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Residents, public officials call for more transparency over airport noise levels

By JAN WILLMS

A Nov. 19 decision by the Minneapolis Airport Commission (MAC) to compromise on RNAV flight paths has still left some residents and public officials calling for more study and transparency when it comes to airport noise levels.

A standing-room-only meeting was packed with residents who were concerned about how the proposed changes in flight plans would affect their daily living.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposed using satellite technology to alter flight paths to save fuel and promote safety. But a spirited response from affected residents led MAC to only partially use the new system, rather than make it effective for all plane departures.

"The compromise position taken by the MAC reflects the fact that there are more opportunities to direct RNAV flight tracks over lightly populated areas south and east of the airport than there are north and west of MSP," explained Patrick Hogan, spokesman for MAC.

"While we believed there would have been noise benefits north and west of the airport as well, it was clear that there were significant concerns among community leaders in Minneapolis and Edina. The MAC board took those concerns into account when making the decision to endorse only partial implementation of the FAA's proposal," Hogan continued.

Hogan said there would be no change in departure flight tracks north and west of the airport so no areas of Minneapolis would experience noise impacts from RNAV departures around MSP.

"RNAV procedures do offer significant safety, efficiency, air quality and noise benefits," Hogan noted, "but it was clear there was significant concern in Minneapolis and Edina that impacts of the increase in overflights that would have occurred in some areas might outweigh RNAV's benefits. The MAC board heard those concerns and opted not to endorse RNAV departure



A Nov. 19 decision by the Minneapolis Airport Commission (MAC) to compromise on RNAV flight paths has still left some residents and public officials calling for more study and transparency when it comes to airport noise levels. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

tracks over those cities."

Ward 12 council member Sandy Colvin Roy said the compromise was what she and other officials had advocated.

"We understand that RNAV tracks can benefit some communities by directing planes over less populated areas but we don't really have the same options in Minneapolis, so our choice is not so simple," she said. "We don't want to stop other communities from realizing benefits they can identify, as long as we can protect the interests of our community."

Colvin Roy said that RNAV consolidates the routes that airplanes travel, and this means that some people who live under those routes will be exposed to more planes.

"Asked if some residents would carry an increased burden, the FAA said yes," Colvin Roy said. "What we need to understand is the magnitude of that burden as well as the magnitude of the potential benefits."

Colvin Roy emphasized that while it might be helpful to the control tower to have every plane in a certain destination on the exact same route, she did not

consider it necessary for safety. "The MSP traffic control tower does an excellent job with current procedures to safely move planes in our airspace," she added.

Colvin Roy expressed concern that Delta is purchasing older planes.

"The planes are required to be hush-kitted to a Stage 3 sound standard," she said. "South Minneapolis has been exposed to these planes before and their removal reduced the noise we experienced because new planes are quieter. I want to explore what else airlines can do to reduce the noise burdens from planes."

A need for more study as

well as much better communication with the public is something Colvin Roy said she considers important.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions about what it would really be like to live under one of these RNAV tracks," she said. "Minneapolis has long advocated for a better way to measure noise. The current method relies too much on statistical data and averages rather than actual noise measurements, and those averages do not fairly represent what it is like to experience the noise on the ground. To change the way that FAA measures noise is an uphill battle that many

communities across the country have discussed, so far without success."

"I think these tracks could have passed through quietly, if I and John Quincy (Ward 11 council member) were not watching these issues so closely," Colvin Roy said. She added that this issue is connected to the long term plans for the airport and they should be considered together.

Colvin Roy said she thinks it's likely this proposal will be back.

"We have garnered a lot of support for the city's position that additional information is needed, so I'm very hopeful that we will get it," she said. "The City and our allies are ready to fight for this. We have great support amongst our State and Federal representatives."

One of those representatives, Jim Davnie from District 62A, said he was pleased the MAC commissioners were willing to compromise on the new navigation system at this time.

"I think it's accurate to say this is the first time Minneapolis residents have won on an issue with the MAC," he noted. "It would not have happened without the overwhelming response from residents in affected areas challenging the MAC and their process around this decision."

Marian Streitz, a Nokomis resident for 37 years, was among those attending the MAC hearing Nov. 19. Although she said she is not directly under a flight path, she is concerned for residents who are.

She said at the meeting she sat next to a young man who did not think the FAA could do partial flight changes, as suggested in the compromise.

"They talked about opening up more gates at the airport as the economy improves," Streitz said. "At some point they are going to put RNAV into effect."

She felt there have not been enough opportunities for residents to voice opinions on something that affects their day-to-day life.



"There are a lot of unanswered questions about what it would really be like to live under one of these RNAV tracks."

- Councilmember
Sandy Colvin Roy

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Davnie, Torres Ray to take on leadership roles at the Capitol

By IRIC NATHANSON

After spending the last two years in the political wilderness as members of the DFL minority, Longfellow/ Nokomis's two veteran legislators are ready to take on key leadership roles as part of the newly elected DFL majority in the House and Senate.

When the legislature convenes on January 8, District 62 State Senator Patricia Torres Ray will chair the influential Education Committee. Her House colleague, Rep. Jim Davnie will head the House Property Tax Division. Davnie will also chair the bipartisan Ethics Committee.

Davnie, who had served in the House majority during his earlier terms, found the minority experience quite frustrating in 2011 and 2012. "I wasn't able to do much more than serve as a voice for my constituents,"

Davnie said. "But that voice really wasn't heard. The majority had a clear view of where they wanted to go, and that didn't allow for any bi-partisanship. It created a terrible process. We had to contend with a state shutdown and with bills that were poorly drafted. Often bills would come before us that had blanks where funding levels should have been written in."

"Now that we are in the majority, we have a responsible to listen to minority voices," Davnie continued. "We hope our minority colleagues will come to the table and work with us in a bipartisan way, but we are not sure that will happen. Ideology still has a strong hold on the other side of the aisle. If you don't believe a program should

Continued on page 5



State Senator Patricia Torres Ray said she is looking forward to her new position as chair of the Senate Education Committee.



State Rep. Jim Davnie, who had served in the House majority during his earlier terms, found the minority experience quite frustrating in 2011 and 2012.



Left to right, Mason Mitchell (volunteer assistant coach) Hugh Mayo, Nathan Johnson (coach) and Michael Everett.

Minnehaha Academy juniors Michael Everett and Hugh Mayo win Minnesota Classic Debate title

Whether the War on Drugs has been a policy beneficial to the Western Hemisphere was the topic argued at the 2012 Classic Debate State Festival sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League and held at South St. Paul High School on November 30-December 1.

Minnehaha Academy juniors Michael Everett and Hugh Mayo defeated teams from Benilde-St. Margaret and Rochester Mayo in the quarterfinals and semifinals before defeating Cara Desmond and Jay Schuffenhauer of Eastview High School by a judges' decision of

3-0. In the final of eight rounds of debate, Everett and Mayo drew the affirmative argument, arguing that the War on Drugs has benefited the Western Hemisphere by decreasing the use of illicit hard drugs in the United States, effectively combating cartels in both the United States and Latin America, and preventing Colombia from turning into a narco-state under the sway of the rebel group FARC.

Congratulations to Michael, Hugh, and the entire Minnehaha Academy debate team!

Metabolic Balance is now offered in Minnesota

Christine Lindell Detweiler is a Registered Dietitian and the owner of TAKE CHARGE NUTRITION, LLC. While living in South Africa she was trained as a Metabolic Balance Coach. She has now brought this all natural way of weight management to Minnesota with her recent move to the Longfellow neighborhood. She wants to help you take charge of your own health and well being for you and for your family using this personalized approach to eating.

During this holiday season we will all enjoy lots of good food and spending time with family and friends. But it's likely that many of us will decide after the holidays are over that it's time to do something about that weight that just keeps adding on. Metabolic Balance is based on the belief that eating the right food for our bodies can reset our metabolism and get our bodies working for us. Best of all, metabolic balance is just plain good eating - no shakes, pills, surgery, or special meals. Lindell Detweiler can be reached at 763-222-5598.

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Pedophile moving to Wenonah neighborhood

Clarence J. Opheim molested 29 children, spent 20 years in St. Peter's sex offender treatment program

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

A well-known Level III sex offender is moving into the Wenonah neighborhood.

In March 2012, Clarence Joseph Opheim, 65, became the first person in the state to be released from the St. Peter hospital sex offender program. He has been living in temporary housing at Damascus Way in Golden Valley since then. Police have had no contact with Opheim there, nor have they received any phone calls about him.

Soon, Opheim will be residing in a staffed group home on Sander Dr. in the Wenonah neighborhood. The non-secure building is owned by Onkin Properties, and is operated by the Zumbro House, a program that supplies residential services for individuals needing intensive behavioral supports.

Opheim will become the fifth level III sex offender living in the 55417 zip code.

The group home is staffed 24 hours a day. Opheim will not be allowed to leave without a staff member supervising him. He will have limited internet access, and is not allowed to own a cell phone.

The Department Of Health and Human Services will supervise Opheim's day-to-day activities and have regular face-to-face contact. His movements will be managed and monitored, and he will wear a GPS tracking unit. Transportation will be supplied as needed.

Speaking to a child or drinking alcohol violates the conditions of his release.

OPHEIM'S CRIMINAL HISTORY

Opheim spent 20 years at St. Peter. He is a sex offender who molested 29 children in the 1970s and '80s.

According to a state document from 2011 detailing why he had been denied discharge, Opheim gained the trust of kids in his Northeast Minneapolis neighborhood by being the "neighborhood nice guy," offering them candy and soda. His other victims were children of women he befriended in bars. There is no record of stranger-to-stranger sexual contact.

Opheim often initiated conversation with his victims that led to secluded contact at other locations, including his home.

His record indicates sex offenses against predominantly male children ranging in age from 8 to 17 years old; however, his victims also included female children. Some of these offenses involved physical harm, threats of bodily harm, the use of weapons, and the use of alcohol. In at least one instance, Opheim paid a boy between \$10 and \$50 for each incident to keep his mouth shut.

In addition, Opheim committed a number of non-sexual crimes that included: two counts of burglary, petty theft, aggravated criminal damage to property, aggravated forgery, criminal damage to property, breach of peace,

assault, and second degree assault. During one occasion when he was 15 years old, Opheim was involved in a scuffle with his brother and friends. A knife ended up in his brother's back, and Opheim was charged with assault.

Opheim struggles with chemical dependence, specifically with alcohol. He completed a chemical dependency treatment program in the early 1990s and remains active in Alcoholics Anonymous.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HELD

A meeting regarding Opheim was held on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012 at Crosstown Covenant Church.

About 25 people attended, which is a much lower attendance rate than at the first Level III Sex Offender meeting held about a decade ago. Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Associate Director Doug Walter recalled that over 200 people had attended that earlier meeting at Keewaydin School regarding another sex offender. But over the years, as more sex offenders have come and gone, attendance has dropped at the community notification meetings.

The home Opheim will be



Clarence Joseph Opheim, born Aug. 15, 1947, is a white male, 5'10", 214 pounds, with a large build, brown eyes, very short grey hair (balding) and a fair complexion. He wears glasses.

residing at is now owned by Chris Onkin of Onkin Properties. "This particular program is better for the neighborhood than the tenants who lived in the building before," noted Walter. "People are probably safer in the neighborhood now." Because of the drug use and crime there, NENA had focused on cleaning the area up.

However, Walter is concerned about what the future might hold. The state faces a fed-

eral lawsuit by several offenders who argue that the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) subjects them to illegal indefinite detention. If the state conducts a makeover of its program and begins releasing sex offenders, Walter is worried that more will be housed at Onkin's two properties on Sander Dr. Onkin is also working to purchase another property nearby on 33rd.

NENA has been assured by officials that they won't "saturate" the area. "But I don't know exactly what that mean," said Walter. "Even two sex offenders in this area will be a lot."

It costs the state \$120,000 a year to house each of its 600 sex offenders at the high-security St. Peter and Moose Lake facilities.

ALL SEX OFFENDERS MUST REGISTER WITH STATE

Lifetime registration is required for all sex offenders. The Minneapolis Police Department stresses that these notifications are not intended to increase fear, but instead believe that an informed public is a safer public. The Minneapolis Police Department has no legal authority to direct where a released offender may or may not live. Unless court-ordered restrictions exist,

an offender may live wherever he chooses.

Sex offenders have always lived in our communities but it was not until passage of the Community Notification Bill and Sex Offender Registration Act that law enforcement knew where they were living. Due to the passage of these laws, law enforcement can now share information with the public.

According to www.minneapolis.gov, a sex offender may be assigned a Risk Level of I, II, or III.

An offender found to be a Risk Level I is considered the LEAST likely to re-offend.

An offender found to be a Risk Level II is thought to pose a MODERATE risk of re-offense. In this case, local law enforcement, and victims or witnesses are notified of the offenders' release or relocation, as well as any agencies that may serve a population at risk of victimization that are located near the offenders' home.

An offender determined to be the MOST likely to re-offend is assigned a Risk Level III. In this case, local law enforcement, victims or witnesses, and any agencies that serve a population at risk of victimization may be notified, as well as the general public through a community meeting.

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As always, admission is free, but donations are very much appreciated. Everyone is welcome!

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Viewpoints

Messenger

For more information on submitting letters or news announcements to the Messenger call Denis Woulfe at 651-645-7045.

This had been a good night at the coffee house. Good music — the kind which makes you glad to be a host on a local stage. Good conversation — the kind which makes you glad to have a hand in building community.

Now the doors were closed and the lights were off — except for those onstage where I was sitting. It was quiet.

But then...I thought I heard a knocking on the front door. Probably just imagining things, I thought. Or the wind is rattling the door again. But then I heard it again, clearly someone was knocking.

I went to the door and opened it. In popped a young woman. "Oh thanks," she said. "It's so cold out there."

"I'm Peggy. I was going to come earlier. But I couldn't drag myself out of the house; I was so depressed."

"My friend Laura, your friend, too, I think, said I should come talk to you. So here I am. Say, do you have any coffee left? Wait, I hear you have really weird soda, like sweet corn and pumpkin pie."

She went on like this for several minutes, throwing whole paragraphs at me like a character in a James Joyce novel. Then suddenly she stopped. "Oh sorry, you haven't said if I can come in or if I could talk to you. May I? Can I?"

I told her to come in and pointed to the stage. "I'm sitting up there. Why don't you join me?"

I got a soda pop called S'mores and two glasses. She poured the pop and tried it first. "Weird" was her assessment.

"So what's up?" I asked.

First, she responded with more speed paragraphing — from northwest Iowa, younger brother, parents split, here in college, no place really to go anymore for holidays.

She paused and then said: I'm here because I've lost one of my best friends. And it hurts. And it's lonely. And it's Christmas.

"Laura said you'd be good to talk to about this. But I don't know, you're old — ah, well, I mean you're a lot older than me. You've probably had the same friends since third grade and I'll bet your family isn't all screwed up like mine."

"Well," I said. "That's a lot to talk about. I think I'll go make some coffee. Be back in a bit."

I walked into the kitchen and made the coffee. And



Hiawatha Notebook

By TOM GILSEMAN

I don't want to be part of any 'Ho, Ho, Ho' stuff

wondered just exactly what I might be getting into.

"What took you so long?" Peggy said when I came back to the stage. "You were gone forever. I was about ready to put your face on a milk carton."

"I don't think I was gone that long," I responded. "Anyway, I'm back, and you were telling me..."

Peggy resumed her story. She really wanted to go to her dad's house for Christmas. But she wasn't welcome anymore — something about calling her stepmother a "witch." And she didn't really know where her mom was.



But all that was okay because she had been planning to spend Christmas with Cathy. Cathy was her friend — her best friend. "Did you ever have any best friends?" she asked. But she didn't wait for any answer. She hurtled right into another paragraph.

"Now, I'm just so sad," Peggy said. "Cathy moved away last summer. We had promised we would stay in touch. And get together at Christmas. But I haven't heard a word from her since she left. Not a text, not a call, not an email, not even a letter. And she even took down her Facebook page..."

There was a pause. Then she said: "And now it's

Christmas and it hurts, hurts so much.

"I don't want to do anything. I don't want to see anybody. And I certainly don't want to be part of any 'ho, ho, ho,' stuff."

"You want me to turn off the Christmas music?" I asked.

"No," Peggy replied. "What you're playing is okay."

There was another few moments of silence. Then Peggy said: "Do you think I'm crazy? Is there something wrong with me? The people at my work say I should just 'get over it.' But I'm not going to."

"No, I don't think you're crazy," I said. "You're sad. My friend Kate used to say that at times like these we're in a 'slough of despond.'"

"A slough," Peggy said. "I like that. So what do I do." "I'm not sure," I said. "You've actually caught me at a time when I'm missing one of my best friends, too."

"Was that Kate?" Peggy asked. "Did she die? Oh, I'm sorry, I guess that was rude."

"Well, yes, Kate was a very good friend of mine. And, yes, she died — several years ago. And I do miss her. We worked together at community newspapers a long time ago. And then we each went out and started a newspaper of our own."

"But actually I was thinking of someone much more recent. You meet a lot of people along the way in life. A number of them become your friends. A few, a very few, become best friends. You get very close; you trust each other; you lean on each other. Best friends put little footprints on each other's hearts."

"It's a best friend like that that I am missing this Christmas. One who, like yours, seems to have vanished. Same as you, not a call, an email or a text. And I thought we were very close. So I guess I know a little of what you are talking about."

"So what do we do?" Peggy asked. "Can we make this hurt go away — or at least not hurt so much?"

"Probably not," I replied. "That's the thing about best friends; we want them to be with us for the good times and especially for holidays. When they're not, well..."

"Anyway I don't think there's anything wrong with feeling sad."

"Ha," Peggy said, "so here we are wallowing in a sty of despond."

Continued on page 16

The horses are loading up on carbs for the hayrides, the face-painter is stocking up on paint, KidsDance is tuning up its playlist and practicing new dance moves, and the residents of the fish pond have been waiting all year for the Night Before New Year's Eve Party:

Sunday, December 30
5:00 – 8:00 pm
Nokomis Community Center
2401 East Minnehaha Parkway

The evening will be full of activities—a jazz ensemble from Southwest High School will play from 5:00-6:00, KidsDance will spin kids-favorite music 6:00-8:00, hayrides will run 5:30-7:30, and the photo booth, crafts, facepainting, carnival games and marshmallow roasting will run all evening. Grab a chili dog or beef dog with all the fixings, 1919 root beer, hot chocolate or a cold drink to keep your energy up. And have your noisemaker ready for the countdown to the New Year at 7:55 pm. It's always a blast — no matter what your age!

Everyone is welcome, and the event is free, including the food! We do appreciate your donations, which go a long way to offsetting the cost. So bundle up the kids, and head over to the community center. To ease parking congestion, Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls will be running a shuttle throughout the evening. We will post the route on our website (www.nokomiseast.org) or you can call the NENA office (612-724-5652) for information.

In its 13th year, the Night Before New Year's Eve

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH AND DOUG WALTER, NENA STAFF

The Night Before New Year's Eve Party Offers Free Family fun

Party is sponsored by NENA and the Nokomis Community Center/Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Helping!

We need about 40 volunteers to make this a great event. You can help with games, food preparation, decorations, bonfire and hayride safety, and other jobs. Please consider volunteering for a shift or the whole event. Your help makes a difference! Call Rita Ulrich at (612) 724-5652 or email rulrich@nokomiseast.org

Recent Remodel? The Home Tour Wants You

Have you remodeled a kitchen, bath, master suite or whole house? Added on, or finished existing space in attic, basement or garage? You could be one of the 50 homes featured on the 2013 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour. The tour is scheduled for April 27-28, and the deadline for nominations is January 15. You can nominate your house online by going to www.mpshometour.com or by calling Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore at 612-867-4874.

During the tour, thousands of visitors find homes of similar vintage to their own, in neighborhoods of interest, or focus on a particular type of remodel. Your project could

Ashmore at 612-867-4874 or email mfashmore@aol.com. The application can be downloaded from www.MSPHomeTour.com under "submit a home."



Happy New Year
from all of us at NENA!

Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

Night Before New Years Eve: 5-8 PM, Sunday, December 30, at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway.

NENA Board: 7 PM, Thursday, January 24, at NENA.

Please note, the NENA office will be closed the first week of January. If you need to get a hold of us, we will be checking phone messages for urgent issues.

Last-minute schedule changes are posted on our Calendar page at www.nokomiseast.org or you may call (612) 724-5652.

Protecting yourself and your family against sexual violence

Personal Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN

- Assure your children that they can talk with you about questions they have about good touch versus bad touch, what to do if a stranger approaches them or if someone they know acts inappropriately towards them.
- Remind your children basic safety rules: never talk to strangers or accept rides from people you don't know; watch out for common lures and tricks (a lost adult wanting directions, asking you to help look for a lost pet, offering you money, candy, toys in exchange for a favor, etc.).
- Teach them to use the buddy system and to listen to their instincts – if some-

thing doesn't feel or seem right, talk to you, a teacher, or another adult they trust.

FOR ADULTS

- Keep your windows and doors locked whether you are home or not. Some break-ins happen even when you've just stepped outside to water your lawn or shovel snow.
- If you live in a security building, do not let in people that you do not know, even if you think you may appear impolite. Remember, if they are there for a legitimate visit, their host will let them in.
- Consider taking a personal safety class and scheduling a home security check, both of which are conducted free of charge by the Minneapolis Police Department.

- Consider joining your neighborhood block club. Neighbors that know each other are more likely to look out for one another. If no club exists, contact local Crime Prevention Specialist Sue Roethle (612-673-2839 or sue.roethle@minneapolismn.gov) for more information about starting a block club, attending a personal safety workshop, or scheduling a home security check.

From <http://www.minneapolismn.gov>

Facts about Sexual Violence in Minnesota

- Over 90% of all convicted sex offenders knew their victims (according to victim interviews) prior to sexually

assaulting them, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Contrary to popular belief, most sex offenders do not assault strangers. They look like anyone else. They are our friends, family members, and community leaders. They are most often people we know and trust.

- In Minnesota, the most common sex offense committed by those that have gone to prison is that of child molestation. The second most common is rape, followed by incest and then sexual offenses that fall into a category listed as "other" (prostitution, pornography, etc.).
- Of the over 1,300 registered sex offenders in Minneapolis, the largest number of those (subject to Risk Level assignment) are Level I's.

Level II sex offenders constitute the second largest number of offenders, with Level III's making up the smallest number.

- Sex offenders are NOT placed in any neighborhoods in the city of Minneapolis. Once they are released from prison, they are free to live wherever they choose. Most offenders are released to the jurisdiction that originally gained conviction and is overseeing their probation. This jurisdiction cannot legally deny them residency. Offenders that want to move outside that jurisdiction must obtain permission prior to moving and may be denied residency.

- Compiled by Tesha Christensen

Leadership roles

Continued from page 2

exist, it is hard to have a discussion on how it should be structured."

Torres Ray said she shared Davnie's frustration about the legislative process during the past session. "The Senate used to have a tradition of bi-partisanship, but that was not the case during the 2011-2012 session," she said. "Those of us in the minority could not get our bills heard, and even when we got a hearing, our bills were bottled up."

Torres Ray said she is look-

ing forward to her new position as chair of the Senate Education Committee. "The chair's key role is to help set the agenda for the committee. We can't control the outcome of the committee's deliberations but we can help identify consensus positions that will increase the likelihood of positive actions on policy issues."

During the upcoming session, the Education Committee's agenda will include the contentious issue of teacher tenure and evaluation. "In the past this issue has been used in partisan way to attack teachers and public education in general," said Torres Ray. "Teachers have been

made the scapegoat for what some see as the deficiencies in the public education system. We need to move away from that approach."

Davnie said his role as chair of the House Property Tax Division will be to guide the committee through the legislative process. "We will need to make sure that committee members have a broad base of understanding about the current system and will be able to evaluate the various reform proposals coming before us."

The Tax Division's incoming chair said that any revision to Minnesota's property tax system

needs to be part of a broader effort to stabilize the state's fiscal system over the long term. "We can't keep lurching from one crisis to another, as we have done in the past," Davnie said. "It's clear that we will need to look at new revenue sources to help us deal with a deficit that could exceed \$3 billion when inflation adjustments are included."

"Income tax rate adjustments need to be part of the equation, but we will also need to look to the sales tax as another revenue source. One option is to broaden the scope of the sale tax to include products and services that are not currently covered.

That might enable us to help bring in more tax dollars while cutting the overall sales tax rate.

"The people of this state are ready for a long-term solution to our fiscal problems and that needs to happen in the new session," Torres Ray said. "The gridlock and polarization that we faced in the last session is just not acceptable. Working with the governor, we can come up with a long-term solution. And that will include some increases in taxes for those who are most able to pay. We campaigned on that theme. President Obama campaigned on that theme, so it is ready to happen."

Join the fun at The Night Before New Year's Eve Party Dec. 30



Young guests dancing to the moves of KidsDance's floor DJ's at the Night Before New Years Eve celebration. Everyone is welcome at this free event, held Sunday, December 30, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

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What's Cookin'...

By COLETTE MULLENMASTER

Bergan's Supervalu with Steve Bergan and Staffers



CM: How and where did Bergan's Supervalu get its start and how did it come to this location on Cedar Avenue in South Minneapolis?

SB: I've worked in the grocery business since I was sixteen. Carryout to corporate manager for Red Owl. In 1980, my wife, Marsha and I, purchased a Red Owl store in St. Peter, MN. In 1985 we purchased the store at Cedar Avenue. We were a Red Owl until SuperValu purchased Red Owl. We were a Red Owl until we were the last Red Owl in Minneapolis. Thus we became Bergan's SuperValu. We are privately owned since 1985. Bergan's SuperValu is owned and operated by Steve & Marsha Bergan. All we do is buy product from SuperValu. We are a small business that has supported the neighborhood for the last 27 years.

CM: What is it that Bergan's Supervalu considers as the best thing about doing business in this community?

SB: Remember we started in a small town, St. Peter. Our store is located in a neighborhood that is very similar to a small town. We know our customers. We treat them as neighbors. We thank them and appreciate them as supporters of our small business. We

have grown up with our neighborhood. This is our small town business.

CM: Is there a special memory that stands out over the years?

JC: You ask for one special memory-not possible. We have hundreds of special memories. Hundreds of young kids have worked for us during the last 27 years. Many have worked through high school and college and become wonderful adults. We hope their experience with Bergan's has helped in a small way. We have grown up with the neighborhood. We have experienced happiness, sadness. Many of our customers have passed away, sold their homes and moved in with relatives or into assisted living. We have experienced this with our customers. We donate hundreds of gift cards each year to the schools, churches and neighborhood events each year. We love our neighbors and hope they love us at Bergan's.

TIP! **Sugar Cookies**
Makes about 60 cookies

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup margarine or softened butter (the best)
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1 large egg
2 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon of baking soda
1/2 teaspoon of cream of tartar
granulated sugar to cover after baking



Mix powdered sugar, margarine/butter, vanilla, almond extract and egg in large bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients except granulated sugar. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours.

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease cookie sheet lightly with shortening.

Divide dough in half. Roll each half 1/4 inch thick on lightly floured surface. Cut into desired shape with 2-2 1/2 inch cookie cutters. Sprinkle with granulated sugar. Place on cookie sheet.

Bake 7-8 minutes or until edges are light brown. Remove from cookie sheet. Cool on wire rack and again sprinkle with granulated sugar.

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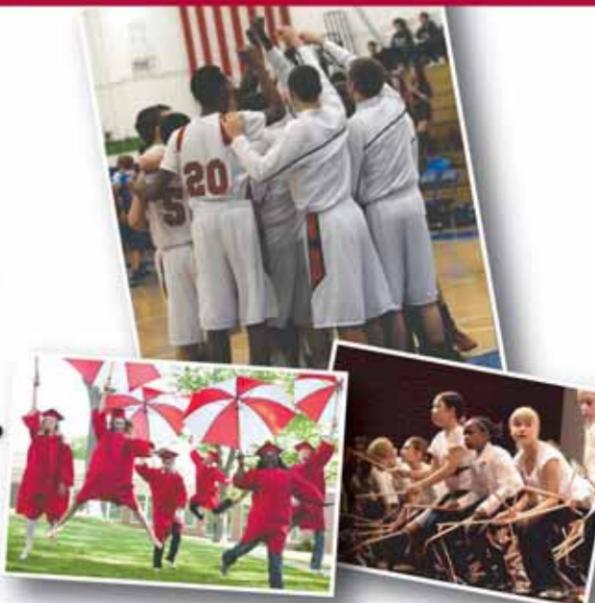
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Park Board focuses on urban agriculture

Plan being developed to guide park activities



David Rogers walks his dog past the Lake Nokomis Naturescape, a demonstration garden that illustrates how people can incorporate native plants in their home landscaping. Demonstrations and classes on native gardens are a piece of Urban Agriculture in Minneapolis. Over the next few months, park staff are soliciting ideas and comments from citizens as they work to create an Urban Agriculture plan for the city. Urban agriculture is about more than just community gardens, said Ginger Cannon of the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB). It encompasses everything from demonstration gardens to farmer's markets to serving healthy foods at rec centers. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

By TESHA H. CHRISTENSEN

Confused about what urban agriculture is and why the Minneapolis parks department is involved?

You're not the only one. It's a tough thing to grasp because the definition of urban agriculture is constantly evolving.

"In the city of Minneapolis, we're still trying to figure out what it means," said Ginger Cannon of the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB).

The official definition is this: "The effort to support production, consumption, distribution and waste management in an urban environment."

It is about more than just community gardens, according to Cannon.

"Urban agriculture is everything from farmer's markets to composting," said Cannon.

Those engaged in urban agriculture activities may raise chickens. They may grow their own food in either a community garden or personal garden. Or, they may sell local foods at a neighborhood farmers market.

The practice of urban agriculture helps to meet local food needs while providing environmental, health, social and economic benefits for the community.

Public feedback desired
MPRB is working to develop a comprehensive Urban Agriculture plan. The first step is to solicit public feedback. A series of meetings were held throughout the city in November and December, including one at the Nokomis Rec Center on Dec. 4.

"We want to hear from the community," said Cannon. "What are the things you think the park should support?"

Comments are still being taken via the MPRB web site. There is a link to the Urban Agriculture Survey at www.minneapolisparcs.org on the left navigation bar on the home page.

This plan will:

- Define and prioritize community needs
- Provide recommendations to enhance community services
- Guide allocation of resources to better support

urban agriculture as government organization.

Current urban agriculture in the parks

MPRB is currently involved in a range of urban agriculture activities.

While the MPRB does not es-



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What is "urban agriculture"? Most broadly, the term refers to growing and raising crops and animals in an urban setting for the purpose of feeding local populations. It can include community gardens, commercial gardens, community support agriculture (CSA), farmer's markets, personal gardens and urban farms.

establish community gardens on any of its park land, it does manage several demonstration gardens. The largest one is Shady Rivers at the Theodore Wirth Regional Park. There youth learn now to plant, harvest and process food. It is then donated to local food shelves.

MPRB does rents four parcels of land it obtained through tax forfeiture to community garden groups (Bancroft Meridian Garden, Soo Line Gardens and Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association). There are another 7 possible locations, including three within the Nokomis East neighborhood.

One of the largest natural demonstration gardens in the city is the Nokomis Naturescape at 50th. It is also the focus of the popular Monarch Festival held each September that the park board helps organize. Three gardens at Minnehaha Park (Longfellow Garden, Song of Hiawatha Garden and the Pergola garden)

offer residents the opportunity to learn more about how to garden. The knowledge can then be applied to growing any kind of plant. An area of growth for MPRB might be to not only demonstrate this type of gardening, but to also actively teach it. "We know that people want more programming," observed Cannon. Classes might include how to improve the soil, permaculture, and which foods to grow in which seasons.

Also important to the MPRB is that vendors in its parks practice composting, which Sandcastle, the new vendor at Nokomis Beach, intends to do.

In Powderhorn, there is a rain garden project.

MPRB could opt to focus more on any one of these efforts, or it could do something new.

A number of ideas have been suggested by citizens at community meetings.

Continued on page 10

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By JILL BOOGREN

For Longfellow resident Jason Holtz, installing solar was the next logical step in a many-year journey to reduce energy use. The incentives were too good to pass up: Rebates from Xcel Energy and the State of Minnesota plus a federal tax credit allowed him to install solar at roughly one third the cost.

Now for six months out of the year his household is producing almost as much energy as they're using, which helps earn back their investment.

It was important for Holtz to use a local business, so he turned to Longfellow-based Applied Energy Innovations, which specializes in renewables and energy efficiency. Open since January 2010, the company is now adding staff, more than quadrupling its number of employees in three years. President/Owner Dustin Denison estimates 80% of business next year will be solar installations.

"In my observation, Longfellow has the most installed solar out of any community in Minneapolis," Denison said, adding that this may be challenged by the Kingfield neighborhood due to a bulk buy arrangement.

Individual action and a neighborhood commitment to green jobs are among many ways the City of Minneapolis hopes people will help confront climate change.

Trends are clear: We're already feeling the effects of climate change in Minnesota, where we're seeing an increase in average temperatures, especially in overnight lows, an increase in precipitation by about three inches per year, and a greater intensity in storms.

Brendon Slotterback, City of Minneapolis Sustainability Program Coordinator, said we've already observed that we're having more extreme rain events between periods of drought, and

Confronting climate change: *Local solutions to a global problem*



For Longfellow resident Jason Holtz, installing solar was the next logical step in a many year journey to reduce energy use. The incentives were too good to pass up: Rebates from Xcel Energy and the State of Minnesota plus a federal tax credit allowed him to install solar at roughly one third the cost. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

2012 was the hottest year on record "by a large margin." It's what we can expect to see in the future, leaving concerns over snow cover, flooding, fish habitat, northern forests, and air quality. "The Minnesota climate is going to look different than what you grew up with."

To help meet its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 15% by 2015 and 30% by 2025, the city is updating its climate action plan, last done in the early 1990's. Working groups in the areas of waste, land use and transportation, buildings and energy, and environmental justice met throughout 2012 to develop recommendations expected to go to the City Council's Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee in February.

Of course it's not about everyone going solar. The city wants to identify strategies that

the city, business owners and residents can take to reduce emissions. "This is about how we as a city and community take on the challenge of how we reduce our impact, collectively," said Slotterback.

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy, who supports having a plan to guide policy decisions, noted a number of things the city has already been doing to reduce energy use: changing to more efficient lighting, using better temperature controls in public buildings, reducing gas usage by police. Colvin Roy sponsored an ordinance that limits idling to three minutes. The city has green purchasing and green fleet policies.

One new measure for which a public hearing is likely in January would require large commercial buildings (over 50,000 square feet) to disclose their en-

ergy use. Michelle Schroeder, board member for the Izaak Walton League's Minnesota Division who serves on the Minneapolis Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and Green-Step Cities, said reducing energy use in buildings is one of the best and quickest ways to make an impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

"It's one of the high energy use areas," she said. "It's a lot easier to focus on a big building than lots of little entities." Her downtown workplace had an energy audit done and found \$5,000 in savings the first year by changing to more efficient lighting.

Colvin Roy, who expects to vote in favor of this requirement, said it's a competitive market for building owners, and the disclosure will give tenants easy access to information to

help them compare costs. They'll be more likely to move into lower cost buildings, which may lead to changes being made in less energy efficient buildings.

Another big opportunity involves supporting alternative sources of energy as part of the renegotiation of the city's franchise agreement with Xcel Energy, last done 20 years ago. Denison said Xcel Energy has already threatened to take away the solar awards program, which they agreed to continue after receiving tremendous support for it. Rebates are now offered through 2015, Denison said, but there's a cap on spending, which is met very quickly.

Local actions, such as the signal improvements along Hiawatha Avenue, help reduce emissions as well.

"Any time that you're not sitting with your car idling, there are energy savings," said Colvin Roy.

The shift to one-sort recycling (tossing all recyclables together in the blue bin) should make it easier for people to recycle and thus increase participation. This helps keep more waste out of the waste stream, and saves energy by reusing more materials.

Adding bikeways and crosswalks along 42nd St., and other bike- and pedestrian-related improvements, play a role as well.

"I consider things that we've done to encourage bicycling to be good action," said Colvin Roy. "Anybody traveling using their own physical power is not using gasoline to burn fuel."

Schroeder, who has been a bicycle commuter for eight years, said the city still has a ways to go to fully integrate biking into our culture. She cites cities like Amsterdam and Copenhagen, which have completely separate lanes and traffic lights for bikes.

Continued on page 9

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Steve Haslach of Applied Energy Innovations, located on Minnehaha Ave., shows a solar panel to be installed on Jason Holtz's Longfellow home.



Dustin Denison and Chris Sibell of Longfellow-based Applied Energy Innovations install solar on Jason Holtz's Longfellow home. Holtz estimates that for six months of the year his household now produces almost as much energy as is used.

place a door or some windows, add insulation or do weather stripping. "These baby steps can make a difference."

Many of these steps have added benefits. Weatherizing your home and driving less saves you money on utilities and fuel. Using renewables helps grow a local, green economy. Denison noted that Xcel Energy is a business from Texas, and we import all the coal and oil we use from North Dakota and Canada.

"We don't have those resources here, but we can do solar and wind. Let's reduce our dependence on others and grow our economy right here," Denison said. He hires people from the community, some from the RENEW worker retraining program, and often uses Minnesota-made products. He said 26 local jobs are supported by a single solar installation. "How local can we go? I'm really proud of that."

Neighborhood livability improves as well. Having better transportation options, more trees, and rain gardens can be beneficial for property values, beautification, and water and air quality, said Slotterback. Colvin Roy said our reputation for being environmentally aware and active attracts workers who choose to locate here.

"Reducing emissions, less energy use, cleaner water, that's what we strive for," said Knopp-Schwyn.



One-sort recycling (all recyclables go together into one bin) makes it easier for people to recycle. This helps remove waste from our waste stream, collect more materials for reuse, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Blue bins are arriving in neighborhoods in phases. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

Climate change

Continued from page 8

"This is something we really need to encourage," she said, suggesting the city needs more bike racks and should implement minimum bike parking requirements. "The public interest is there to get off fossil fuels."

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) Board Chair Kent Knopp-Schwyn said neighborhood groups make a difference by helping educate residents about how they can reduce their bills and find the resources to do so.

"If you can make an individ-

ual budgetary or other dent that decreases your energy usage, waste stream, or greenhouse gas emissions, resident by resident by resident, if you get everyone to change one to two per cent, it makes a pretty good dent in our neighborhood and helps the city as a whole," he said. NENA has helped people with tree planting, compost yard waste education, lower cost rain barrels, energy efficiencies, and home insulation.

The city would like to ramp up participation in home energy audits. For Holtz, doing so was very eye opening. "They can find all the leaks in your house," he said. People see how they can take incremental steps, like re-

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Merry Christmas to everyone, and/or Happy Holidays too. The house is cleaned and decorated, both inside and out. Mr. M is sitting on the sofa with me, drinking a beer and watching the latest weather report on TV. This is the time I love the best. We are now prepared and free to enjoy the fruits (in a cake or not) of our labor.

Mr. M. has been removed from household projects. He's put in a valiant effort, and is still way too busy at work to help me. In his place, I have brought back my nephew, Ben, my son, Sean, and my friend, Liz. Together, we wrapped up several loose ends. Ben helped me do the prep work for our annual Christmas brunch. The real reason he comes over is to hang out with Mr. M. and ask him a thousand questions about when he was in the Finnish army. Mr. M. joked that he'd rather be a



The Old White House

By SHERRI MOORE

The push for the holidays is over

guard on the Finnish-Russian border, than help me get ready for Christmas. Ben also likes the wages he earns helping me. He's the easiest assistant I have.

Sean helped me buy the tree, then brought it home and set it up. We all love a real tree, but it's a lot of trouble. He had it set up in just a few minutes, and it looks beautiful.

Liz came over and helped me put up all the decorations. There's no Department 56 this year. I've set it up for 28 years, and I've decided to go with something differ-

ent and simpler this year. I decorated with fresh, red carnations and red poinsettias, and lots of scotch pine snippets from the tree.

So, Mr. M. has nothing but a month of celebrations and relaxation, when he's not at work. He's earned it. He finished the dry wall and painted the basement. I still have the floor to paint, but it can wait until after Christmas. The whole idea was to have a nice room for Mr. M. to watch hockey. As you know, no one's watching hockey this year. Do you think Mr. M. had anything to do with

that? It's nice that we don't have to push to get the floor done, but he is at a loss without hockey. He hasn't even mentioned Mikko Koivu in months! For you non-hockey fans, Mikko is a supreme Finnish player on the Wild team, who's playing is most appreciated by Mr. M.

It's Saturday night, and Mr. M. asked why I'm on the couch writing my column, instead of racing around the house, barking out orders in preparation for tomorrow's Christmas Brunch. "Everything's done. Why do

you ask?"

"Yeah, sure, it's not like I miss you acting nuts, but it's odd."

"Let's celebrate by going out to dinner, I'll even pick up the tab. Have I been too demanding this year?"

"Yeah, sure, but why should this year be any different? How soon can you be ready?"

We had a wonderful dinner at the restaurant, and I realized, not everything needs to be done so fast. I think I'll set back the next project for a month, and we can both relax.

Happy New Year! Let's have a safe one. Please pray for peace.

(Sherri Moore is a freelance writer and resident of the Nokomis neighborhood. She and Mr. M. are in their twentieth year of renovating their old white house. Sherri welcomes your comments and can be reached at sherri92@msn.com.)

Urban agriculture

Continued from page 7

Some have encouraged the MPRB to set aside land for demonstration farms. Others want to see classes at the Rec Center kitchens on how to process food.

MPRB runs the largest child-care program in the city, and some people want MPRB to use this opportunity to teach youth about

how to eat healthy.

MPRB could broaden its net and seek to address the food desert in the city, those areas where residents don't have easy access to healthy food options.

"These are all possibilities," said Cannon.

WHAT'S NEXT

Following these initial community meetings, the parks staff will now meet with focus groups. The first draft of the Urban Agriculture plan will be completed by late spring 2013. After another round

of discussions, the final plan will go before the park board in late 2013.

Sign up for email updates on the project at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

The Lake Nokomis Naturescape features Monarch Waystations and butterfly-friendly plants. It is one of several demonstration gardens around the city. Adding additional demonstration gardens and classes might be part of the city's new Urban Agriculture Plan. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)



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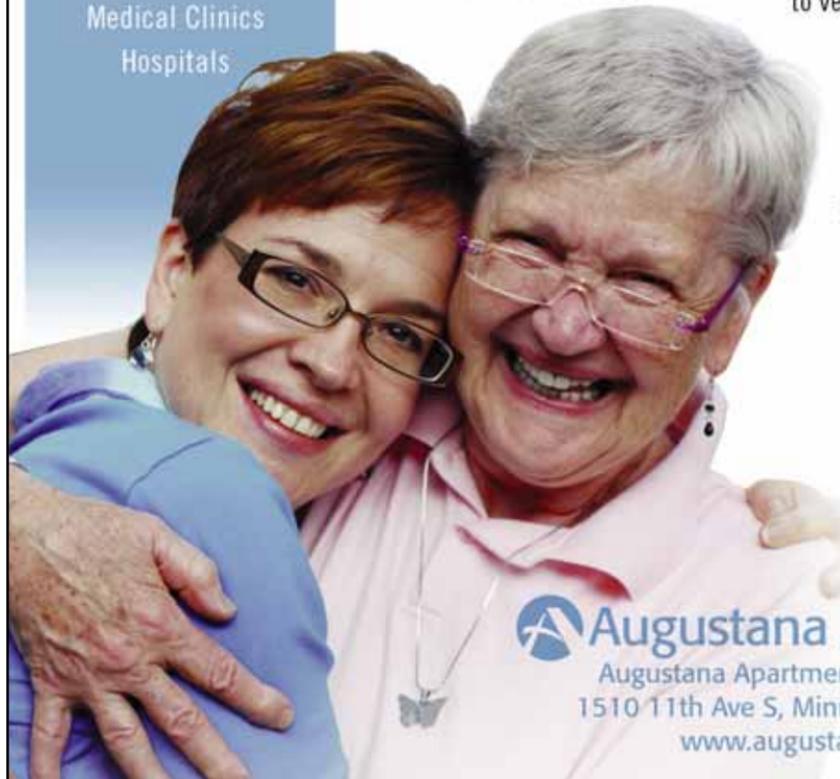
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Fri.-Sat. 4:30pm - 11:00pm



Longfellow Community Council

Serving Longfellow, Hiawatha, Cooper, and Howe neighborhoods

Join the LCC Board of Directors – Neighborhood Seats Open!

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) has four open neighborhood board seats. We are currently recruiting residents who live in Cooper, Hiawatha or Longfellow neighborhood. Joining the LCC Board of Directors is an excellent opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making and leadership of the community. Board members meet monthly to review funding requests, respond to emerging needs of the community and plan for future events, activities and programs. Board members of LCC have a long history of providing exemplary leadership and have ensured that Greater Longfellow remains a great place to live, work and play. All levels of experience are welcomed at LCC. You need only an interest in community, to live in one of the above referenced neighborhoods, and a commitment to participate in meetings a few hours a month to become a member. LCC welcomes diversity and encourages people from all walks of life to join our board. When the full spectrum of the community is represented through leadership, our neighborhood reaps the benefit. Anyone interested in more information about the LCC board should contact Melanie Majors either by phone at (612) 722-4529 or via email at melanie@longfellow.org

Meeting to Discuss Renaming Dight Avenue

Thursday, January 24th
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

St. James AME Church,
3600 Snelling Avenue S.
in the Fellowship Hall

On behalf of the Longfellow Community Council (LCC),
Ward 9 City Councilmember

Gary Schiff and Ward 12 City Councilmember Sandra Colvin Roy, residents of Greater Longfellow are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the potential of renaming Dight Avenue. Dight Avenue is named after Dr. Charles F. Dight who founded the Minnesota Eugenics Society in 1923 and was infamous for promoting views on the sterilization of people with disabilities, who he termed “feeble-minded” and “insane.” He was a Nazi sympathizer and personally sent a letter to Adolph Hitler in 1933 praising him on his plan to stamp out mental inferiority among the German people. While Charles Dight was a Minneapolis City Councilmember (circa 1917) and resident of the Greater Longfellow community, his life’s work and personal views are not an image that Greater Longfellow would like to perpetuate. It is for this reason that we are inviting the community to have a conversation about renaming Dight Avenue in a way that reflects the community’s values of engagement and inclusivity. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Melanie at 612-722-4529 ext. 4 or via email at melanie@longfellow.org.

Wrapping up the Neighborhood Partnership Initiative Grant

LCC is very proud to announce the conclusion of the the Neighborhood Partnership Initiative Project (NPI) with Volunteers of America (VOA). Participants and community partners have accomplished so much. Over the last eight months we:

- Engaged over 40 VOA residents transitioning out of prison and back into the community
- Provided three community dinners, which fed approximately 240 people

- Offered 10 paid internships at Free Geek and the Minnehaha Community Garden

- Grew fresh vegetables at the Minnehaha Community Garden, which were then distributed to residents at VOA and the Aliveness Project

- Offered workshops on post-traumatic stress disorder, conflict de-escalation through improvisation, cooking and more

- The project resulted in three participants gaining employment after their internship

We would like to thank the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, Free Geek, Gandhi Mahal, Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers, Jill Bernard, Nadya Trytan, Charise Canales and the Minnehaha Community Garden for their dedication to this project. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive and we could not have done it without any of our incredible project partners!



Youth Space Playshops

Thanks in part to a grant from the Longfellow Community Council, the Minnehaha Free Space at 3747 Minnehaha Avenue will be putting on programming for youth of all ages every Saturday from 1pm to 3pm beginning February 23, 2013. Every other week will feature ‘playshops’ where youth can explore different topics and skills like musical instrument and paper mache puppet making, hip hop and spoken word, and indigenous storytelling. The ‘in-between’ weeks will feature art-making activities and informal social time for youth and families. ‘Youth Space’ will provide snacks, learning opportunities, community, and fun! In order to make Youth Space playshops best fit the needs and desires of youth participants and their families, join us on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at the Minnehaha Free Space, 1pm to 3pm, for a free lunch and community discussion about Youth Space. All are welcome. For more information about Youth Space and other Minnehaha Free Space programming, call 612-729-3733, visit

www.minnehahafreespace.org or [facebook.com/minnehahafreespace](https://www.facebook.com/minnehahafreespace), or visit 3747 Minnehaha during regular hours: 2-7pm Tu-F and 1-5pm Saturdays.

Road Project Updates

Coming in 2013 and 2014 will be a few road projects in the Minnehaha-Hiawatha corridor. In 2013, several intersections on Hiawatha Avenue will get improvements aimed at making pedestrian crossings safer and faster. At 46th, 42nd, 38th, 35th, 32nd, and 26th Streets, curbs will be extended to narrow the dis-

tance pedestrians must travel in order to cross Hiawatha. Additionally, wide crosswalks will be painted and accessible sidewalk ramps will be installed. Also coming in 2013 will be detailed engineering work for the planned reconstruction of Minnehaha Avenue, which is scheduled for 2014. Hennepin County will reconstruct Minnehaha Ave from Lake Street to 46th Street. Current plans call for a similar street layout as exists today, with slightly wider boulevards. FFI contact Spencer, 612-722-4529 ext. 5 or spencer@longfellow.org

Calendar of Meetings and Events

January 2013

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

ADVANCEMENT

Wednesday, January 2
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Fireroast Café
3800 37th Ave
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Monday, January 7 (Note date change)
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Hiawatha School Park
4305 42nd St. E
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, January 8
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Minnehaha Free Space
3747 Minnehaha Avenue
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, January 14
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org

LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Food security in Longfellow
Tuesday, January 8
12:00 - 1:30 pm
Bethlehem Covenant Church
3141 43rd Ave S
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, January 17
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Brackett Park
2728 39th Ave S
FFI: melanie@longfellow.org

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, January 22
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Brackett Park 2738 39th Ave
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org

Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55406

Phone: 612-722-4529

www.longfellow.org

Melanie Majors	Executive Director	melanie@longfellow.org
Ruth Romano	Office Staff	ruth@longfellow.org
Joanna Solotaroff	Community Organizer	joanna@longfellow.org
Spencer Agnew	Housing and Environment Coordinator	spencer@longfellow.org



Longfellow Chili Cook-Off

WHAT: 2013 Longfellow Community Council Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

WHEN: Saturday, January 12th, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00PM

WHERE: Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave S

HOW MUCH?: Free for chili contestants, \$10 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under

(suggested donation)

WHAT'S INCLUDED?: All the chili you can eat until it runs out, homemade corn bread, trivia questions, activities for kids, the chance to win a fabulous door prize and an opportunity to spend time with your friends and neighbors! Do you want to be a chili contestant? Submit your entry at www.longfellow.org, download the entry form, fill it out completely, and send it to joanna@longfellow.org. Entry deadline is Monday, January 7th. You do not have to reside within the Greater Longfellow area to enter the contest. Selected winners will win prizes generously provided by Longfellow businesses.



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.

Dementia and memory loss

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a presentation about dementia and memory loss on Tuesday, January 15 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st Street. Is dementia the same as Alzheimer's disease? What else causes memory loss? This presentation answers these questions and includes tips for communicating and relating to people who have memory loss. Call Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information.

Longfellow Garden Club – Jan. 9 meeting

This has been another wonderful year for the Garden Club, with many new attendees and new/renewing members. Feedback from presentations, the plant swap, July's garden tour, and the August potluck has been very rewarding. We appreciate everyone who attended, became a member, volunteered, supported the silent auction, or opened their amazing garden for the tour – Thank you all!

The Garden Club would like to extend an invitation to all to join the Executive Committee on Wednesday, January 9, for a 2013 planning meeting to be held over dinner (self-pay) at El Norteno

Restaurant, 4000 East Lake Street.

We will start at 6:30 p.m. and plan to discuss ideas for next year's presentations and activities. Please bring names of speakers you would recommend, and topics you'd like to know more about - if you know of a great garden presenter, please bring their contact information.

Transition Longfellow hosts pancake breakfast Jan. 12

Transition Longfellow will host its Second Annual Pancake Breakfast, a celebration of community, sustainability and local foods on January 12, 2013, from 9:30 p.m. – 12 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3901 36th Avenue South.

Join together for great pancakes (including gluten-free and GF/dairy free), real maple syrup and other great things to eat, and live music. Russ Henry from Giving Tree Gardens will update us on the Urban Ag Plan and other City-based local food initiatives to help kick off Transition Longfellow's 2013 Chard Your Yard program. MN350 will also present on climate change in order to help kick off our 2013 Faith Communities Climate Action Project.

A silent auction of home-canned and home-made foods and gifts will benefit these two

programs. \$5.00 gets you breakfast, a gathering of great neighbors, and a hopeful start to 2013. Join us! Call: 612-221-0131 for more information.

Do you prefer Dance Dance Revolution or FIFA Soccer?

Come and play your favorite video game and make your own pizza. We will start the video gaming madness at 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 19 - all are welcome. While you are waiting for your turn you can make your own personal pizza. Meet you at Epworth United Methodist at 3207 37th Avenue S. Check us out on Facebook or at our website <http://www.mplssepworth.com/>

Learn how to make a pasty

What is a pasty you ask? A pasty is a meat pie that miners would bring with them for lunch because it is a meal within itself. Come find out how to make this tradition yourself, it is simple, organic and good for you.

Learn from the Epworth experts who have been making them for over 20 years. We will offer classes either Friday, January 11 or Friday, January 25 from 6 - 8ish.

Cost is \$5 for food and you walk away with your one pasty. To sign up either call 612-722-0232 or e-mail epworthoffice@mplsepworth.com to make reservations - space is limited.

Feeling a little cabin fever?

Looking for a reason to get out of the house? Come to our in-city retreat Saturday, January 26 to enjoy a fresh pancake breakfast, sledding, puzzles, games, crafts, movies, and nature walk around the neighborhood. You don't have to leave the city to get away just come over to Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Avenue. Come for the entire day, breakfast starts at 9:00 a.m. or just part of the day - movies go late into the night.

Low-vision support group for seniors

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors' Low-Vision Support Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Apartments (2800 E. 31st Street) and is facilitated by staff from Vision Loss Resources. You do not have to be a resident of Trinity to participate. Upcoming groups dates are January 8 and February 12. Call Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information.

Longfellow music studio expands, changes name to Brighter Minds Music

A pair of beloved and award-winning local music programs are now offering expanded music education opportunities for children and adults under a new name: Brighter Minds Music. Formerly known as Emily Ireland Music Studio and Musikgarten of the Twin Cities, the new Brighter Minds Music now offers a continuum of music education from birth through adulthood. The recently launched Brighter Minds Music website can be visited at www.BrighterMindsMusic.com

That focus on the musical journey - one that starts at birth, and continues on through adulthood, is a unique offering among Twin Cities music programs, and helps ensure that students receive the right type of music education at the right time - and just as importantly - that music remains an important part of your their lives and grows along with them.

Brighter Minds Music offers group and individual piano lessons, as well as flute lessons. The teachers all have degrees in music - several with master's degrees.

It also offers early childhood music classes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers ages birth to 5 at several locations in the south metro/Twin Cities area. They feature the Musikgarten program and are designed to nurture the child's music aptitude by engaging families in singing, movement and instrumental activities which help attune the ear, refine the voice, and develop a rhythmic body.



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Soup and worship at Epworth Church

Looking for a place to talk about life, enjoy a warm soup dinner and sing? Come to the intersection of 32nd and 37th at Epworth UMC Wednesday, January 16 at 5:15 for soup and 6:00 p.m. to enjoy a informal, conversational based worship.

We will have small groups discussions to talk about everyday topics. Everyone welcome - kids activities will be available too!

November Book Sale a great success

Friends of East Lake Library truly appreciate the support the surrounding neighborhoods and neighbors have shown for the Library through generous donations of books and, at times, the nearly overwhelming crowds at November's Book Sale. All proceeds from the Sale go to programming and materials for East Lake.

The hardworking Library staff and crew of Library volunteers join with the Friends group (more volunteers) in sending out this big thank you.

Elevated Beer Wine and Spirits opens in Longfellow

Navigating a long road filled with some surprising obstacles, two local entrepreneurs are prepared to share their vision with South Minneapolis. Longtime friends Ryan Widuch and Tom Boland were determined to bring a craft beer specialty store that also provided a full selection of wine and spirits to their neighborhood at 4135 Hiawatha Avenue. After over a year of hard work they celebrated with a grand opening December 3rd through the 8th.

Coldwater Spring dog walkers meeting

On Sat. Jan. 5, 1-2 p.m., dog owners and their pets can meet with a National Park Service ranger to learn more about bringing dogs to Coldwater. Dogs welcome at this meeting, which happens at Pet Supplies Plus, 4751 Hiawatha Ave., Mpls. For details, contact the National Park Service, 651-290-4160 or Miss_Info@nps.org

Guthrie comes to Nokomis Library



Autumn and Haley Kimbal learned the techniques of state combat from a Guthrie teaching artist at an "Act Out for Teens: Duke It Out" program on Dec. 1 at Hennepin County Library – Nokomis. The program was presented in collaboration with the Guthrie Theater and funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. More than two dozen free theatre workshops for children, teens and adults are scheduled this winter at Hennepin County libraries. Photo credit: Hennepin County Library.

Ford decommissioning site plan goes to Planning Commission

By JANE MCCLURE

The complex demolition plans for the former Ford Motor Company Twin Cities Assembly Plant are in the hands of the St. Paul Planning Commission. Plant neighbors weighed in at a community meeting Dec. 11 in the Highland Park neighborhood. The site plan then goes to the Planning Commission Zoning Committee for a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, December 20 at the St. Paul/Ramsey County City Hall/Courthouse, followed by a full commission vote December 28.

Approval will allow the long-awaited building demolition and other site work to move ahead in 2013. Demolition, decommissioning and site preparations for future redevelopment could take three to five years. The end result, if no developer or developers emerge right away, would be an area planted with grass.

While the demolition isn't likely to have direct effects on South Minneapolis neighborhoods across the river from the plant, the magnitude and timeline for the work make it a hard project to ignore.

John Browning of Mannick & Smith Group is one of the consultants working on the Ford site plans. He said that decommissioning of the plant and its demolition won't be a loud, noisy process. "People hear the word 'demolition' and they expect a big wrecking ball and clouds of dust," he said. That won't happen at Ford.

Demolition of buildings is being done in an environmentally sustainable matter. Metal is being recycled. Contractors are discussing crushing and reuse of some concrete on-site. That is an issue the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will have to weigh in on. An MPCA decision isn't expected until next spring. If concrete crushing is allowed, that wouldn't happen until late summer 2013.

The city is requiring Ford to limit its work between 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Dust will have to be controlled. Specific routes will have to be used by trucks taking demolition debris off-site.

Planning Commission members heard an update November 30 on the site plan, as well as ongoing land use planning for the property's future reuse. City Planner Merritt Clapp-Smith said the complexity of the site plan warrants a review for the entire commission, prior to the public hearing. "There are going to be a lot of questions on this and we want the commission to have as much information as possible," she said.

The demolition plans and related reports, which were most recently reviewed by city staff November 27, are several inches thick. The plans include separate studies on everything from stormwater runoff to securing of the underground tunnels beneath the plant, where silica sand was once mined for vehicle window glass.

The Ford property is the first demolition site plan to go before the Planning Commission in many years, if ever. Former and veteran commissioners cannot recall a similar review. The city typically only does demolition site



The complex demolition plans for the former Ford Motor Company Twin Cities Assembly Plant are in the hands of the St. Paul Planning Commission.

plan reviews for large projects. Those are usually done by staff and not sent to the commission. Clapp-Smith said the large size of the Ford site and potential community impacts of demolition mean it's important for people to weigh in with concerns and get information about the process.

"We want the public to know what to expect," she said.

Representatives of decommissioning project contractors Devon Industrial Group, Mannick &

Smith Group, and TKDA met with staff from several city departments November 27 to review the site plan. Discussion of how to handle plant demolition and site restoration has gone on between the city and Ford representatives for several months. The site plan was submitted this fall and city departments have been commenting on it since then.

Contractors are also working with the Capital Region Watershed District and the MPCA on

other aspects of site work. The watershed district is working on measures to address water runoff and erosion control. The MPCA, which has been involved in past studies of pollution on-site, also continues to be involved. The extent of site pollution won't be known until buildings and slabs are gone and more thorough testing can get underway.

Contractors have already removed equipment and furnishings from plant buildings. Re-

moval of materials in is also taking place, including light ballasts, light bulbs and oil. The paint shop interior is currently being cleaned out.

Winter weather could affect some aspects of work and even bring demolition to a halt, said Jim Exline of Devon Industrial Group. For example, before asbestos is removed from the plant's main building, it must be wetted down. Contractors don't want workers slipping on icy surfaces. "Any water-related work would be affected by cold weather," Exline said.

Transportation and truck routing are also issues the site plan will address. About 65 vehicles per day would be hauling materials out, or about 8,000 vehicles total. At this point trucks and not rail would be used to haul materials out.

Part of the site plan reviewed centered on plant security and safety. Some water service will be cut off, but a fire loop will remain in place for fire protection. When the main plant comes down, a security fence will go up. Fences will have screening material.

St. Paul city staff did ask Ford's contractors to consider having a small public viewing area along Ford Parkway, so that people could see the work going on.

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Redevelopment questions for Ford property linger

By JANE MCCLURE

Planning for redevelopment of the former Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant site has gone on for six years. It could be another three years or more before anything new is built on the site. A city task force, city staff, consultants and community members have spent countless hours discussing different development scenarios, possible zoning changes, open space options and environmentally sustainable redevelopment measures.

But will the vision and eventual master plan for the property be financially feasible for a developer or developers? Has the economy changed to the point that some of the previous studies need to be revisited?

Members of the Ford Site Planning Task Force and city staff debated those questions this fall. The task force will now be on hiatus for several months as the planners complete their work, after a series of meetings that examined zoning options for the property.

Consultants and city staff will take the input they received from the task force and do a final report. That report will then go to city staff and to the Planning Commission for a presentation, in early 2013. The zoning study will be used with other studies to help guide site redevelopment.

Some task force members noted that the studies began during a stronger economy, and that has to be considered. Another

wrinkle is that Ford is only cleaning up the property to industrial redevelopment standards.

"At some point the financial sustainability of redevelopment needs to be considered," said Task Force Co-Chairman Tony Schertler. "If what we come up with as ideas are not financially feasible for a developer, this site will sit with a chain link fence around it for a long time."

St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) Director Cecile Bedor said that laying out zoning ideas and a vision for the former Ford site is a balancing act.

"We don't get a do-over for a really important site for the city," she said. The challenge is between thinking big and wanting a legacy-type project, and balancing that with the financial viability of redevelopment.

Task force members also said that because the studies have taken so long, parts may need to be redone. "From a market perspective, the world has fundamentally shifted," said Task Force Member Angie Kline. She and others said the task force may want a new market study for the site. The last one was completed several years ago, before the economy went south.

Senior City Planner Merritt Clapp-Smith noted the task force and studies have gone on for much longer than anyone anticipated. Task force members were told the project was a two-year commitment. But as Ford

pushed back its initial repeatedly postponed its closing date, the task force and city officials had more time to look at the property.

"The bad news is that it's taken us six years to get to this point," said development consultant Bob Kost. "The good news is that it's taken six years to get us to this point."

He said the task force, city officials and consultants have been able to come up with good ideas and plans, as well as principles to guide redevelopment.

A few years ago the task force came up with five potential redevelopment scenarios ranging from light industrial to largely residential uses, the group and other community members did studies of possible open space options and environmental sustainability of new development. Kost noted that while it's not likely a developer would follow one of the five scenarios to the letter, the scenarios do provide information on what community members want and how different uses could fit on the property.

The latest studies have focused on options for rezoning the property, either with the city's existing zoning code or by developing a new zoning classification or classifications to accommodate redevelopment on the former Ford property. The studies are also focusing on economic, social and environmental sustainability that relates to the surrounding neighborhood; and flexibility to respond to market



Planning for redevelopment of the former Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant site has gone on for six years. It could be another three years or more before anything new is built on the site.

changes that occur over the years it takes to redevelop the site.

Consultants from SEH, Cornejo Consulting and DPZ & Company are conducting the study. After their report goes to the St. Paul Planning Commission, city staff will subsequently work with policy makers to determine if any of the recommendations contained in the report should be pursued, and if so, the timing for doing so. If a new zoning classification would be added, for example, that would have to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission and City Council.

Despite all of the planning for the site, task force members

admit that there are many unknowns. Environmental studies have yet to be completed so it's not known if there will be areas of the former Ford property that are too polluted to accommodate residential use. Ford has already indicated that it will only clean the site to industrial redevelopment standards, and it isn't clear how that could affect developers who want to add residential uses.

Part of the site is in the Mississippi River critical area and part is affected by Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, so those two sets of restrictions could also affect new building placement and heights.

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www.bethlehemcov.org
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Dec. 23 & 30 Worship at 10 am
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
4:30 pm Contemporary Worship
10 pm Classic Worship
Jan. 6, 13, 20: Contemporary Worship 8:30 am
Sunday School at 9:45 am
Classic Worship at 11 am

Christ Church Lutheran
3244 34th Ave. • 612-721-6611

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
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Education Hour at 11:00 am
Pastor: Kristine Carlson
A welcoming congregation
www.christchurchluth.org

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Education: Adults at 9:45 am;
Children and Youth, 11:30 am
(Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)
Rev. Pam Armstrong

Faith Evangelical Lutheran (LC-MS)
3430 E. 51st St. • 612-729-5463

Worship 9:00 am
Fellowship Hour 10:00 am
Education Hour 10:30 am
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dan Matasovsky

Holy Trinity Lutheran (ELCA)
2730 E. 31st St. • 612-729-8358

www.htlcmpls.org
Sunday Worship 8:45 & 11:00 am
Education opportunities for all ages 9:45 am
Childcare available
Pastor: Jay Carlson
Traditional Worship - Contemporary
Message - A Call to Social Justice
All are welcome - No exceptions

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church
5011 31st Ave. S. • 612-729-2323

www.lakenokomis.org
Summer Worship at 9:30 am
Sunday Worship at 8:00 am & 10:30 am
(nursery; fully accessible)

Minnehaha United Methodist
3701 E. 50th St. • 612-721-6231

www.minnehaha.org
Traditional Service 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship 11:00 am (Sept.-May)
10:30 am (June-Aug.)
Education for all ages 10:15 (Sept.-May)
(Childcare; fully accessible)

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Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 am
New Year's Day Mass at 10:00 am
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Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
www.saintalbertthegreat.org

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www.stpeders.net

Trinity Lutheran Church
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5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Sunday Worship Schedule
8:30 am Traditional, 11 am Contemporary
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Christmas Eve: 4 pm Family Service,
11 pm Candlelight
Dec. 30 - 10 am Service w/Gospel Band
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays 7 pm

Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:

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Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be in the Messenger before January 21 for the January 31 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, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Want ads must be mailed to the Messenger before January 21 for the January 31 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denisw@aplacetoremember.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

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Classifieds \$1 per word

Hennepin county libraries will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25, and January 1

Hennepin County libraries will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), and Jan. 1 (New Year's Day). For library hours and locations: <http://www.hclib.org/pub/info/locations.cfm>.

Hennepin County operates 41 libraries in the city of Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County. Nationally recognized as one of the top libraries in the United States, Hennepin County Library serves 1.2 million residents in Hennepin County and offers approximately 5 million books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers, magazines and online resources —

including data bases and downloadables, plus more than 1,800 public computers.

Access Hennepin County Library online resources 24/7 at www.hclib.org. Online resources include the catalog; databases; selected websites; downloadable eBooks, music, and movies; BookSpace pages for engaged readers; web pages for teens, kids, and parents of young children; business and career resources; resources for immigrants; the events and classes calendar; information about the Friends of the Hennepin County Library; and more.

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Hiawatha notebook

Continued from page 4

I laughed. "That would be a slough of despond."

"Okay, a slough. But why does it hurt so much?"

"I don't know for sure. But I think it has something to do with not being able to say goodbye. We imagine that when people leave, we'll be able to say goodbye. Like at the end of the story of Stuart Little.

"But the truth is, you don't get to say goodbye a lot of the time, perhaps most of the time. And then you're left with a sack full of memories and a whole lot of doubts and questions like 'What did I do?' And the more you cared about that friend, the harder it is.

Someone once told me that losing a best friend feels like a cheese grater is being dragged across your heart."

"You're not helping me at all," Peggy said. "Now I'm feeling worse. But a cookie might help temporarily."

"Okay, okay, sorry," I said. "Have a cookie, have two cookies."

"Then let me read you a story. It's one of the ways I have soothed the sadness inside me." Then I read her a children's book called "I miss you every day" by Simms Taback. It's the story of Emily Ann whose best friend has moved away. She misses her friend so much that she decides she must go and see her. So she decides to send herself by mail to her friend.

"Nice, nice story," Peggy said when I was finished. "That helps a little. Wish I could do that; wish you could, too. But neither of us has the address of our lost friend.

"Hey," she said. "I've got an idea. What if we told each other stories about our best friend. I think I'd feel better if I could tell a few stories — and hear a few from you, too."

So we told stories, stories of road trips with our friends, stories of visits to art galleries and museums, stories of shared concerts and favorite restaurants.

"Hey, what was the best movie you and your friend saw together?" I asked.

"Julie and Julia," Peggy said. "No kidding," I said. "I would have thought that film was for someone 'old' like me."

"It was really good," she responded, "especially the dialogue. We repeated lines from that show over and over.

"How about you?"

"I don't know if this was the best film, but it certainly was the one which sparked the best conversation I've ever had about a film?"

"Are you going to tell me the name?" Peggy said, "or do I have to guess?"

"Twilight."

"You must be kidding. You? Twilight. I'm surprised you even went to see the film. So what did you talk about?"

We both laughed.

"Feminism," I said. "In fact, that was the best discussion about feminism I have been a part of since I saw Gloria Steinem with two friends about ten years ago.

"Twilight? Feminism? You really are weird," Peggy said.

"But I know what you mean about great conversations — like the ones which go on nearly all night, ones you never wished would never come to an end."

Again, we both fell silent for a few moments.

I broke the silence. "I had this friend with a funny name, Gisela Konopka. She was very wise. Some years ago, when I 'lost' a friend, I asked her the same questions you are asking me. She said to me: 'You loved this friend, didn't you. Can you love her enough to let her go?'"

"At first, I didn't like what she said. In fact, I wanted to tell her she wasn't helping at all."

"That sounds familiar," Peggy said with a smile.

"But slowly, very, very slowly I realized what she was telling me," I said. Friends are gifts; best friends are great gifts. And even if our best friends are gone forever, they left us this gift behind. They

left us memories like the stories we've just been telling each other. They left us moments of great joy (and a few moments of sadness, too). They loved us and that changed us.

"I know that's not much to go on at the moment. And I still hope your friend gets back in touch — and mine, too. You know, like in a movie, or something: we each get a text tonight from our lost friend which begins 'Merry, merry' or something. And then we text back and forth until our fingers are tired.

"That's not very realistic," Peggy said. "You're beginning to sound like that Pollyanna girl. Are you her brother, Pollytom?"

"You got me there," I replied. "But it's okay to hope. And in the meantime, or always, we can still carry this friend in our heart. Do you know the lines from that e.e. cummings poem: 'i carry your heart with me, i carry it in my heart?'"

"Hey, yes. Peggy said. "My

friend and I quoted that to each other all the time."

"My friend and I did, too," I said.

"I feel a little better," she said, getting up to go.

"Good, and you're welcome to come back tomorrow and help serve Christmas dinner at the coffee house."

"Thank you," Peggy said as she pushed open the door. "I'll be here."

"One more thing," I said. "Look up in the sky tonight and pick one star. Name that star for your friend. And imagine that, night after night, that star is your lost friend following you home."

"Does that help?" Peggy asked.

"It has helped me," I said, "and it would be even better if I knew someone else was doing the same thing."

"Okay," Peggy said. "She got on her bike, shouted 'Merry Christmas' and rode off into the night.

Airport noise

Continued from page 1

"We need to have all the information before we can make an informed decision," she said, adding that was part of government's responsibility.

Davnie said he remained concerned that the FAA does not yet have the information that it needs to move forward on this project.

"They testified several times that they needed more information, yet want to proceed," he said. "The FAA also testified that

they wanted general permission from the MAC to proceed. I do remain concerned that the FAA will come back in a few months, state that it's too hard to implement the new approach on only part of the airport and will say that the action by the MAC approving partial implementation is enough for them to proceed with full implementation."

When asked for comment, FAA spokesperson Elizabeth Corey said the vote taken by the MAC Nov. 19 approved a "partial" package of RNAV procedures that must be studied and reviewed before any further ac-

tion can be taken.

Hogan acknowledged that where, how and when to implement RNAV departure tracks is ultimately the FAA's decision.

"In this case, the FAA asked for the MAC's endorsement, and based on public feedback, the MAC board offered only a partial endorsement of FAA's programs, Hogan said. "That said, the FAA could at some future date revisit the issue with or without the MAC's endorsement. Ultimately, the FAA, not the airport, controls where aircraft fly and the procedures pilots use."

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