



Residents present concerns about project at 4737 Minnehaha

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Architect gives classic homes new life for 21st century

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Intersection will soon sprout wings with lift from GoodSpace

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Nokomis

Messenger



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Residents design 'dream playground' at Longfellow Park

Project delayed by unexpectedly long lead times for equipment, but installation anticipated for mid-August

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Installation of the new Longfellow playground has been delayed, but planners are confident it will be worth the wait.

Unexpectedly long lead times for procuring equipment have delayed the project at Longfellow, as well as at the Washburn Ave. Tot Lot this summer.

"The long lead times are the result of a number of factors that could include recent economic developments, as well as a huge influx of projects which is causing a backlog of orders for equipment with the playground vendors," explained Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Design Project Manager Crystal Passi. "Overall, this is a pretty busy construction season."

Installation of the new playground equipment is now anticipated to begin in mid-August.

Work at the site began in June when the old equipment was removed, the site graded, and a fence erected. The pool has remained open during the project.

Over 200 help design playground

When complete, the playground will include the feedback from over 200 people who attended multiple open houses and events. Kids and their grown-ups were invited to share thoughts and opinions.

"Thanks to all the communi-

ty who came out to meetings and events, and provided feedback and helped to design the playground at Longfellow," stated Passi.

She appreciated the viewpoint that children brought to the discussion.

"Kids brought some of the best and most creative ideas to the table," remarked Passi.

"I think kids were most excited by monkey bars and climbing structure options. I think they will really enjoy the climbing and spinning 'Global Motion' feature because many kids can play on it at once, and it's accessible for people of all abilities."

Passi also believes this Global Motion spinner by Landscape Structures will set this playground apart as there aren't many in Minneapolis.

Adults pushed for the use of natural colors at the playground, and stressed the importance of providing options for both younger and older children, stated Passi.

Meeting in the middle

MPRB received many comments from residents who wanted the sand surfacing to go away because it gets stuck in shoes and is perceived as messy, explained Passi. At the same time, people wanted a sand play area for younger children because it is such a tactile play element.



Photo: Work at the site began in June when the old equipment was removed, the site graded, and a fence erected. The pool has remained open during the project. The current playground equipment at Longfellow Park was installed in the late 1980s and had reached the end of its lifespan, according to park board staff. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Inset: The upgraded playground at Longfellow will feature a Global Motion spinner, monkey bars, climbing options, little house, engineered wood fiber surface, small sand play area (not shown in rendering) and more. (Illustration courtesy of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation)

"I think we met in the middle by removing the sand as the main surfacing and switching to engineered wood fiber with a poured-in-place resilient surfacing for transfer points and connections to several features," said Passi. "However, we also included a small separate sand play area that will sit directly adjacent to the playground. (Not shown in the renderings)."

The new playground will be a bit larger than before as MPRB created more space by removing a concrete pathway that used to divide it into two sections.

"This made it possible to fit more equipment into the site even with new fall zone standards that have changed since the original equipment went in," remarked Passi.

The current playground equipment at Longfellow Park was installed in the last 1980s and had reached the end of its lifespan, according to park board staff. The components and wood structure were worn and began to fail due to age. Some items have been removed over the past few years as they were broken or had safety issues. Because of the age, the parts could not be replaced. Additionally, the equipment is also out of compliance to current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ASTM guidelines.

Dream playground

At the community open houses, residents used wood puzzles with equipment pieces made to scale to design their "dream playground." MPRB staff took pictures of all the creations, and used these ideas, along with hundreds of comments and dotmocracy boards, to design a playground that includes most, if not all, of the features that space and budget would accommodate. "I think people will be pleased with the design overall," said Passi.

"I believe younger kids will really enjoy the little house for imaginative play," she added. "I think older kids will find that the large climbing structure has tons of different activities, which is something kids were adamant about."

Minnehaha Academy student honored for explosion story podcast

By JAN WILLMS

A podcast done in the aftermath of a natural gas explosion at Minnehaha Academy, 3100 W. River Pkwy., telling the stories of those who experienced the tragedy, has been named one of the top winners in a student podcast competition sponsored by the New York Times.

Emma Melling was a senior at the school at the time of the explosion, which occurred on Aug. 2, 2017, and killed two staff members and injured nine other people.

She was at home when the explosion occurred, but heard about it through a phone call.

"I watched it on the news and later went to the school," Melling said. "It was overwhelming, with a lot of news crews all over the place."

Receptionist Ruth Berg and custodian John Carlson were killed in the explosion. Melling



Instructor Reid Westrem (left) and Emma Melling, a Minnehaha Academy student who was named one of the top winners in a student podcast competition sponsored by the New York Times. (Photo submitted)

had done an interview for the school paper a year earlier with Carlson, focusing on his kind-

ness. "I went back and listened to the interview I had done with John, and felt how powerful

it was to hear his voice," Melling recalled. "The idea for the podcast came from that." She said she wanted to let people tell their stories, in a simple enough way for anyone to listen.

"I interviewed teachers, students, other people in the school's administration, one of the school's chefs, the maintenance manager, the building supervisor and the president of the school," she said.

The podcast, "August 2 stories," was completed at the end of May this year. That was also when Melling and her journalism instructor, Reid Westrem, found out about the New York Times contest. She entered a five-minute segment from one of the episodes of the podcast.

One of those she interviewed was Laura DuBois, a chef at the school, whose husband Don is the maintenance manager. He was one who first was aware of

the danger and got on the radio, warning everyone. "Laura was in the kitchen when she heard him yell over the radio to get out," Melling said. She said her portion of the podcast when she recalled this was very emotional, very open and very honest. She entered a part of that interview, after checking with DuBois if it would be okay. "I wanted to make sure I did not exploit anyone's story," Melling said.

Melling, who graduated this spring and is planning on attending Bethel University, said doing the podcast was very difficult. "It has been a very emotional project, and I have carried around the weight of these stories for a whole school year," she said. "I was the interviewer, and I had not actually gone through it. I felt much honored to hear these stories, and it just felt so great

Continued on page 5

Letters to the Editor

Kelliher, captain of all-star legislators

To the Editor:

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, a former state legislator and current DFL candidate for congress, is the polar opposite of the bombastic Donald Trump. She's smart, truthful, hard-working, dedicated and doesn't run away from bullies. In short, she is everything he is not.

I served in the Minnesota legislature with hundreds of talented people. If there was an All Star list of former lawmakers, Margaret Anderson Kelliher would probably be its captain.

Her peers elected Margaret to the highest position in the legislature- Speaker of the House. The *Star Tribune* described her as the "calm inside the storm". But inside that calm was a mind and voice that few legislators wanted to take on in a debate.

Margaret grew up on a dairy farm near Mankato, earned a BA from Gustavus and a masters from Harvard. After leaving the legislature, she's become CEO of the Minnesota High Tech Council and Foundation, which has served as the nuclei for the creation of thousands of good jobs in Minnesota. She active in community and chairs the governor's Broadband Task Force. Margaret and her husband Dave have two college age kids.

It's true that the assault weapon, tobacco pushing, and climate-change denying lobbies plus other confederates of Donald Trump don't want her elected. But for those of us who instead want hope, like President Obama gave us, Margaret's the one. She really will work on draining the swamp.

Wes Skoglund

State Senator (2003-06) and Representative (1975-78, 1981-2002), retired

Gym remake reveals artistic contributions

To the Editor:

I first heard this challenge put to a group of St. Helena volunteers and children when the WorldLegacy team CN166 performed their magic to produce our playground and basketball court enhancements. Mike Russell and his wife Jill were there, and I swear I saw a light go on that has only shown brighter and brighter. An artist was there that nobody other than Jill and a few close friends knew. Let me show you what that light and that artist have projected on the walls of our gymnasium.

We are a humble school that can only offer excellence to our students by being frugal with the dollars we try so hard to secure. Our gym walls had been a faded light blue since 2002 when the last group of volunteers made the sacrifice of their time and talent.

Mike Russell capitalized on the momentum of the playground miracle to perform yet another. His energy and enthusiasm were enough to impress Dave at Hirschfield's to donate all the blue and white paint for the gym project, and Orlando at Thrivent Financial and Dave at

Diamond Lake Hardware found Mike's appeal irresistible and went out of their way to supply materials needed for the job. I will not burden this article with a list of paint-slinging volunteers but know that they were impressive, capable, and smiling. The fresh white and the new blue have been a big beautiful change and one that sets a vibrant backdrop for every new gym activity of which there are many. Mike was not done.

A version of Mike Russell started to appear, and he has given our school a gift that no one could have imagined. Inspirational and motivational quotes began to appear elaborately scripted on the walls around our gym, and an



Artist disguised as ordinary painter. (Photo submitted)

image of our patroness Saint Helena started to take form on the wall behind our stage. Saint Rocco and Saint Catherine appear at her sides to give her company, and color, donated by Ben at Sherwin Williams, begins to find its place in the creation. You can find their stained glass representations on our church doors, so the mural serves to unite our church even more closely with our school. You cannot help but marvel at what has been produced on this concrete canvas.

Now that this version of Mike has surfaced, you must find ways to feed it. Think of a project where he can exhibit the talent he has recently shown and help him unlock the talent he has yet to discover in himself. You both will benefit from the exercise. Please find an opportunity to come and see this artwork we now call our



"Winning takes talent, to repeat takes character." (Photo submitted)



The gym remake now provides a stunning background for performances. (Photo submitted)

“Dazzling performances from the entire cast!” — *Platteville Press*

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gymnasium (www.sainthelena-school.us). You might even have the light go on in your own heart

and step up to this challenge. **Jane Hileman, Principal**
St. Helena Catholic School

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Join us as a volunteer at this year's Monarch Festival and see for yourself. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Bilingual Spanish speakers are especially encouraged to volunteer. All volunteers receive an official Festival T-shirt as our way of saying thank you.

This year's Monarch Festival will occur on Sat., Sept. 8 from 10am to 4pm. The Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly's amazing 2,300-mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico with music, food, dance, hands-on art, and native plant sales.

The Festival will be held just east of the Lake Nokomis Commu-

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

4313 E. 54th St.

Minneapolis Monarch Festival volunteers needed

Upcoming meetings and events:

08/01, 6:30pm: NENA Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee, NENA Office, 4313 E. 54th St.

08/07: National Night Out, Neighborhood-wide

08/08, 6:30pm: NENA Green Initiatives Committee, NENA Office

08/23, 7pm: NENA Board Meeting, NENA Office

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Twitter: twitter.com/NokomisEast • Email: nenan@nokomiseast.org • Phone: 612-724-5652

nity Center in the area bounded by E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Woodlawn Blvd., and E. Nokomis Pkwy.

Please sign up at <http://monarchfestival.org/volunteer> to be an important part of running the Minneapolis Monarch Festival.

NRP Plan Modification public notification

The NENA Board of Directors will be considering three updates to the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP) documents and voting at its July 26 meeting.

A 21-Day Public Notification period started on June 29. All residents, businesses and property owners in the four Nokomis East neighborhoods are encouraged to review the plan modification materials and contact NENA or attend the July Board meeting if you have any questions and comments.

July 2018 NRP Plan Modification Fund Reallocations & Language Update



1. Nokomis East Utility Box Wrap Project, Requested Amount \$4,500 from NRP Phase I, Housing 1.1.1

NENA will install utility box wraps in Nokomis East in partnership with the Nokomis East Business Association. NENA's Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee will draft a Scope of Service for this project and present to the NENA Board for review and approval. The project will be allocated against Identify/Address Neighborhood Concerns strategy (Phase I, Safety and Crime Prevention 1.2.6).

2. Keewaydin Dancing Classrooms Project, Requested Amount \$6,000 from NRP Phase I, Housing 1.1.1

The Lake Nokomis Community School-Keewaydin Campus partnered with Heart of Dance MN to offer the Dancing Classrooms project for fifth-grade students in the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 school years. NENA will fund 25 percent of the total cost of the project. See the Scope

of Service from the Executive Committee for more information on the request and project. The project will be allocated against Identify/Address Neighborhood Concerns strategy (Phase I, People Services 2.1-3.6)

3. Keewaydin Dancing Classrooms Project Plan Language Update for Identify/Address Neighborhood Concerns strategy (Phase I, People Services 2.1-3.6)

Current plan language: "The NENA neighborhoods want to create a space that encourages family interaction and enhances livability of the neighborhood community. NENA will provide partial funding to provide safe and updated playground equipment for the Keewaydin School playground."

Proposed plan language: "The NENA neighborhoods want to create programs and spaces that encourage family interaction and enhances livability of the neighborhood community. NENA will provide partial funding to provide safe and updated playground equipment for the Keewaydin School playground and other programs at the Lake Nokomis Community School – Wenonah and Keewaydin campuses.

Questions? Please contact NENA's Executive Director Becky Timm at 612-724-5652 or becky.timm@nokomiseast.org.

Nokomis Days

Enjoy a weekend full of fall fun at Nokomis Days! Join us the second week of September for the Minneapolis Monarch Festival on Sept. 8, Lake Nokomis Community Schools Fall Fundraiser later in the day on Sept. 8, and the Nokomis East Business Association Block Party on Sept. 9. More details are coming soon, so follow "Nokomis Days" on Facebook or check out the NENA website today to stay up to date.

Sign up for NENA News

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Three candidates seek District 4 Hennepin County Board seat

BY TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Three South Minneapolis residents are vying for the District 4 Commissioner seat, and the field will be narrowed to two after the primary on Aug. 14.

Any race in Hennepin County that has more than two candidates will be narrowed by a primary election.



Angela Conley (Photo submitted)

Angela Conley

www.voteconley.com

Angela Conley seeks to be the first ever Black Commissioner to serve Hennepin County.

If elected, Conley promises to amplify community voices in decision-making. She would also prioritize a massive reduction in the amount of inequity across all county departments, and seek to make the 4th district seat on the County Board a true reflection of the diverse communities it serves and a safe place for all to inform policy decisions. Toward that end, she would form the first-ever Hennepin County Racial Equity Advisory Council.

Conley believes that it is critical to preserve families through social service programs that offer career guidance, housing, health care and other supports. She supports passing the African-American Family Preservation Act (HF3973).

She believes that the lack of housing affects too many people of color, indigenous people, and immigrants, and would lead housing reform to address this crisis.

Conley used to be that single mother on the bus with a stroller and says she understands the importance of a strong public transportation system.

Conley has spent many years of her working life as a social worker covered by a collective bargaining agreement; with AFSCME during her earlier years at Hennepin County, and then MAPE during her years working for the state of Minnesota. "My deep labor roots have shown me that when we lock arms together,

we can move mountains," said Conley. "The cornerstone of this campaign is building community power, and nowhere is that power more visible than in the achievements of working people collectively bargaining for better lives for themselves and their families."

She would seek to address "the epidemic of state-sanctioned violence against Black, Brown and Indigenous populations" by eliminating the cash bail system and enacting policy that requires low-level offenses be met with restorative justice instead of jail.

Conley also supports common-sense clean air and water solutions.

Born and raised in South Minneapolis, Conley currently rents a home in the Bryant neighborhood with her four children.

"For nearly 20 years I have worked tirelessly to change systems at the macro level, both at the state and county, in ways that are holistic, person-first and seamless," said Conley.

Past volunteer work includes President of Bryant Neighborhood Organization, and two years on the Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council. Endorsements include Take Action MN, Women Winning, Survivors Lead, Our Revolution - Twin Cities, Stonewall DFL Caucus, and Minnesota Young DFL.



Megan Kuhl-Stennes (Photo submitted)

Megan Kuhl-Stennes

www.meganforhennepin.com

Endorsed by the Green Party, Megan Kuhl-Stennes has spent the past ten years cultivating a family, an urban farm, and a passion for zero waste.

"I have devoted my professional life to moving us to zero waste, which centers on designing and managing products and processes in a way that eliminates threats to our health and the environment. The principles and values of zero waste can guide decisions beyond how

we treat physical objects," stated Kuhl-Stennes.

Her priorities include implementation of a truly zero waste plan within the county; community engagement and empowerment to make all people in the county active agents in establishing and implementing priorities; affordable child care that will also build capacity for small, family-owned businesses and working parents; urban food systems and access to high quality, local, organic food; a basic income guarantee to establish a universal, unconditional, regular payment from the county that would be enough to live on; and implementation of ranked choice voting in Hennepin County.

She advocates for decriminalizing the personal possession, use, or sale of all drugs for those 18 and older and shifting resources from these "racist practices of criminalization to more effective preventative health approaches" to decrease drug abuse and the conditions that lead to addiction.

"Instead of simply maintaining the status quo, we have the resources, money, and energy to make far-reaching changes that address the root causes of community concerns: income inequality, climate change, lack of accessible and effective health care, and lack of access to quality housing," said Kuhl-Stennes.

Raised in Dubuque, Iowa, she graduated from the College of St. Benedict-Saint John's University with a degree in environmental studies and a minor in theology. Following college, she lived in the Phillips neighborhood during a year of volunteer service with the St. Joseph Worker Program, and has owned a home in East Phillips Neighborhood since 2010 with her partner and three-year-old son.

As a 10-year employee of Eureka Recycling, Kuhl-Stennes works in customer service, community engagement, and advocacy. At Eureka, she pushed to stop recent legisla-

tive attempts to preempt local laws and led the fight in 2017 against the preemption of plastic bag bans and fees at the state legislature.

Other experience includes: Spirit of St. Stephen's Catholic Community, Community Council member (2012-2013), and chair (2014-2015); Eco Education, Board of Directors member (2011-2013); Minnesota Environmental Fund, Board of Directors member (2017-current); and 5th Congressional District Green Party, Steering Committee member (2011-2014, 2016-2017).



Peter McLaughlin (Photo submitted)

Peter McLaughlin

www.petermclaughlin.org

Peter McLaughlin has focused on investing Hennepin County resources in ways that will build a strong, urban, regional center.

He championed the Hiawatha LRT when nobody thought it could be built, and continues to support building out the LRT system. He presently serves as chair of the Counties Transit Improvement Board, which advocates for the expansion of the transit system.

McLaughlin helped develop a comprehensive county bicycle transportation plan and create a bicycle gap funding program to expand non-motorized transportation options. He advocated for the construction of Target Field Station in downtown Minneapolis, which serves multiple light rail, commuter rail, and intercity passenger rail lines, as well as

pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus riders.

He worked to achieve a merger with the Hennepin County Library System when the system was shuttering libraries and supported renovating and modernizing its buildings.

McLaughlin authored the resolution making Hennepin County one of the founding members of Cool Counties, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050.

He serves as chair of Fort Snelling Upper Post Task Force, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and County Administration Committee. His priorities also include workforce development as retiring Baby Boomers could mean the loss of 32% of Hennepin County's workforce.

"Thank you for supporting my work on economic and social justice, elimination of the education gap, fair taxes, and a transportation system that is reliable, affordable and sustainable," said McLaughlin.

McLaughlin received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1971, and his master's degree from the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota in 1977. He moved to Minnesota in 1975 and resides in the Standish-Ericsson neighborhood with his wife and daughter.

Over the years he has started and joined many community service organizations, including Phillips Partnership and the Midtown Community Works Partnership; and he's served on the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners since 1991. Before that, McLaughlin served three terms in the Minnesota Legislature.

He has been endorsed by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and AFSCME Minnesota Council 5, among others.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

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www.bethlehemcov.org
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Pastor Steven Reiser
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Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
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www.minnehahacommunion.com
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www.stpeders.org
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www.trinityfalls.org
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Five candidates vie for two Minneapolis School Board seats

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Five candidates have filed for two open at-large seats on the Minneapolis Board of Education.

According to state law, no more than two candidates can appear on the general-election ballot for each open seat in districts that hold a primary.

Doug Mann, Sharon El-Amin, Kimberly Caprini, Josh Pauly and Rebecca Gagnon filed between May 22 and June 5 for the two seats, which represent the entire district. One will not advance to the general election in November.

Advisory Committee.

Her advocacy work has included fighting to keep Loring Elementary open and to reopen Franklyn Middle. She has advocated for access to swimming lessons on the Northside, and for middle school athletics.



Sharon El-Amin (Photo submitted)

Sharon El-Amin
www.Sharon4Schools.com

A 27-year resident of Minneapolis, Sharon El-Amin envisions schools that are fully funded and a safe learning environment to provide the best experience for youth from Pre-K through 12th grade.

She has owned El-Amin's Fish House for 15 years, gaining valuable experience managing budgets. As a member of Masjid An-Nur in North Minneapolis, she has volunteered as the social coordinator, cooking meals for over 100 people on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

The mother of three is currently the President of Minneapolis North Polar Parent organization and a member of North High School Site-council. She was a member of Neon's Board of Directors for three years. Awards she has earned include: Start-Up Business of the Year 2002, 2010 Small Business of the Year, 2010 Longevity & Sustained Impact Award, and the 2010 Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained Nominee at Women Venture.



Rebecca Gagnon (Photo submitted)

Rebecca Gagnon
www.rebeccaformn.com

In the seven years that she's served on the school board, Rebecca Gagnon has focused on fiscal stability, equitable access to educational opportunities, and policy work that removes barriers to academic success and addresses institutional racism. She believes that using an equity lens and accountability are foundational to all of her work.

Gagnon is proud to have been part of a board that has achieved a structurally balanced budget FY14 and FY15, revamped district discipline practices, passed policy that applies an equity and diversity impact assessment to decision-making, and increase quality authentic stakeholder engagement. The board has also done long-range enrollment planning, reduced administration, and redirected more resources to schools while hiring a new superintendent.

Gagnon says she views herself as a mom first. She has raised two graduates of Minneapolis Public Schools, and her youngest is an eighth grader at Justice Page Middle School.



Doug Mann (Photo submitted)

Doug Mann
www.socialist5.wixsite.com/mannfor-schoolboard

A school board candidate in every election cycle since 1999, Doug Mann believes that education is right not a privilege.

If elected, Mann would eliminate "watered down curriculum tracks" by evaluating ongoing impacts of ability grouping practices on student outcomes. He is also challenging the district practice of issuing layoff notices more than the projected need to layoff teachers, and thereby shrink the pool of newly hired teachers by retaining more of them.

Mann served on the Minneapolis NAACP Branch Education Advocacy Committee from 1998 to 1999, the Minneapolis Parents Union Board of Directors from 1998 to 2001, and the NAACP MN-Dakota Conference Education Advocacy Committee in 2003.

Mann is the father of a South High graduate.

He is a licensed practical nurse and earned an associate degree and practical nursing diploma from the Minneapolis Community and Technical College.



Josh Pauly (Photo submitted)

Josh Pauly
joshpauly.com

A first-generation college graduate who came from a single-parent household, Josh Pauly credits education for changing his life trajectory. He wants to provide those same opportunities for all the students in Minneapolis.

He spent three years at Sanford Middle School teaching 8th-grade Global Studies, 6th-grade Minnesota Studies, and 6th-grade AVID. Pauly believes he would bring a unique perspective to the school board as someone who has worked in the district schools and understand the needs of students and the

ALSO ON THE PRIMARY BALLOT

The Aug. 14 ballot also includes three candidates vying for Hennepin County Sheriff.

Candidates include Joseph Banks, Dave Hutch and Rich Stanek. Two will advance to the general election in November.

challenges teachers face on a daily basis.

He stepped away from the classroom to begin PeopleSourced Policy, a nonpartisan, nonprofit civic engagement organization whose mission is to increase access and community engagement in the local political process. He is also the Executive Director of Books on Wings, a nonprofit serving Minnesota youth who attend schools with free or reduced lunch rates of 80% or higher with the mission of getting culturally relevant books to students in grades K-3.

Pauly also serves on the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Board.

Student honored

Continued from page 1

that these adults would open up to me and share their stories in such a personal way."

Westrem, her teacher, agreed that this was a difficult project. He said those interviewed were talking about near-death experiences, maybe the most traumatic thing they had ever been through.

"We lost our co-workers, Ruth and John. These were stories people often don't tell, and we are asking them to tell them to an 18-year-old high school student," he said.

Westrem said that Emma had been his student for three years at that point, and he knew who she was and that he could trust her. "She is exceptionally mature, intelligent, sensitive and very compassionate," he explained. "She is a good listener, and people trust her. She was the right person for this project."

Part of his job is trying to find the right project for each student, Westrem noted. "I knew the explosion and its aftermath would dominate our year. I am proud of how Emma handled that responsibility. I know she struggled with the trauma for a whole year. Hearing the stories over and over, I am sure, took its toll on her."

Westrem said that he and Emma agreed the proper way to dignify this subject without cheapening it or doing any injustice was to let people tell their own stories.

"Everyone had a different experience," he claimed. "We were worried the stories would be the same and people would lose interest. But although they had a common bond, they were so different. The stories are affected by what you bring to the situation, your circumstances at the moment."

He said he strongly believes one should not do a project for an award, but do it to contribute something to the community. "We feel journalism contributes something of value to the pub-



Emma Melling (Photo submitted)

lic," he said, referring to the beliefs he and his students share.

"I have respect for Emma's work and have always been proud of her, whether she wins a contest or not," Westrem said. "She always tries to do her best work and is very respectful of other people's stories. She does them with care."

Westrem, who spent two years in the Peace Corps in the Czech Republic and has worked as a newspaper editor before turning to teaching as a career, also was a student at Minnehaha Academy in the 1980s. His cousins attended in the 1970s, and his parents in the 1940s.

He said that the tragic event in August 2017 drew graduates of the school back. "It was interesting to see how important this campus was to our community," he said. "So many came back to visit the building."

"From the first day of 9th grade, I teach my students that journalism is unique, telling people's stories, going out to the whole world," Westrem stated. He said that although he grew up in the world of print journalism, his students need to learn social media and podcasting. "I teach my students to communicate in as many ways as possible to help them in any career they choose."

The 2018 Student Podcast Contest was the first that the New York Times sponsored and pitted 675 submissions against each other.



Kimberly Caprini (Photo submitted)

Kimberly Caprini

KimberlyCaprini.com

According to North Minneapolis lifelong resident Kimberly Caprini, the most urgent issue facing the district is trust and the need for extra support for students with the most significant needs.

"My mission is to rebuild parent trust in Minneapolis Public Schools," stated Caprini. "I will work to provide parents and community members with opportunities to be heard."

Caprini has volunteered in the Northside schools for over 12 years, at Jenny Lind Elementary, Olson Middle School, Northeast Middle School, Loring Community School, and Harrison High School. She has also been involved in the Family Community Involvement Committee, the Northside Schools Collective, and is a member of the district's World's Best Workforce 2020



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Traffic, parking top list of concerns near Minnehaha and Nawadaha

Residents offer less input on proposed development; more comments on concerns near Minnehaha Park

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Residents are less concerned about what's being proposed for Minnehaha Ave. and Nawadaha Blvd. as they are about overall traffic and parking issues in the area.

Among the suggestions made at a July 10 Longfellow Neighborhood Development & Transportation Committee meeting were to build a parking ramp for Minnehaha Park visitors and to enforce parking restrictions along the streets.

Michael Lander of The Lander Group suggested that another meeting be held that would look at these concerns specifically before he proceeds with any development at 4737 Minnehaha Ave.

"There clearly needs to be some follow-up regarding traffic," summed up Lander.

He also observed that 80 percent of the comments at the meeting had to do with the frustration over the planning documents for the area that residents don't seem to have embraced.

Building to replace Greg's Auto

The Lander Group has proposed constructing a \$9-10 million, four-story structure at Minnehaha Ave. and Nawadaha Blvd., directly across from Minnehaha Park.

The building would replace Greg's Automotive Service as the owner retires. "We will be cleaning up the site," observed Lander.

Previous projects in Longfellow by The Lander Group include West River Commons at E. Lake St. and the river, and Parkway West at 46th and 46th. The Lander Group has also recently completed a project at 38th St. and 28th Ave. which now houses its offices, and will soon be redeveloping the 38th St. light rail station site.

As they always do, the staff at The Lander Group began this project by looking through the various city and neighborhood plans for this area, explained Lander.

However, Lander was cautioned that these plans might not reflect the values of residents.

"Please don't make any as-



To make the building at 4737 Minnehaha Ave. fit in with the neighborhood, the design includes a landscaped pedestrian frontage with individual sidewalk entries for five homes. Every unit will have access to individual private outdoor space whether that be a porch, balcony, or terrace. (Illustration courtesy of The Lander Group)



Michael Lander of The Lander Group presents his plan for a 30,741-square-foot building at Minnehaha and Nawadaha, across the street from Minnehaha Park where Greg's Auto is now. It would offer 37 housing units, split between one- and two-bedroom apartments with a few studios. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

sumptions about what we want because there's a broad diversity," stated Neighborhood Development & Transportation Committee member Lisa Boyd.

One and two bedrooms

The proposed 30,741-square-foot building would offer 37 housing units, split between one- and two-bedroom apartments with a few studios. Configurations with-

in the L-shaped structure would range in size from 550 to 1,062 square feet.

Every unit has access to individual private outdoor space whether that be porch, balcony, or terrace.

Rents are expected to be market rate at \$1.80 to \$2.60 per square foot with no income or rent restrictions.

To make the building fit in with the neighborhood, the design includes a landscaped pedestrian frontage with individual sidewalk entries for five homes.

Lander pointed out that the entire area along Minnehaha is used currently to access the service shop, and the proposed design would make it safer for pedestrians who would not be competing with vehicular traffic.

The design includes 27 underground and ten at-grade parking spaces. Parking is accessed from an existing alley to the east. One bike spot per unit may be added to the wall in the parking garage.

Clem Paschal is concerned about how this will affect traffic in the alley and on his neighborhood streets, pointing out most families have two vehicles, not one. "Traffic has been really bad," he said, since the park board fixed up the park.

Carleton Crawford owns the



"Please don't make any assumptions about what we want because there's a broad diversity," stated Neighborhood Development & Transportation Committee member Lisa Boyd, who cautioned The Lander Group that the plans on file for the neighborhood might not reflect what people want. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

house adjacent to the proposed development site and noted that when he moved in two years ago, he expected there to be redevelopment. However, he questions putting a 50-foot wall next to his backyard and how long the shadow will be from a four-story building. He suggested that the L shape to the north be removed instead of using every bit of the property for the building.

Construction likely in 2019

The target market is expected

to be seniors and empty nester/boomers, both likely living in or near the neighborhood in single-family homes. The location of the building and nearby amenities such as light rail and bus access, as well as the parks and shopping being added along 46th, is likely to appeal to younger mid-career professionals seeking a more mature neighborhood setting, according to planning documents.

Apartments will feature open floor plans, abundant natural light, and modern kitchens and baths.

While many of The Lander Group developments include commercial space on the ground level, 4737 is all residential. Lander pointed to the large development with a grocery store, restaurant and more being constructed along 46th, which will be within a block of this space.

The project will incorporate stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on site. The BMPs will be designed to reduce peak flow runoff rates and provide water quality treatment before connecting to the city storm sewer, and will be coordinated with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Other sustainable features include: solar energy panel allowance; LED lighting; low water use plumbing fixtures; and high-efficiency heating and cooling.

The current project timeline would start construction in February 2019 and end in May 2020.

'Million dollar site'

"You're trying to make Minnehaha Falls like Lake Calhoun," stated lifetime Longfellow resident Mike Foster. "It's going to be all big buildings. This is arguably the premier park in Minneapolis."

Meanwhile, resident Matt Brillhart pushed for higher-end housing at the site because of its proximity to Minnehaha Park. "I'm a little underwhelmed by this design," stated Brillhart. "This is a million dollar site."

Architect saves classic homes; gives them new life for 21st century

By STEPHANIE FOX

The little house, sitting mid-block on 13th Ave. in the Hale neighborhood, had seen better days. Built in 1924, it had been the home for families who came and went, but when the last owner lost her husband, she began to collect items—lots of items. When she finally sold it last summer, junk and all, it became the beginning of architect Derik Hanson's plan to save older homes by remaking them for modern families.

Hanson had watched as dozens of urban homes were sold and then torn down, with huge mansion-like houses replacing them. The new houses are, he insists, often too big for the lots on which they sit and too big for their neighborhoods, dwarfing nearby homes. "Teardowns are happening like there is no tomorrow," he says. "I am trying to save houses instead, remodeling them to fit into the neighborhood."

He searched neighborhoods from South Minneapolis to the Wisconsin border until he came upon a one-story 867-square-foot



Architect Derik Hanson has big plans for the little house and for the future of smaller older homes in the Twin Cities. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

home, on a tiny .12-acre lot, a block from Minnehaha Creek. And, he says, he immediately saw the possi-

bilities. Partnered with former client Steve Aldrich, the two acquired the house last summer for \$165,000

and started to plan.

The house, Hansen says, was filled with enough stuff for him to

recognize it as a hoarder house.

"It was kind of sad," he says.

Continued on page 8

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Out of deadly tragedy comes a new 100-year vision

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Minnehaha Academy has finalized its design for re-building the portion of their school that was lost in last year's devastating explosion. The upper school campus, located at 3200 W. River Pkwy., has been the subject of neighborhood concern since early renditions of the plan were made public in the spring.

On May 17 the Zoning and Planning Committee of the Minneapolis City Council responded to an appeal filed by neighbors over the proposed re-build plan. The appeal was ultimately denied, but updated renderings show that Minnehaha Academy has responded to several neighborhood requests.

Principal Dr. Donna Harris said, "We believe this design reflects a modern interpretation of our original brick buildings, connecting the past with the future while committing to our vision of next-century learning. Our team and partners have selected sustainable and enduring materials including brick shingles on the top two floors, and a charcoal brick base on the main level. Both materials have natural variation and texture, which will complement the two existing buildings. There will be detailing throughout that respect the character of the campus, as well as the surrounding neighborhood."

From the most recent project



Dr. Donna Harris, Minnehaha Academy principal, in front of the modular unit that is temporary housing for administrative staff. She said, "Our school is 105 years old. As we've come together in this transition to reimagine our school for the next 100 years, we've realized that tragedy provides opportunity." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

update, the building height will be three stories (46'). The steeple will measure 59 1/2' at the tip. The total number of parking stalls will be 209, with additional space for 111 bikes. School bus traffic will be limited to three buses in the morning and afternoon.

The design of the new build-



Architectural concept of the view from W. River Pkwy. (Submitted by Minnehaha Academy)

ings incorporates bird-safe glass to prevent collisions in the Mississippi River's migratory corridor. Estimates are that 15 mature trees will be lost; 143 trees and over 700 shrubs will be planted. A three foot high, landscaped berm will conceal the view of the parking lot from the east.

"We hope neighbors can appreciate that our new building relates well to its location on the river," Harris said. "The plan that we first shared was conceptual, and neighborhood reaction was not positive. We heard clearly that people were concerned about Minnehaha Academy being on the river gorge, which is a migratory bird corridor; that they wanted pollinator-friendly plantings and bird-safe glass. We made several adjustments to our design after hearing neighborhood concerns. It's important to us that our new school

be viewed as a community asset."

To say that this was an unconventional rebuild project is a gross understatement. "Usually a school would have a couple of years to conduct a visioning process with board members, staff, and families," Harris explained. "Then a school would run a capital fund drive, and have a reasonable time frame for relocating in the interim, and finally re-building. In our case, the explosion happened Aug. 2, 2017, and within 24 hours, I had communicated with our community saying we'd be in a temporary location on the day after Labor Day."

"What happened next," Harris said, "was truly extraordinary. We quickly surveyed our parents and learned there was a strong desire to keep all of the student grades 9-12 in one location. Parents were willing to commute 8-10 miles beyond

our current location. We settled on the old Brown Technical College site in Mendota Heights, which offered us 55,000 square feet of floor space. Mortenson Construction (who is also doing our rebuild) brought in a team of 42 men and women to do what seemed impossible in just 15 days. They worked 12-hour shifts and were able to repurpose the space to make it work for us. Our parents, our students, and our teachers trusted us. We didn't lose one single family in the process."

Harris concluded, "We didn't handle the design process the way we would have if we'd had the luxury of adequate time. I've apologized for this at every public event I've attended. We're committed to ongoing communication within the community—we value being a good neighbor. As we approach the one year anniversary of the explosion, it's very important for us to reflect on our loss. We are also grateful though, for the sense of community that has been strengthened through this ordeal. We look forward to defining the legacy of Minnehaha Academy for years to come."

Construction began in June, and the project will be completed for the 2019-2020 school year. Questions about the Minnehaha Academy rebuild can be sent through www.minnehaharebuilds.com.

Hi-Lake intersection will soon sprout wings with lift from GoodSpace

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

GoodSpace Murals, a local arts initiative, held a community workshop at the Hi-Lake Transit Plaza on July 11, just below the busy light rail station. GoodSpace co-owners Greta McLain, Candida Gonzales, and staff talked with people passing by about their plans to improve the blighted intersection. They also gathered stories about cultural identity from people in the neighborhood, and plan to incorporate what they gathered into their finished art pieces.

What will emerge in the fall is a series of large-scale monarch butterflies on both sides of the sidewalk on E. Lake St. at the Hi-Lake intersection. A combination of steel sculpture and mosaic, the



Greta McLain, co-owner of GoodSpace Murals, said, "I feel so lucky to have been raised in South Minneapolis, and to have been part of so many positive changes here. I learned to make mosaic in Argentina; I went to school in California; I worked for a time in Philadelphia; but for me, this is home." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

installations will add an organic, artistic texture to the industri-

al-feeling walkway underneath the Metro Transit Bridge.

McLain explained, "We envision the butterflies at Hi-Lake as a gateway to the many public art projects being created along Lake St. this summer. Funding from the Lake Street Council and Metro Transit has made our project possible."

"We'll be collaborating with metalworker Paul Tinetti on the sculptures," McLain said. "His business, Tinetti Custom Steel and Woodworks, is located in the Ivy Building, like ours. The

project design hasn't been finalized, but we envision large, suspended, steel-cut monarch clusters on both sides of the underpass, and two flying butterflies with their wings outstretched. There will be mirror pieces inlaid in the monarch wings, and cascading off the butterflies onto the underside of the bridge. The monarchs will also have traditional textural patterns from different cultures in our neighborhood inlaid in their wings."

The butterfly sculptures are part of a two-part project honoring the immigrant history of Lake St. "At the July 11 community workshop," McLain explained, "people were asked to lay colorful mosaic pieces in support of immigrants in our community. They collaborated with one another to make 2'x 3' mosaic tile butterflies. The butterflies symbolize our natural migrations. We all came from somewhere! Once completed, the butterflies will be installed up and down E. Lake St."

McLain was born and raised in the Powderhorn neighborhood of South Minneapolis. She's a proud graduate of South High School, where two of her murals hang.

"I've been a community mu-

ralist for 15 years," she said. "I always knew I could do good work on the artistic end, but I needed someone who could manage all the other stuff. My strength is in being 'on the wall'; which means painting. I met Candida Gonzales four years ago through a project. She was working as a coordinator for Community Ed through Minneapolis Public Schools and was known for being good at nurturing community relationships and administration. Two years ago, we formed GoodSpace, and we currently have a staff of 16 independent artist contractors."

"Why the name GoodSpace? When we first moved into our studio warehouse at 2637 27th Ave. S., people kept coming in and saying, 'Wow, this is a really good space!' It just kind of stuck. In the last two years, we've completed 30 projects—mostly locally. This is exactly what I want to be doing. My art practice is? This is it."

For more information on the installation of the butterflies in the Hi-Lake underpass this October, check the Lake Street Council's Face Book page (Make on Lake Projects). For more information on the work of GoodSpace Murals, visit www.goodspacemurals.com.

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Local sites buzzing as Minnesota Bee Atlas nears completion

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Every two weeks, Longfellow resident Kathy Swenson packs her data recording sheet, magnifying glass, and flashlight, and heads over to the Minnesota Bee Atlas test site at 36th St. and W. River Pkwy. Swenson is a volunteer monitor at one of two test sites in South Minneapolis; the other site is at the Nokomis Naturescape Garden on the north-east shore of Lake Nokomis.

Each site has what's called a bee block on it: a chunk of wood with holes of different diameters that make channels for wild bees to lay their eggs in. The bee blocks were mounted on poles and put in place by Britt Forsberg, program coordinator for the University of Minnesota's Extension Service, which is responsible for creating the bee atlas. Careful monitoring of bee blocks across the state will provide new evidence as to which wild bees live where, and how they are doing.

"I started monitoring the bee block in April," Swenson said, "in-between blizzards. The first two times I went, all of the drilled holes in the bee block were empty. The third time I went, nine of the holes were filled, which meant that wild bees had laid eggs and deposited pollen sacs to nourish their young when they emerged."

Forsberg, who is coordinating the making of the bee atlas, said, "This project is happening because the Extension Service received a



four-year grant from the state's Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund. We've engaged 150+ volunteers across the state to act as citizen scientists, gathering information about Minnesota's wild bees through observation. Once completed, the online bee atlas will be hosted by the Bell Museum. Our goal is to have all of the data on wild bees in one place, where it can be accessible to the public as well as

to researchers."

The Prairie Oak Savannah and the Nokomis Naturescape Garden sites were chosen because they have a rich variety of native plants, which provide a variety of food sources for wild bees. Native plants rely on native pollinators; native bees need native plants to nest in and to eat.

Minnesota has an estimated 400 varieties of wild bees, and there are an estimated 20,000 varieties of

Minnesota Bee Atlas monitor and Longfellow resident, Kathy Swenson, checked the bee block at 36th St. and W. River Pkwy. She said a lot of people who think they've been stung by bees have actually been stung by wasps. Wasps are smooth-skinned, carnivorous predators that live primarily on aphids, caterpillars, and other insects. Bees are hairy and live on pollen and nectar. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

An easy way to attract stem-nesting wild bees in the home garden is this:

- plant native aster or cup plants;
- after they've bloomed in the fall, cut the stems off at 15-18"; and
- let the stems stand over winter, and into the next spring.

New growth will soon be much taller than the old stems, which can provide nesting habitat for wild bees while remaining invisible.

Once all of the data has been compiled, the Minnesota Bee Atlas will help to answer questions about wild bee behavior from "where do wild bees live," to "when are they most active?" Little is known about how wild bees are responding to the overgrowth of buckthorn in Minnesota forests—among other things. Information gathered from bee block sites may provide new insights into a changing environment.

Swenson, who is a retired National Park Service ranger and volunteer coordinator with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, said, "This is my first year as a site monitor, and I've enjoyed being part of a real research team. Citizen scientists don't create or evaluate a scientific project, but they do contribute in meaningful ways."

For more information, visit extension.umn.edu/natural-resources-volunteers/minnesota-bee-atlas.

Architect

Continued from page 6

"After the owner's husband died, she just couldn't throw stuff away. We bought it 'as is.' There were a lot of dumpsters filled with things and a lot of trips to Value Village." After donating the furniture, books, and antiques to a charity, he began the rehab, starting by tearing apart the interior.

Hansen has an abundance of ideas for the tiny home. He wants to move upward by adding a second story, making the 2-bedroom home into a 4-bedroom home. He wants to move the front door to create the main entrance off a patio on the side of the house, to refigure the layout and maybe, finish the basement. The house may end up with 2,500 square feet, but the footprint of the house won't change, he says. Hansen blanches at huge homes on little lots and, he hopes, this home will be an example for others who want to live in South Minneapolis and elsewhere in the Twin Cities but want a larger home.

JK Carpentry, who has worked with Hansen on some other projects, has signed on. "We're taking the existing house and reviving the foundation," says builder Jeremiah Kunde. "We'll make it a family home. We're trying to save stuff that might otherwise go into a landfill, and with this house, we can reuse material and turn it back into the home. We can make it so the house will still be here 100 years from now."

"The basement is a big room, rehabbed in the 1960s," Hansen says. "We'll find a way to raise the low ceiling, add drain tile so it will be a nice dry house, maybe make it into one big family room and add colored concrete floors."

The kitchen, he says, will have southern rooflines and lots of sunlight. "We have this house set up



The little house on 13th Ave. is still in the 'before' stage of remodeling. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

for full solar," he says.

The plan also includes keeping the two-car garage but allowing the possibility of expanding it upward.

Projects like this, Hanson says, can take months but he hopes to sell it in the fall. But he says, what

would be ideal would be a home-buyer who bought the home this summer and became part of the planning process. The home is currently on the market, even as the work on it continues.

Steve Aldrich, Hanson's business partner in this project,

claims he has only a small role in the project, besides buying the home. But, he is putting in hands-on work on the rehab. "I cut a lot of the little trees and hauled out a lot of garbage," he says. "I've been mowing the lawn there."

"Eric did work on my house in St. Louis Park about five years ago, and we talked about buying something like this and making it into something beautiful. The whole idea is to have a buyer to who understands our vision," he says.

He says that rehabbing existing small homes is the future of residential neighborhoods in the Cities. "My first house in 1987 was

only four blocks away. I love that neighborhood, near the Creek," Aldrich says. "In 10 or 15 years, the streets around here will be filled with houses that have been rebuilt. "Everyone wants to live in nice houses while being closer to the center of the city."

Hansen says that it would take a special kind of person to sign on now. "A lot of people don't have the stomach for the remodeling process," he says. "But, we are trying to engage the public."

"Remodeling is harder than doing it from scratch," he concludes. "But we are trying to do something different. It's going to be beautiful."

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Longfellow Corn Roast planned Aug. 9

The Annual Longfellow Corn Roast will be held Thur., Aug. 9, 5:30-8pm in Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave. S. The roast is an evening of fun, food, and entertainment perfect for the entire family. Enjoy hot delicious fresh corn on the cob, live family-friendly entertainment, face painting, fair style concessions, large inflatables, community information tables, and much more. Corn \$2, wrist bands for youth activities cost \$5, and outside vending prices very.

'Christmas In August' scheduled Aug. 11

Thee House UV Bethel (Thee HUB) is inviting the community to attend its first annual "Christmas In August" youth celebration. The event will feature kid-friendly activities for youth, ages one to 14, including a bouncy house, mini-Olympics tournament with an obstacle course and basketball. There will also be a cakewalk and face painting, along with toy giveaways, door prizes, live entertainment and free food. Also, parents will be able to access community resources from area nonprofits and vendors.

"Christmas in August" takes place Sat., Aug. 11, 12-4pm, at the Thee HUB, 4016 E. 32nd St. The free event is part of Thee HUB's 37th Anniversary week-end-long celebration, which also includes Pastoral Anniversary services on Aug. 12 at 10am.

Themed "Celebrating the Goodness of the Lord," Thee HUB looks forward to continuing its ongoing efforts to engage and support the greater community at large, which includes providing food and meals to the homeless.

For more information, visit theehouseuvbethel.org.

Blind Ministry meets

The Blind Outreach fellowship will meet on Sat., Aug. 11, at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., from 12-2pm. Lunch is served at noon followed by a Bible study and fellowship.

Preparedness kit available for NNO

Transition Longfellow would like to point out that National Night Out, Tues., Aug. 7 is a time to emphasize that emergency preparedness is community preparedness.

Transition Longfellow has put together a packet of preparedness materials that folks can share with others on their block. If you'd like to pick up

some materials, they'll have them ready by July 31.

We can also stop by YOUR block party to show a sample go-bag or home medical kit. Email Lisa at strom006@umn.edu to ask for materials or request a visit!

Absentee voting for primary now open

All eligible voters in Hennepin County can vote absentee—either in-person or by mail—through Aug. 13.

In-person absentee voting is available through Aug. 13 at the Hennepin County Government Center, 300 S. Sixth St., and at the Early Vote Center in downtown Minneapolis at 217 S. Third St. Hours are 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

To vote early by mail, voters must fill out an application online or on paper to receive a ballot. Paper applications are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Vietnamese, Russian, Chinese, Lao, Oromo, Khmer, and Amharic.

Voters do not need to be registered to vote to apply to vote absentee. To make the process easier, voters may want to register or ensure you are registered before applying for an absentee ballot.

Ballots will be mailed to voters within one to two days of receiving the application. Completed ballots must be received on or before Primary Election Day, Aug. 14. Voters can return ballots by mail or in person.

Potluck in the Garden set Aug. 8

Join the Longfellow Garden Club for a late summer evening outdoors talking—and eating—all things garden.

Bring a folding chair if you care to, and something to share—a dish using your garden (or other local) produce is the theme. Ice water and tea are provided. Feel free to bring a plate/utensils as we try to achieve close to a zero waste event.

The topic of the evening is in anticipation of the Club's November crafting workshop using various dried and other materials. We'll discuss how to collect and process plants and other things that you might want to bring.

They start at 6:30pm on Wed., Aug. 8. The location is a nearby member's beautiful garden, a map to the potluck is available after 6pm at the front door of the Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. See the Club at: sites.google.com/view/longfellow-garden-club-of-minn/home or go to www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub.

Longfellow sisters in epic sci-fi adventure

Juliette Kline, an 11th grader at Minnehaha Academy and her sister, Lillian Kline, who recently graduated from the school, are among the advanced students of the circus arts who will be starring in Circus Juventas 2018 summer show, "STEAM: Grab your goggles and fly!" It's an epic sci-fi adventure set in 1890's Paris following a young H.G. Wells and beloved science fiction writer Jules Verne on an unforgettable trip. The Steam Punk atmosphere of the show has spurred the imaginations of many of the performers.

"I wish that I could travel through time," said Juliette, who plays the mechanical doll Clockwork Girl in the show. "I also think it would be amazing for a doll to come to life with real feelings like my character does in STEAM."

"The athleticism and artistry in STEAM has pushed our advanced students to a new level," said Dan Butler, co-founder and executive director of Circus Juventas. "The massive 20-foot revolving Wheel of Steel will be just one of the exceptional acts holding our audiences spellbound."

STEAM premieres at 7pm, Fri., July 27 and runs through Sun., Aug. 12. Tickets may be purchased through the Circus Juventas box office <https://circusjuventas.org/summer-show-2018> or through Ticketworks. Ticket prices range from \$18.50 for children 10 and under and seniors 65 years of age and older to \$45 for VIP seating. All shows are held at the Circus Juventas big top, 1270 Montreal Ave., St. Paul.



Juliette Kline (Photo provided)



Lillian Kline (Photo provided)

Elder Voices meets July 27 at Turtle

"Elder Voices Telling Our Stories" will meet 10-11:30am on Fri., July 27, and Thur., Aug. 23, at Turtle Bread Company (4205-34th Ave.).

Elder Voices Telling Our Stories primarily focuses on describing our retirement situations, the challenges presented to our retirement situations and what engages us in our retirement situations. Last month included challenges of keeping housing affordable for us especially for retirees "aging in place." We share information, offer support and suggest action options to each other.

NA group meets twice weekly

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

Greenway Glow scheduled for July 28

Join the Greenway Glow—the night-time Arts Festival and Bike Ride on the Midtown Greenway—on Sat., July 28,

6pm-midnight. The arts festival is free, but they invite you to join them for an organized Bike Ride during the festival to help support the Greenway!

For more info go online to go.midtowngreenway.org/glow.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

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

Epworth Garden plans events

Epworth Gardens Weeding Wednesdays for Kids is planned for every Wednesday through Aug. 22, 9:30-11:30am. School-aged kids are invited to join in the watering and weeding the Epworth gardens, plus a story, craft, games, and a snack! Children ages 3-10 are required to bring a caring adult to help and watch over them.

Epworth Gardens Fun Adult Fridays are planned for every Friday through Aug. 24, 9:30-11:30am. Adult Fridays are all about learning more about maintaining the garden this summer! Adults will water and weed, as well as do special projects to maintain the garden. Occasionally there may

be a speaker or discussion included. Coffee will be provided.

Epworth Gardens Sunshining Sundays are scheduled every Sunday through Aug. 26, 12-1:30pm. All ages are welcome to water and weed the gardens and enjoy a snack – occasionally there will be a special speaker or project during these sessions.

Learn more about Epworth Gardens at EpworthMPLS.org/Garden.

Faith Book Club meets Aug. 4

The Faith Ev. Lutheran Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month from 10-11:30am at the church, 3430 E. 51st St. The book for Aug. 4 is "The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir" by Kao Kalia Yang. Join the group for coffee, treats, and conversation in the basement fellowship room.

Community garden celebrates 75th

Dowling Community Garden (DCG) will celebrate its 75th anniversary with an event to be held in the Garden area (3901 46th Ave. S.) on Sat., Aug. 18, from 11am-1pm. Many of the almost 300 gardeners will attend, the public is invited, and admission is free. There will be a short program and refreshments at noon. Everyone is welcome. There will be exhibits featuring the 75-year history of the Garden. Also featured will be exhibits of vegetables grown in the Garden, tastings of heirloom vegetables, and garden tours.

DCG was founded in south Minneapolis in 1943 as a World War II Victory Garden. Victory Gardens were a way for civilians to help with the war effort by growing much of their own food, thus freeing up commercially-grown produce (mostly canned) for the troops and for export to U.S. Allies. The garden area grew explosively during the war. By 1945 it covered almost all of the area west of Dowling School and south into the area that is now the Luella B. Anderson addition of Minneapolis, encompassing about 20 acres. Plots were large, and most gardeners came from rural backgrounds with plenty of gardening experience. After the war, the Garden continued, but on a much smaller scale, shrinking to the area that is the north portion of today's Garden.

Beginning in the 1960's, the Garden expanded slowly, and some of the large plots were subdivided into smaller, more manageable plots. This continued until the 21st century when the Garden reached its current configuration of 185 plots on roughly 3 acres of land. Most

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In Our Community

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plots are rented to couples or friends, so there are almost 300 registered gardeners.

The property is owned by Minneapolis Public Schools and leased to DCG, which rents the plots to individuals, most of whom live in the Longfellow community. Gardeners retain the same plot year after year, thus permitting the growing of perennial plants such as berries, rhubarb, and asparagus. DCG is entirely volunteer. It has no paid staff, thus keeping plot rents low. Today DCG is one of only two continuously operating Victory Gardens in the U.S.

Because DCG has no paid staff, each plot is required to provide 4 hours of service to the Garden each season. Tasks vary

from mowing paths to maintaining tools to delivering gardener-donated vegetables to area food shelves.

DCG maintains a very active program of collecting surplus vegetables and delivering them to area food shelves. Donations reach several tons per season.

Music in Parks continues in August

Music in the Parks program continues in August at Minnehaha Park, 4801 S. Minnehaha Dr. All programs start at 7pm, and scheduled programs include:

- Fri., July 27, M French (Americana music)
- Wed., Aug. 1, Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project (improvisational jazz, family friendly)
- Thur., Aug. 2, Nick Dinius Band (blues for the entire family)

- Fri., Aug. 3, Rich Lewis Band (8-piece vocal, soul, Americana)
- Wed., Aug. 8, World Jazz Collegium (modern international jazz)
- Thur., Aug. 9, Brian Peterson (family-friendly, pop, folk, jazz)
- Fri., Aug. 10, The Zingrays (50's-70's rock-n-roll pros love to play)
- Wed., Aug. 15, Handsome Midnight (friendly alternative rock w/ class)
- Thur., Aug. 16, Catherine English (acoustic American finger-style folk)
- Fri., Aug. 17, Bossa Jazz Band (classic Brazilian jazz)
- Wed. Aug. 22, Shrewd Mammals (jazzy, funky, bluesy instrumental music)
- Thur., Aug. 23, Broken Heartland String Band (Americana, folk, country)
- Fri., Aug. 24, Famous Volcanoes (original, folk, bluegrass, family friendly)

- Wed., Aug. 29, One Ukulele (harmonies, folk, Americana, singalong)
- Thur., Aug. 30, Classic Brass Quintet (brass quintet music of all types)
- Fri., Aug. 31, Percolators (electric 60's rock, vocal harmonies)

Float Fridays at Rick's this summer

Rick's Place, 4307 E. 54th St., will sponsor Float Fridays through early Oct. Get \$2 ice cream floats (root beer, coke, cherry coke) every Friday, 5-9pm, with all proceeds going to Every Third Saturday and help support veterans and their families. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy a sweet treat to beat the summer heat. For more information about Every Third Saturday and what they do, visit www.everythirdsaturday.com.

Nokomis seniors plan upcoming events

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

Join Nokomis Healthy Seniors on Tues., Aug. 8 from 1-3pm for a free Low Vision support group. No RSVPs needed. Held at Nokomis Square Co-op, 5015-35th Ave. S.

On Thur., Aug. 23, 1-2:30pm, join a free Caregiver support group designed for those caring for an older adult. Held

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Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by August 20 for the August 30 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Messenger Classifieds, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Messenger before Aug. 20 for the Aug. 30 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.

CARPET CLEANING

St. Aubin's Carpet Cleaning - 2 rooms starting at \$69. Furniture and car interior cleaning. Mike 612-636-3079. Dave 612-721-5105. 8-18

EMPLOYMENT

Volunteer & Earn Money! - Seniors Corps is looking for volunteers to assist seniors in your community. Volunteers receive a stipend, mileage reimbursement & other benefits. Contact Kate Lecher 651.310.9447 or kate.lecher@lssmn.org 8-18

GARAGE SALE

August 3-4. Friday 12 to 6. Saturday 8 to 5. 3520 36th Ave. S. Minneapolis. Furniture, Toys, Lots of Books and Movies. 8-18

HANDYMAN

Dr. House does it all: From a leaky faucet to a new addition. I can save you money on electrical and plumbing. Call John at 651-231-5652. 8-18

HOUSING WANTED

Mature working woman looking for one or one-plus bedroom apartment. Will consider home share with elder in need of some help. Flexible moving date between September and November. Great references. Lynn - 651-489-9053 / Lynns@bitstream.net

Quiet woman needs pet free/smoke free apartment. Liz- 651-235-6779

LAWN SERVICE

A Greener Lawn service provides weekly mowing, spring clean-up, and complete lawn care. Owner operator, 20 years in South Minneapolis. 612-554-4124. 8-18

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PETS

John's Dog Walking - Daily dog walks, boarding and in home pet visits. 15 years experience, Insured and Bonded. 612-825-9019. www.facebook.com/johnpetservice. 8-18

SERVICES

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STORAGE

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owned and family operated. 1/2 block from Lake and Hiawatha. 612-333-7525. 8-18

TILING

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WINDOW CLEANING

Larry's Window Washing - You will see the difference. Inside and out. 651-635-9228. 8-18

WOODWORKING

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In Our Community

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inside Bethel Lutheran Church.

NHS will host a Health and Enrichment program on "Medical Cannabis in Minnesota," presented by Minnesota Medical Solutions on Thur., Aug. 2, at 1:30pm. It will be held at Nokomis Healthy Seniors inside Bethel Lutheran Church.

Get your blood pressure checked, socialize with your neighbors, and enjoy a treat and coffee at Nokomis Healthy Seniors' "Nurse Is In" drop-in Blood Pressure Clinic on Thursdays, 9:30-11:30am. This free clinic is held every Thursday morning.

Beer and Bible with Epworth set Aug. 8

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

LGBTQ support group meets Saturdays

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

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.

Aug. events at LS Healthy Seniors

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a month-

Anderson exhibit runs at Pump House



Longfellow artist Lisa Anderson's exhibit of abstract works runs through Sept. 8 in LaCrosse WI. (Photo provided)

Longfellow painter Lisa Anderson's exhibit of abstract works titled, "Outline" at the historic Pump House Regional Arts Center in La Crosse, WI from through Sept. 8.

Anderson talks with enthusiasm about her passion for painting. "I am happiest when standing in my studio, brush in hand, about to start a new piece," she said, "those first few brush strokes are so exciting and full of hope."

"My primary medium is acrylic paint on canvas, accented with oil pastels and the occasional strip of masking tape or whatever else I find that has an interesting texture," Anderson said, "I am infatuated with squares and rectangles reminiscent of windows and doors. Sunlight through a window is incredibly inspiring. I'm intrigued and indirectly guided in my work by shapes and shadows cast at different times of the day."

Anderson will exhibit 25 of her paintings in the Kader Gallery at the Pump House Regional Arts Center, 119 King St. in La Crosse. Gallery hours are Tues.-Fri., 11-7pm and Sat., 12-4pm.

Follow Anderson online at LisaAndersonPaintings.com or at [Facebook.com/LisaAndersonPaintings](https://www.facebook.com/LisaAndersonPaintings).

ly Senior Social/Health Talk on Tue., Aug. 21 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. The presentation is entitled "Preventing Identity Theft," and the speaker is Cheri Kay Getz, Personal Banker with U.S. Bank. Learn how to detect and prevent identity theft, as well as repair any theft that's already happened. (There is a \$1 suggested donation.) Free blood pressure checks are conducted afterward. Everyone is welcome.

A monthly Diabetes Support Group for adults will be held on Wed., Aug. 8, 1-2:30pm at Trinity Apartments (in the dining room), 2800 E. 31st St. You do not need to be a resident of Trinity Apartments to participate. Call the Healthy Seniors office at 612-729-5799 for more information.

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

Loring Park Art Fest planned July 28, 29

Organizers of the Loring Park Art Festival have a full weekend of fun planned for the annual artful garden party, July 28 (10am-6pm) and 29 (10am-5pm). Loring Park is located at Oak Grove St. and Hennepin Ave.

The festival itinerary and maps will be available throughout the park. For full details and hour-by-hour schedule, go online at loringparkartfestival.com.

Hymn Festival planned July 27

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents a program of hymns and reflections which proclaim the Gospel in a variety of cultural styles, from a range of times. This hymn festival precedes and is offered in conjunction with a two-day conference on liturgy co-sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) and Mount Olive Lutheran Church, entitled "With Hearts and Hands and Voices." The event takes place at 7:30pm on Fri., July 27, in the air-conditioned nave at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. This event is free and open to the public.

For further information on this event and the Music and Fine Arts program go online at www.mountolivechurch.org.

Healing Waters meets Wednesdays

The Healing Waters Qigong Practice Group meets every Wednesday year round, from 3:30-4:30pm, at the Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center, 2701 E. 44th St. Healing by

the water, through the water, and for the water, learn simple Spring Forest Qigong healing movements, and guided meditations for health. Every week they practice sending their healing to the world and blessing Lake Hiawatha. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per meeting.

Local students take awards at Nationals

As the National History Day competition wrapped up, Minnesota's 60 competitors took home an array of awards, including four first-place wins. An additional three entries received second and third place medals after two rounds of judging.

Awards were announced in a ceremony at the University of Maryland. Minnesota's 60 students came from across the state, joining more than 3,000 other students from across the nation in the weeklong competition.

The students, representing grades six through 12, presented exhibits, papers, documentaries, performances and websites that showed off months of research into topics based on the 2018 National History Day theme: "Conflict and Compromise in History."

The top three national finishers in each category earn monetary awards. First place receives \$1,000, second place receives \$500, and third place receives \$250. National History Day also recognizes one outstanding state entry in each division, junior and senior, with a medal.

Local winners included:

- Ella Hoch-Robinson, Sanford Middle School: 1st Place, Junior Individual Website, "A Duty to Serve: An Ethical Conflict, An Unethical Compromise?"
- Sofia Fish & Azalea Rohr, Sanford Middle School: 1st Place, Junior Group Website, "Great Lakes, Great Legacy? Compromise of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement"
- Kathleen Grube, Roosevelt High School: 1st Place, Senior Individual Exhibit, "The Tuskegee Syphilis Study: How Compromised Health Created an Ethical Conflict"

Other local top finishers from the *Messenger* area included:

- Gwen McMahon & Erika Peterson, Sanford Middle School: 7th Place, Junior Group Documentary and Outstanding Junior Division Entry for Minnesota, "A Failure to Protect: UN Intervention and The Rwandan Genocide."
- Kathleen Grube, Roosevelt High School: Full scholarship to participate in the 2019 Summer National History Academy for five weeks.

Bossen Park set for more improvements

A sweeping overhaul of Bossen Field Park began in 2016. Last fall, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and Bossen Park users celebrated a number a new and upgraded park amenities including six new softball fields realigned in a safer layout, a new playground, new full-size basketball court, new pathways and

parking, and two new open play fields

The park improvements will continue this fall when the existing park building is renovated thanks to rehabilitation funds allocated through the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20). Building improvements will include:

- Repairs to the damaged building exterior
- Bathroom upgrades
- New single-use ADA-compliant bathroom
- Building lighting upgrades
- New door security hardware

The water line to the building, which supplies water for the wading pool and bathrooms, is also scheduled to be replaced. The deteriorating condition of the pipe requires full replacement, despite multiple repairs in recent years.

The MPRB appreciates the public's patience while the second phase of this project is completed. Work on the building is expected to begin in August and wrap up this fall. We ask that you please stay away from areas under construction.

Give blood locally

The need for blood is constant. The supply is not. Summer months can be a challenging time to collect enough blood to meet the needs of hospitals because schools are out of session, people are enjoying the weather, and families take vacations. Give blood with local nonprofit Memorial Blood Centers and help your neighbors in need.

To help support the need for blood in local hospitals, this August all presenting donors with Memorial Blood Centers will be automatically entered to win Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Gophers football tickets.

On Tues., Aug. 7, 10:30am-1:30pm, the drive will be at the Minneapolis Veterans Home, 5101 Minnehaha Ave.; and on Wed., Aug. 8, 1:30-4:30pm, at Graphic Systems, 2632 26th Ave. S.

Donating blood is convenient and safe when you are:

- In good health
- Free of antibiotics for 24 hours, unless taken daily for a skin condition
- Symptom-free for at least three days following a cold or a flu
- 17 years or older—16 with written parental consent (form available at mbc.org)

While walk-in donors are always welcome, we encourage appointments be made in advance. To register for a blood drive, go online to mbc.org or contact the sponsoring organization directly. Visit mbc.org and search blood drives to find the most up-to-date blood drive list in your community.

Submit your news

If you are an organization located in the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger* delivery area, you can submit your event, special program, or noteworthy news to us for consideration. Submit your item by email to editorial@deruyternelson.com. The deadline for the next issue is Mon., Aug. 20 for the Aug. 30 issue.

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Ten-year celebration becomes forerunner of next decade

By JAN WILLMS

It has been ten years since Gandhi Mahal, an Indian restaurant that serves a sustainable and seasonal menu, opened its doors at 3009 27th Ave. S. At a recent anniversary celebration, owner Ruhel Islam welcomed the community to share in the restaurant's success over the past decade, as it has grown some of its own food through community gardens and a basement aquaponics system that has produced vegetables, herbs, and tilapia.

But Gandhi Mahal is not a business that rests upon its laurels, and in a recent interview Alex Christensen and Khadija Siddiqui, aquaponics co-managers, shared some of the plans the restaurant has moving forward.

Christensen originally became involved with Gandhi Mahal through one of the backyard gardens that provides produce during the local growing season. He started working with the aquaponics system a year and a half ago.

Siddiqui became involved through her connection with Pangea Theater, 711 Lake St. She said the theater owners and founders are old friends of Ruhel and were having dinner at the restaurant. A tour of the current aquaponics system was given, and Siddiqui began volunteering. "I officially came on the staff in January," she said.

The aquaponics system in the basement below the restaurant started in 2014. "Pretty quickly after I came on, Ruhel started talking about wanting to expand the system," Christensen related. "He wanted it to grow into something bigger. We have been exploring what that could mean."

Christensen said there is a basement space under the property that is just south of the restaurant, a property Islam also owns. "That became the focus of our expansion ideas, and ever since then, it has just been a matter of figuring out how to maximize the space. What's special about the current aquaponics system is that it's accessible; you can walk down there from the restaurant. That's



Claudia Santoyo, Gary Shaich, Sen. Patricia Torres Ray and Ruhel Islam at anniversary fundraiser. (Photo by Jan Willms)



Fernando Anderson samples some of the food at Gandhi Mahal anniversary fundraiser. (Photo by Jan Willms)

great, and a lot of people do that. We want to still have that accessibility, but really want to zero in on the productivity part of it," Christensen continued.

He said it had not been managed with an eye toward production for a while. "It is something that as an industry, as a science, as a form of agriculture, is really about feeding people. We wanted to design the expansion with that in mind."

"The system right now," said Siddiqui, "I would see as a grand experiment. It is jammed into an urban space where it is surviving and thriving even though it is in a space where it was not meant to be. With expanding, the larger focus will be on creating a space where it is meant to be. If it is thriving now, think of what it could be with more space."

Christensen noted that it is important to realize that the aquaponics system cannot meet the needs of the restaurant, nor will that ever happen. The scale of it is just far too small. "It's also important to recognize we are not going to try to grow rice, because it would just not be efficient whatsoever, at the rate this restaurant goes through rice."

He said that at the outset of the expansion plan, they sat down and talked about what made sense to focus on. "Where in the past it has been an experiment growing a couple dozen kinds of different things, we are trying to narrow that scope to focus on things the restaurant needs, and it helps if they are

fresh. So we will focus on things like cilantro, where you want something really potent and fresh and ripe-flavored. Or things like chilis, with the same idea, and salad greens for the salad bar and lunch buffet, or cooking greens as well."

He said the expanded system will highlight four or five things in addition to tilapia. "We will leave room for some herbs and tea, and a few fun things," he added. "Instead of having tiny ingredients from 20 different things, we wanted 100 percent of just a few. It's an easier story for us to tell, and easier for us to manage."

Siddiqui said the restaurant used to serve an aquaponics salad, made with aquaponics greens. "If we can create whole salads or supplement all the chilis, that will be super cool," she said.

She said the new space is being built by scratch from the ground up in the space next door to the restaurant. "It is connected by a stairway and is on the other side of the wall from Gandhi Mahal's banquet room," Siddiqui said.

"We don't have a super hard and fast deadline, so we want to take the time to do it right and improve the space before we move everything in there," explained Christensen. "There are a lot of challenges to growing in a basement to begin with. Even more challenging when that basement is in a building that is over 100 years old. It's also a challenge when it is just us. So we have been taking the time to do everything from filling in cracks to priming and painting the room so we don't have to worry about mold issues."

They are also getting a proper HVAC system installed to make it more comfortable for people to work in the space, but also to improve pollination and the building itself.

Siddiqui reflected on all the good things that have happened with the current aquaponics system, with tours being conducted. "Now we can plan and design what we want, so we can physically have humans in this room. We are trying to keep future growth and expansion in mind, with room to experiment a little

bit," she said. The backyard gardens will continue, according to Christensen. There is one official and flagship garden and ten to twelve backyard gardens, in which people volunteer to grow cauliflower or potatoes and bring the harvested crop into the restaurant.

Another big part of the expansion will be fish. "With the expansion, tilapia will be harvestable up to the restaurant so we can start three or four tanks with the fish in various stages," Siddiqui stated.

"I really appreciate being able to be a part of all the things Ruhel is trying to do," Christensen said. "Bees on the roof, backyard gardens, solar energy—he is very ambitious in a community-oriented way. I get a lot of energy and inspiration, and really value it."

Siddiqui said Islam takes a lot of risks, but they are good risks. "We're a risk," she said. "But whatever it is, Ruhel says we will just do it, and it will be done. He has some faith in it, and he disseminates that out to everyone around him. He says it will be fine, and we will do it."

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