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Puppets stimulate wonder and imagination

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Why were children kept out of new Triangle Park playground all summer?

Funding, contracts, and weather, made the entire process complicated says the project manager

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The new playground at 54th St. and Bloomington Ave. looks ready to play on, but the construction fence is still up.

Although the playground equipment is installed, work on the walkways and resilient surfacing has been delayed, according to project manager Adam Arvidson.

The exact date when the park will open is still unknown and depends on the weather.

The autumn rains have prevented the contractor from getting proper soil compaction for installing walks and playground surfacing. Because of cool temperatures, it now looks like the playground may not open until next spring. The pour-in-place surface needs temperature to be above 50 degrees for 24 hours.

A complicated process

The entire project became more complicated last fall when the five bids submitted for the new playground came in 30 percent higher than expected.

"We felt that the high bids might be due to the time of year and the scarcity of construction materials at that time," explained Arvidson. Minneapolis Parks and Recreation rebid the project in February and added trails and the main beach work at Nokomis to gain some economy of scale.



Rain has delayed work this fall on the concrete and asphalt trails, as well as the playground surfacing, at Triangle Park. According to MPRB Commissioner Steffanie Musich, weather delays may prohibit this project's completion this fall. Temporary fill options and ways of curing the pour-in-place surfaces under play equipment are being explored. If not completed this fall, remaining work will be done in 2016 when ground conditions and temperatures meet material requirements. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

"The February bids were good, with two bidders below our estimate. Unfortunately, neither of these two were able to achieve civil rights approval from the city of Minneapolis," said Arvidson.

"Our only option then, in light of the impending grant funding deadline was to do what we could through other purchasing methods." MPRB bought the play equipment and let some of the work through per-approved

contracts, but those mechanisms have expenditure limits, and they could not do everything through that method.

And so, bids were solicited a third time for Triangle Park, this time without the play equipment and a few other smaller items.

The time lag between these two construction contracts is the reason for the hiatus this summer. The playground equipment was installed by the June 30, 2015 deadline. Then the Park

Board began another months-long process to bid work, receive civil rights review and board approval, execute contracts, and begin work with all due diligence in place.

"Would we love for this to move more quickly? Yes," said Arvidson. "But all these mechanisms are in place to protect the taxpayer and ensure fair, equitable, and transparent expenditures of the community's dollars."

Grant funds come with deadlines

MPRB received two Metropolitan Council grants that paid for all the improvements in Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, including the planning effort and work at the Sandcastle Terrace. However, this money came with non-negotiable deadlines, and if they weren't met it meant MPRB would lose the money.

The first of these expired on June 30, 2015, and the second will expire on June 30, 2016.

"Our original plan was to complete the 54th St. playground and accessibility improvements at the main beach using the first grant," explained Arvidson. "When it became clear due to the volatile bidding climate that we would not be able to contract for the entire project in time to meet the June 30, 2015, deadline, we had to get creative."



Neighbors have questioned why the playground equipment has been sitting there since June but children haven't been able to play there. The answer is that MPRB bid the equipment and surfacing separately, racing to meet grant fund deadlines. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

The original estimate for the Triangle Park playground itself was \$420,000, including a drinking fountain, restroom enclosure, and walkways through the playground. This estimate did not include the Triangle Walk that runs between Edgewater and 54th.

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It takes a community to support a food shelf

Article and photo by JAN WILLMS

It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a community to support a food shelf.

George Gallagher, the manager-director of the Minnehaha Food Shelf, located within the Minnehaha United Methodist Church at 3701 E. 50th St., can attest to that.

Whether it is the Riverview Theater donating 2500 pounds of food and as much as \$2,000 from its expo of Christmas classics, or the Cub Scout Drive and the Postal Service drive collecting food items, or Fat Lorenzo's donating the pasta for the annual pasta dinner fundraiser, Gallagher said the Minnehaha Food Shelf benefits greatly from community assistance.

He cited the Oxendale Market, Bergan's Supervalu and the Nokomis Lions as being other benefactors.

"We also just had a beer tasting at Falls Liquor Store," Gallagher said. "We raised over \$700."

Gallagher also had high praise

for the food shelf volunteers. "I am the only paid staff member, but about 32 dedicated volunteers help out," he noted. "We have about

eight vets who volunteer, and they love it here. We have some elderly ladies volunteer, and they love it here. I tell them all the time I am

proud to be in the same building as them."

Although Gallagher has been in his position for five years, the food shelf has been operating for the past nine. He gravitated toward this job because he had been a grocer most of his working life.

"I love it," he acknowledged. "I've been on the board of directors for Second Harvest for several years and worked many years with the Emergency Food Shelf Network, which is now called the Food Group. And I worked 40 years for the Country Club Markets."

Gallagher said that Second Harvest is 85 percent of the backbone of the food shelf. Although fundraisers provide for 10 percent of the food shelf needs, he said area churches provide for a lot of the funding.

"Right now we're in a lean



Last month the local food shelf served 667 people, including 195 children, 80 seniors, and 40 veterans.

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Neighbors concerned about city plans for Riverview Rd. and 54th

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Yardville Precinct residents in Morris Park don't trust the city to do what it says, and they made that clear during a neighborhood meeting on Sept. 30.

Thirty-year neighborhood resident Tim McGee pointed out that several years ago they were told that single family bungalows were going to be built on the lots along Riverview Rd. and 54th that MnDOT had purchased and leveled to widen Hiawatha Ave. He added that the former residents had been evicted and forced out of their homes by MnDOT. Now the city has purchased a few adjacent lots, and the development has morphed into high density.

He insisted that the city should build single family houses to replace what used to be there.

"We have people who can't sell their houses right now because of what was built behind them," added his wife, Pam McGee. "We don't trust anyone anymore."

Mindee Anton attended development meetings ten years ago and noted that she almost didn't attend this meeting because she didn't think it would make a difference. "The city did what they wanted," she commented regarding the past.

Minneapolis Council Member Andrew Johnson, who is serving his first term, sought to reassure residents. "Know that your feedback absolutely matters here," he said.

Johnson hosted the meeting on Sept. 30 in cooperation with



Thirty-year neighborhood resident Tim McGee wants the city to merely replace the single-family homes torn down in the area, rather than construct a large multi-family building. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association.

"We want to have your input on what is important to you," Johnson said. "That will directly shape the requests for proposals."

In response to a question, he stated that notices for this meeting were mailed to everyone within one block of the site, and everyone at the meeting confirmed via a show of hands that they lived within a few blocks of the development site.

Unique space

The Yardville Precinct is unique in that there is an open, public space running along the back yards of Riverview Rd. and Hiawatha Lane. The city maintains an easement, but the underlying owner is the Minnesota Dept. of Revenue.

The Nokomis East Light Rail Transit Station Area Plan adopted in 2007 encourages development in the area as single-family, two-family and two-to-three-story multi-family. It suggests

that residential uses could be at a higher density because of the existing green space behind the lots, but stressed that the green space should remain a private space intended for adjacent residents, not for use by the general public.

Resident Andy Rinder stated that he would be fine with four stories as long as there were multiple entrances and good pedestrian flow.

When asked what details would help new development fit into the surrounding neighborhood, attendees listed: green space, owner occupancy, low density, underground parking, and multi-income. They also suggested that there be a grocery store or coffee shop.

"We don't want something that is out of place in our neighborhood," said T. McGee.

It will be a long process

Jimmy Lloyd, who is leading this project, pointed out that after the city receives proposals from developers, each will be evaluated based on the objectives set by the city and residents. After the proposals are ranked, the city may ask a developer to tweak their project to meet more of the criteria.

The city will not be returning to residents with the proposals.

"This is a long process," explained Lloyd, "between the wants and needs of the city, the neighborhood, and what is cost effective for the developer."

He asked residents to be flexible, stating, "Don't let the perfect get in the way of the good."

After listening to resident comments, Lloyd said that what he heard is that they don't want massive structures like they've seen already, they don't want the view to be blocked, they want different housing styles, and they want it to more accurately fit into the neighborhood.

Continued on page 7

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Senior Community Services, a Twin Cities-based nonprofit organization, mobilizes open-hearted people to bring affordable home maintenance and chore services delivered by trusted professionals and community volunteers. The Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME) program offers services including housekeeping, handyman tasks, shoveling, mowing, and painting. HOME's goal is to provide low-cost services to help seniors continue to live independently in their homes. A network of reliable workers and volunteers provide indoor and outdoor chore services to residents ages 60 and older.

HOME is able to offer services based on a sliding fee scale. This means seniors contribute to the cost of the service based on their monthly income and ability to pay. HOME also accepts some insurance payments as well as the Elderly Waiver and the Alternative Care Grant.

For program details, please call 952-746-4046 or visit seniorcommunity.org/programs/home.

Energy assistance

The Energy Assistance Program, offered through Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH), can help homeowners and renters pay energy costs—such as a heating bill—between Oct. 1 and May 30 each year. If you qualify, you could re-

ceive a grant to cover some of your energy expenses. This grant is paid directly to your energy provider, to reduce your energy bill. Applications for the 2015-2016 Energy Assistance Program Year are now available. You can print an application from www.capsh.org/services/energy-assistance/ or have one mailed to you by calling our Energy Assistance Program intake line at 952-930-3541.

Energy Related Repairs Program

CAPSH's Energy Related Repairs (ERR) Program provides emergency repair or replacement of broken/non-functioning heating systems (ex. furnace) for Energy Assistance clients. For more information about problems with your heating system, please call 952-697-1411.

Energy conservation

The Energy Conservation Program helps low-income families and individuals improve the energy efficiency of their residences, to lower energy bills. The program can help you reduce your home energy bills, save energy and make your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. It is free to those who qualify, and can include energy audits, assistance with furnace repair and replacement and home weatherization. To qualify for the Energy Conservation program, you must first enroll in Energy Assistance (above). Please call us at 612-872-3294 or visit www.src-mn.org/energy-bills.

Solar and wind energy resources

The MN Department of Commerce has all of the information you need to learn more about distributed wind projects and solar thermal and electric technologies. Resource links include purchasing considerations, benefits, challenges, renewable energy installers and community solar gardens. Visit mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumers.

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Food shelf

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time of the year," Gallagher stated. "When we go into Christmas and Thanksgiving, those periods kick off the giving season. I like to maintain a three to four-month operating reserve in our account, and we are down to one month, so we're in a tough position right now."

He maintained that donations do increase over the holidays, and that usually keeps the food shelf in good standing until around March or April. When school lets out, he said the need goes up because kids are at home and costs go up for the household.

Gallagher said he has to provide a monthly plan to Second Harvest to qualify for TEFAP, the federal emergency food assistance program.

"Last month we served 667 people," he said. "That included 195 children and 80 seniors. We also served 40 vets." He said the numbers of veterans using the food shelf has grown, with new housing that has just opened up by the airport.

"We have boundaries for the Minnehaha Food Shelf," Gallagher continued. He said that the Mississippi River is the eastern border; Lake Street is on the north; Cedar Avenue is on the west and the airport on the south.

"Our clients have to provide a permanent address when they register here," Gallagher added. He said they are allowed one visit a month, and they have to resubmit applications every June.

Minnehaha Food Shelf is open every Tuesday from 10:30am to

3pm. "If someone has just moved in and does not yet have the proper ID, we give them some groceries on a one-time basis. No one ever leaves here without food."

"The number of people in the families determines how much food they get," he said.

"Right now we are fortunate that we are in the midst of a grant," Gallagher noted. It is a grant for milk provided by the Minnesota State Legislature. "It saves us a good

amount of money and provides a good level of protein for clients," he said.

Gallagher said the food shelf is looking for a grant writer. It has received grants from Minnesota Hunger Solutions and Minnesota Food Share and has an application in for a grant from Affair of the Heart. "It's difficult to get grants, though," Gallagher said.

He said that since he has started there has been about a 25-30

percent increase in the number of clients. As well as vets, another group that has grown is children.

The average age of the families applying is getting younger, according to Gallagher. He said medical bills and inadequate insurance count for a lot of the increase in clients.

"In Minnesota, the average number of times a family visits the food shelf is 4.5 times per year," Gallagher said. "Most food shelf

clients have jobs; they just can't afford to maintain things."

He said a lot of really wonderful people visit the food shelf. He told of one family that came for help because the husband had been hurt on the job, and Workman's Comp had not yet started. Once the family was on its feet, the husband donated \$200 to the food shelf. "He wanted to pay us back for helping him," Gallagher said.

Family and friends mourn Dorothy Casserly

Local woman was a pioneering journalist in Minnesota

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Dorothy Casserly died on Sept. 25 at the age of 89. By anyone's measure, she lived a full and satisfying life. And as granddaughter Janie Goodson reflected, "She opened doors for so many women who came after her."

Casserly lived in the Nokomis neighborhood for more than 65 years. She and her husband raised six children there, and all the kids attended neighborhood schools. Casserly herself was a graduate of the University of Minnesota's Class of '45. She had what very few women had at that time: a bachelor's degree from the School of Journalism and a strong will to succeed as a writer.

The field of journalism was entirely dominated by men in the 1940's. In her first job out of college, Casserly went to work for the *Faribault Daily News* as "society editor." She described her duties there in a 1991 issue of the *Eagan Chronicle* saying, "I report-



Of his mother, Dorothy Casserly, son Charlie said, "What she really loved was a good story." (Photo submitted by the Casserly Family)

ed the social news of the town including long, descriptive accounts

of weddings, and who poured at 'teas.' I wrote all the church news and the obituaries and, as the only woman in the newsroom, I was expected to answer the telephone."

"After Faribault," she continued, "I worked as a copy editor and in public relations, but the printer's ink prevailed again, and I married a newspaper man. Then came many years of caring for our children, with occasional freelance writing assignments."

Son Charlie Casserly described what it was like growing up in their family of eight. "Language was always very important to us," he said. "We were allowed to read at the table at breakfast and lunch, but not at dinner."

"By the time we were all teenagers," Charlie explained, "Mom had returned to writing for the *Belle Plaine Herald*, the newspaper her grandfather founded two generations before. She commuted to Belle Plaine early in the week and stayed over for a day

or two until all her assignments were done."

Acknowledging that there weren't many women working outside the home at that time, granddaughter Erin Goodson said, "I'm thankful to have had a grandmother who was the best example of a strong, independent woman."

Casserly wrote for several newspapers in the metro area, including the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*. Over the course of her long career, she received awards of distinction from the MN Newspaper Association, the MN Women's Press and the MN Education Association.

From the beginning, Casserly's was an encouraging voice for women in journalism. That message was experienced first-hand by her children and grandchildren and viewed with admiration by her colleagues, professional acquaintances, and many dedicated readers.

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Becketwood Cooperative good for residents and neighborhood

Members share what they love most about living in a cooperative

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Peg Hanson values privacy and community, and she finds both at Becketwood Cooperative at 4300 W. River Pkwy. S.

As one of the longest-residing residents at Becketwood, Hanson appreciates not having to call a plumber if the sink gets clogged or worry about other home maintenance items.

She was drawn to the idea of the housing cooperative when plans for Becketwood were being developed. A Longfellow resident since 1947, Hanson was on the original wait list for Becketwood but didn't move in until January 1989 after her first husband passed away.

She appreciates the sense of community at Becketwood and believes that is more apt to happen at a cooperative than in a condo building.

Stimulating environment

"Becketwood has a stimulating environment," Hanson remarked. There are many activities and programs to participate in. She's served on the board of directors for a number of years, and is currently volunteering in several behind-the-scenes activities. She regularly attends the Tai Chi classes offered at Becketwood.

"I tell people: Don't wait too

long," advised Hanson. "So often people say I am not ready for those places yet. Yes, there are a lot of us who have lived here a long time and, yes, we are old. But I think being part of a community, and the interaction it entails, helps keep us better both mentally and physically."

Bob Kirk and his wife moved across the river from Highland Park to Becketwood two years ago, drawn in part by the location on 12 acres near the river. "E. River Pkwy. is the most beautiful walking/running/biking path in the Twin Cities," Kirk observed. Plus, "we have the biggest flock of wild turkeys in the Twin Cities."

He knew a significant number of people living at Becketwood,

and, like Hanson, had watched the facility be built in the early 1980s.

Financially, it was not important to them to be a coop, Kirk pointed out, but he appreciates the spirit of cooperation.

He and his wife serve on the Food, Excursion, Safety, Shop, and Art Committees. They have organized four pub crawls, and a cider making party. They play recorded piano music in the Wellington Room every afternoon. And every Apr. 1, they have a satirical publication with items that wouldn't be allowed in the regular newsletter.

"The Becketwood mission has been to provide a well-maintained, financially stable housing in a beautifully wooded setting, creating a vibrant, supportive, coopera-

tive community," stated Manager Mark D. Dickinson. "That mission continues as members actively govern the cooperative and participate in so many facets of community life."

Becketwood encourages members to participate in all aspects of the community activities from serving on committees to helping with gardening on the grounds, according to Dickinson. There are approximately 275 members, and there are about 175 who participate on committees, and many are on multiple committees.

"Members encourage each to participate—with so many committees, it is easy to find a niche or interest," he added.

About 25% of Becketwood members come from the surrounding neighborhoods in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"If you do not want to take care of maintenance of your house and yard anymore; if you are tired of snowplowing in the winter and lawn-care in the summer; but still wish to have some equity in your living place to leave to your descendants and to have some say in how your living place operates, co-op living is for you," said board president Lily Ng, who moved to Becketwood from Ohio five years ago.

Sense of community sets it apart

Ng remarked that the members at Becketwood set it apart.

"The members are uniformly friendly. Neighbors volunteer to help each other, whether to provide rides to various appointments

Among the various events regularly offered at Becketwood are tai chi classes, which member Peg Hanson attends regularly. "I think being part of a community and the interaction it entails helps keep us better both mentally and physically," said Hanson. (Photo submitted)

or to do pet-sitting, plant-sitting when neighbors are away, etc. We take care of each other and provide support systems for each other," said Ng.

"The high level of participation of the members in the running of Becketwood and the respect shown to each others' opinion is what I appreciate most about Becketwood."

A dream realized

Ground broke for Becketwood Cooperative in 1984 after years of planning. A board of 10 women looking to create a new kind of housing was inspired by the success of 7500 York (a cooperative in Edina for senior citizens developed by Ebenezer Society).

Supported by the Episcopal Church Home, they purchased what was formerly the Sheltering Arms Orphanage. The orphanage, begun in 1882 by Sister Annette Relf, was given 140 acres along the river in March 1900 from the estate of Richard Martin. Later that year, Sheltering Arms sold some of its property to the U.S. government for the lock and dam for \$1,450. Two years later, they sold 28 acres



Becketwood Cooperative members Jacqueline Teisberg and Bob Benjamin weed the garden. (Photo submitted)

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Continued on page 11

St. Albert the Great focuses on meaningful celebrations

Annual St. Francis Day blessing of the animals is one of many 'community expressions of love'

Article and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

In the late afternoon on the first Sunday in October, a semicircle of chairs was arranged in front of the Catholic Church of St. Albert the Great. Parishioners and neighbors balanced cats, small dogs, stuffed animals and portraits of beloved pets on their laps. Larger dogs hung toward the back, where they sat quietly in the afternoon sun.

Father Joe Gillespie led the congregation in an annual animal blessing, acknowledging the vital role pets play in people's lives and their hearts. Each animal received an individual blessing, and several people shared stories about their pets. The service ended with a robust singing of "All God's Critters got a Place in the Choir."

St. Albert's, and countless churches around the world, offers a special service like this every year to coincide with the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day.

St. Francis of Assisi was known as the patron saint of creation. St. Francis, who died in 1226, loved the whole animal kingdom. He is often depicted with a wild wolf he is said to have tamed, and is revered for being a lover of all creation.

St. Albert's is celebrating 80 years together as a parish family this year. Since the middle of the Great Depression, they've been a caring Catholic community anchored at 2836 33rd Ave. S. Their spirit of caring runs deep—and is visible in the many ways they offer to explore a life of faith within the Catholic tradition. St. Albert's states that, "Regardless of your age, gender, marital status, income, physical ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, political persuasion or religious background, you are welcome here."

They offer a whole lot of ways for people to engage with their faith and with one another. "Music is a great strength of our worship services," said Father Joe. "We're lifted up by the inspired singing of the choir, the excellent acoustics within the sanctuary and the beauty of our concert grand piano," he said.

Beyond the joy of worship music, parishioners and community members alike took part this summer in St. Albert's fourth annual concert series. Called "She Swings," it featured women jazz art-

ists with some serious groove. "The performances averaged about 300 audience members each," said Father Joe, "and we'll be putting the series on again next year."

Father Joe arrived at St. Albert's in 2006, after serving the Basilica of St. Mary in downtown Minneapolis for years. He said, "Going from a congregation of 15,000 to several

selves and the Parish on systematic racism. The group meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

St. Albert's also has a poverty outreach program called, "We Care." The program is run by volunteers and offers fellowship and financial assistance to persons in need. Applicants need not be residents of the parish or in any way as-

we're able to make \$40 worth of MTC bus cards, CUB or Target gift cards available for up to 12 persons. Anyone with a state or tribal ID card is eligible for services once in a three month period. If more than 12 people are present, we choose recipients in an informal lottery."

"It's not a lot of help," Sim continued, but it can make a dif-

ferred next, call the church office at 612-722-9726.

Adjacent to the church office is a school one could easily assume was a parochial school. Since 2014, it's been home to the Bdote Learning Center: a K-5 Dakota and Ojibwe immersion charter school that's run by the Minneapolis Public School System. The mission of the Bdote Learning Center is to develop culturally aware, successful students by providing them with an education that is academically rigorous, rooted in the language and tradition of indigenous people.

Father Joe emphasized the value of personal and spiritual growth St. Albert's. He said, "For me, being part of this congregation has been an ongoing invitation to learn."

"One of the things this church has learned to do very well is to organize meaningful celebrations in old-fashioned ways, with surprising twists," Father Joe explained. Their six Lenten Fish Suppers fed more than 7,000 guests last year. In addition to fresh, tasty fish and fixing's, two bands each night played music from jazz to bluegrass.

"Behind the scenes of this 'well-oiled machine'," Father Joe said, "are a network of church and neighborhood volunteers. That's what it's all about here—building community and connectedness through God's work."

Photo upper left: Father Joe Gillespie lead the animal blessing from the church's front stairs.

Photos upper right and lower left: All faiths and all species were welcome at the annual St. Francis Day blessing of the animals service.

Photo lower right: St. Albert the Great was a 13th century scholar and researcher of animals, birds, insects, plants and minerals.




hundred was an adjustment, but I quickly grew to love it. It's possible for me to know families and individuals deeply here, to enter into both their joy and their pain."

The church has identified two significant ways of engaging with the community beyond their walls. One is through the work of their Peace and Justice Committee, which has chosen to focus on the endemic issue of racism in society. The Committee invites all interested parishioners to join them as they look at ways to educate them-

sociated with the church—though if they are, that's fine too.

Church administrator Erin Sim explained, "Four times a month,

ference in those times when there's just more month than there is money." To volunteer or to learn when "We Care" services will be of-



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Triangle Park

Continued from page 1

The total of the contracts to install the playground is \$637,409, but that includes the Triangle Walk.

This is much more than expected and, is about equivalent to the lowest bids last October.

Arvidson admitted this was a disappointment.

"In an effort to get closer to our project estimate we rebid the project twice, split it in two, hurried like crazy to meet funding deadlines, and ended up (financially speaking) back where we started," he observed. "In hindsight, this

"In hindsight, this seems like a mistake, but had we last October approved a bid 30% higher than our estimate, I expect that would have come under scrutiny, as well."

—Adam Arvidson

seems like a mistake, but had we last October approved a bid 30% higher than our estimate, I expect that would have come under scrutiny, as well."

The good news

Because MPRB could not spend all of the first grant on Triangle Park, it was able to complete other work in the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, including:

- An expanded main beach, with new beach chairs, accessible paving for the playground, an accessible path to the water's edge, relocation of the boat/bike rental facility to the north end of the beach (the infrastructure was put in place and the booth itself will move for next season), and a new sand and water wheelchair made available for beach patrons with lower mobility
- Pathway fixes throughout the park, including repaving of some of the worst sections
- New canoe/kayak racks and a dock at the north end of the lake
- Purchase of additional site furniture such as picnic tables and drinking fountains that will be installed beginning next year (this in-

cludes a new drinking fountain at the main beach)

• Reconstruction of the Triangle Walkway between Edgewater and 54th St., including an accessible ramp down from Edgewater. This was one of the absolute worst stretches of pathway in the park.

"In all, a concerted effort by several MPRB staff from various divisions allowed us to spend all of the first grant on items that will benefit park users," said Arvidson. "Though we had quite a few curve balls throughout the past year, we succeeded in not leaving any grant money on the table."

Upcoming improvements

Next up will be significant trail work at the southern intersection of Cedar Ave. and Lake Nokomis Pkwy.

"This area was a very high priority for most participants in the master planning process," pointed out Arvidson, who led that process last year.

MPRB will be creating larger pedestrian ramps, wider crosswalks, and easier trail circulation from the pedestrian and bike trails to the crossing. It is also likely (although somewhat dependent on the cost of bids) that a new trail will be built along Cedar between that southern crossing and the bridge, and from the bridge northward to the northern intersection of Cedar and Lake Nokomis Parkway.

"This segment of trail will allow a full circumnavigation of the larger basin of Lake Nokomis without a roadway crossing," said Arvidson. "We are also looking at a few other substandard trail segments around the lake for rehabilitation if the budget allows."

Community has been understanding

While he's been receiving several emails and calls from residents each week inquiring about why the Triangle Park playground is half-done, Arvidson said the community has been very patient and understanding.

"People seem to get the reality, even if they don't love it," said Arvidson. "As project manager, I hate that it has taken this playground so long to open. I want to thank community members for their patience."

Morris Park

Continued from page 2

Concerns in the neighborhood

Residents also expressed concerns about current parking along River-view Dr., pointing out that people park for free there to avoid paying the parking fees at the dog park across Hiawatha Ave.

"It used to be a real calm, quiet neighborhood. Now we can't get through," said Ileen Johnson.

Council member Johnson responded that he would request that the road crew take a look at the parking situation and make a recommendation the next week. He said he would also ask the fire department to drive by to eval-

uate whether they could get a rig through the road when cars are parked on both sides.

Some residents are frustrated that there is no bus stop at the senior building along 54th near Riverview Rd.

Anton noted that there are no streetlights along Minnehaha to the lightrail station. Another resident pointed out that the Blue Line stops for two hours a night, which affects how people who work nights can use the lightrail line for commuting to work. After midnight, the train only goes through once an hour.

Consider catering to younger professionals

Attendees were also asked to share their ideas on how the city can best

leverage the benefit of the nearby lightrail station at the Veterans Hospital.

P. McGree isn't sure that the city understands who lightrail uses are. "This is what the city doesn't get. Everyone who uses the lightrail still has two cars," she said. Because of this, any development done in the area needs to provide enough parking.

Anton suggested that development cater to young professionals who work downtown and want to commute via the lightrail, and want such amenities as solar panels.

"Whoever comes up with the best design for the community is who we will be going with," promised Johnson. "Know that is my commitment to you."

Walgreens opens new store on East Lake

A big little neighborhood drug store opens one block from its previous location

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

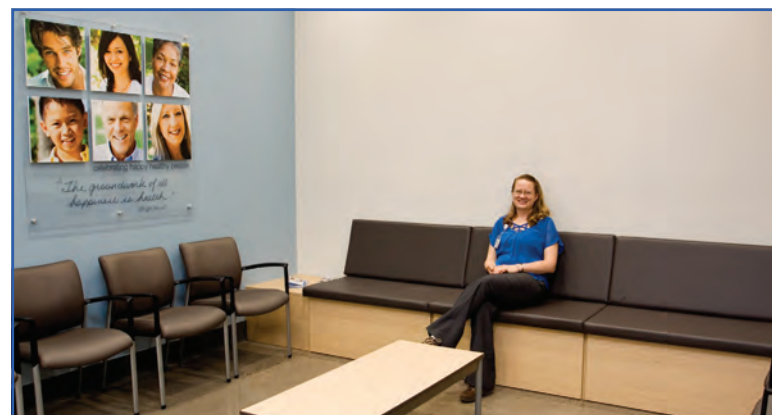
Walgreens nationwide has a slogan: that their stores can be found at the corner of healthy and happy. The Longfellow Walgreens has moved to a new corner too, and now occupies the south side of E. Lake St. between 31st and 32nd avenues—just one block west of their original store.

The new store doesn't sport a much bigger footprint, but it's cheerful, well-organized and just feels better. The most noticeable change is the abundance of light pouring in, with significant windows on the north and west-facing walls. While there are fewer aisles of merchandise in the new store, those aisles are longer and spaced more widely apart. The new space also allowed for an expanded parking lot and a pharmacy drive-thru option.

The new store opened in late September. According to store manager Jamie Foreman, "The move took a full two weeks, with 15-20 employees from Twin Cities Walgreens stores pushing all our inventory across the street on hand carts. Everybody really pitched in."

The 15,780 square foot building was finished on time; the staff was in place; the customers were there but, unfortunately, the computers failed opening morning. Employee Marshon McCans greeted people at the front door with his customary kindness and asked them to come back later when the computers would be up and running.

McCans works at Walgreens as a front-end cashier and a pharmacy tech. In both positions, he's able to satisfy what he called, "My passion for putting a smile on people's faces." He said, "I think



Jamie Forman, the store manager for the East Lake Walgreens, said, "We're here to help people get well, stay well and be well." She is seated in the new pharmacy waiting area. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

my joy rubs off on people, especially when they're going through a tough time." Consequently, if the store's computers happen to fail on opening day, McCans is the likely choice to be the one up-front explaining it. He just seems to bring out the best in people.

When asked to describe what he thinks are the most important points of customer service, McCans said:

- Greet each person with a smile;
- Go the extra distance to make sure the customer gets what they came for; and
- Take good care of them for as long as they're in the store.

Stand-out customer service is an asset to any store, and it's something that isn't that common anymore.

"I've worked hard to earn the trust of my customers," said Pharmacy Manager Kefale Bogale, "which is necessary for building a healing connection between us. Pharmacy is a lot more than just writing out prescriptions."

Bogale is a native of Ethiopia. He came to America with a pharmacy degree and masters in toxicology but had to pass a series of rigorous equivalency exams before he could work in Minnesota as a pharmacist. He often jokes with his native English speaking coworkers, saying, "I passed my language proficiency exams, making me a 'certified' English speaker. Can you beat that?"

Bogale, who is as busy providing excellent customer service in the back of the store as McCans is in the front, explained his philosophy. "If you want to excel at customer service," he said, "you have to understand your customer's situation. That's how you build customer loyalty and for me, because I love this neighborhood so much, it's been easy."

The new pharmacy area provides comfortable seating for a dozen or more waiting customers. Other perks include a private consultation room where the pharmacist can explain prescriptions, give immunizations and talk about health concerns. And, the drive-thru pharmacy makes for faster, easier prescription pick-up.




OPEN HOUSES


Thursday, Nov. 12 & Jan. 21
6:30-8:30 p.m.



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**LONGFELLOW
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ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF**

PLACE: Gandhi Mahal, 3009 27th Ave S
DATE: Sunday, November 15 TIME: 5-7pm
To buy early discount tickets or to enter your chili recipe, go to www.longfellow.org/chili

Minnehaha Bike Rack Design Winner Selected



Congratulations to South Minneapolis' own Luis Fitch of UNO Branding for his winning bike rack design contest submission. Keep an eye out for the new bike racks along Minnehaha Avenue in the spring of 2016. LCC would also like to thank all of the local artists who submitted designs in our contest!

November's E&T Meeting: Community Solar

Join solar expert Trevor Drake from the Clean Energy Resource Team for a Community Solar presentation at this month's Environment & Transportation Committee meeting on November 24th, from 6:30-8pm at Gandhi Mahal, 3009 27th Ave S. A Q&A session will follow the meeting, which is open to the public. If you have interest in community solar or would like to get involved with the E&T committee, please contact Joe Sturm at 612-722-4529 or joe@longfellow.org.

Calendar of Meetings and Events

NOVEMBER 2015

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

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
Tuesday, Nov 10
6:30-8pm
Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S
info@longfellow.org

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT
Tuesday, Nov 10
6:30-8pm
Lake Coffee House, 3223 E Lake St
joe@longfellow.org

RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, Nov 11
6:30-8pm
Hiawatha School Park,
4305 42nd St E
info@longfellow.org

GIVE TO THE MAX
Thursday, Nov 12

LCC'S CHILI COOK OFF
Sunday, Nov 15
5-7pm
Gandhi Mahal Community Room,
3009 27th Ave S

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, Nov 19
6:30-8:30pm
Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S
melanie@longfellow.org

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
Tuesday, Nov 24
6:30-8pm
Lake Coffee House, 3223 E Lake St
joe@longfellow.org

LCC Hires New Communications & Office Manager and Says Farewell to Community Organizer



Bonnie Horgos

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new LCC position: Communications and Office Manager. We are even more pleased to announce the hiring of Bonnie Horgos, who began this position on October 6th. Bonnie was born and raised in California, and moved to Minnesota in August 2014 where she now lives as a Longfellow resident. Before start-

ing with LCC, Bonnie worked in journalism for eight years, after which she worked for A Home Within, a nonprofit organization that provides therapy to foster youth. In her free time, Bonnie enjoys swimming, gardening, and improving the Longfellow home she purchased in April. We are thrilled to have Bonnie as a member of our LCC team and she is excited to give back to her new and beloved neighborhood.

On October 16th, JoAnna Lund resigned from her position as LCC's Community Engagement Coordinator, a week after the one-year anniversary of her bike accident, which left her with a Traumatic Brain Injury. Over the last year, JoAnna has worked very hard to overcome many personal and physical challenges related to her injury. JoAnna invested herself very deeply in the work of engaging Longfellow communi-



JoAnna Lund

ty residents from all walks of life. Everyone who has worked with JoAnna knows of her great energy and positive spirit. She will be missed by many in this community - most especially by the LCC staff.

President's Message

**Eric Day,
President of the Board**

Being November, my family is currently focused on the practice of giving thanks, as I am sure many of you are during this time of year. I believe that saying thank you to those who work hard to improve the lives of others in our community is extremely important and I'd like to take this opportunity to do so.

I want to thank everyone who came out last month for our annual community fall meeting! I'd also like to say how grateful we are for all of the wonderful Longfellow restaurants that donated food to this event and allowed us to provide a delicious and free meal to the Longfellow residents that attended. I also would like to thank the LCC staff for their hard work in putting on this fun and worthwhile event. It was that not only an enjoyable evening, but also a great opportunity to connect residents with resources and programs, and to gauge the priorities of the community.

I'd like to say thank you to all of LCC's wonderful volunteers who



Eric Day

put in countless hours working to improve our great community. This active group of neighbors has been responsible for many impactful ongoing programs in Greater Longfellow from keeping our River Gorge clean, to encouraging development, to removing graffiti, to fostering the arts. Our community owes you a great deal of gratitude.

Finally, I'd like to thank you. Thank you for looking out for your neighbors. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe. Thank you for helping this community grow into the thriving place it is. It is no wonder that the Longfellow

Community is the best place to live in the Twin Cities.

However, even with all of this great work from you and other members of our community, we still need more help. I'd like to personally ask each of you to get involved, to volunteer, or to make a donation to LCC so that it can continue the great work it's doing in our neighborhood. Every little bit helps and I know that together we can continue to make this community a great place to live, work and play.

There are two great opportunities to contribute to LCC in the coming weeks. The first is our Chili Cook Off on November 15th at Gandhi Mahal. This event is not only a great time, but has the added bonus of serving as a fundraiser for LCC. The second is by contributing to our Give to the Max campaign on November 12th online at longfellow.org. While there are many worthy causes in need of help, I hope you will join me and the other members of the LCC Board of Directors in making a financial donation that will have a meaningful impact right here in the Greater Longfellow Community.

Thanks again for your continued support and I'll see you around the neighborhood!

COOPER HOWE

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HIAWATHA

Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406

612.722.4529 • www.longfellow.org

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

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

In Our Community

Messenger

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for both the newspaper as well as the Messenger Facebook page (Facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger). You can also go to our website, LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com and enter the information in the online Event Calendar.

Place your pasty order by Nov. 2

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. is sponsoring a Fall Pasty Sale Sat., Nov. 7. Pasties are \$6 each; please have your orders in by Mon., Nov. 2. Call 952-688-8937 or 612-722-0232 to place your orders. Pasties can be picked up at Epworth between 2:30-4pm on Nov. 7.

Trunk and Treat at Bethany Oct. 31

Trunk and Treat Sat., Oct. 31, from 5:30-7:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (in the parking lot on 37th Ave. and 39th St.). Kids are invited to come in costume for treats in a safe environment. Families are welcome to the celebration.

Breakfasts planned at Danish Center

The next Danish American Center Aebleskiver Breakfast is planned for Tue., Nov. 17, from 9:30am-12:30pm (no reservations are required). This breakfast is being held in conjunction with the Art Fair.

The cost for regular "all you can eat and drink" breakfasts is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu includes aebleskiver, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee.

The Danish American Center

Senator Torres tours Ft. Snelling flood damage



Senator Patricia Torres Ray (DFL-Minneapolis) tours a flood-damaged office at Minnesota's Historic Fort Snelling campus. The Senator visited in late September to learn more about Fort Snelling's upcoming request for state bonding money as they plan to rebuild the aging visitor's center and protect the site against future flooding.

is located at 3030 W. River Pkwy. (off of Lake St.). For more information, please call Lisa Jensen at 612-724-7705 or the Danish American Center at 612-729-3800.

Trunk or Treat at Trinity Oct. 31

Looking for a family-friendly Halloween event? Come to Trunk or Treat, complete with decorated cars and lots of treats, a bounce house, and kids' games. This free event will be held outdoors at Trinity of Minnehaha Falls, 52nd St. and 40th Ave., from 3-5pm on Sat., Oct. 31. For more information, call 612-724-3691.

Learn about eBook Readers Nov. 24

Learn about different types of eBook Readers on Tue., Nov. 24, 6:30-7:30pm. Practice using eReaders to choose the right one for you. This program is planned at the East Lake Library (2727 E. Lake St.) just in time for the holiday season!

Holiday Bazaar planned Nov. 21

The annual Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale will be held at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran (4101 37th Ave. S.) on Sat., Nov. 21, 9am-2pm. They will have

local crafters, Grandma's Attic, raffles (Wild tickets, a quilt, \$100, cookies for a year), a large silent auction and a bake sale with all kinds of tasty treats including lefse, rosettes, breads, cookies, candy, canning, etc. They will also have Flotegrot, ham sandwiches and cake to enjoy!

Sandy Colvin Roy health update

Former Minneapolis City Council Member Sandra Colvin Roy remains in Bethesda Hospital-HealthEast, St. Paul (as of Oct. 20) after she was struck by a school bus on Sept. 8. Colvin Roy's injuries relate to a head injury she received in the accident.

She is receiving therapy and making progress in both motor skills and speech.

She and her husband live in the Nokomis East area four blocks from Lake Nokomis.

The public has been asked not to call the hospital for updates on her condition so that they can put full attention to her care. Those who wish to keep abreast of her condition should find information at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/sandy.colvinroy>.

Lake Street Bash planned Nov. 19

The Lake Street Council will hold their annual Lake Street Bash on Thur., Nov. 19, 5:30-8:30pm. This year's bash will be held at El Nuevo Rodeo 3rd Floor Ballroom, 3033 27th Ave. S. Parking is available at U.S. Bank (2800 E. Lake St.). Tickets are \$30 pre-sale, or \$35 door.

Get ready to sample wines from East Lake Liquors, beer from local breweries, and eat authentic Mexican food from El Nuevo Rodeo. While eating and

drinking, you can pursue the silent auction or get serenaded by a roaming acoustic guitar trio.

The money raised at this fundraiser ensures that the Lake Street Council can continue their work renewing and strengthening the Lake Street corridor for business and visitors alike.

Epworth plans annual holiday boutique

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., will hold its annual Holiday Shopping Boutique on Fri., Nov. 20 from noon-5pm and Sat., Nov. 21 from 9-2:30pm. Homemade items, candy and jams, and baked goods will be for sale. A visit to Grandma's Attic may find a special treasure. A lunch of homemade soup and sandwiches and other yummy things will also be available.

Adoption support group meets monthly

The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.) for parents and teens who have been adopted. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month (Nov. 3) at 6:30pm. Adoptive parents are provided with a confidential, nonjudgmental environment where they can support each other and share resources. Teens are invited to meet other teens who understand what it's like to be adopted. The teen group is not a drop-off group - parent(s) must attend the parent support group. For more info and to RSVP, contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or gabbyblade@nacac.org (parents); or Christina

Continued on page 10

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

Bethany Lutheran
3901 36th Ave. S. • 612-729-9376
www.bethanyon36th.com

Pastor Jo Bauman
Sundays:
9:15 am Education for Adults & Kids
10:30 am Worship
Saturdays, Nov 7 & 21
5:00 pm Soul+Food Dinner Church
Wed, Nov 25
10:30 am Thanksgiving Worship

Bethlehem Covenant
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
www.bethlehemcov.org

Children especially welcome
Sunday Schedule:
Contemporary Worship - 8:45 am
Sunday School for all ages - 10:00 am
Traditional Worship - 11:00 am
Español - 1:30 pm
Thanksgiving Eve service
Nov. 25 at 7:00 pm
Wednesdays at 5:45pm
Meal and activities for the family

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthumcmpls.org

Rev. Pam Armstrong
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
(Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.com

Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
Sunday Worship - 9:45 am
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Child Care Available
(Wheelchair Accessible)

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. •
612-724-3643
www.saintalbertthegreat.org

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

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000
www.stpeders.net

Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
Worship: 9 and 10:30 am,
Summer: 9 am only
Education for all: 9 am
(Childcare, Wheelchair Acc., Braille)
Coffee 10 am

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org

Pastors Derek Johnson & Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 am
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays 7:00 pm
Oct. 31 Trunk or Treat - 3:00-5:00 pm
Wed., Nov. 25 - 5:30 meal,
6:45 Service of Thanks

Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:

Minnehaha Food Shelf, Serving People Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm

Call us at 612-721-6231
Minnehaha United Methodist,
3701 E. 50th St.

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In Our Community

Continued from page 9

Romo at 651-644-3036, ext. 17, or christinaromo@nacac.org (teens).

Reserve now for Lutefisk Dinner

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church is sponsoring its Annual Lutefisk Dinner on Sat., Nov. 7. Seatings will be at 3pm, 4:15pm and 5:30pm for this family style meal. The meal will include lutefisk with white sauce and butter, homemade meatballs/gravy, potatoes, coleslaw, cranberries, lefse and angel food cake with lemon topping. The cost is \$16, and reservations are necessary. Please call the church office at 612-722-9527 by Oct. 30 to reserve your spot. The address of the church is 4101 37th Ave. S.

Healthy Seniors plan months' events

Call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information on any of our events/classes:

"How to Dispose of Your Old and Unused Medicines—Safely and Legally" will be the presentation at the Nov. 17 Senior Social/Health Talk, which starts at 10:30am and meets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St.

Yoga for Seniors classes cost \$4/each, are held on Mondays and Fridays at 10am (no class on Nov. 27) and also meet at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

A "Rock Art" class is planned for Nov. 12 from 1-3:00pm, costs \$3, and the registration deadline is Nov. 4. The Dec. 10 Art Class includes making a seasonal candle holder and pine cone wreath, with a registration deadline of Dec. 2.

A Diabetes Support Group for adults with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes will be held Nov. 11 from 6:30-8pm at Hiawatha School Park Recreation Center, 4305 E. 42nd St.

Healthy Seniors also sponsor a Low-Vision Support Group.

They have a number of volunteer opportunities, including being a

Help seniors stay in their homes and keep socially connected. If you have a heart for seniors, you'll love this volunteer position. They are looking for "Friendly Visitors" to visit isolated seniors in the greater Longfellow and Seward neighborhoods. Call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 or email info@lshealthyseniors.org for more information.

Virkelyst Annual Bazaar set Nov. 7

The Virkelyst Society will be holding its annual Holiday Sale on Sat., Nov. 7 from 10am-1pm. They will be selling a variety of hand-crafted items and baked goods. There is also be a large collection of wonderful gently used sweaters for men, women and children for very reasonable prices. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a pastry with friends while you shop, or delicious homemade soup and

bread for lunch. The sale will be held at the Danish American Center at 3030 W. River Pkwy. (River Rd. and Lake St.). All proceeds from the sale go to local charities, so it is also for a great cause.

NA meeting open every Friday night

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., hosts a Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting every Friday from 7-9pm. Everyone is welcome.

Faith-based tutoring help available

Each Tuesday, from 4-6pm, Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.) provides after-school tutoring and activities through a nationally-recognized tutoring and mentoring program called Rebecca's Garden of Hope. This is a free, volunteer-driven ministry of learning and support "anchored in Christ and reflecting the qualities of love, perseverance, discipline, and structure" to help the community's children grow.

Tutoring and Homework Help is available in language arts and mathematics, grades 1-5.

In addition to academic help, students will receive healthy snacks, will enjoy games and other enrichment activities, and will learn about God's Word. Please contact Faith Lutheran Church, 612-729-5463, if you'd like to register your child or if you would like to volunteer as a tutor the program.

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.

Applications open for water stewards

The Master Water Stewards Pro-

gram is taking applications for its class of 2016, and you don't have to be a scientist to apply. What's important is to have an interest in solving environmental problems, an openness to learn new skills, and a desire to help residents of the neighborhood where you live.

Master Water Stewards participate in 50 hours of classroom learning and hands-on instruction. Classes will be held on alternate Tuesday evenings at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (2522 Marshall St. NE) beginning Jan. 19, 2016.

The training is offered at no cost to participants. Applicants must live within the boundaries of the Mississippi Watershed District, which covers most of Longfellow (but not Nokomis).

Master Water Stewards learn

to identify pollution sources and create strategies for reducing runoff. They're trained to become community leaders and, as part of their community service, give back volunteer time helping neighbors solve water issues on their property.

An information session is scheduled for Tue., Nov. 17 from 6:30-7:30pm. Contact Michelle Ross at mross@mwmo.org for more information.

Do It Green Gift Fair scheduled Nov. 21

Kick off the holiday season with Do It Green! Minnesota's 10th Annual Green Gifts Fair on Sat., Nov. 21, 10am-5pm at Midtown Global in Minneapolis.

Shop among more than 80 local, eco-friendly artists and

businesses, catch an eco fashion show, sample holiday foods, enjoy kids' activities and green living demos. The Green Gifts Fair is a popular, fun, family-friendly annual event. A \$1 donation will be accepted at the doors. Visit www.doitgreen.org for more details.

Highlights of the fair include:

- * Free Green Living Booklet
- * Go Car-Less Booth with Bike Tune-Ups & Demos
- * Build a Seed Ball with Butterfly Friendly Seeds
- * Make and Take Your Own Non-Toxic Cleaner
- * Family Passport with Prizes
- * Live Music & Eco Fashion Show
- * Silent Auction
- * Bring In Holiday Lights for Recycling

East Lake Library plans November events

There are lots of events planned in November at East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St.

The Adult Book Club will meet Fri., Nov. 13, 10-11:30am. November's title to discuss is "City of Thieves" by David Benioff.

The Adult Nonfiction Book Club will meet Tue., Nov. 3, 6:30-7:30pm. November's title is "Daring Greatly" by Brene Brown.

Childcare Group Storytime is planned for Wed., Nov. 4, 10:15am. Talk, sing, read, write and play together as you share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

The Teen Geekery Club meets Thur., Nov. 5, 6pm. Are you an anime and manga fan? A cosplayer? A fan of Doctor Who, Sherlock, Homestuck or Supernatural? Watch anime, share your artwork and discuss your favorite fandoms.

The Quick Reads Adult Book Club meets Mon., Nov. 9, 6:30-7:30pm. November's title for discussion is "Chronicle of a Death Foretold" by Gabriel García Márquez.

Gordon Coons will present an Author Talk on Tue., Nov. 10, 6:30-8pm. Coons is inspired by his Chippewa and Ottawa heritage and expresses his culture

through works using a contemporary style. Coons will discuss how he incorporates playfulness in his images, telling stories of relationships between Western and Native cultures, and the connection to our shared historical events.

Genealogy Research: Finding Your Native American Ancestors is a program planned for Mon., Nov. 16, 6:30-7:30pm.

On Tue., Nov. 17, 7-8pm, the library, in collaboration with the Longfellow Community Council, will present Curious Community: Ballare Teatro.

Master Gardener: Care of Houseplants is the program planned for Sat., Nov. 21, 2:30-4pm. Learn the basics of lighting, temperature, humidity and regular maintenance for keeping indoor plants healthy for many, many years. Discover the different needs and problems common to all plants.

Learn about different types of eBook Readers in "eReaders: Try Before You Buy" on Tue., Nov. 24, 6:30-7:30pm. Here you can practice using eReaders to choose the right one for you.

Job Search Assistance is available Tuesdays, 3-4:30pm. Get one-to-one assistance with your job search. No appointment necessary.

Conversation Circles are planned on Sundays, Nov. 1-22, 3-5pm. Non-native English speakers can practice English and make new friends in an informal, volunteer-led setting.

Baby Storytime is on Fridays 11:15am (no storytime Nov. 27). This storytime is for children from birth to 24 months and their parent or caregiver.

Family Storytime is on Fridays at 10:15am (no storytime Nov. 27). This storytime is for children of all ages and their parent or caregiver.

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AA/EOE



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Serving over 39,000 students from diverse cultures, Saint Paul Public Schools seeks qualified individuals to join our highly trained and dedicated staff.

We are currently recruiting for the following areas:

- **Special Education Teachers (DCD, Autism)**
- **Bilingual (Spanish/Chinese/French) Elementary Teachers & Substitute teachers**
- **Bilingual (Spanish) Paraprofessionals**
- **Nutrition Service Assistants**

Interested candidates can view these and other position descriptions and requirements at <http://hr.spps.org/Applicants.html>

Saint Paul Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and supports workplace diversity.

Becketwood

Continued from page 5

to the city for the construction of the River Rd.

The Sheltering Arms building was constructed in 1910. Over the years more land was sold off, some in 1923 for the construction of the Michael Dowling School for physically challenged children, and 13 acres in 1956 for Breck School.

The last 12 and a half acres was sold to the Episcopal Church Home in 1982 for \$950,000.

In 1986, construction was completed on the distinctive Bec-

ketwood buildings, and the first active, independent members age 55+ moved in. The original orphanage chapel continues to serve residents, and the original gate is a walking path entrance of W. River Pkwy.

In 1993, Becketwood became a financially independent facility run by its own nine-member Board of Directors.

"This type of housing co-op provides ample opportunities for every member to have a say and to participate in the operation of the co-op. That's what works for me," stated Ng.

Cooperatively owned senior

housing provides full apartment and townhouse living, controlled by the seniors themselves. All financial benefits accrue to the senior owners, including return of equity upon resale. Tax deductibility of mortgage interest and real estate taxes, identical to single-family homeownership, applies to cooperative ownership. Senior cooperatives typically include substantial community spaces.

Good for the neighborhood

Hanson believes that the neighborhood benefits from the cooperative, as well.

In addition to a large amount

of open land around the buildings, she said they try to be good neighbors.

Becketwood regularly welcomes neighbors into its gardens and grounds. Annually in July, the cooperative hosts an outdoor band concert. "It's such fun to see the little kids rolling down our little hill," observed Hanson. In October, Minnehaha Academy students parade through the dining room, dressed in costumes inspired by a particular book they've read.

On National Night Out members walk to nearby street parties to hand out balloons, and there is a Little Library for all to use.

Through a new partnership with Dowling School, members provide one-on-one tutoring.

"A lot of our individual member volunteers in neighborhood schools and colleges (e.g. Minnehaha Academy, Dowling School)," pointed out Ng. Some volunteer at cultural and charitable centers and programs such as the Minnesota Institute of Arts, the History Center, local Meals-on-Wheels, and American Swedish Institute.

"If you enjoy a sense of community with others and thrive in active participation in cultural and artistic programs, Becketwood is the place for you," said Ng.

Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by November 16 for the November 27 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information.

Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Messenger Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Messenger before Nov. 16 for the Nov. 27 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

ANTIQUES

Northwest Architectural Salvage—2000 sq. ft. of vintage lights, house hardware, doors, door knobs, tubs, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 651-227-0382. 20% off with ad. B-15

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B-15

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SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

Reimbursed Senior Volunteer - Position: Lutheran Social Service Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Programs are seeking volunteers 55+ willing to visit isolated adults to provide in home companionship and transportation or serve as a mentor and tutor to children at school and early learning sites nearby. Tax-

free stipend, mileage reimbursement and other benefits. Contact Sara Koch, 651.310.9448 or Sara.Koch@lssmn.org. 11-15

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Age-old art of puppeteering still brings wonder and imagination

By JAN WILLMS

It's a crisp fall Saturday in Minneapolis. The leaves are falling, the sun is bright and the warmth of the morning belies the threat of chillier days to come.

But inside the In The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBT) at 1500 Lake St., the children gathered around a small puppet stage are oblivious of what the weather is like outside. They are watching a story come to life through the magic of puppetry.

In these days of technology everywhere, the age-old art of puppeteering still brings wonder to a young child's eyes and stirs imaginations.

Nearly every Saturday from October through March, HOBT presents puppet theater matinees at 10am and noon, with workshops for children to make puppets following each show.

This Saturday Gustavo and Julie Boada bring to the stage the story of two friends, Elaine and Janelli. The children appear enthralled as they watch how a small argument results in a wall built between the two friends' houses, and how generations pass before that wall comes down.

Gustavo, who is from Peru, wrote the play and built the show. His wife, Julie, performs it with him. This show is done in Spanish and English. "There was a live theater version of this show in Philadelphia," Julie said. She said the couple does puppet shows in area schools, having performed at Hiawatha and Nokomis, as well as at libraries and birthday parties.

"I was in graduate school in visual arts," Julie said, "when I got connected to puppetry. This never was what I thought I would do."

Gustavo said he worked in theater for a long time in Peru, and for him the puppetry means sharing stories that inspire children and adults to have a better life.



Gustavo and Julie Boada bring to the stage the story of two friends, Elaine and Janelli. The children appear enthralled as they watch how a small argument results in a wall built between the two friends' houses, and how generations pass before that wall comes down. Gustavo wrote the play and built the stage, while Julie performs it with him. (Photo by Jan Willms)

Julie said their bilingual shows draw bilingual crowds. "Last week we did a Day of the Dead puppet show, and a man attending from Mexico was so humbled to see something culturally for him," she said.

Gustavo said a lot of the shows they do at HOBT are very low tech. "It's good to be reminded how powerful puppet shows can be," he added.

This type of artistic endeavor is something HOBT wants to provide for kids in the neighborhood, according to Alison Heimstead, performance curator. "We wanted to offer the chance for kids in the neighborhood to see puppet shows, but make it affordable," she said. The Saturday matinees have been running for the past 17 years, with shows in Spanish being offered the last couple of years. Heimstead said she and Gustavo co-curate the Saturday performances.

Heimstead said the shows are designed to show children what it means to be a human being and what it means to be

alive right now, with all the things around you.

She has been at HOBT for five years, with her interest in puppets starting when she was a teenager. "I started the process and fell into puppetry," she explained. She attended the California College of Arts and said she has studied with a lot of great puppeteers nationally.

"I make puppet shows as well," Heimstead added. "A lot of us are so involved with all aspects of it. We love the work so much we do lots of parts of it. We make the puppets as well as perform."

HOBT was first started in 1973 by David O'Fallon and Ray St. Louis. It was originally called the Powderhorn Puppet Theatre. Its mission is to bring people together for the common good through the power

of puppet and mask performance.

Originally located in the Walker Church in the Powderhorn area of Minneapolis, HOBT moved to its present location in the old Avalon art deco cinema in 1988.

The theatre provides puppets for the annual May Day Parade, held the first Sunday of

each May. This spring will mark the 42nd May Day parade.

Besides the matinees, other puppet shows are performed in the evenings.

"We're having a women's solstice for the holidays," Heimstead said. "There will be 40 women singing, with a large puppet spectacle."

She said HOBT is also very involved in teaching, with programs offered at schools.

"Our matinee series focuses on our work, but also that of some of the artists we work with. The shows are generated by both, providing a rich diversity of all kinds of puppeteering," Heimstead added.

She said that although the goal of the matinees has been to reach out to South Minneapolis, children from all over the area attend.

"The puppet shows offer a real great opportunity for people to come together and be together in the same space and see a live performance," Heimstead explained. "There is still something magical about puppetry, even if it is old-fashioned. And it follows with our mission of bringing people together for the common good."

For a detailed schedule of puppet shows at HOBT, check the website at www.hobt.org.



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