog verbatim and have been buying and listening to everything he put out since I was 17 or 18."

Crowson said he felt like everyone knew that a story about Larsen would be the right topic for a movie, and several people mentioned it to Larsen's mother, Kathy. But she was adamantly against anyone doing a movie on her son.

"She and I developed a friendship after he passed," Crowson said. "She was collecting some of his concerts and wanted me to transfer some footage and asked me how much it would cost. I told her I would do it for free, since Eye-

dea was my all-time favorite rapper. I transferred the footage and told her that if she just gave me the green light to interview a few people we could make this into an actual documentary that could go to a few festivals and make an impact."

Crowson said Larsen's mother told him she wouldn't know how to do that. "But I do," he told her. "So she gave me a chance and it took off from there."

This was late in 2014, and in January 2015 plans started to come together. In late February Crowson started to raise funds through Indiegogo. "We hoped to raise \$6,000 because I thought that would be the amount I would need so I wouldn't go broke from this," he said. "We raised that much in 48 hours, and we ended up with \$21,000."

"I don't come from a lot of money and have had to work hard for everything I have," Crowson continued. "During that time we were pulling in \$100 an hour, an insane testament to how talented Micheal was and how much demand there was for a film."

The project took a year to finish. Crowson directed the film, edited it, and did all but one interview and the audio.

"I felt like I was going to take

some interview footage and some concert footage and splice that all together, and I was telling everyone I would be finished by the fall, easily. But as you learn more about the story, you try to figure the best way to present certain aspects of it. And you get really nitpicky. I would be pretty close to being finished, and I would look at it and think that it had to be better."

Crowson admitted he had a great deal of hero worship for his subject. "There were moments when I would hear a story about him, and I wished I had known him."

"My business partner on this project is Kathy, his mother, who is awesome," continued Crowson. "I am hopeful it has been a cathartic process for her. My friend is a grieving mother. I'm making a documentary about my favorite rapper, but at the same time I feel like I'm trying to comfort a grieving friend."

Crowson said he felt lucky to have formed a friendship with Larsen's mother and gotten an opportunity to do a project he feels so passionate about. He said he has had other chances. "But editing a documentary about a businessman, for example? I'll do it because I want to make movies, but I'm not passionate about that person's life. So I can't spend hours feeling really happy about that. This documentary has been the biggest opportunity that I have actually felt that way about. And you do your best work when you're inspired."

It is not that easy to discover film opportunities in Minnesota, according to Crowson. "We have a good film community if you want to have a day job and do a little movie for the 48-hour festival or polish up your resume and then move. But as far as making a living from film, it is difficult."

He said he literally has all sorts of different projects set up and ready to go. "What I don't have is network and funding."

He has written a script and has people on the east coast and west coast trying to pitch the film.

"But I'm just a guy from Minnesota trying to tell stories. They're not giving out film careers. So you have to have a lot of things going on at once. And it's okay to try a bunch of different things and fail at them because you're going to get one right. And that's all you have to do—get one right every year or so."

"I'm excited about the premier. MSPIFF is the biggest film festival in Minnesota, so it's kind of a big deal. I just want to make a movie every year. I feel like that's my best destiny."

Eric Tretbar

Eric Tretbar, originally from Kansas, said that Minneapolis is his adopted city. He moved here to attend college and stayed for the college band scene. For the past 15 years, he has lived between Los Angeles and Minneapolis, returning here to teach film at Carlton College and MCAD. He now lives in Longfellow, near Minnehaha.

He is the assistant director for the feature narrative, "A Stray," directed by Musa Syeed. The film is about a young Muslim refugee in Minneapolis who crosses paths with a stray dog. Tretbar said his home served as one of the locations.

"The first rule of film is never shoot in your own location," he said, "but, of course, this is the first rule you have to break."

Tretbar has worked on seven films and directed four. He said the director and assistant director



Longfellow resident Eric Tretbar is the assistant director on the feature narrative, "A Stray." (Photo by Jan Willms)



(Above) "A Stray," directed by Musa Syeed, was filmed in various Minneapolis locations, with Barkhad Abdirahman in the lead role. Longfellow resident Eric Tretbar was the assistant director. (Photos by Yoni Brook)

(AD) have a very professional relationship. "For people who have not been on a film set before, they might mistake the assistant director for the director," he acknowledged. "The AD is the one who says 'Quiet on the set' and 'Places' and 'Quiet, please' and 'Roll sound' or 'Roll camera.'"

"The AD's first job is to run the set, take care of all the scheduling of shooting days and maintain safety on the set," said Tretbar. "He or she also needs to keep track of time."

Tretbar explained that every minute on the clock for actors is money to the producer. He said the AD has to look out for the needs of the producer with the budget but also has to meet the artistic needs and vision of the director. "The AD protects the director from the day to day details and creates a bubble around him or her, so the director can be creative instead of talking to the cop who says, 'you have to get off the sidewalk. Where's your permit?'"

An AD is always checking his or her watch, whispering in the director's ear that there are only ten more minutes at a certain location. The director would like to shoot all day at the same location and must be reminded to move on," he said.

For "A Stray," Tretbar said he was the local guy who knew all the locations. "Musa did a lot of research and was here for a number of months and roamed around the city, finding places he wanted to shoot. But I could suggest additional places; I knew someone who had an alley or backyard or coffee shop we could shoot in."

He said the nice thing about shooting in Minneapolis is the people are pretty friendly and interested in the production; in LA or New York, there are so many movies being shot, people are sick of them. "Here it's kind of a novelty," Tretbar said.

For this film, Barkhad Abdirahman was selected as the lead. He and some of his friends had roles in the movie "Captain Phillips."

"That was a Tom Hanks movie, about as big as a movie can get, with a crew of 300 people," Tretbar said. "Any actor on a film that size is living in the Magic Kingdom. Our crew is more like a rock and roll band traveling around in a van getting in each other's hair all the time."

He said "A Stray" had two vans, one for the camera equipment and the other for people. But the fewer vehicles, the faster the crew could move, according to Tretbar.

The film was shot in about

two weeks. The crew worked on its days off finding new locations or picking up any shots that weren't completed the first time around.

Tretbar said a big change in the film industry has come about because of the Internet and the kind of cameras used to make a movie. "When I began, there was only one business in Minneapolis where you could get a film camera, and you had to have a crew working with you that knew how to use this camera," he stated. "Today, you go to Amazon.com, and you buy a camera for one or two thousand dollars, and you make a movie."

"The dream of true democratization of cinema is here," Tretbar continued. "That was the battle cry of 1968. Now it is in the hands of everybody." However, Tretbar said there is a downside to this.

"Festivals like South by Southwest or Sundance used to have 600 or 700 films submitted for 150 spots. Now they have 20,000 films submitted every year for 150 spots."

Tretbar said his friends who work at the festivals had hoped that as the total number of films increases, so too would the number of good or better films. "But in fact, the total number of good films has remained fairly consistent," he said.

Because of so many films being made today, Tretbar said it is a buyer's market, and distribution is challenging. Actually making the film is easier.

"I still have the romantic hope that we can make Minneapolis a cinema center, a thriving and creative place," Tretbar said. He acknowledged that Austin, TX, is the strongest rival right now that has succeeded in some of the things Minneapolis is trying to do.

"We are told that what we need is a hit, and we would like that, too. I'm optimistic because there are a lot of fine people working here, and it's a great place to live."

NOTE: For a schedule of films at the MSPIFF festival, go to www.msppfilm.org.

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A commitment to community and sustainability

Northbound Smokehouse & Brewpub harvests the benefits from 68 solar panels

By LOREN GREEN

Solar panels are meant to blend in, to capture the sun's energy from a rooftop or open space without interfering with day to day life. Yet, people notice them in a big way.

"We took a picture," says Jamie Robinson, co-owner at Northbound Smokehouse & Brewpub, where 68 solar modules were recently installed. "It was our biggest Twitter response ever."

The panels do not cover just their newly installed pergola, but the entire rooftop at 2716 E. 38th St., and they have become a regular point of discussion between bartenders and customers, servers and diners. They've been so popular, he's discussed them frequently, even before he's seen the difference in his bill.

"We try to be as authentic as possible," says Robinson. He means the business doesn't take shortcuts, and they work with like-minded vendors. They brew their own beer, cure and smoke their meat on-site, and make all their recipes from scratch.

But their authenticity extends beyond the hands-on of the food preparation and into a deeper philosophy about community and sustainability. Their patio, a point of pride, is serviced by Giving Tree Gardens, who work with mostly organic products while winning awards for their work. Northbound also ties that approach to their focus as a bike-friendly business as well. Solar panels are a good match with that philosophy.

The solar panels, Robinson admits, weren't originally his idea. His landlord, Forte-



In addition to solar panels on the outdoor patio, Northbound Smokehouse and Brewpub has an array on the roof. In total there are 68 panels, with the ability to generate enough electricity to power 3.3 homes (or 254 light bulbs) for a full year. It also provides some summertime shade to the patio. (Photo by Loren Green)

va Development, came to him last year to launch owner Andy Root's new business, Forteva Solar. Root installed the solar modules, manufactured in Canada and assembled in Minnesota, and he then sells the solar electricity to Northbound. Robinson refuses to take credit for Root's clean energy initiative, but he bears the rewards. "It dumps right into our meter," he explains, and the 22 kW system creates enough power to knock an estimated 20% off their electric bill. That percentage may sound small, but brewing is an energy intensive process, and one year of the sun at Northbound will generate enough electricity to power 3.3 homes (or 254 light bulbs) for a full year. The brewpub is a perfect fit because they will use all of the energy and it

will not need to be resold back to Xcel Energy, who controls the grid.

While it fits Northbound's ethics, it also inspired the pergola addition to the patio, something in their original plans that had not yet come to fruition. "I strive to be the best patio in south Minneapolis," Robinson says, and improvements to the space are a constant goal of maintaining relevance and exhibiting ownership's pride in their business. With 80 seats inside the restaurant and another 56 at picnic tables outside, it's an important element and a constantly changing environment by the season.

With hop vines that grow into a living wall in the summertime and a rotation of tropical plants that are rotat-

ed during the year, outdoor seating is important to Robinson. "It's Minnesota. You have, what, 60 days of patio weather?" he asks. Making it as comfortable and unique as possible is a company goal. The pergola and solar panels not only create conversation, but they also provide shade.

"I built the pergola not only to add more capacity for panels," Root says. "But so people could see it." Northbound is the showcase Forteva Solar, with more panels being installed at Punk Rawk Labs on 35th St. and up to 10 more projects in development for 2016. Forteva Solar will install new fixtures on small commercial properties in the city, buildings both owned by himself and by other like-minded landlords. Solar panels are notably expensive but, notes Root, between federal tax breaks and in-state subsidies, that cost can be significantly reduced to increase profitability.

Root is ambitious in adding new solar power sources in the city, but he's interested in clean energy across the board. "I'd love to put some in kind of wind generator, but they don't have enough room," he says of Northbound. He's also petitioning the city to install an EV (electric vehicle) charging station that connects to the solar panels, and he and Northbound are working together to install additional bicycle racks outside their brewpub.

"It fits what I'm doing," says Root of his Forteva Solar. More importantly, "it fits what the neighborhood wants," he adds.

From Robinson's perspective, the decision was easy. "I feel better using 20% solar," he says. "I'm looking forward to how people react to the solar panels and if they're coming here because they want to support a place that has solar panels or if they just like the pergola or the shade."

Shawn Mackay
Longfellow/Nokomis Expert!
 27 Years Experience
612-584-8334
 shawnmackay@edinarealty.com
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