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Longfellow  
Nokomis

# Messenger



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## State of the Nokomis East Neighborhood

*NENA Board, business association, parks, police and council update residents on activity*

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association reinstated its town hall meetings in January by hosting a 'State of Our Neighborhood' meeting.

Local leaders updated residents on activities and projects during a gathering at Morris Park on Tues., Jan. 19.

The next town hall meeting is slated for Tues., Feb. 16, 6pm, at the Keewaydin School. It will focus on housing issues.

### NENA Board goes door-knocking

The first months of 2015 were internally focused, as the board completed training and focused on policies, according to NENA Board Chair Vanessa Haight. Then they were each challenged to meet 20 residents by knocking on doors and find out what people liked about the neighborhood and what changes they were looking for.

"One of the most powerful moments for our Board in the last year was door knocking,"



Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Executive Director Becky Timm welcomes residents to the State of Our Neighborhood meeting on Jan. 19, 2016. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

said Haight.

This kickstarted the board's strategic process.

"We want to be a sector lead-

ing organization," said Haight. "NENA doesn't want to be just an average neighborhood organization."

**"We want to be a sector leading organization. NENA doesn't want to be just an average neighborhood organization."**

—Vanessa Haight

The board's new strategic plan will be shared at the annual meeting on Apr. 28.

"2016 will be the year when we launch new programs," promised Haight.

The board plans to create a Green Initiative Committee this year to evaluate the various "green" programs NENA is already involved in and come up with new ideas. Currently, NENA assists with the Gateway Garden nears Cap's Grille, the Nokomis Naturescape and gardens at its office building. Plus it co-hosts the Monarch Festival in September.

The Housing and Commercial Streetscaping Committee,

formed a year and a half ago, is working to pinpoint its 2016 projects. It will be working with the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA), and projects will be announced throughout the year.

Haight encourages neighborhood residents to get involved in NENA, whether by volunteering to weed one of the Gateway Garden plots or at one of the neighborhood events. Plus half of the current Board is up for election, and new board members are needed.

### Business Association building relationships

Re-formed four years ago, the Nokomis East Business Association ([www.nokomiseastba.com](http://www.nokomiseastba.com)) is comprised entirely of volunteers, pointed out Earl Netwal of Minneapolis Internet Marketing Consultant, and it is always looking for more members.

"This is a unique area in the city," Netwal pointed out. "It has 14,000 people or buying power. That's the equivalent of the city of Bemidji."

However, unlike Bemidji, the businesses in NENA have to manage the "leakage" that occurs when neighborhood residents go outside the neighborhood for goods and services.

**"If we can build that relationship when someone moves in, they are more likely to shop locally."**

—Earl Netwal

## Longfellow businesses join nation's anti-hate campaign

Article and photo by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Danny and Elana Schwartzman, owners of the Uptown coffee shop Common Roots, unintentionally started a national movement when they posted a sign in their front window last December. The sign said: "Hate has no business here. We welcome our Muslim, refugee and immigrant community members. All are welcome here."

Soon after, members of the small business community across the Twin Cities, and across the country, joined forces in this effort to say, "No!" to the spread of xenophobia – a fancy word for the intense dislike or fear of people from other countries.

The anti-hate sign is being promoted by Main Street Alliance (MSA), a non-profit that works for racial and economic justice. MSA leverages change and growth in communities nationwide by building small business alliances through shared values.

"America is a place where people from all nations, races and creeds should feel welcome," said state director Corrine



Jamie Schwesnedl (left) of Moon Palace Books and Patrick Werle (right) of Peace Coffee in Longfellow. Both businesses posted the "All are Welcome Here" sign in their windows.

Horowitz. "When politicians target people in our communities for political gain, when they fan the flames of hatred and fear to further their own cause, we have to stand up and make our values

known."

Jamie and Angela Schwesnedl co-own Moon Place Books at 2830 E. 33rd St. Jamie said, "We have a real cross-section of the community shopping in our

store: people from Africa, Asia, Mexico, South and Central America. Angela and I put the sign up because we didn't want anyone saying bad things about our customers. We wanted a chance to respond."

"My Jewish ancestors came from the Belarus," Jamie said. "There was room for my family and me here because someone else made room for us. America is a country of immigrants."

The values of Main Street Alliance align seamlessly with the values of this campaign. MSA is grounded in:

- Trust and transparency
- Inclusion and equity
- Leadership—the lifting up of voices
- Sustainability
- Shared responsibility

To download a free copy of the "All are Welcome Here" poster, go to [www.mainstreetalliance.org/minnesota](http://www.mainstreetalliance.org/minnesota), and click on the download button near the top of the page. The poster has appeared in store fronts from Maine to Oregon, but it got its start right here—in the heart of south Minneapolis.

"How do we capture the market?" Netwal asked. The answer is providing service, proximity and building relationships. In particular, NEBA focuses on building relationships.

It hosts an annual block party at Oxendale's/Faith Lutheran Church every September, a tree lighting the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and an indoor block party at Keewaydin School (this year set for Sat., Mar. 12). Home-based businesses, as well as storefronts, are encouraged to be part of the indoor block party.

NEBA also hopes to attract the people riding the light rail

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# 'A Line' means a faster bus line to Highland Park, Snelling

State's first Bus Rapid Transit will cut journey between 46th St. and Rosedale Mall from 48 minutes to 35 minutes

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

This spring, area residents will have a new transportation option.

The state's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line will begin operating locally from the 46th St. station over to Highland Village and through the busy Snelling Ave. commercial corridor.

The "A Line" will offer a new kind of bus service that will cut the journey from 46th St. station to Rosedale Mall from 48 minutes to 35 minutes.

"It's good for the community when we have more transit options," observed Ward 12 City Council Member Andrew Johnson.

"It's also going to be this great connector between the Blue Line and the Green Line,"

he added.

Johnson pointed out that residents of Longfellow are closer to St. Paul's Highland Park than the rest of Minneapolis, and do much of their shopping there. Plus, as the former Ford site is developed, the A Line will enable residents to access the area faster.

"This is going to further bridge the connection between our community and Highland Park," said Johnson.

He believes that the increase in ridership on the A Line will benefit local businesses, and is hopeful that a tenant will move into the open space at Oak Station. "Everything is interconnect-

**"Everything is interconnected. When we have increased ridership numbers, the scales will tip in favor of businesses moving in that can serve the needs of the community."**

**—Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson**

ed," Johnson remarked. "When we have increased ridership num-

bers, the scales will tip in favor of businesses moving in that can serve the needs of the community."

"NENA is always on the lookout for more fair and equitable transportation options available to our residents," said Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Executive Director Becky Timm. "This new line will enable East Nokomis residents to reach their destinations quicker and provide a better experience from station to station."

"And like all transportation options in East Nokomis, NENA will continue to monitor this and work to provide a voice for

any concerns or issues that may arise."

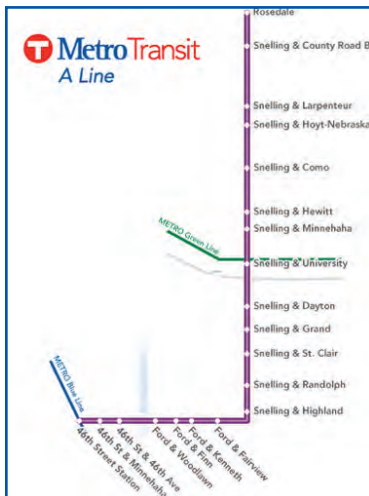
## Cross between bus and train

Bus Rapid Transit makes riding a bus a bit more like riding a light rail train.

Customers will pay their fares at ticket vending machines before boarding the bus.

By extending the curbs at stations, buses can merge more easily into traffic after serving a station. The buses won't pull over to board passengers, but will instead remain in the right driving lane. Each A Line station is

Continued on page 7



## 'A Line' stations:

- Rosedale Transit Center (connect to many bus routes)
- Snelling & County Road B2 (connect to Route 65)
- Snelling & Larpeur (connect to Route 61)
- Snelling & Hoyt-Nebraska
- Snelling & Como (connect to Route 3)
- Snelling & Hewitt
- Snelling & Minnehaha (connect to Route 67)
- Snelling & University (connect to Green Line, routes 16 & 21)
- Snelling & Dayton
- Snelling & Grand (connect to Route 63)
- Snelling & St. Clair (connect to Route 70)
- Snelling & Randolph (connect to Route 74)
- Snelling & Highland
- Ford & Fairview
- Ford & Kenneth (connect to many bus routes)
- Ford & Finn (connect to many bus routes)
- Ford & Woodlawn (connect to routes 23, 46 & 74)
- 46th St. & 46th Ave. (connect to Route 23)
- 46th St. & Minnehaha (connect to routes 7 & 9)
- 46th Street Station (connect to Blue Line, many bus routes)

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# Messenger

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The Adult Nonfiction Book Club will meet on Tues., Feb. 2, 6-7pm to discuss "Getting Schooled: The Reeducation of an American Teacher" by Garret Keizer. Lending copies may be picked up at the information desk before the meeting.

Childcare Group Storytime meets the first Wednesday of the month (Feb. 3) at 10:15am. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for the children in your care. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

The Biography Adult Book Club will meet Wed., Feb. 3, 10:30-11:30am to discuss "The Trip to Echo Spring: On Writers and Drinking" by Olivia Laing. Lending copies may be picked up at the information desk prior to the meeting.

Teen Geekery Club meets Thur., Feb. 4, 6pm. Are you an anime and manga fan? A cos-

## Check It Out - News from East Lake Library

### Book clubs, storytimes, and author Ed Bok Lee are February focus

player? A fan of Doctor Who, Sherlock, Homestuck or Supernatural? If yes to any of these, Teen Geekery Club is for you! Watch anime, share your artwork and discuss your favorite fandoms.

The Quick Reads Adult Book Club meets Mon., Feb. 8, 6:30-7:30pm to discuss "The Buddha in the Attic" by Julie Otsuka. Lending copies may be picked up at the information desk prior to the meeting.

Winter Wellness: Breath and Stretch will be the program on Tues., Feb. 9, 6:30-7:30pm. Stay

happy and healthy this winter. Learn breath and stretch techniques with an instructor from south Minneapolis' Big River Yoga.

The Adult Book Club meets Fri., Feb. 12, 10:30-11:30am to discuss "Red Azalea" by Anchee Min. Lending copies may be picked up at the information desk prior to the meeting.

Winter Reads: Ed Bok Lee will be the featured author for Winter Reads on Tues., Feb. 16, 6:30-8pm. American Book Award-winning author Lee writes poetry, stories, plays and

essays. At this special event, Lee will read poetry and fiction, and discuss the following Muriel Rukeyser quote in relation to literature and writing: "The universe is comprised not of atoms, but stories."

Senior Surf Day is planned for Fri., Feb. 19, 9:30-11:30am. To register call 612-543-8425. This is an opportunity to learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Se-

nior LinkAge Line®.

Weekly programs at the library include:

—Conversation Circles, Sundays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31. Non-native English speakers: practice your English and make new friends in an informal, volunteer-led setting, and learn about the library, too.

—Family Storytime, Fridays 10:15am. For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

—Baby Storytime, Fridays 11:15am. For children from birth to 24 months and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format designed especially for babies. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

## Transition Longfellow announces February activities

By LESLIE MACKENZIE

Every month, Transition Longfellow community volunteers bring new programs to the neighborhood, with a focus on the core issues of the global Transition movement—energy and climate change, sustainable food, and resilient communities. In February, the group will be hosting several activities, including those listed below. For more information, visit the group's website at [www.transitionlongfellow.org](http://www.transitionlongfellow.org).

**Learn to Knit:** every first Tuesday (Feb. 2), 6:30pm at Lake Coffee (33rd and Lake St.). Would-be and experienced knitters gather at Lake Coffee to learn, practice and share their knowledge of knitting. Led by experienced knitter Susan Aguirre, there is no cost for this group. Bring needles and yarn.

**Inner Transition Book/Discussion Group:** Mon., Feb. 8, 6:30pm at Lake Coffee (33rd and Lake). The group uses Carolyn Baker's book "Navigating the

Coming Chaos: A Handbook for Inner Transition" as the jumping off point to discuss the emotional responses that can accompany a deeper understanding of climate change, and tools participants can use to successfully navigate that emotional terrain, whether that be fear, anger, denial or grief. The group is facilitated by Deb Schanilec. Learn more on the website (under Health and Inner Transition).

**Sign-up begins Feb. 16 for Veggie Growing Basics class.** Transition Longfellow is partnering with Hennepin County Master Gardeners to bring a 5-week Veggie Growing Basics class to the Longfellow neighborhood. Sign-up begins Feb. 16 and ends Mar. 16. Classes will be held in the community room at Gandhi Mahal, 10-11:30am on Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. You will work in a group and one-on-one with a master gardener to plan your garden. Class size is limited; you must sign up on the group's website to attend (under food and gardening).

**Home Energy Party:** Feb. 17 (7pm), 2852 35th Ave. S. Join with neighbors, enjoy some food, and learn about how you can make your home more comfort-

able and energy efficient. There will be a guest speaker, information about programs and rebates, and a free LED light bulb. Space is limited so RSVP at the group's website (under Energy & Transit). If you can't make this event, there will be additional parties this spring.

**Movie Night:** Feb. 19 (6:30 potluck, 7:15 movie) at Bethany Lutheran, 3901 36th Ave. S. Movie night is a great way to learn about Transition Towns, and to meet your neighbors. Come share a meal and watch a movie, followed by a speaker or discussion.

**Sew a Warm Window Curtain:** Feb. 21 (1-4pm), at Bethany Lutheran 3901 36th Ave. S. The group will once again host Lee Olson's workshop on how to make an insulated curtain to reduce uncomfortable cool air coming from windows. Partici-

pants must RSVP by Feb. 15, and provide organizers with the interior measurements of the window for which they will make a curtain. Participants will be notified of the amount of fabric they need to purchase in order to make their curtain. The cost of the workshop varies, depending upon the size of the curtain. See website for sign-up (under Energy & Transit).

**Getting Ready to Go Zero Waste:** Feb. 24 (6:30-7:30pm) at Junket, 4049 Minnehaha Ave. Whether you're going for gold with zero waste, or just to reduce the amount of waste leaving your house, Peter Foster will offer practical tips on how to prepare yourself and your home for a successful shift. This workshop is a great starting point for the four-session workshop Transition will offer in March.

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## Letter to the Editor

### Kindness of stranger is appreciated!

To Whoever rescued my well being on Jan. 2:

I had parked at the airport to

meet a traveling friend at baggage claim in Terminal #1 at 1 in the afternoon.

When we got home, no wallet! We thought it may have slipped out of my lap when I reached to submit my credit card at the exit kiosk. It was a difficult stretch, as I have short arms.

I feared the worst: identity theft; credit card theft; you name it.

We called the airport, spoke with the police, spoke with airport personnel. Nobody could find anything. The Lost and Found was closed until Monday. We raced back to the airport, retraced our steps, and found nothing as well.

My phone was blinking with a message when I got back home.

Some kind soul, who did not leave her name, had found my wallet at the airport exit gate and brought it to Becketwood, where I live. (She thought that if she gave it to airport police, it would take days to reach me.)

So thank you, kind stranger, for providing relief which is difficult to describe. You gave me a holiday gift which I will never forget.

—Ingrid Stocking



## Town hall meeting on housing

Over the past several months NENA, as well as other organizations in the City, has been contacted by several concerned residents over the housing issues in our neighborhood. The issues are very diverse, but there are a few commonalities. Some of these shared concerns are city regulations around home construction by either the homeowner or a landlord, rental licensing, and home inspections. In response to these concerns, NENA host a town hall meeting on housing issues for residents to learn about, and get a better understanding of, homeowners, renters, and landlord responsibilities. This meeting is also an opportunity to ask questions of city officials at the event on these or other housing matters. Both Councilmember Quincy and Councilmember Johnson will be on hand to answer questions as well.

The event will be taking place on Feb. 16 from 6-8pm at the Keewaydin School Media Center, 5209 30th Ave. S. NENA will be providing light food, beverages, and childcare will be available.

## Vacant board seat from Minnehaha neighborhood

NENA is seeking applicants for the vacant board seat from the Minnehaha neighborhood. That neighborhood is bordered by Minnehaha Pkwy. on the north, Hwy 55 on the east, 54th Ave. on the south, and 34th Ave. on the west.

The NENA Board of Directors will review all applications and appoint a new Board member at its Mar. 24 meeting. This is a replacement appointment serving from Apr. 2016 through Apr. 2017. The appointed Board member can run to be elected to the seat at the 2017 Annual Meeting and serve a full two-year term.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend at least one NENA Board meeting and schedule a time to meet with Becky Timm, NENA's Executive Director to learn more about serving on the Board.

If you live, work or own property in the Minnehaha neighborhood, you can nominate yourself. Visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) to find more information and the Board Nomination Form. Completed Nomination Forms are due on Mar. 8.

## Thank you

On Dec. 30, NENA hosted our 16th annual Night Before New Year's Eve celebration at Lake Nokomis Recreation Center. As in past years, the event was filled



# NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

3000 E. 50th St.

## Town hall on housing, vacant Board seat, home loans, and more

### Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- 1/28/16: NENA Board Meeting, Morris Park Recreation Center, 7pm
- 2/3/16: NENA Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee, NENA Office – 3000 E. 50th St., 6:30pm
- 2/11/16: NENA Executive Committee Meeting, NENA Office – 3000 E. 50th St., 7pm
- 2/16/16: Town Hall Meeting on Housing Issues, Keewaydin School Media Center- 5209 30th Ave. S., 6pm

Web: [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Nokomiseast](http://www.facebook.com/Nokomiseast)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/NokomisEast](http://twitter.com/NokomisEast)  
 General Email: [nena@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nena@nokomiseast.org)  
 Chair: [chair@nokomiseast.org](mailto:chair@nokomiseast.org)  
 Phone: 612-724-5652



Night Before New Year's Eve Party attendees begin the "midnight" countdown. (Photo submitted)

with games, including the familiar and always fun "pond fishing," food, dance, and neighborhood fellowship.

Over 500 people were in attendance, and we had very little

food leftover, but what was left we were able to donate to Catholic Charities St. Joseph's Home for Children, as we have in past years. We expect even bigger crowds for the upcoming celebration this De-

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cember with the date falling on a weekend.

We wanted to give a big thank you to all those that attended, volunteered, and donated this year. Without you this event would not be possible. Its people like you that make Nokomis East such a great place to live.

### Proposed changes to parks

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is making a new plan for all the parks south of downtown and east of I-35W.

A community open house for the Service Area Master Plan that includes Nokomis East is scheduled Feb. 1, 6-8pm at the Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S. At this open house, the public can view initial concepts for south Minneapolis parks and provide input before the next stage of design. There are no formal presentations, making it easier for community members to attend at their own preferred time. Children are also encouraged to participate; activities will be available. Somali and Oromo translation will be provided.

### 2015 Tour of Homes

The 2016 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is accepting applications/nominations now for homes to be open on this two-city tour of remodeled, occupied homes. See their website for nomination forms and applications, [msphometour.com](http://msphometour.com). Organizers want to have visited nom-

inated homes by early February, so inquire ASAP. The tour will be held from Apr. 30-May 1.

## NENA Home Improvement Loan Program

Whether by choice or necessity, start planning your next home project now with the help of a home improvement loan from NENA. Owners of one to four unit residences can apply for up to \$15,000 to make improvements to their properties. Owner-occupants and investors may apply. Interest rates are either 2% or 3%, depend on income, and there no income restrictions.

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

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

### Sign up for NENA News

Your Guide to News, Events and Resources! Get your neighborhood news delivered to your inbox every other Wednesday. Sign up today at [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org). Once you sign up, you'll receive updates on news and happenings for your neighborhood. You'll also be the first to see NENA's results of the strategic planning process we've done over the last year.

Looking for local events? Want to let the community know about an upcoming meeting or fun activity? Go to: <http://www.longfellownokomismessenger.com/events/>



## NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## TOWN HALL MEETING ON HOUSING ISSUES



Representatives from NENA and the City of Minneapolis will be presenting and available for your questions.

**Tuesday, February 16**  
**LNCS - Keewaydin School, Media Center**  
**6:00 pm**

Homeowners, renters, and landlords are encouraged to attend. Childcare available, light food and beverages provided. Translators will be on site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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# Local church is a historic treasure

*Christ Church receives \$200,000 Legacy Grant toward its \$1.5 million preservation campaign*

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Christ Church Lutheran, at 3244 34th Ave. S. in Longfellow, recently won a \$200,000 grant from the Legacy Council's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The graceful, unassuming church is in need of a new roof, among other things. The generous grant is part of a capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million in 1.5 years to preserve the historic structure.

Belying its low-to-the-ground exterior, the church has received soaring international acclaim over the years, and a designation as a national historic landmark. Designed by renowned Finnish-American architect Eliel Saarinen in 1949, the design is credited on a plaque outside the sanctuary doors for, "playing a seminal role in the emergence of modern religious architecture."

Christ Church Lutheran was first established in a modest building by German immigrants in 1911. Frugal and hard-working by nature, they saved their money and grew their congregation. Plans were drawn for a new Greek Revival style building just in time for the Great Depression in 1929, and those plans were put on hold. The congregation revisited them in the early 1940's and then came

America's involvement in WWII.

When the plans were dusted off again in the late 1940's, they seemed both obsolete and unaffordable. Then-pastor William Buege had heard of the Modernist Movement in architecture and design--and he was curious.

Buege contacted the architect Saarinen and asked, "In a materialistic age like ours, can you design a space that's truly spiritual?"

The answer was, and is, a resounding, "yes." The American Institute of Architects awarded Christ Church Lutheran the prestigious 25-Year Award in 1977, an award that recognizes buildings of enduring significance.

There is a sense of peace in Saarinen's design, brought to life through the harmonious use of materials, proportions, scale and light.

Will Stark is a church member and historic preservationist, and heads the Historic Preservation Committee at Christ Church. "Our church was conceived as a working class church," Stark said. "The sanctuary materials were carefully chosen to reflect that. Chicago Common Bricks line the walls, and the floors are made of a concrete called Poor Man's Travertine. There is no pretense here."

*The exterior of Eliel and Eero Saarinen's masterful design, once featured in LIFE Magazine, is widely recognized as one of the best examples of modern church architecture anywhere.*

"If you look carefully," he continued, "you'll see that there are no parallel surfaces in the worship space, not a square corner in the room. The sanctuary widens ever so slightly to the back, and the front wall curves toward the altar--collecting natural light from the west and suffusing the sanctuary in a soft glow. The result is a balanced asymmetry."

By the early 1960's, Saarinen had passed away. The church approached his son Eero Saarinen to design a much-needed education wing. He accepted the project, even though his other clients were many times larger and more profitable. Eero by then had designed St. Louis's Gateway Arch, Washington's Dulles Airport, and the corporate campuses of General Motors and John Deere to name a few. The education wing he created in 1962 shared the quiet grace of his father's church, and the two projects seem to have been drawn by the same hand.

According to Pastor Kristine Carlson, Christ Church Lutheran's membership is about 300, with worshippers coming from the surrounding neighborhood and across town. "In addition," she said, "we have many artists, musicians, architects and designers who love this place but don't attend church here."

Included in that category are Osmo Vanska, Minnesota



Pastor Kristine Carlson (left) and Historic Preservation Committee Chair Will Stark (right). The sculptures between them are part of a vertical series of four, symbolizing from top to bottom the work of the church in the community: faith, hope, love and education.



Stark commented that the Finns, living so far north, "really understand how to use the subtle changes in light throughout the seasons." The sanctuary is nearly unadorned, and natural light is one of its few embellishments.

Orchestra conductor and proud Finn, and Steven Copes, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra violinist and concert master. They'll be joining forces on Tues., Feb. 2 at 7:30pm at Christ Church. On the stage will also be Erin Keefe, violin; Maiya Papach, viola; and Anthony Ross, cello. Called "Music for a Masterpiece," the

evening's program of Brahms and Prokofiev is a fundraiser for the preservation work of the church.

The acoustics in the sanctuary are as inspiring as the aesthetics. According to Vanska, the space makes an outstanding venue for a chamber music performance. Tickets start at \$40 and can be purchased online at [www.christchurchluth.org](http://www.christchurchluth.org).

Will Stark concluded, "Everyone involved in the preservation work of Christ Church Lutheran believes in being careful as we move forward. Because we've been conscientious stewards of this historic building over they years, the original design has remained unaltered."

"We will address replacing the worn out roof, improving handicapped access, repairing the courtyard, resealing the original windows, installing new boilers and refinishing historic woodwork--but our pace will be deliberate and thoughtful."

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# Gandhi Mahal takes another step toward greening

*Already working with aquaponics in the basement, focus turns to vertical gardens and vertical water flow*

By JAN WILLMS

No risk, no gain.

That is a simple mantra that Gandhi Mahal owner Ruhel Islam lives by. He has been raising plants in aquaponics gardens in the basement at his restaurant at 3009 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis for the past few years.

Aquaponics is a food production system that combines conventional aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as fish in tanks) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) in a symbiotic environment.

Now he is experimenting with vertical gardens.

Kedrik Lund jokingly calls himself the troll in the basement. Islam calls him MacGyver, based on the TV character who could solve complex problems by making things out of ordinary objects. In fact, he is the sustainability coordinator for the restaurant, who is joining Islam in finding out what works and what doesn't.

After raising tilapia and growing various plants that produce vegetables and spices that are difficult to find in the market, Islam and Lund are now working on vertical gardening.

The vertical garden is growing in a tower in the window of a meeting room on the main floor of the restaurant.

"The vertical garden was started in October," Lund said. "The tower was built by a friend of mine who grew up as an organic farmer and is now living in Lakeville, where he has a microgreens business. He provides microgreens for restaurants."

Lund explained that his friend has a lot of knowledge about hydroponics and built a very simple hydroponics tower for Gandhi Mahal. "The tower allows us to use space, so we can fit 36 plants in one square foot of space," Lund added.

He said that getting around the heating and lighting challenges of winter, they have the potential for growing even more plants in a square foot of space.

Lund said the restaurant is trying to practice vertical gardening in



One of the plants being grown in the basement of Gandhi Mahal features seeds that, when broken, produce an ink that contains no chemicals. (Photo by Jan Willms)

all sorts of ways. In the basement, a curry tree is growing, one of a handful being raised from seed.

"This curry tree has a little bit of Malabar spinach climbing on it, not choking the tree but utilizing layers in the system," Lund explained. The Malabar spinach also is growing on a piece of wiring coming down from a lighting fixture in the basement.

"We are trying to use the vertical space in here to bring people's attention to the fact that we have all this space. Even though we think of gardening as usually on a flat surface, it really is kind of a three-dimensional thing," Lund continued. "We have an environment where plants are interacting with each other and benefiting from each other."

Lund explained that in vertical gardens, some things grow better than others. "Every space, every garden and every environment is different, and the plants are adapted," he noted.

"We're doing a lot of trial and

error," Lund said. He said that with the aquaponics gardens, he started with 18 different spinach varieties to arrive at the two or three varieties growing now. Besides the Malabar, they are raising Longevity spinach, a plant you are unlikely to find in the supermarket. They are available online from a grower in Ohio.

The plant is considered very advantageous for medicinal purposes, with five leaves ingested a day leading to a lowering of blood sugar.

"We're taking the same approach in the vertical gardens upstairs," Lund said. "I have six species of plants up there just to see what responds best. It's a little bit colder up in that window, and not everything is going to like the cold. The water temperatures are a little lower, so the plants are not quite as big as if I were heating it." He said he will



Ruhel Islam stands by the tower that has 36 plants growing vertically in one square foot of space. (Photo by Jan Willms)

start with one set of plants, see what comes through the best and move forward.

"If you don't try, you don't know," Islam added. "If you fail, that's no problem; we learn from it. We have to do it. You can be just talking and talking, or you try to do it."

"Every day is the beginning of a new day," Islam continued. "You start small and grow big. We are working on expanding, planning and designing how to build more tanks to connect with the tower. We can send the water cycle here to our

vertical gardens and make it all connected, helping each other, on the roof or the vertical gardens."

At this point, the roof has been minimally used with some potted plants in the summer for gardening. Honeybees have also been raised on the roof, but the bees are dormant now.

"It's hard in these old buildings, in cities where the roofs have not been built with this idea in mind," Lund said.

"The central concept here is to

*Continued on page 7*

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## Gandhi Mahal

Continued from page 6

use the idea of aquaponics, which is water pumping through. We can do it to any height if we have a strong enough pump," Lund stated. "So we are talking about the rooftop as a usable space for a greenhouse. We can pump the water straight up, and it will feed back down through the systems we are trying to build into the restaurant. Basically, we are taking the small concept of the aquaponics system in the basement and saying this whole space can become a vertical garden, where we are using all the space with maximum efficiency."

At this point, Lund said the food being grown through aquaponics and the vertical gardens barely scratches the surface of all the food supplies needed in the restaurant.

But more expensive spices, foods difficult to find in the winter and plants that can be used in teas are found in the gardens.

Lund, who has a background in food service, has also been a passionate organic gardener most of his

life. He and Islam are both learning more about aquaponics as well.

"Hopefully, we can twist the arm of my friend, Matt, who built the vertical tower, to come in and do workshops showing people how to build the towers and how to do vertical planting in general," Lund said. "I would also like to work with some folks on aquaponics, plant propagation and the pluses and minuses of growing plants outdoors or indoors."

Lund said they are having conversations with folks with different expertise, such as engineers, architects and green roof experts to see what the best step forward would be.

"We are all about action, taking these ideas and turning them into inspirational action, empowering the community," he said. "We just want to use those rooms and basements previously thought of as wasted areas. Nature does not see anything as wasted."

"In my culture," Islam said, "we are used to growing up with our own food. We may have to invest money early on, but it is a good investment. We are taking risks, but no risk, no gain."



Ruhel Islam (left) and Kedrik Lund examine a curry tree and lemon tree growing in the basement of Gandhi Mahal. (Photo by Jan Willms)

## Bus Rapid Transit

Continued from page 2

comprised of a northbound and southbound platform. All station platforms will have a customer waiting shelter with interior light and heater, as well as a pylon marker with a real-time NexTrip display.

Passengers will be able to get on and off faster, thanks to low-floor buses and raised curbs at stations, plus wider bus doors and boarding from the front and back. These 40-foot Gillig model buses will look significantly different than regular-route buses.

The A Line buses will stop at fewer red lights courtesy of transit signal priority, and stay better in sync with traffic flow.

While people typically think that traffic is the main reason for bus delays, a traffic analysis showed that delays actually occur from stopping every block, customers paying fares, and stopping at red lights.

BRT addresses these issues.

### 21 stations every half-mile

The A Line will connect the Twin Cities' two metro light-rail lines with the busy Snelling Ave, commercial corridor and several popular destinations, including Hamline University, Macalester College, the Midway area, Highland Village, Minnehaha Park, Rosedale Center, and HarMar Mall.

The A Line will operate every 10 minutes along the 9.7-mile-

long route during rush hours, midday, evenings, and weekends, with less frequent service in the early morning and late at night. The span of service will be very similar to today's Route 84 schedule, with trips beginning at approximately 4am and continuing until approximately 1:30am

Twenty-one stations will be located roughly every half-mile.

When it begins operating, the A Line will become the primary bus route serving Snelling Ave. and Ford Pkwy. with increased service in evenings and on weekends, substantially replacing much of Route 84.

Local Route 84 will operate every 30 minutes and make off-corridor branch connections to St. Paul Ave., W. 7th St. and Davenport St.

Transferring between the A Line and light rail is easy. No matter where you purchase your ticket, it will be valid for 20 hours of unlimited rides. Additionally, A Line tickets are valid for regular-route buses; present your ticket to the driver but don't insert it into the fare box so that you can keep using it.

### Why a Snelling Ave. route?

In 2011, Met Transit studied 12 high-ridership corridors and determined that BRT would perform well along the Snelling/Ford/46th route. As a bonus, it was shovel-ready.

The other routes included in the Arterial Transitway Corridors Study were: Lake St., American



Last year, new bus shelters were installed along the north and south sides of 46th St. in preparation for the start of A Line services this spring. A few things remain to be done before the state's first Bus Rapid Transit line begins operating. The line will pretty much replace the current Route 84. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Blvd., Central Ave., Chicago Ave., E. 7th St., Hennepin Ave., Nicollet Ave., Robert St., Snelling Ave., W. 7th St. and W. Broadway Ave. The study later added Penn Ave. and Chicago-Fremont in north Minneapolis.

Construction on the A Line began in 2015 with road improvements, new shelters, and other amenities. The line was originally slated to open in 2015, but a lengthy review period set the project back. It will now open in spring 2016.

The total cost of the A Line project is approximately \$27 million, with money coming from the federal government (\$7 million), the state of Minnesota (\$16

million) and the Metropolitan Council (\$4 million).

Of that, \$15 million was spent constructing stations and adding related technology and fare collection elements; \$7 million on new BRT vehicles for the service; \$1 million on transit signal priority; and \$4 million on design.

Work on stations along 46th St. was done during the Minnehaha Ave. construction project last year. What remains for 2016 is the installation of communication systems and station amenities including station furnishings, customer waiting shelters, pylon markers with real-time transit information displays and ticket vending machines.

### Future lines opening

After the A Line opens, one additional line is planned to open each year as the system gets built out.

The B Line will run on W. 7th St. between downtown St. Paul, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. Initially scheduled to open in late 2016, the B Line project is now on hold as Ramsey County studies transit in the Riverview Corridor for future implementation.

The C Line on Penn Ave. is slated for construction and opening in 2017.

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State of Nokomis  
East Neighborhood

Continued from page 1

and going to the Veteran's Hospital to shop at neighborhood businesses.

In cooperation with NENA, NEBA is working to develop a mailer that will be sent out to all new residents. "If we can build that relationship when someone moves in, they're more likely to shop locally," observed Netwal.

Specifics of Bossen Field  
not yet determined

Portions of Bossen Field will be updated this year. However, just what will be included in Phase 1 of the project hasn't yet been ironed out.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) did purchase the playground equipment to take advantage of 2015 prices, pointed out Jonathan Duesman of the MPRB, and so that work will be done this summer.

Also, MPRB is planning to work around already scheduled events on the fields.

The designs will be finalized, and the project bid out in late February.

He encouraged people to check out the park's project website to keep updated.

Council members desire  
resident input

Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson updated residents on what he's been involved in. He pointed out that much of his time is spent addressing constituent issues, such as stop signs and crime issues. Recently, he helped concerned residents address the high speeds at Minnehaha and 53rd.

"Do not hesitate to reach out," Johnson encouraged.

The city will be developing a site at Riverview Road and 54th this year, and it will include commercial space following a request from community members, Johnson said. He's working to change city regulations so that Cap's Grille can become a brew pub.

Improvements are also com-



The Nokomis Business Association (NEBA) is focused on building relationships, according to volunteer Earl Netwal. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

ing for the stoplights along Hiawatha Ave., he promised.

The city designated funds for the Nokomis Healthy Seniors, a group that helps seniors stay in their homes longer by helping with things like mowing and changing lightbulbs.

Before the next election, the precinct five polling place will be split in two to avoid the two-hour-long lines of the past election.

With Parks Commissioner Steffanie Musich, Johnson has worked to increase patrols and safety along Minnehaha Creek. "We're working to install trash guards at Lake Hiawatha," said Johnson.

Every 10 years, the city updates its comprehensive plan, and that will start again this year. "We have the opportunity to shape that change," said Johnson. "What do we want our community to look like?"

Ward 11 Council Member John Quincy thanked residents for their comments and ideas. He remarked, "It is your work that helps us do our legislative work. We take your ideas and put them into action."

As the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Quincy highlighted some city-wide im-

provements as well as the recently-passed budget.

He noted that the city's police force will grow to 862 officers this year.

Crime down by 3%

Third Precinct Inspector Michael Sullivan is looking forward to putting six beat officers on the streets. In particular, the department will add two beat officers at Bloomington and Lake, two at Chicago and Lake and two at Franklin and Chicago.

When the next class of rookies graduates in April, five will be assigned to Precinct 3, which includes the area south of I-94, north of Hwy 62 and between I-35 and the river.

Sullivan pointed out that this Precinct is the largest in the city, and it is the most diverse, according to Lieutenant Kim Lund.

While some specific crimes increased in 2015, overall crimes decreased by 3%, according to Sullivan. "We do not have a gang problem," he observed, which in some ways makes it more difficult to address issues because they are more spread out.

There were 23 aggravated assaults in Wenonah last year, up from 11 in 2014. Most of those occurred at Bossen Terrace, said



Minneapolis Lieutenant Kim Lund supervises the officers who work overnight in the third precinct. Part of what she appreciates in the neighborhood is the great diversity. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Sullivan and were either domestics or known assailants. They were not stranger-related he stressed, but between people who knew each other.

Thefts in Morris Park were up, 30 in 2015 compared to 21 in 2014. Sullivan encouraged people to report suspicious people or vehicles they don't recognize by calling 911 and letting the operator know this isn't an emergency call. He remarked that many times people ask themselves, "Should I call?"

"If you're second guessing yourself, call," he recommended.

Even if a squad can't get there within five minutes, they may be in the area 20 minutes later and be able to stop the car in the nearby area because you provided the details on it.

"You never know if that's going to be the call that connects the dots," agreed Lund.

She is the supervisor of the officers who work in the neighborhood at night, going up and down alleys, looking for garage doors left open and knocking on doors to notify property owners. "What we do in the middle of the night, people aren't even aware of," Lund said.



Minneapolis Police Third Precinct Inspector Michael Sullivan points out that crime in the neighborhood was down 3% in 2015 as compared to 2014. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

2016 Deadlines  
and Publication Dates



Publication Date	Deadline Date	Publication Date	Deadline Date
January 28	January 18	July 28	July 18
February 25	February 15	August 25	August 15
March 31	March 21	September 29	September 19
April 28	April 18	October 27	October 17
May 26	May 16	November 25	November 14
June 30	June 20	December 29	December 16

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# 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.

### Roosevelt production scheduled Jan. 28-29

The lights are going up for Roosevelt High School's first full theater production in over a decade. "The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet," by Peter Bloedel, is a whimsical reinvention of Shakespeare's tragic love story, complete with rhymed couplets and creative wordplay. Come out for a fun night of theater in Roosevelt's newly renovated auditorium and support their growing theater program. Performances are Thur., Jan. 28 and Fri., Jan. 29 at 7pm. Suggested donation is \$3 per person, but pay more if you can or less if you can't! All are welcome.

### Holistic Moms meets on Feb. 17

The earth is warming, CO2 is going up, the oceans are rising...a lot of countries meet in Paris and agree on something while our politicians agree on nothing...meaning what? Don Arnosti will present the next program of the Holistic Moms Network on Wed., Feb. 17, 7-9pm, at the Fuller Park Recreation Center, 4800 Grand Ave. S.

To cut through the chatter, Arnosti, Conservation Program Director for the Izaak Walton League, will teach us to speak "bird." Birds don't waste time debating global warming; they simply respond to already changing temperatures, growing seasons, and availability of food. Some will thrive, some will struggle, some will go extinct. Birds are adapting, and we must, too. We'll learn specific, practical actions each of us can take to reduce climate change while learning to live more sustainably on this earth of ours. In the future, when your grandchildren ask you, "But what did you do about it?" you'll have an answer.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No matter where you are on your parenting or holistic journey, you are welcome! Children are also welcome.

### Healthy Seniors upcoming events

"Transportation and Metro Mobility: Getting Around Minneapolis" will be the presentation at the Feb. 16 Senior Social/Health Talk, which starts at 10:30am and meets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. Learn how to use the transit system, what features you should know about, what Metro Mobility is, and how people can use it.

Gentle Yoga classes are held on Mondays and Fridays at 10am and also meets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Yoga classes are \$4/each.

### Solar workshop planned for Feb. 16



Didn't win the Powerball? Enter the 2016 Made in Minnesota Solar Program Lottery and score a win for you and the environment!

Applied Energy Innovations, 4000 Minnehaha Ave. S., is planning a Made in MN (MIM) South Metro Solar Workshop for Tues., Feb. 16, 7pm. Invited Speakers include representatives from Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) who will describe finance options and qualifications; solar manufacturers rep from Itek Solar (Seward Neighborhood); representatives from Dept. Of Commerce to explain the MIM lottery process; and leadership from MnSEIA, who will explain the current state of solar affairs and the exponential growth occurring in 2016.

The cost of solar has dropped 60% in the last 10 years. Made in MN lottery rebates and tax incentives can reduce out of pocket costs by 90% and provide payback between 6-10 years. The non-profit CEE has developed a low-interest finance program which complements the MIM annual rebate check issued by the Dept of Commerce. Reduce your carbon footprint, produce your own energy, and support local products and contractors.

Longfellow based business Applied Energy Innovations (AEI) can guide you through the 2016 State of Minnesota process, including assessing solar feasibility, completing the MN Department of Commerce solar application, and providing solar design and implementation. AEI General Manager Steve Haslach can be reached by email at [steve@appliedenergyinnovations.org](mailto:steve@appliedenergyinnovations.org) or by phone at 612-532-0384 to help guide you through the solar MIM program.

A monthly Diabetes Support Group for adults of all ages meets on Wed., Feb. 10 at Hiawatha School Park Recreation Center, 4305 E. 42nd St. They also sponsor a Low-Vision support group. Call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for information on any of their events or services.

### 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.

### Winter volunteers needed now

The RSVP Volunteer Program of the Volunteers of America matches the skills and experience of people age 55+ with the needs of their communities. As part of national Senior Corps, RSVP volunteers receive free benefits. Tell us your interests--we'll do the searching and

find a match for you!

A sampling of current community needs:

- **Tax site assistants** (seasonal). Tax site assistants greet clients and support tax preparers at free tax preparation programs.
- **Snow Shoveling, Light Chores, or Home Repairs.** Use your skills to help elders or people with disabilities remain independent—and stay in their homes.
- **Drivers.** Use your vehicle to take an elder or person with disabilities to medical appointments, shopping, etc.
- **Adult Tutors.** Help refugees and immigrants learn English. Help people learn to use computers, study for their GED, and prepare for work.
- **Friendly Visitors.** Brighten the day of a home-bound person with a social visit to chat, play games, etc.
- **Greeters, Receptionists, Clerical.** Use your skills to support the work of a local non-profit.

Get connected with these or many other opportunities: 612-704-6116 or email [jkoschak@voamn.org](mailto:jkoschak@voamn.org)

### Vendor applications now available online

Are you interested in vending at the Midtown Farmers Market? Quality vendors are the heart of the Midtown Farmers Market as they strive to create a balanced and diverse vendor mix each season. Applications from Minnesota and Wisconsin farmers, artisans and producers are welcome! Visit their website, [www.midtownfarmersmarket.org](http://www.midtownfarmersmarket.org), for more information and to access the 2016 vendor application.

The application schedule and deadlines are:

**Mar. 4:** Applications due for all vendors except arts and crafts vendors

**Mar. 11:** Acceptance notification

**Apr. 1:** Application deadline for arts and craft vendors

**Apr. 2:** Annual Spring Vendor Meeting

**Apr. 8:** Acceptance and first half schedule notification for art and craft vendors

**May 7:** Opening day, Saturday market

**June 7:** Opening Day, Tuesday market

### Mardi Gras Festival scheduled Feb. 6

Epworth United Methodist Church will hold their Mardi Gras Family Festival on Sat., Feb. 6, 4-8pm, a free family-friendly evening of dinner, games, crafts, door prizes, and dancing. They're serving a dinner of pancakes, sausages, and more until 5:30. Then join in the fun of kid crafts and games, family bingo, and dancing. Bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation for the Minnehaha Food Shelf for extra chances at door prizes. All events are free, but donations are welcomed. Reservation not need, but are appreciated. For more info, contact Epworth at 612-722-0232 or [epworthumcplsmn@gmail.com](mailto:epworthumcplsmn@gmail.com).

### Puppet Cabaret slated Jan. 29

On Fri., Jan. 29, 9pm, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater will host a cabaret of puppet shows by the Twin Cities puppet community, with popcorn, beverages, and live music. See puppets big and small, hairy and smooth, bitter and sweet, intelligent and stupid, war and peace, crude and cruder. This is an adult venue.

Hosted by Daniel Polnau and with music by the controversial new "Skinny Pill," the cabaret will feature performances by: Steve Ackerman, Gustavo Boada, Ramon Cordes (with Tony Cordes-Eklund and Andy Fisher), Angie Courchaine, Seth Eberle, Alex Hathaway, Soozin Hirschmugl, Rachel Jendrzewski and Theo Goodell, Masanari

Kawahara, Zoe Sommers Haas, Maren Ward, and Carly Wicks. Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater is located at 1500 E. Lake St.

Tickets for Puppet Cabaret are a \$10 suggested donation and can be reserved at the HOBT Box Office at 612-721-2535 or online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2487160> or through [www.hobt.org](http://www.hobt.org). Nobody will be turned away for lack of funds.

### Met Council awards \$58K to cleanup

The Metropolitan Council has awarded \$58,800 to 4041 Hiawatha Ave. to assist with soil remediation and soil vapor mitigation at a 1.8-acre site that was used for manufacturing purposes. An existing building will be renovated into 78 affordable apartments.

The grant was part of \$3.4 million in brownfield cleanup grants named by the Metropolitan Council. The Livable Communities Awards will help clean up 47 acres, create or retain more than 2,000 jobs, increase the net tax base by more than \$2.8 million, help to produce or preserve more than 300 affordable homes, and encourage more than \$280 million in other public and private investment.

### Let's Do Lunch Cafe planned monthly

Every fourth Friday of the month (Feb. 26) from 11:30am-1:30pm, the Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly (1885 E. Lake St.) invite LGBTQ seniors, boomers, and allies to their "Let's Do Lunch café." The new "café" is a unique and welcoming Twin Cities venue where guests can relax, make friends and gather information on senior and LGBTQ services. There will be a hearty, catered lunch, a scrumptious dessert, great conversation and music, and a warm and welcoming environment. The cost is free, but seating is limited. RSVP to 612-746-0726 or email [mhaas@littlebrothersmn.org](mailto:mhaas@littlebrothersmn.org).

### Volunteer visitors needed for seniors

Help seniors stay in their homes and keep socially connected. If you have a heart for seniors, you'll love this volunteer position! "Friendly Visitors" are needed to visit isolated seniors in the greater Longfellow and Seward neighborhoods. Volunteer drivers are also needed who can transport seniors to medical appointments and shopping. Call Kirstan at Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information.

*Continued on page 10*



In Our Community

Continued from page 9

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 (Feb. 4) at 6:30pm. Adoptive parents are provided with a confidential, non-judgmental environment where they can support each other and share resources. Teens are invited to meet other teens who understand what it's like to be adopted. The teen group is not a drop-off group – parent(s) must attend the parent support group. For more info and to RSVP, contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or [ginnyblade@nacac.org](mailto:ginnyblade@nacac.org) (parents); or Christina Romo at 651-644-3036, ext. 17, or [christinaromo@nacac.org](mailto:christinaromo@nacac.org) (teens).

Join the Midtown Farmers Market Advisory Committee

Are you interested in volunteering and becoming more involved with the Midtown Farmers Market? If so, the market is currently looking for passionate individuals who are interested in helping the market with event planning, communications and public relations, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and on-site market day support. Please contact market manager, Miguel Goebel by e-mail, [manager@midtownfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@midtownfarmersmarket.org), or by calling 612-724-7457 for more information and additional informational materials about the Midtown Farmers Market Advisory Committee.

Ham Bingo slated at St. Helena Feb. 20

St. Helena Catholic School invites you to attend Ham Bingo sponsored by Honey Baked Ham on Feb. 20. Doors open at 4:45pm. The event will alternate cash prizes and Honey Baked Ham gift cards throughout the evening, along with a \$200 and \$300 coverall. Concessions, pull tabs, and meat raffles will be available throughout the evening. St. Helena Catholic School is located at 3200 E. 44th St. Call 612-729-9301 for more information or visit the school website [www.sainthelena-school.us](http://www.sainthelena-school.us) or see them at [facebook.com/St.HelenaSchool](http://facebook.com/St.HelenaSchool).

Cassidy named head of Patrick’s Cabaret

Thomas M. Cassidy, Board Chair of Patrick’s Cabaret, has announced that Scott Artley, who has served as the Cabaret’s Performing Arts Curator since January 2014, received unanimous board approval for promotion to Executive Artistic Director of the Cabaret. Amy Hero Jones, who was the captain of the Cabaret ship for

nine years, has been contracted to continue her successful development and fundraising efforts for Patrick’s Cabaret. Patrick’s Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., is celebrating its 30th year.

Renegade Gospel study during Lent

Who was Jesus, really? Wasn’t he a man who denied all preconceived notions about what God should look like? Wouldn’t associating with him have meant joining a rebel movement? Doesn’t it still? Epworth United Methodist Church is planning Renegade Gospel, a 6-week Lenten study using videos, readings, and activities that challenge participants to come to terms with the real Jesus—the rebel Jesus. The study is planned every Sunday from Feb. 14 through Mar. 21, from noon-1:30pm at Epworth, 3207 37th Ave. So.

Growler Gala to aid Roosevelt arts

The Growler Gala, a night of music, dancing, drinks, and more, will take place on Thur., Feb. 4, from 7-10pm at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. All proceeds will benefit Roosevelt’s newly rejuvenated performing arts programming. Food and drinks will be available to purchase from Pepitos. A silent auction, including a Wall of Growlers, will be featured! There will be live music by Grammar, Kenn Wanaku, and Big Lake. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Pepitos, or email [rhstheateradvocates@gmail.com](mailto:rhstheateradvocates@gmail.com) for information on how to purchase. This is a 21+ event.

Food forest workshop set Feb. 27

Interested in helping design a food forest at Lake Hiawatha? Attend a Participatory Design Workshop at Hiawatha Participatory Design Workshop on Sat., Feb. 27 from 12-4pm at the Lake Nokomis Community Center Art Room, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. All are welcome to bring their creative ideas to the art table. Bring a dish or snack/beverage (non-alcoholic) to share and a few dollars to put in the hat for space rental fee (\$65 for 4 hours). There will be room for about 30 people for this event, and you can RSVP to [ryanseibold.design@gmail.com](mailto:ryanseibold.design@gmail.com).

Students from Trinity School at Faith

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., will host the students from Trinity 1st Lutheran School at the 9am Worship Service on Sun., Feb. 28. All are invited to come and hear the children do musical presentations during the service.

Local students to perform at Carnegie Hall

South High School juniors Marie Berlovitz and Ethan Davenport have been selected to take the stage at Carnegie Hall in the 2016 High School Honors Performance Series in February. Berlovitz and Davenport achieved the performance honor in a selection process that began last spring with auditions. They join 750 singers selected from a field of 18,000. As finalists in this process, they are considered among the highest-rated high school performers worldwide. They will join other performers from all 49 United States, Guam, four Canadian provinces, and some foreign countries for a performance at world-famous Carnegie Hall, a venue that marks the pinnacle of musical achievement. Finalists will come together in New York City for five days in February. They will have the opportunity to learn from world-renowned conductors, work with other finalists, and get a taste of New York City. Two performances, an Honors Choral Performance and an Honors

Instrumental Performance, will take place Feb. 7. Berlovitz, a soprano II, and Davenport, a tenor I, are members of the South High Pop Singers and the Varsity Choir under the direction of music teacher Laurie Meyers. The Honors Performance Series was created to showcase accomplished individual high school performers on an international level by allowing them to study under master conductors and perform in Carnegie Hall.

Make your Valentine’s weekend heart-healthy with dance!

Rather than a gift of sweet chocolate and empty calories, show your special someone that you really care with an evening of dance at Tapestry Folkdance Center. Not only is dance a fun way to say, “I wanna hold your hand,” it’s a great workout that promotes a healthy heart and a long life. Tapestry Folkdance Center starts its Valentine’s weekend program Thur., Feb. 11, 7-8:30 pm, with Bollywood dance, which instructor Divya Maiya says “is almost always about hearts!” It’s high-energy hip-hop style makes this dance a real workout. (Fitness Blender puts hip-hop dance among the most aerobic, at 360 to 610 calories burned an hour.) The cost is \$5. Fri., Feb. 12, brings two dance options: an International Folkdance and Techno Con-

tra. International dance includes both slower and faster-paced dances from around the world, taught by instructor Ed Stern. (Calories burned: 250 to 420.) Techno Contra is a vigorous workout with an unusual twist—it’s danced in the near-dark to the beat of Techno music, with DJ Lady Electra. 7-8:30 pm. The cost is \$8 general, \$6 members, or \$5 students. Sat., Feb. 13, 6-8:30pm, gives families a special time to share the love with their youngest members at Tapestry Family Dance. Line dances, circle dances, and kid-friendly snacks make this activity a treat for the 12 and under crowd, and their parents. The cost is \$10 per family. Or swing into a high-energy date night at Contra Dance with guest band Sassafras Stomp, starting at 7:30pm. Cost is \$10

general, \$8 member, or \$7 student. (Calories burned: 310 to 420 an hour.) After the dance ends at 11:30pm, you can join an informal group of dancers for a drink at Merlin’s Rest (Lake St. and 36th Ave.). Help your Valentine rise and shine Sun., Feb. 14, with a drop-in Zumba class at 9am and burn off 350 to 600 calories. \$5. Or go with the flow at Dance Church (11am) for stretching and movement. \$5. End the day with your arms around your sweetheart at Scandinavian Dance, 6-9pm. \$5. Or try a stately English Country Dance, with baroque music, 7-9pm. \$5. Don’t have a partner? No problem; you never need a partner to dance at Tapestry.

Cretin-Derham takes to the stage Feb. 16-21 to perform ‘Twilight’

Cretin-Derham Hall (CDH) High School will perform “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992” as their winter play. “Twilight” tells the stories of the violence in L.A. following the Rodney King verdict. In the spring of 1991, Rodney King, a black man, was pursued for speeding and afterward beaten by four white Los Angeles police officers. Video footage of the beating was released, and

the four police officers were tried in 1992. After the verdict—one officer was found guilty of excessive force and the remaining three were cleared of all charges--mayhem ensued. Riots, fires, and violence broke out in Los Angeles for the next three days. Playwright Anna Deavere Smith tells the story of these riots through a series of monologs based on interviews she conducted with

individuals involved in the riots. The original Broadway production opened in New York City in April 1994 and ran for 72 performances. The performances will take place Feb. 16-20 at 7pm, with a matinee showing at 2pm on Sun., Feb. 21, at Cretin-Derham Hall High School located at 550 S. Albert St., St. Paul. Call 651-690-2443 for ticket information.

## Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

**Bethany Lutheran**  
3901 36th Ave. S. • 612-729-9376  
[www.bethanyon36th.com](http://www.bethanyon36th.com)  
*Pastor Jo Bauman*  
Sundays:  
9:15 am Education for Adults & Kids  
10:30 am Worship  
Wednesdays:  
(beginning Feb 10 with Ash Wednesday)  
11:00 am Lenten Service  
11:45 am Lunch  
Handicap Accessible - All are Welcome!

**Bethlehem Covenant**  
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768  
[www.bethlehemcov.org](http://www.bethlehemcov.org)  
Rev. Matthew Kennedy  
*Children especially welcome*  
Handicapped Accessible  
Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday service at 7:00pm  
All other Sundays:  
Contemporary Worship - 8:45 am  
Sunday School for all ages - 10:00 am  
Traditional Worship - 11:00 am  
Español - 1:30pm  
Wednesdays at 5:45 pm  
Meal and activities for the family

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
[www.epworthumcmpls.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.trinityfalls.org)  
*Pastors Derek Johnson & Matt Oxendale*  
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 am  
Feb. 7 One Service at 10 am  
Feb. 10 Ash Wed Service 6:45 pm  
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays 7:00 pm

**Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:**

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

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# Better Futures Minnesota plans grand opening Feb. 4

The Better Futures Minnesota grand opening and open house will be held Thur., Feb. 4 from 4- 6:30pm at 2620 Minnehaha Ave. S. The event will include tours of the new facility, examples of innovative materials reuse, refreshments, and an opportunity to learn more about the nonprofit's impact on individuals and the community.

The new offices and reuse materials retail warehouse enables the pioneering nonprofit to expand its services and ware-

house to better serve men and the public.

"In the past year we served more than 100 men," said Dr. Thomas Adams, Better Future Minnesota's President and CEO. "We focus on providing four fundamental components: stable housing, healthcare support, employment, and personal coaching. This holistic approach helps men pursue and succeed in making more meaningful, rewarding choices for their lives. It is a formula that has prov-

en to be highly effective. We're delighted this new facility will help us create greater synergy between our many services and administration, and allow us better serve our men."

Adams noted, "In that past year we recycled just over 11,200 appliances--which translates to more than 1 million pounds of metal that was kept from landfills. We mowed nearly 7,500 lots for Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis, and our teams removed

snow from nearly 4,000 sidewalks last winter. We diverted close to 700 tons of construction and demolition waste from landfills. More than 800 metric tons of CO2 (greenhouse gas) emissions were avoided by diverting these materials. Much of the material we recover from deconstruction is available for sale to the public at our warehouse. With greater awareness of the environmental and economic value of reusing and repurposing materials, and the

increased popularity of 'Do It Yourself' projects, sales from the retail warehouse have become a vital part of our enterprise." Adams added, "We provide critical training and support to help men change their lives while also providing valuable benefits to the community and the environment. It's a win-win-win approach, and we look forward to many years of continued growth and increased impact."

## Classifieds

### Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by February 15 for the February 25 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger Classifieds*, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before Feb. 15 for the Feb. 25 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Messenger's* website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

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#### EMPLOYMENT

Like Pets? Pet lodging service is seeking good people to care for dogs and/or cats in your home while their owners travel. All pets are pre-screened and placed based on needs of the pet and your preferences. Per diem pay. Call 952-837-1877 for more info. 2-16

#### HANDYMAN

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#### LEGAL

Ortiz Law Firm; Representing individuals in their claims for social security disability benefits; Sonja R. Ortiz, Attorney-At-Law, 612-242-8840. 2-16

#### MASSAGE THERAPIST

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#### PAINTING

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#### RENTAL

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Office or therapy space for rent: On bus route. Easy access to light rail. Located at Minnehaha Ave S. and 42nd St. Open to build out. 2nd floor office space available. Call Jim between 8 a.m. 2 p.m. 612-729-2316 or email: [KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM](mailto:KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM). B-1

#### 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. 2-16

#### WANTED

**\*\*WANTED\*\*** - Old Stereo, HiFi Equipment, HAM, and Cameras. Andy 651-329-0515. 6-16

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## New era for Olson Paint & Body

*New owner changes the dynamics of his body shop by going green*



Photo right; Tyler Diedrich, owner of Olson Paint & Body, is turning to environment-friendly products in an industry that was previously based on solvents. Photo right: An automobile disassembled to be worked on at Olson Paint & Body. (Photos by Jan Willms)

By JAN WILLMS

Paint is making Tyler Diedrich excited these days. Diedrich, who purchased Olson Paint & Body at 3701 Minnehaha Ave. S. last April, is using PPG High Performance Envirobase at his shop, and he can't say enough about the quality of this environment-friendly product.

"The paint is a lot more user-friendly from a technical standpoint, which makes my life a lot easier," he noted. "And it's better for the environment. Compared to previous solvent-based systems, the VOC emissions on this stuff are just like nothing."

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are organic chemicals that can enter the surrounding air. Diedrich said the paint system is made up of 80 percent reducers and 20 percent solvent, which makes up the color of the paint. The new water based paint he is using is 75 percent water and 25 percent solvents.

"The emissions or reducers in the water-based paint are actually water, so they just evaporate," he

explained. "It's highly green."

Diedrich said the new paint is comparable to latex house paint. It dries faster, gets better durability, and is more resistant to chipping.

"The new paint was one of the first things I wanted to get when I took over Olson Paint & Body," Diedrich said. "I'm aware a body shop can be a nuisance as a neighbor due to chemicals and dust. It's an urgent priority to get that stuff cleaned up and do what we can with it. I am mindful of that, and this paint is better for the people working with it and better for the community."

Diedrich said he picked up the auto body trade in his youth. "I was just wired for mechanicals and details," he said. "Cars just kind of came to me." He worked as an apprentice for three years with a neighbor in his home garage who worked for the Olson's and then became an apprentice to Joe Balluff, who owned the garage from 1998 until selling it to Diedrich. "I spent 10 years working with him," Diedrich said.

The auto body shop has been at the same location since 1939.

"I was told that the original Olson worked at the Ford plant, and in his off time he would bring damaged auto parts to his home," Diedrich said. "He would straighten and fix them and bring them back to the assembly line. The body shop developed from that, which I think is kind of neat."

Diedrich said Olson and a brother partnered for a while, and then a nephew came on board. George Hanson got involved in the 1960s and worked with the remaining Olson until the mid-'70s when the Olson family left the business. Hanson carried on until 1998 when Balluff bought the shop.

Diedrich said he has had an interest in working on cars most of his life. His dad was an airplane

mechanic but not that interested in cars. He said he started at Olson's in 2002 but was not mature enough at that time to work in a body shop.

He had dropped out of high school and went back and completed his high school diploma at age 28. He attended Normandale and completed associates in psychology. "Those were a really profound two years, and I can use that degree anywhere," he noted.

"But this was calling to me," he said of the shop. Diedrich said he likes the entirety of his career, working directly with customers who are primarily from the neighborhood. Since he currently runs the shop without any additional staff, he does everything from start to finish.

"In addition to neighbors who are familiar with the shop, I have people stop in who said they had

no idea this was a body shop," Diedrich commented. "I take that two ways. I want the shop to be noticed, but I also like that it blends into the neighborhood."

He is open 8am-5pm Monday through Friday, sometimes taking a lunch break around 1pm. Although not open weekends, he said he can be found at the shop frequently on Saturday or Sunday.

"There's nothing I like better than when I have locked the door and can tinker and work on cars," he noted. "I feel very fortunate to have landed where I am. I like that I have a relationship with the customers."

He said he wants to try and keep the originality of Olson Paint & Body and maintain quality standards. "That's something you're not always able to do at a high-paced shop," he said.

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