



Voices of an uprising

Holding space at George Floyd Memorial site

By JILL BOOGREN

In the weeks following the brutal killing of George Floyd outside of Cup Foods, the four corners of 38th St. and Chicago Ave. have become sacrosanct. Buildings are adorned with portraits of George Floyd, large and small. A sculpture of a Black Power fist stands in the middle of the intersection, another is secured against a bus shelter. Elaborate drawings and messages are painted on the street. Flowers and written tributes are arranged in broad circles, expressions of grief.

Each day people from all walks of life gather here from near and far to pay tribute, demand justice and march in community. Food is served from hot grills, music is played, families walk with their young children, talking to them about what they are seeing here. The space is ever evolving, changing daily, with placards and flowers placed under tarps when rain falls, then lovingly rearranged the following day.

Marcia Howard, who lives just a few houses away from the four corners, has had her eyes and ears on the site day in and day out, providing deeply moving updates to friends and community. Here, posted on her Facebook page on June 9 at 8:20 am, are her words describing this space:

FLOYD MEMORIAL >> 16



After learning of the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, demonstrators gathered at Cup Foods then marched three miles east on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, stopping traffic along 38th St. and again along Hiawatha Ave., chanting "No Justice, No Peace. Prosecute the Police"! The march culminated at the Third Precinct police building on East Lake St. It was the first of many marches and rallies in the Twin Cities. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



"Come. Bear witness," says Roosevelt High School teacher Marcia Howard. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Smoke billows from E. Lake St. and Minnehaha the morning after a night of fire. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

ABOLISH THE POLICE

Local residents talk about why they support movement

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Editor's note: In an effort to support a conversation about a current initiative in Minneapolis, I talked to three local activists and Longfellow business owners about defunding the police for this article. There are also suggested resources within the article for learning more. We welcome signed letters to the editor talking about the pros and cons as you see them, as we know there are lot of opinions about this initiative and one article can only include pieces of the larger conversation. We will continue to cover this issue as it unfolds. Email news@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

You can't miss the sign at Moon Palace Books, three buildings down from the Third Precinct at 3032 Minnehaha Ave.

ABOLISH THE POLICE
Before nine Minneapolis City Council members announced their intent to defund the police; before the National Guard was called to quell an uprising the size of which had never before been seen in Minneapolis; before 31 buildings in the neighborhood were burned and many more damaged; before countless peaceful protesters and journalists were injured – Moon Palace books had taken a stand.

Owners Jamie and Angela
ABOLISH THE POLICE >> 13

'We're not going to go on with our lives the way things were before'

Protesters at Minnehaha Parkway and Nokomis Ave. serve as visual reminders

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Stefanie Beniek is driven to be a visual reminder every Monday night from 5-7 p.m. at Minnehaha Parkway and Nokomis Ave.

The group of local residents started gathering at that corner shortly after George Floyd was murdered a mile away at 38th and Chicago, pulled together by Tanya Ketcham via a Facebook event.

"We're still seeking justice for George Floyd," said Beniek.

"There's lots of other people who have been murdered by police and we are seeking justice for them – like Breonna Taylor. We want to be out here. We're not going to forget. We're not going to go on with our lives the way things were before."

Beniek and her husband, Tim Hereid, have lived near the Keewadin school campus for 10 years.

In addition to helping organize the twice-weekly protests in

Nokomis East, Beniek has been volunteering at the Calvary Food Shelf at Chicago and 39th. She's also working with Acupuncturists Without Borders to start a clinic to help people protesting nearby process trauma.

'Thank you'

The attendance at the corner of Minnehaha and Nokomis has waxed and waned since it started the week after George Floyd died. On nights when it is larger,

such as the evening after George Floyd's memorial, they have a moment of silence at 6 p.m. There might be a few speakers. Someone might roam around with a petition.

The response from passers-by varies, too. On Friday, June 12, 2020, they received a lot of "thank yous" and fists held high from drivers and bikers. One woman yelled, "Thanks for keeping it in front of our faces."

NOT GOING TO GO ON >> 16



Nokomis resident Laurie Meyers protests at Minnehaha and Nokomis. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



THROUGH THEIR EYES
'This is it.
We've had enough.'

PAGE 2-3



OPINION
Support protesters AND
grieve loss of businesses

PAGE 4



Rebuilding Longfellow:
grassroots group forms
to help businesses

PAGE 14

Through Their Eyes



Writer's note: These five stories were collected at the epicenter of the unrest that rocked the Longfellow neighborhood. The stories neither reflect nor contradict the editorial position of the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger. They are the opinions of the storytellers and speak to the truth that, while we may or may not belong to a movement, each of us is having our own experience during this most distilling of times.



"I really hope change is coming soon. I really hope my generation will be the one to say, 'This is IT. We've had enough,'" said South High student Kayleen Kabba. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Securing your future

has never been more important.

SAINT PAUL COLLEGE
A Community & Technical College



fall semester starts
AUG 24, 2020

Our full fall schedule is available in flexible teaching and learning formats.

Our credits transfer to over 350 colleges annually.

200+ online courses
Act now to ensure the best course selections!

Saint Paul College offers one of the lowest tuition rates in Minnesota. Many financial assistance options make it even more affordable. Our full fall schedule is available in flexible teaching and learning formats consistent with current public health guidelines. These formats ensure your ability to complete and transfer the courses and programs you need while also addressing your health concerns during the ongoing pandemic.

Register Now! saintpaul.edu/FallStart

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Director of Access & Disability Resources at 651.846.1547 or AccessResources@saintpaul.edu. Saint Paul College is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator and a member of Minnesota State.



JEROME T. EVANS

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 63B

WWW.JEROMETEVANS.COM/VOTE

CHANGE WE CAN SEE IN 63B!

ELECTION DAY IS AUG 11TH!

PLEASE VOTE IN THE DFL PRIMARY

**EQUITY | ENVIRONMENT | PUBLIC HEALTH
EDUCATION | COMMUNITY | HOUSING
MENTAL HEALTH | YOUTH VOICE | SOLIDARITY**

PREPARED AND PAID FOR BY:
EVANS FOR MINNESOTA 4824 E 53RD ST #309, MINNEAPOLIS MN 55417

'This is it. We've had enough.'

> KAYLEEN KABBA <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Kayleen Kabba will be going into 10th grade at South High School in the fall; if there is school, that is. She said, "The 'not knowing' about that feels big. There is a lot of 'not knowing' in my life right now."

Like people of all ages, Kayleen is struggling to understand what's going on around her. She said, "Some of my friends think the riots were fueled by the pandemic - that people were going crazy from being cooped up so long. The questions can start to spin around in your head. Why was tear gas used by police on peaceful protestors? Who are these people from out of state causing violence in our community? What is the media talking about? What is real?"

One thing is certain, as far as she's concerned. Kayleen is glad that South High will no longer have police officers on-site. Minneapolis Public Schools has officially suspended their contract with the Minneapolis Police Department in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder.

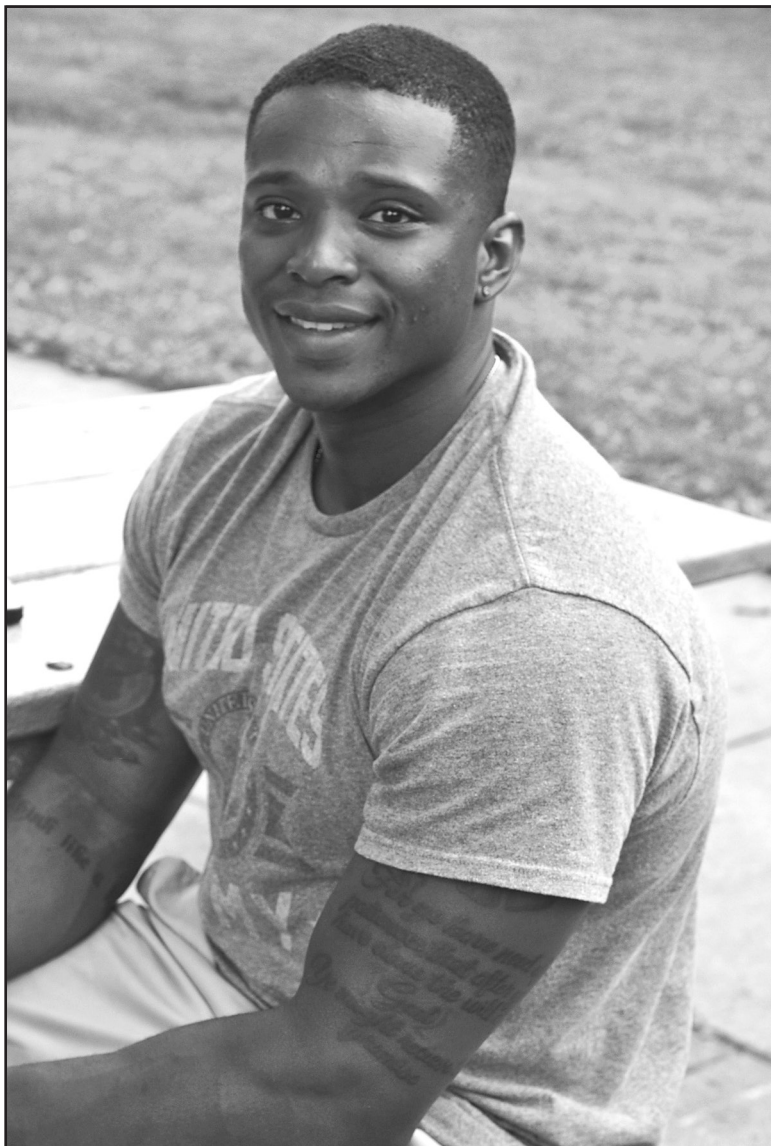
Kayleen had an exchange with a police officer last winter,

the likes of which she thinks is pretty common. She explained, "My mom dropped me off late at school one morning. I was coming from a doctor's appointment. When I checked in at the office, the attendance lady said, 'There are only a couple minutes left of your first class; you can go stand at the door of your second class.' So I started walking that direction."

"There was a group of 4-5 white kids in front of me in the hall. The school police officer smiled at them as they walked by, but he made me stop. He listened to my explanation, he checked my pass, and he said, 'Don't let me catch you out in the hallway again.' He was not smiling. At the time it didn't really register, but I felt the difference in the way he treated me was odd."

"We have to have some form of public safety in the schools and on the streets, but the priority should be de-escalation. So much of the time, authority figures don't take the time to hear more than one side of the story. I really hope change is coming soon. I hope my generation will be the one to say, "This is IT. We've had enough."

'It looked like just another killing of a black man in America'



Dre Vann has never committed a crime and has served in the military. Yet, he said, "I am scared every day of my life." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

> DRE VANN <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Dre Vann started coming to Brackett Park in the Longfellow neighborhood when his gym closed in March. He and his friends use the Depression-Era concrete picnic tables as workout benches. They lift free weights, heavy ones, with enviable strength and discipline.

When he saw the video of George Floyd's murder, Dre hardly even felt it register. He said, "It looked like just another killing of a black man in America. It was a head shaker, but as a black person you've got to have that pick

up and keep going mentality."

By Tuesday night, Dre's anger had grown. He said, "I've never done any crimes. I've served in the military. Still, I can't get lost in the wrong neighborhood or walk into most restaurants in the Twin Cities without heads turning and people talking. I am scared every day of my life."

Dre describes himself as having grown a very thick skin in his 26 years, to keep from getting bruised too bad. He didn't participate in the protests because he doesn't feel systemic racism is going to change in this country. He believes the color of his skin is an act of protest he has to live

out every single day.

About the protests, Dre said, "I hate to admit it, but I'm glad people burned some things down. If someone's been bullying you your whole life, it's not like you're going to take their lunch money. You've got to do something to really get their attention."

If the world is paying attention right now, Dre questions how long it will last. While he is not convinced that allies will continue to stand up for this cause, Dre said, "I'm glad that people are starting to come out of their comfortable boxes, and entering into the discomfort of talking about really hard things."



John Riggins was effectively trapped inside during the uprising on E. Lake St. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

'Time to come together'

> JOHN RIGGINS <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

John Riggins grew up in East St. Louis, Ill., a place considered by many to be the most dangerous city in America. He moved to Minneapolis in 1992, and has been a resident of Trinity on Lake Apartments since last year. Until the riots started, he called living there "a slice of heaven."

But the last week of May, everything changed. John and the other residents were effectively trapped in their apartments while fires raged around them.

He said, "The nights were the worst. Every time I tried to go to sleep, there was another BOOM on the street. A lot of the residents here are older, have respiratory issues, or are living with disabilities. There was nothing any of us could do."

Fast forward to a steamy Tuesday afternoon, on the ninth day since George Floyd was killed. John is sitting on the veranda of the Trinity Lake Apartments in his wheelchair, watching a different kind of commotion just a few yards away.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is one of many sites for free distribution of items to meet basic needs – all donated by community members who pull up to the church in an unending stream. Hundreds of black, white, Latinx, Asian, and East African people file past tables piled high with food staples and hygiene supplies. By the following week, the parking lot will also serve as a free community Covid-19 testing site.

John said, "I guess we have to look at what's ahead. This is the time to come together. I'm grateful that the church is helping people get back on their feet. We don't have any other place to get groceries right now in the neighborhood. I feel okay today. I'm going to be better tomorrow."



Eva Wailes wants to keep the focus on why this happened. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

'Immigration lawyers, do not burn'

> EVA WAILES <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Attorney Eva Wailes got a message from her boss on May 29, 2020 that their building had been damaged by protest fires. The windows of the Wilson Law Group were boarded up. Someone had spray painted, "Immigration lawyers, do not burn!" across the plywood window coverings – and the building was still standing. The Third Precinct Police Station across the street was gone, as were the Minnehaha Post Office and most of the surrounding businesses.

She said, "Several of us came over the next morning to

save what we could, and to move some things out of our offices. We thought the building might not survive the next night. There are 60-65 people who work here. Everybody had masks on and we were trying to social distance, but I hugged two of my co-workers because it seemed like the right thing to do. We hadn't seen each other since the pandemic started. Some people were sweeping up broken glass. I started gathering everybody's framed documents and other official things. I brought them home for safe keeping."

To look at the major intersection of the Longfellow commercial district right now is to see burned out shells of build-

ings and towering piles of rubble. Eva is eager for the businesses and organizations to thrive again but, she said, "We have to re-build the human community as well as the buildings that will house them. When we feel the same outrage against systemic racism and police brutality – and we take action like we do when there's property damage and clean-up – then we'll be getting somewhere."

Eva has been talking with her 11- and 14-year-old sons about George Floyd's murder, and how to push back against racism, bullying, injustice, and unfairness when they see it. She said, "We have to keep the focus on why this happened."

'We continue to pray that people get along'

> SENEM YUMSHUK <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Senem Yumshuk prays every morning on the lawn in front of Holy Trinity Church. At the base of an oak, she prays for her children. At the base of an elm, she prays for children everywhere. She moves to another oak and prays for her mother. There are many trees. There are many prayers. Sitting on her heels with her back against each tree trunk, Senem feels the presence of Allah – the God of her Muslim faith.

Early in the morning, it is peaceful out on the lawn. Lines haven't formed yet on 31st St.,

where hundreds will soon gather to receive food donations. There are just a few cars out.

Senem will return to Turkey next week, leaving her teenage sons and her mother who have lived in this neighborhood for 10 years. She will miss them. She will miss the trees, but there is always someplace to pray. Senem has been unable to get a green card, so she works in Turkey as a nurse eight months of the year and has extended visits here when she can. "This visit," she said, "has been too crazy."

When the neighborhood outside her mother's window began to burn on May 26, the two Turkish women prayed to-

gether through the night. They held each other as they watched the news reports roll in. They wept for George Floyd. Senem said, "We believe that every son is our son, and every daughter is our daughter too. Why does it have to be so hard?"

The Turkish news media sent a crew to South Minneapolis to cover the riots. Senem said, "Even in my country, almost 6,000 miles away, they are saying the name of George Floyd. I believe he is very happy right now, because of all the good that will come from what has happened. We continue to cry for him, and to pray that people everywhere can learn to get along."



Senem Yumshuk of Turkey and her mother wept for George Floyd. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

A TIMELINE

May 27: The University of Minnesota stopped contracting with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) for support during large campus events or for "specialized services."

June 2: Minneapolis Public Schools voted unanimously to terminate its contract with the MPD.

June 2: Minnesota Department of Human Rights launched a state civil rights investigation into MPD, Minnesota's largest police department.

June 3: The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board unanimously voted to sever ties with MPD.

>>More photos and comments on our Facebook page, website and Instagram account.

The Motley Conversation

Messenger

Join the conversation,

and let us know your diverse and varied thoughts on the issues that affect your neighborhood. Send letters and guest commentaries to news@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com or call 612-345-9998.

We can feel *both-and*: Support protests and grieve loss of local businesses

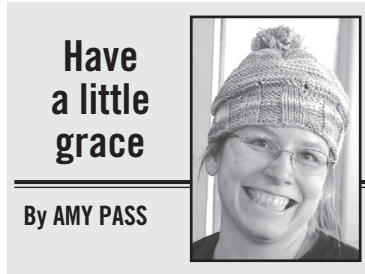
There was a saying that was repeated so often when I was in graduate school that we all used to groan when our professors would say it. It was a deceptively simple phrase that went like this: "It's a Both-And." We used this phrase to refer to situations that seemed like they had to be one way or all another, but somehow were *BOTH...AND*. Both things. This *AND* that.

The last several weeks have been a practical lesson in holding two (or sometimes more) seemingly conflicting truths at the same time. As humans we are quick to see things as one way or another. If I am right, you cannot also be right. It is uncomfortable to think that two things that seem conflicting might both be true at the same time. Either-Or is much more comfortable than Both-And.

For example, consider this

truth: Riots are justified when an entire people group has been largely unheard for more than 400 years, when no other method of communication has worked, not marches or kneeling or sit-ins or holding signs or writing letters or voting. Literally, nothing else has brought about the necessary systemic changes. The murder of George Floyd pushed many people beyond the threshold of peaceful protest, and that makes sense.

AND this truth: The destruction on Lake Street, University Ave., and elsewhere in Minneapolis and St. Paul hurts the people who live here, many of whom are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and/or immigrants. Businesses that employed local residents and supplied necessary services are gone, impoverishing already struggling neighborhoods. Some people have lost their en-



Have a little grace

By AMY PASS

tire livelihood. The destruction is breathtaking.

BOTH positions can be true.

We don't have to pick a truth, take sides, or negate one thing in order to prove the other.

We can hold both truths, though it is uncomfortable and hard to do.

When we hold both truths, it moves us beyond focusing on which thing is the problem and pushes us toward solutions. We need justice and equity for peo-

ple of color. The question right now is not what types of protest are ok, but where do we go from here? How do we deconstruct and reconstruct? Where can we participate in systemic change and where can we participate in "boots on the ground" relief for our neighbors and community members.

As a white woman, I've spent the last few weeks with my ear to the ground, listening to the people who haven't had a voice. If you're white, I suggest that you sit back a little bit and do the same. Make space for others to take the lead. Be conscious of taking up all the space in a conversation. Consider that your concerns have often (always?) taken precedence over those of others. We can't have a just and equitable system if we can't hear that our answers have historically only kept white people safe.

None of us want a repeat of the last month, not another murder, not fires, not curfews or police wearing riot gear or the National Guard.

So listen.

Pay attention.

Follow the lead of your non-white neighbors, friends, and community members. They know systemic racism from the inside.

Until the voices on the inside are heard, there will be no peace, only silence.

Until silenced voices are heard, there can be no justice, no equality.

No justice. No peace.

Amy Pass earned her master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Bethel Theological Seminary. But perhaps her greatest lessons have come from raising two children and maintaining a 21-year marriage.

Thanks, Nokomis East neighbors

Dear Nokomis East Community: this is a letter of gratitude. In case we haven't met, my name is Jerome Evans and I chair the board of directors for our Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA). I served on the board for a few years before becoming chair so I can tell you that 2020 has been a year of unprecedented challenge, resilience, and growth for our organization. Neighborhoods 2020, the outbreak of the coronavirus, and the killing of George Floyd have tested NENA's organizational skills, caused us to question the way that we undertake our mission, and demonstrated that NENA is an invaluable resource for this community.

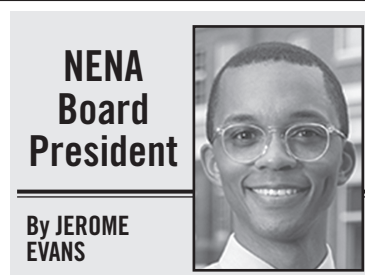
In a typical year NENA's board and staff plan and put on community building events like the State of our Neighborhood, Monarch Festival, Bossen Renter's Party, or Night Before New Year's Eve celebration. This year, in light of the risks that the coronavirus poses for some residents, we are planning for food distribution for people who are isolated or otherwise unable to secure food. In a typical year we might organize around allocating the Curb Appeal Matching Grant, continuing the Green Fair, and educating residents through our Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. But this year we were called upon to organize for the safety of our entire community and to do so with little to no notice.

And we did it. On May 30 when local leaders suggested that we band together for communication and defense in light of public safety concerns sparked by the death of George Floyd while he was in the custody of the Minneapolis Police Department - NENA called and the community responded. I can only be profoundly grateful to the people of Nokomis East for put-

ting aside their plans for that Saturday, defying the medium-term risk posed by the coronavirus, and coming together to confront a short-term and unknown risk to our collective safety. And I am grateful to NENA board members, staff, and community members who stayed up all night that first night watching for danger and then turned around and did it again the next night!

This could not have happened in a different community. And I'll tell you another thing that I'm grateful for. The death of George Floyd has sparked conversations on racial equity and white privilege in our community that I never expected us to have. As a gay, Black man living in our once redlined community it gives me great hope to see communities that once encouraged segregation now contemplating how their actions may have unintentionally perpetuated systems of oppression for other people. That gives me great hope for our future. Perhaps the dream of equality for every American really can mean equality for every American.

On a personal level, I'm comfortable sharing that I have been challenged to rethink the way that my actions contribute to our system. For example, as chair of NENA I never questioned the community safety meetings that we'd host or how we might define the type of 'suspicious activity' that would prompt a call to the police. Did NENA inadvertently encourage our community to engage in racial profiling? I hope not. But moving forward we will be more direct and forthright in leading with our commitment to racial equity. We will support the community's interest in education on racial equity, support efforts to stand in solidarity with more diverse communities,



NENA Board President

By JEROME EVANS

and provide space for more BIPOC residents to congregate, heal, and help lead.

Perhaps instead of or in addition to meetings with law enforcement, we can host meetings with community members who we don't often hear from. Last week, I personally held a Community Conversation regarding Achieving Racial Equity. I hosted a law professor, an educator, and a Nokomis East community member. What struck me most from my conversation with Luis Rosario is how much he loves our community. Even when he feels that he is being racially profiled, he loves being a part of Nokomis East and all that that means. By providing him with a platform to share his experience I gained insight into the importance of NENA engaging in racial equity work that benefits everyone in our community and, perhaps, community members got the opportunity to see how damaging racial profiling our neighbors can be.

I love our community and I believe that we have risen to the challenges that 2020 has thrown at us. Thank you for committing yourselves to creating a more equitable Nokomis East. I assure you that I and NENA will be learning, growing, and supporting you grow through this challenging time. Thank you.

Editor's note: Jerome Evans is running for State Representative 63B in this year's election.

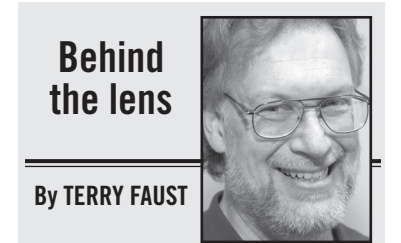
'The only time I felt threatened was when I was near police'

Written after being at the 3rd Precinct on Wednesday, May 28 at 9 p.m.:

You know, despite the fact I was amongst angry people, and not many of them had the same skin color as me, I only felt fearful when I was in front of the police barricade where officers were setting off flash-bang bombs and teargas. They were trying to break up a crowd that was big and mad. It did not work. In fact, I don't believe I'm off base in thinking their actions only made the crowd bigger and madder. I initially moved in front of the police station barricade to see what was going on.

Suddenly, people near me started ducking and saying the police were shooting. Shooting? It sounded crazy, but something pinged a lamp pole behind me and something else ticked off the pavement at my feet. I moved away. Today, I discovered they were shooting "marker rounds," a kind of paintball on steroids. I looked them up online and the manufacturer says: "Training with UTM Man-Marker Rounds requires approved safety goggles, protective face mask, protective gloves, and two layers of clothing."

Needless to say, firing into a crowd that does not have protective clothing and face coverings isn't wise, and more to the point, the officers' targets returned to their positions angrier than before when the shooting stopped. It didn't clear the intersection. My objective takeaway from the protest is this: The police, or at least many of them, are their own worst enemy, and it doesn't seem to bother them. If you take this insight to its extreme it ex-



Behind the lens

By TERRY FAUST



Police stand with weapons on top of the Third Precinct. (Photo by Terry Faust)

plains why when they kill people, especially people with dark skin, it is of so little concern to them. Some of them have accepted violence, especially violence towards Blacks, as a way of doing their job.

Today, there are news photos of fires and protesters leaping and caving like mad. The media is great at capturing drama. There were a few protesters like that, and I'm sure readers look at those pictures and see crazy people to be feared. I was there and those weren't the people I feared. The only time I felt threatened was when I was near the police.

Messenger

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097
Minneapolis, MN 55417

612-345-9998

longfellownokomisemessenger.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger/>

Instagram: [LongfellowNokomisMessenger](https://www.instagram.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger)

News for you!

The Longfellow Nokomis Messenger is a monthly community publication in the Longfellow and Nokomis areas of Minneapolis, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. Visit our website for our calendar and publication dates.

Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the Messenger. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@longfellownokomisemessenger.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

Owner & Editor:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-345-9998
tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com

Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183
denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com

Your name here

We're hiring a sales rep!

Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

This issue of the Messenger is printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Approximately 95-97% of material that enters the print facility is recycled.

TMC
PUBLICATIONS CO



Delivery provided by: Fresh Heir

If you have a problem with delivery, call 612-345-9998 or email the editor. Mail subscriptions are available at \$40 a year.

Design & Layout:

Tesha M. Christensen

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jane McClure, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Margie O'Loughlin, Matthew Davis, Stephanie Fox, Terry Faust, Iric Nathanson

The Messenger is for profit and for a purpose - and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that

is both black and white. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

All rights reserved. The contents of the Messenger cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2020.



I can't breathe

I watched his last breath. Millions of people soon would as well. I can't breathe. He was murdered on my block next to the bus I ride, in front of my children, in front of the world. I can't breathe. Crowds gathered and my eyes glistened. Glistened with tears, glistened with light from the fires, glistened with hurt and fear and anger. I can't breathe. My city was burning, my people were scattering, my world was shattering. Yelling, cursing, crying. In one ear and out the other, or so it seemed. My senses overwhelmed, my grief inexplicable. I can't breathe. The haze drifted like fog, blocking the view of the city, clouding the hearts of the oppressed. The unheard were here, they were pleading. I was pleading. Let them be heard. I can't breathe. Flowers, thousands, lay on the streets. Graffiti lined the walls of the train and the businesses. "Fuck the 12" "Black Lives Matter" "Society awakens" I can't breathe. This is my city. My city. I ache as history again repeats, never letting up as injustice hits the streets. Ashes from the fires settled on lawns and houses, asking to be seen, needing to be seen. I can't breathe. When will future history books remove the white-authoritative

narrative and choose truth? Oh, Minneapolis.

Oh, Minneapolis. I can't breathe.

Abha Karnick is a south Minneapolis resident with East Indian roots who graduated from Hamline University in 2019. She grew up in the Twin Cities and found her passions in music, photography, and writing. She has pieces published with CAAL, MNAsianStories, and HER Online Journal, and her passion lies in storytelling and finding the moments to capture.

Capturing moments

By ABHA KARNICK



A collection of photos by Abha Karnick from the first few weeks of the protests can be found on the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger Facebook page.



A city moved

After watching in horror the widely circulated video showing George Floyd being killed by a Minneapolis police officer outside of Cup Foods at 38th St. and Chicago Ave. on May 25, protesters took to the streets on May 26, 2020. They demonstrated outside Cup Foods then marched three miles east, stopping traffic along 38th St. and again along Hiawatha Ave., before they turned east to the Third Precinct police building on East Lake St.

"No Justice, No Peace," the crowd chanted. "Prosecute the police!"

The events that followed have been widely documented and reported around the globe: police spraying tear gas and shooting rubber bullets at demonstrators, the subsequent riots and the destruction of property throughout Minneapolis, St. Paul, the nation and the world. Several beloved businesses were burned to the ground or damaged beyond repair.

In South Minneapolis and beyond, people emerged from the devastation, grief stricken but eager to help. They passed out masks, hand sanitizer and snacks to peaceful demonstrators, a practice that in mid-June was still evident at every rally and gathering. They descended on Lake St. in large numbers to help clean the streets and sweep away the debris. They dropped off thousands of bags of food at a single food drive. Then at another. They set up a free market at a high school housed in a former grocery store. Du Nord Craft Spirits, our local distillery-turned hand sanitizer maker, became an additional drop spot for donations of food and supplies. The Lake Street Council and Longfellow

From around the city

By JILL BOOGEN



Business Association began raising funds for recovery and offering small business relief.

Through it all, calls for justice have been ringing through the air. In the marches that continue to take place throughout the city. In the art that is screaming from the pavement, walls and boards placed over windows. From banners and signage carried at rallies and on street corners, in the chants shouted and horns honked, and from portraits and tributes placed in mourning.

By the time of this writing, public officials are answering some of these calls. All four police offi-

cers have been formally charged with murder or aiding and abetting, the lead for the prosecution given over to Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison. Almost immediately the University of Minnesota announced it would divest from the Minneapolis police, with the Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board soon following suit. Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo suspended contract negotiations with the police union to push for structural reform, and the Minneapolis City Council committed, according to Council Member Andrew Johnson's June 8 email to constituents, "to start the process of engaging with the community over the next year in re-imagining what a new public safety department could look like."

The impacts of the uprising will surely be felt here for a long-time, the work toward real justice ongoing. But in its aftermath and going forward the people of Minneapolis have shown their greatest strength - our community.



On June 6, a faith leader walked in procession in front of the large portrait of George Floyd. He called out "No justice, no peace," then said "You have to know justice to know peace." He then asked everyone gathered to kneel for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time George Floyd had a knee held to his neck, killing him. (Photo by Jill Boogen)

Faith Matters

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

Bethlehem Covenant Church
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
www.bethlehemcov.org
Pastor Rick Mylander
(Handicapped Accessible)
All sermons can be found online at www.bethlehemcov.org
Contact the office at office@bethlehemcov.org to find out how to join other gatherings virtually.

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthmpls.org
Pastor Steven Reiser
Adult Study 9:30 am via email
10:30 am - Sunday Worship: livestreamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/EpworthUMCMLS/>
Weed and Water Wednesdays on Facebook Live @epworthwww from 10am to 11:30am weekly.
2nd Wednesday: Beer/Bagel & Bible Study via Zoom from 6:30-8:00 pm

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.org
Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
All services and programs temporarily on-line. Check church website.
9:45 am-online Sunday Worship
1:00 pm Mondays Kids' Time via Zoom
"Building Relationships with Christ & Each Other"

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863
www.parkavechurch.org
Senior pastor Gregg Taylor, Minister of Preaching Steven Belton
Service online on Youtube and Facebook Live; Zoom Children's Church
Youth Wednesday Night Game/Fellowship @6:30-7:30pm

Spirit Garage - The church with the really big door
3010 Minnehaha Ave.
www.spiritgarage.org • 612-827-1074
Normally at the Hook & Ladder Theater
Pastor: Holly Johnson
Music: John Kerns and bands
Black lives matter.
Meeting and worshipping online during this weird time.
Worship: 10:30 AM Sundays
We're a casual quirky faith community that leans progressive. Check us out if that feels like home to you.

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. • 612-724-3643
www.saintalbertthegreat.org
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am (Childcare available)
Saturday Mass: 5 pm
M, T, Th, F: Rosary at 8 am, Daily Mass 8:15 am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, First Fridays from 9 am to noon (Handicapped accessible)

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000
www.stpeders.org
Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
During the time of social distancing please go to our website and FB page for worship services and updates.
www.stpeders.org or on FB @stpedersmpls
(Handicap acc., Braille, Large Print)

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Pastor Matt Oxendale
Livestreaming worship: Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Visit www.trinityfalls.org for link and to register for virtual camp online July 19-23.

PROJECT OF NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES
Minnehaha Food Shelf, serving people Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm
Call us at 612-721-6231 • Minnehaha United Methodist • 3701 E. 50th St.

Faith Matters classified ads must be received by the Messenger by July 20 for the July 30 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information and pricing. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

CRISIS HOTLINE Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a danger.	PAINTING Bill's Painting, 38 years experience. Painting, wallpaper, staining and texturing. Fully insured. Free estimates. Attention to details. Call Bill 612-790-1266, 12-22 KEVIN'S PAINTING/Repair. Wood frame, stucco, exterior wash.	LIVE HERE WORK HERE pet visits, 15 years experience. Insured and Bonded. 612-825-9019. www.facebook.com/johnspeservice 12-22	SERVICES Concrete work: Steps, sidewalks, patios, driveways. Licensed, bonded, insured. Call Tom Seeman, 612-721-2530, 11-20	WINDOWS Window washing, inside and out. "You will see the difference." Call Larry, 651-635-9228.
---	---	---	--	--

Affordable Easy Still popular

Marketplace

Faith Matters Pets Matter
Health Matters Home Matters
Jobs Matter Money Matters

Pick your category or let us. Be sure to include contact information and how long you'd like to run.

Just \$1/word
Email or mail your listing today

Messenger
Longfellow • Nokomis

denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com
5139 34th Ave. S. #17097
Minneapolis, MN 55417
651-917-4183

>> IT MATTERS/MARKETPLACE AD FORM <<

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

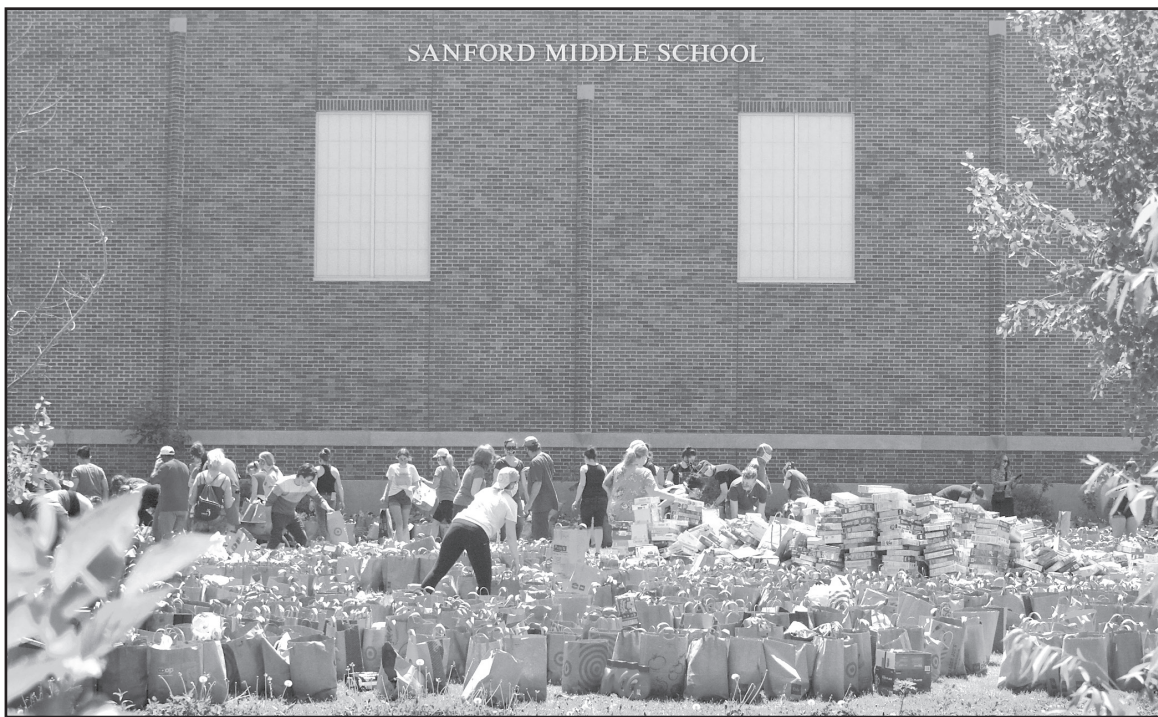
Ad text 10 words for \$10 _____
(\$1 each additional word) _____

IDEAS: Thank a teacher. Recognize a neighbor. Promote your side hustle.
Ads due by July 20. Make checks payable to TMC Publications.

FOOD DONATIONS



On Thursday, May 28, Touchstone Mental Health announced there would be a Food Drive for Minnehaha Commons Residents (3001 E. Lake St.) the following day. Within a half an hour of the drop off time on the 29th, there were so many donations they offered them up to the community at large, curbside. Hundreds of families picked up food. "It was so unexpected to have such a massive response," said Touchstone Mental Health Executive Director Ellie Skelton. Also unexpected, she said, the tenants at Minnehaha Commons were really involved in greeting people and moving donations. "It turned a stressful day for all of us into a very positive experience. The residents received and gave support, and we all felt more connected to the Longfellow community." For a list of food pantries, visit this website: <https://www.foodpantries.org/ci/mn-minneapolis> (Photo submitted)



Over 25,000+ bags of food were dropped off and donated at Sanford Middle School on Sunday, May 31, 2020. Laura Mylan, Cathy Carmody, and Mara Thill Bernick had the idea to provide food for the Sanford staff families. It went viral and there was plenty for others. From organizers via the Longfellow Strong Facebook page: "They filled the Sanford parking lot and wrapped around the building, filled the cafeteria, and 6 really big trucks. And, we were able to send additional truckloads to the Midway, North Minneapolis, Cedar Riverside, East Lake and more. We had mountain of cereal, and mountain of diapers. We had each other. What more could we want. Please know that this food will help families in the weeks to come as we rebuild." More photos in the Messenger Facebook photo galleries. (Photo by Terry Faust)

HOME MATTERS

A-Tree Service Inc.
40 Years of Professional Service
Owner/Operator
Cleve Volk
Licensed & Insured
1849 E. 38th St.
South Mpls.
We accept
612-724-6045
Tree trimming • Tree removal
Stump grinding • Chipping
www.atreeservices.com

Merriam Park Painting
• Exterior & Interior Painting - Enameling
• Ceiling Texturing
• Wallpapering
• Free Estimates
Call Ed 651-224-3660

Jay Anderson
Selling Minneapolis Real Estate since 1993.
♦ Residential
♦ Commercial
♦ Investment
♦ Fixer-Uppers
♦ New Construction
612-819-7555
jay@CBBurnet.com
COLDWELL BANKER BURNET

Borden Window L.L.C.
Keep your old windows
We turn old drafty windows into energy efficient tilt-in windows
BordenWindow.com
651-338-7163

Treating your house like a home
Painting by Jerry Wind
• Interior & Exterior Painting • Plaster / Sheetrock Repair
• Wood Stripping & Refinishing • Ceiling Texturing / Repair
• Wallpaper Stripping / Wall Repair / Skim Coating
FREE ESTIMATES
VISA (612) 827-6140 or (651) 699-6140
WWW.PAINTINGBYJERRYWIND.COM

REACH CUSTOMERS by investing in an ad in the HOME MATTERS section.
Ads must be received by July 20 for the July 30 issue.

Perfect Little Library Addition
Make your little library even more distinctive!
Wee Weather Vanes fit all little library roofs. Attach in minutes for years of enjoyment.
Many design selections, or have a custom vane built to your preference.
Order: www.weeweathervanes.com
Contact: weeweathervanes@gmail.com

Marketplace

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by July 20 for the July 30 issue. Call 651-917-4183 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, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417; e-mail denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com; or call 651-917-4183.

CRISIS HOTLINE

Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a dangerous relationship or needs to create a safety plan. B-20

HANDYMAN

Dr. House does it all: From a leaky faucet to a new addition. I can save you money on electrical and plumbing. Call John at 651-231-5652. B-20

LAWN/YARD SERVICES

Weekly mowing, complete lawn care. Call for details. Over 20 years in the neighborhood. A Greener Lawn Service. 612-554-4124. B-20

OFFICE SPACE

Wellness or therapy space for rent: On bus route. Easy access to light rail. Located at Minnehaha Ave S. and 42nd St. Open to build out. 2nd floor space avail. Call Jim between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. 612-490-1457 or email: KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM.

STUMP GRINDING
612-724-6045

LANDSCAPE RESOURCES

ORGANIC GROWER'S BLEND + TOPSOIL + RAISED GARDEN BLEND + MANURE + COMPOST + TEN VARIETIES OF MULCH + CLASS FIVE + LIMESTONE + SAND + SEED

DELIVERY + PICK-UP + AWESOMENESS

kernlandscaping.com

Saint Paul, MN

651.646.1553

WHAT'S OPEN

Get your word out for free
Change your listing any time
Sign up on our website today!

Messenger
Longfellow • Nokomis

PAINTING

Bill's Painting. 38 years experience. Painting, wallpaper, staining and texturing. Fully insured. Free estimates. Attention to details. Call Bill 612-790-1266. 12-20

Painting, wallpaper removal, wall repair, basement floors, walls. Jim 612-202-5514. B-20

PETS

John's Dog Walking - Daily dog walks, boarding and in home pet visits. 15 years experience, Insured and Bonded. 612-825-9019. www.facebook.com/johnpetservice. 12-20

ROOFING

30 years experience hail and wind damage specialist. Replace or repair. Free estimate. Licensed/insured. 612-724-3934

SERVICES

Plan your next remodel with fresh space design! We bring eighteen years of design experience to your project. We provide expert planning of kitchens, baths, basements, attic rooms and additions. Our full color drawings will help you confidently envision your new spaces. We will help you select the perfect finishes and fixtures! Contractor liaison services available. Gail Jacobson, Allied ASID. www.freshspacedesignllc.com 612-310-7069.

Concrete work: Steps, sidewalks, patios, driveways. Licensed, bonded, insured. Call Tom Seemon, 612-721-2530. 11-20

STORAGE

MPLS Storage located in the Longfellow neighborhood has units for rent at low rates. Locally owned and family operated. 1/2 block from Lake and Hiawatha. 612-333-7525. B-20

WINDOWS

Window washing, inside and out. "You will see the difference." Call Larry. 651-635-9228.

ADX Labs supports LBA

ADX Labs, Inc. has provided an urgently needed grant of \$40,000 to the Longfellow Business Association, to aid local small businesses to recover from looting damage. The donation was made by ADX Labs' charitable arm, the ADX Foundation.

Steven M. Renner, founder and CEO of ADX Labs and chairman of the ADX Foundation said, "The tragic death of George Floyd in police custody resulted in peaceful protests but also ex-

tensive looting and truly terrible property damage. Here in Minneapolis, the Longfellow neighborhood has been particularly hard hit. This vibrant and diverse neighborhood has largely been reduced to rubble, and residents are experiencing great difficulties sourcing food and services from the many small business owners who have seen their premises destroyed. The ADX Foundation immediately stepped up to provide a grant to the Longfellow

Business Association, which has pledged that every dollar will be utilized helping local small businesses get back on their feet, so their community can thrive again."

The Longfellow Business Association's Executive Director Kim Jakus said, "Our association has been serving neighborhood businesses and non-profits for the last 25 years. Over the last week, around 50 of our Longfellow businesses and non-profits were looted and damaged in the wake of the violent death of George Floyd. ADX's grant will allow us to give direct grants to

businesses in Longfellow to help cover insurance deductibles, repairs, relocations and eventually help with equitable rebuilding."

Korboi "KB" Balla, owner of fire-damaged Scores Sports Bar said, "There are a lot of unknowns right now, but the community is what gives me hope to reopen." Balla said that when businesses were burned down, "people came from far and wide to help clean up, and it's unreal how much the community has come together."

John Flomer, co-owner of local restaurant Midori Floating World Café, which was also loot-

ed and destroyed, said that many residents' main concern is losing the community they love so much. "It's all small businesses here, and we feel like we're bleeding in the streets and waiting for the medics," said Flomer.

Renner concluded, "ADX Labs is committed to supporting an inclusive, diverse and thriving Twin Cities. Coming during the coronavirus pandemic, the devastation of Longfellow's businesses has resulted in yet more unemployment, and we hope local businesses can rehire all employees. We call on other Minneapolis businesses to donate."

612.729.7608 • www.buck-bros.com



We design & build in your neighborhood
Kitchens, Baths, Additions Restorations



MN license #4593


RECEIVE YOUR

26%

SOLAR TAX CREDIT BEFORE IT ENDS THIS YEAR

VISIT US ONLINE TO REQUEST A QUOTE

AllEnergySolar.com
Phone: +1 651 401 8522
1264 Energy Lane Saint Paul, MN 55108



LIVE LONG and Prosper



Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors' office (located inside the U.S. Bank at 2800 E. Lake Street) was significantly damaged and looted during the recent riots. However, we're still providing services to area seniors (we serve 600+ seniors annually). Our services are needed now more than ever because of the food and pharmacy desert created by the rioting. Local seniors, who often don't have their own transportation, are having a harder time getting groceries and prescriptions.

Healthy Seniors offers many services to help seniors live healthy, independent and socially connected lives. We just received a grant for food distribution and delivery for lower-income seniors.

If you're a senior age 62+ who lives in the greater Longfellow or Seward neighborhoods and would like to find out if you're eligible for free perishable foods, please contact us at 763-458-0484 (our temporary number) or by email at info@LShealthyseniors.org. We can also help with delivering food from local food shelves.

Now, we need YOUR help to "Live Long and Prosper!" Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors needs financial support from individuals, organizations, clubs and the community now more than ever!

Donations can be sent to our temporary mailing address at P.O. Box 17133, Minneapolis, MN 55417, or you can donate online through our website: LShealthyseniors.org (click the "Donate" tab.)

Thank you so much for your support and generosity! We appreciate it.

LONGFELLOW/SEWARD HEALTHY SENIORS

Temporary phone: 763-458-0484
Website: LShealthyseniors.org



Now Selling New Condominiums on Minnehaha Park



PORTICO AT THE FALLS 4737 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis

Steps away from Minnehaha Falls - maintenance-free living and the best of nature and neighborhood.

25 condominiums starting at \$303K

Fall 2021 opening

Custom finishes and inspired design - Choose from 1, 2, 2+ den and 3 bedroom floor plans. Every new Portico residence has a porch, patio, or terrace and includes professional interior design guidance.

Reserve your home today
www.porticoatthefalls.com
or call 612.220.8130

Visit our sales center - no appointment necessary
2705 38th Street East, Minneapolis - Open weekly Sat-Sun, 1-3 pm

Community healing mural is first to go up at George Floyd Memorial site on Chicago and 38th Ave.

Art heals the soul

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

When artist and community activist Christopheraaron Deanes heard about George Floyd's death, he went right to 38th St. and Chicago Ave. – but he didn't show up empty handed. He came fully armed with art supplies, including a huge roll of canvas donated on-the-spot by Wet Paint in St. Paul.

He and his wife, arts administrator Cara Deanes, had reached out to the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC): a non-profit devoted to art forms produced by heat, spark, or flame and located steps away from the memorial site. They offered their space for whatever might come, trusting that something creative and engaging would emerge to support the community.

As it turned out, there would be heat, spark, and flame aplenty. Lake Street began to burn on Tuesday night, but the memorial site near where George Floyd was killed would remain almost completely undisturbed.

Christopheraaron and Cara Deanes knew how important it was to make a way for people to express their pain, frustration, and anger through art. They unrolled the nine-foot-wide piece of canvas and attached it to a fence at CAFAC. Christopheraaron made a loose sketch of an African American man with his arms outstretched – surrendering. Community members were invited to join in, painting, writing, touching the canvas.

Christopheraaron said, "The messages people painted helped them deal with the trauma they experienced and the internal turmoil we all felt from the murder of George Floyd. Everybody saw those last moments of his life over and over again. It took a lot of humanity away from us."

The Deanes would return to the memorial site many times. When Christopheraaron was there on June 8, he said, "It seemed like the art community had really expanded. The names of people murdered by police



Roho Collective artists, along with members of the community, came together in peace and unity at the Chicago Avenue Fire and Arts Center to paint this dedication to George Floyd. Left to right: Cara Deanes, Christopheraaron Deanes, Sean Phillips, and Stephanie Morris-Gandy. (Photo submitted)

were painted on the street, and those names went on and on. I was reading them slowly to my eight-year-old daughter, one by one, and I started to cry. It broke my heart."

Christopheraaron continued, "I felt like the healing process was starting for me, too. This is

how we experience the power of healing through art; we believe it is with full engagement of our senses."

"What does healing from trauma look like? For me it looks like people of color rallying: making statements and poignant gestures in the community. What

does it sound like? It sounds like the ring of my white colleagues calling and texting to ask, 'What can I do now?' What does it feel like? All of the smiling, and crying, and laughing, and shouting – it feels like empathy and action are growing."

ART HEALS >> 9

All cars foreign and domestic

100% warranted paint & body shop

Local, family owned
English & Spanish

612-724-1908
cell: 612-249-3014
1116sergio@gmail.com
3701 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis

\$100 off

Any paint job over \$500

Coupon valid until 7-31-20 at 3701 Minnehaha Ave, Mpls.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

from your LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Giving your time, expertise and money to support your community should not be thankless work. The staff and board of directors of LCC want you to know it is not. We thank you and are inspired everyday by your generosity.

For three nights, Greater Longfellow at and around Lake and Minnehaha was the target of a massive amount of destruction. Every morning there were people out on the street sweeping, cleaning up garbage and glass, putting up plywood and removing graffiti. No one was paid for this work and yet we never heard one person complain.

The murder of George Floyd has traumatized communities all around the country and awakened people to the terror, pain and hopelessness that people of color suffer on a daily basis.

Greater Longfellow was a focal point for this powder keg of emotion and rage. And yet, the response from the community was not to strike back or to threaten or scare peaceful protesters. The community came together to begin to restore the business community and the overall sense of safety and wellbeing.

Block Club leaders have organized patrols on their blocks along with daily and weekly community meetings. Professionals with expertise and resources have come together to plan for rebuilding. People are taking care of their neighbors and donating goods for those who have lost access to food and other basic needs. You have reached out to LCC to offer any assistance we may need. What the country has witnessed (and even the world) is the strength, resilience and power of people who place the needs of others above their own.

We must acknowledge the gifts this community has received from outside of the area. The response has been tremendous, and we are grateful for that support as well.

On a personal note. I am so proud to be the Executive Director of the Longfellow Community Council. On a daily basis I am reminded of how amazing things can happen when people come together. Thank you for everything you have done to make Greater Longfellow one of the best places in Minnesota to live, work and play. This community will always have a special place in my heart.

Longfellow Community Council (LCC)
Executive Director
Melanie Majors



Artists at work: Ricardo Perez, Sebastian Rivera and volunteer Hab Wako put finishing touches on a mural honoring George Floyd at Puerta Grande Law Firm (4403 E. Lake St.) on June 4, their last of five days creating the painting. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Art as empowerment



By JILL BOOGREN

After boarding up the windows at her firm on East Lake St., Abigail Wahl, owner of Puerta Grande Law Firm, decided to ask an artist from the community to use the space to express whatever they wanted regarding George Floyd. Artists Ricardo Perez and Sebastian Rivera, community organizers with The Alliance and West Side Community Organiza-

Ricardo Perez talks about his art and his process in making a mural. "Sometimes there's destruction. And there's life that comes after that. Rather than focus on destruction, it was more about life." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

tion, respectively, answered the call. Together with volunteers, they spent five days creating a mural on the boards.

On June 4, as they were applying the finishing touches, Perez described the mural and the process, which he said changed organically as it unfolded.

"We wanted to be very intentional about it being about Black and Brown relationships. A lot of people are curious about the cactus [featured prominently in the middle of the painting]. It kind of throws them off, like 'Why are cactus on it? That's not from here.' But you know, George Floyd wasn't from here. He was from Texas, and... Texas is the

cactus. There's also a Mexican flag... Lake St. There's so many intersections of our identities."

Mentioning the cityscape, Perez pointed to a detail in the upper left window of where people were being evicted. Above it, a banner reads: FREE the Oppressed. At the top of another high rise a banner reads: #BlackLivesMatter.

"Sometimes there's destruction. And there's life that comes after that. Rather than focus on destruction, it was more about life. That's why we have so many plants and the city and the mountains," Perez continued. "This is the craziest thing... these boards were put up to protect from destruction, but they be-

came art. It became a healing element for the community."

By email, Wahl offered her take of the mural: "To me, Ricardo Perez's creation speaks to the solidarity between the different communities in Minneapolis and Minnesota, and the love we are feeling for George Floyd."

After the art comes down, Wahl said the artist will decide on its final home. Perez hopes for a permanent space to share the piece. "Not only the painting but the energy that was captured in this moment."

Puerta Grande Law Firm (4403 E. Lake St.), which offers legal representation in immigration matters, remained open throughout the uprising.

Art heals the soul >> from 8

When Christopharaaron first arrived at the memorial site on May 26, lugging paints and a blank roll of canvas, he said, "I had no idea what I was going to paint or what was going to happen. My wife Cara, who knows me so well said, 'Just do what comes out.' Hundreds of people participated in the mural making, and put the mark of their hands on the canvas. Tens of thousands of people have seen the community mural by now."

He said, "Creativity isn't a matter of the haves and have-nots. It isn't the privilege of the young or a luxury of the old. It is an essential piece of humanity. Through art, we aim to empower everyone to changes their lives - and change the world."

For more information on the Roho Collective and the work of Christopharaaron Deanes, visit

UNITY AND CHANGE

Christopharaaron and Cara Deanes are Director and Coordinator for the ROHO Collective. Roho is a Swahili word meaning soul or spirit. The mission of the collective is to embrace, support and nurture artists of color. The artists involved strive to have a positive impact on the Twin Cities by making art that is a powerful force for unity, empowerment, and change.

www.rohocollective.org. The community mural at Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center will remain up indefinitely, until the Floyd Family collects it for their personal archives.

Gardening Angel Garden Design

Design • Install • Maintain

Residential & Commercial

Margi MacMurdo 612.206.7089

gardeningangel612@gmail.com

Love where you live!

MINNEHAHA
SENIOR LIVING

Senior Living with Services, Assisted Living, Memory Care & Enhanced Care

(612) 238-0010

3733 23rd Ave S • Minneapolis, MN 55407
minnehahaseniorliving.com

PROVIDENCE PLACE
SENIOR LIVING

Transitional Care, Skilled Nursing & Memory Care

(612) 238-2500

3720 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407
provplace.com

Offering the services you need, when you need them.

Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.

Ferdinand F. Peters Law Firm handles large and small estates, including wills, family trusts, family wealth LLCs (limited liability companies), inheritance dispute resolutions, and all your estate planning solutions.

Make sure your family's future is safe today.
Call 651.647.6250 or find us online at ferdlaw.com



BUY LOCAL

Support your neighbors, live a more sustainable life, and build community. **Tell them you saw it here.**

Invest in your business by contacting your sales rep to advertise here, and take advantage of discounted rates.

612-917-4183

denis@

LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

free delivery!



URBAN FORAGE
• WINERY & CIDER HOUSE •

urbanforagewinery.com



**Five Element
Martial Arts
& Healing
Center**

Our non-profit is dedicated to the empowerment of all people through martial arts, wellness, personal safety and self-defense training so we may have a more peaceful community and planet. Full schedule of classes online.

3743 Cedar Ave. S. Dpls
www.femamartialarts.org



Subscription Microbakery
Wholegrain & Sourdough

Free loaf with subscription
promo code: nokomis

NELSON ELECTRIC INC.

EST 1963

Service is Our Specialty

Residential
Industrial
Restaurant

Lighting Retrofits
Commercial
Solar

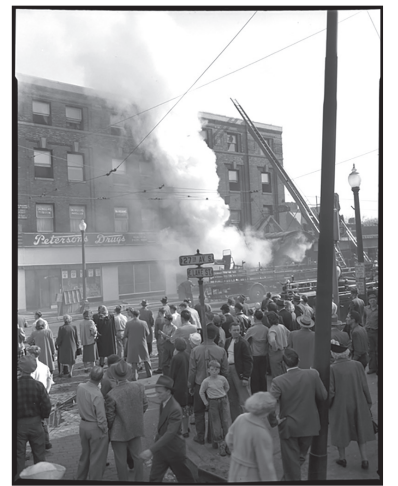
FREE – estimates

Call today for an appointment.

Office Space for Lease

Robert Nelson – Owner 612-724-9500 or
www.nelsonelectricinc.com 763-444-1523

Contractor's Lic. #20636575
Electrical Lic. #EA001304



A 1949 fire caused substantial damage to the Oddfellows building constructed in 1909 on the southeast corner of E. Lake St. and 27th Ave.



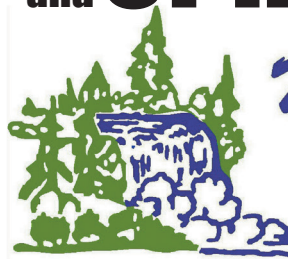
The Oddfellows building smolders. It has now been demolished. (Photo by Abha Karnick)

ADOPT-A-BUSINESS

Help local businesses pull in more customers by sponsoring their ads in the Messenger. Contact Tesha for details (tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com) or look on our web



and **SPRING BACK** with



Minnehaha Falls
LANDSCAPING

Design • Patios • Retaining Walls • Gardens • Lawns • Call us at 612-724-5454 for a free consultation.

MinnehahaFallsLandscape.com

Minnehaha Falls Landscaping creates outdoor environments that grow beauty, and support health and wellness. From this foundation grows our garden division, Giving Tree Gardens and our advocacy branch, Bee Safe Minneapolis. Together, we provide everything needed to create and maintain spaces for people and pollinators to come together, relax, and connect at home, in the school yard, and in the community.

We are a business rooted in healthy soil. Our all-natural methods rely on soil health to beautify landscapes, restore ecosystems, and protect pollinators, and we love sharing our soil secrets with everyone!

Let's explore possibilities together!



Russ Henry,
Owner and Soil
Specialist

Here are 3 tips for growing healthy soil:

- 1) Keep the ground covered: Bare ground encourages weeds and damages soil. Use mulch, leaves, or ground covers, like creeping thyme, throughout the landscape.
- 2) Plant native perennials, trees, and shrubs: Native plants offer more nutrition for pollinators. Choose plants that bloom at different times so bees can find food in your garden every day of the growing season.
- 3) Transform your lawn: The best lawn is a garden. Eliminate mowing, fertilizers, and pesticides by transforming your lawn into garden space. Native landscapes are much easier to maintain than lawns!

Minnehaha Falls Landscaping has served the Twin Cities for over 60 years. We would love to help you with garden design, installation, maintenance, or simply support you with our garden coaching services.

Remembering 27th and Lake

By IRIC NATHANSON

Neighbors who live around 27th and Lake St. are now finding themselves at the edge of a war zone of burned out and boarded buildings. Their commercial district encompasses the Third Precinct police station, the Minneapolis site that made national news when it was torched by rioters in the aftermath of George Floyd's death.

This once thriving district, now the scene of so much devastation, has a rich history extending back to the final decades of the 19th century. During those early years, when Lake St. was a narrow dirt road beyond the Minneapolis city limits, a scattering of homes and businesses sprung up around a small industrial firm. Minneapolis Harvester Works, was established at the intersection of Lake and Hiawatha in 1882. A block away, the first known hotel in the area, Hotel Woodland, was built on 27th Ave. in 1901. The building later became the Schooner Bar, a 120-year-old landmark still standing in 2020, but badly damaged during the recent riots.

The Harvester Works firm was short lived. When the business failed, its site was taken over by another small industrial concern, Minneapolis Steel and Machinery, in 1902. Minneapolis Steel prospered, enlarging its production facilities to cover an expansive site extending from Hiawatha to Minnehaha Ave. between 28th St. and Lake. By 1930, now known as Minneapolis Moline, this South Minneapolis industrial firm, which manufactured farm machinery, had become one of the city's largest employers. During World War II, retooled to produce U.S. army vehicles, Moline saw its workforce balloon to over 4,000. After VJ day, which marked the end of World War II, many of

REMEMBERING >> 11

East Lake Street Clinic 'unscathed for a reason'

Clinic helps through devastating times

By CHLOE PETER

Allina Health East Lake Street Clinic, located at 3024 Snelling Ave S, stands across from the Minneapolis Third Precinct, an area that was highly targeted by protestors the night of May 28, 2020. Although trees less than 200 feet away, the Arby's to the north, and the Third Precinct itself were all singed or destroyed by fire, the East Lake Clinic was almost totally undamaged besides graffiti and a broken door handle. However, the clinic was still closed for a week and needed to send patients to other clinics around the area, such as the Hennepin Healthcare Whittier Clinic, instead of being able to continue serving the community directly.

This did not deter Spencer Cahoon, manager of the clinic, from getting right back into serving the community as soon as it re-opened to appointments from the public on June 8, 2020.

"I believe that we got incredibly lucky to be here and that this clinic was unscathed for a reason," Cahoon said.

Before COVID-19, more than 100 patients would be seen daily. The clinic offers pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, mental health services, family medicine and more. Even though the number of patients seen in person has decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic, the clinic has still continued to see many patients for virtual visits.

Cahoon has been acting manager of East Lake Street Clinic for two years now. He oversees all of the clinic's operations including quality, patient safety, and the team of providers. Now, he's trying to lead the team forward and come up with ideas on how to help a devastated community. First, he and his team held a meeting in order to discuss how they were feeling about everything that had happened within the few weeks beforehand. They used this meeting as a way to decompress, check in on each other, and to continue support and communication.

"Once we're feeling ok with ourselves, and I think we are at that point, we're in a better position to support our community," Cahoon said.

One of the ideas that Cahoon and his team came up with to help the community move forward is the Community Healing Committee. This committee will be aimed at finding what the local community needs from the clinic and being able to give back. Already, they've held three meetings and have heard patient requests for necessities that have become scarce due to grocery stores and other businesses being damaged or shut down. The clinic has its own pantry of baby supplies, one of the most requested items, and have handed out diapers and formula to their patients. Although the East Lake Street Clinic is not accept-



Although the Arby's to the north was burned to the ground and the Third Precinct across the street set on fire, the East Lake Street Clinic was not damaged during the protests. (Photo submitted)

ing donations from the public at this time, they regularly have employee drives to gather supplies requested by patients.

"The most important first step is listening to the communities of color; we need to understand the best way that they think we can support them," Cahoon said.

The East Lake Street Clinic will also begin to focus more and more on mental health as they continue to try and reach out to the community. Many of their patients go through struggles already such as having chronic illnesses, and Cahoon believes that the trauma of these recent events is one of the things that will be long lasting. The financial aspect

of COVID-19, private property destroyed, and civil unrest in general has had a large impact on individuals and minority groups especially. The clinic is doing everything they can to direct to provide resources themselves or direct them to where they can get help out in the community. They want to be as sensitive to the cultural needs of the community as possible.

"Our team at E. Lake St. stands with our community and each patient that we serve matters; we feel incredibly grateful to be here as a clinic that serves all backgrounds and that this clinic is really truly standing for a reason," Cahoon said.

Many of their providers live



Allina Health East Lake Street Clinic manager Spencer Cahoon said, "The most important first step is listening to the communities of color; we need to understand the best way that they think we can support them." (Photo submitted)

directly in the community, and the ones that don't consider it their second home. Some drive an hour or more to be at the clinic in order to serve their patients. Cahoon was first drawn to the clinic because of the staff's sense of purpose and care for patients. However, they are still working to become better for the future. They believe that this requires one to pause and really dig deeper into thinking about how they treat others, especially, people of color. And, think about how to continue the conversation about racial injustice in their community.

"This clinic is one where people find meaning and purpose, and we're really excited to get back out there and serve the community once again," Cahoon said.

Remembering 27th and Lake

>> from 10

those workers found that they were suddenly jobless as Moline sharply cut back its wartime production.

Then, protesting the company's layoff policies, disgruntled workers launched a strike and temporarily blocked traffic on Lake Street as a sign of protest. Their strike lasted for more than two months.

To the east of the Minneapolis Moline plant, two multi-story commercial buildings flanked the intersection of 27th and Lake. The oldest of the two was built for the International Order of the Oddfellow (IOOF) in 1909. The Oddfellows used the building's second floor for their meeting rooms, while the J.O. Peterson Drug Store, the building's long-time tenant, occupied the prime corner spot on the ground floor.

In a prelude to a more destructive conflagration 70 years later, a 1948 fire caused substantial damage to the Oddfellows' building. Minneapolis firefighters fought the blaze for six hours before bringing it under control. The 1948 fire spared the building's Town Talk Diner, a popular lunch spot for workers from the nearby Moline plant. But the diner fell on hard times starting in the 1970s. After it shuttered in 2002, Town Talk's space remained empty until it reopened as an upscale eatery in 2006. Later owners retained the diner's name and its distinctive lighted sign which had become a pop-



The Oddfellows/El Nuevo Rodeo building at E. Lake St. and 27th, where both George Floyd and former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin worked, has been demolished. Community leaders are talking about how to hold sites for local development and small businesses versus purchase by outside investors. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

ular East Lake landmark. This year, the Town Talk's life was cut short when the recent riots destroyed the Oddfellows Building, the Lake Street's café's home for more than 70 years.

Across Lake from the Oddfellows, the 1917 Coliseum Building housed Freeman's, at one point the city's largest department store outside of downtown. The Lake St. store was a joint effort of its owner, E.B. Freeman and his wife, Harriet, who oversaw the store's women's department. Freeman's Department Store flourished during the 1920s and held its own throughout the Great Depression. During those difficult years, many of the families who shopped at Freeman's had breadwinners who held on to their jobs at Minneapolis Moline and at the Ford plant across the river in St. Paul. "They were Swedes and Norwegian who were thrifty by nature. They didn't waste their money. And they kept coming to our store," recalled E. B. Freeman's son, Wallace.

Freeman's survived the Great

Depression and World War II but succumbed to the forces of suburbanization that battered inner city retailing in the post-war era. The Lake St. department store hung on until 1975 when it finally closed.

After Freeman's closed, Roger Podany, a local businessman who owned a used office furniture business, purchased the Coliseum and put his own name on the front of the building. During the 1970s, Podany rented the building's basement to up and coming musical groups including the well-known Suburbs. The Podany Building's third floor ballroom served as the temporary home of the folk dance group, Tapestry.

The 1970s took its toll on nearby Minneapolis Moline after the farm implements manufacturer was sold to the Ohio-based White Motor Company. In 1972, White Motor closed the Lake Street Moline plant along with a second factory in Hopkins, putting 1200 Moline employees out of work.

The closure of the Moline plant marked the end of 27th

and Lake's industrial era and the start of a new effort to reinvent the district a retail destination. Moline's factory buildings were demolished and replaced with a suburban style shopping center anchored by a massive Target Store. The big-box Target, a major Lake St. anchor well into the 21st century, opened in 1976. A year later, the multi-tenanted Minnehaha Mall opened on an adjacent site. The new mall billed itself as the first indoor shopping center built in Minneapolis during the previous 15 years. The retail center's suburban configuration, fronting on a large parking lot, would soon fall out of favor with urban planners who wanted to discourage auto uses and promote high density development. After retail faded away at the Minnehaha Mall, the building was reconditioned to serve as the home of the Minnesota Transitions Charter School.

In the mid 1980s, 27th and Lake underwent another wave of redevelopment when the block to the east of Target became the site of a Rainbow grocery store. The Rainbow replaced the Third Precinct police station which had occupied the site since the 1950s. When Rainbow closed in 2014, its space remained vacant until 2019 when the property was redeveloped for an ALDI Market.

In 1985, the Third Precinct moved into a new building at the southwest corner of Lake and Minnehaha. The new station featured a public entrance facing the corner, designed to be open and accessible to the public, according to the building's architect.

The 2000s saw the redevelopment of the Podany Building with its original name restored,

a major expansion of the nearby East Lake Library and the construction of the Midtown Greenway along the district's northern edge at 27th St.

During the past decade, several community groups including the Lake Street Council, the Longfellow Community Council, and the Longfellow Business Association have worked to promote 27th and Lake's revival. They were encouraged by the ethnic restaurants and the new Moon Palace book store that helped make their commercial district a neighborhood friendly "mini-downtown" for the adjacent Longfellow Community.

Now, those efforts have suffered a huge setback as a result of the recent riots that destroyed or damaged more than 30 area businesses and community facilities. The list includes Target, ALDI, the Coliseum, the Minnesota Transitions Charter School and the East Lake Library.

But one community leader is not deterred. "Many of our residents and businesses feel abandoned and afraid," acknowledges Melanie Majors, the Longfellow Community Council's Executive Director. "There has been an extreme and tangible threat to our community. I have been working for this community for 13 years and I know that the people here care and love their neighbors, their businesses and their community. We are being tested right now and while we are suffering an unprecedented amount of damage and destruction we will overcome this. While we have lost much, this does not change who we are. Longfellow will be rebuilt and it will be stronger than ever."

Businesses want to stay in neighborhood, many unknowns about insurance coverage and repair

LBA pulls together businesses to share needs, discuss damage

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Most businesses damaged around Minnehaha, E. Lake St. and 27th Ave. want to stay in the neighborhood, but they're waiting to hear back from inspectors and insurance companies, they told the Longfellow Business Association during a ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

The initial estimate is that 31 buildings were completely destroyed in the unrest following George Floyd's murder by a police officer on Monday, May 25, including three major grocery stores, and two pharmacies. Beyond that at least 49 other businesses sustained significant damage. Many are locally- and minority-owned.

"We are a small organization, but we focus on bringing together businesses for networking and information," pointed out Kim Jakus. "I know there's a lot of immediate action plans but we are really in it for the long haul."

"We are really going to have to work together. We are here to listen and invest."

Jakus pointed out that other entities are also involved in local efforts, including the Lake Street Council, which set up a fund that has raised over \$6 million, and the Longfellow Community Council. The LBA is asking itself how it differentiates itself and also how it can partner with other organizations. It has set up a fund and is raising money to help local businesses.

LV's Barber Shop at 3006 27th Ave. S. wasn't impacted as much as those around it, but owner Lamberto Vergara was still waiting to see if the building was stable after the fires at Minnehaha Lake Spirits and Wine and GM Tobacco and Super Vapor. He knew that, at minimum, the fire damage to the back wall would need to be repaired, but wasn't sure if the en-

tire building would end up being condemned.

His shop had been closed since May 18 due to COVID-19. Along with his six barbers, "We're just kinda hanging in there, trying to see what's going to happen," said Vergara. "I'd like to stay in the neighborhood. The faster we rebuild, the faster I can go to work."

John Gwinn of the non-profit MIGIZI, said they had planned to offer summer programming for Native American youth in their new facility which had opened last summer after an extensive renovation project, and had already restructured things due to COVID-19. Now that fire has destroyed their building, they are looking for a temporary space to run the programs. "Hopefully we can find some space and have some jobs for our youth," said Gwinn.

He was grateful for people's generosity and the donations they have received.

A small shell of Town Talk Dinner at 2707 E. Lake St. remained standing as of June 3, but was knocked down later in the week when the entire El Nuevo Rodeo/Oddfellows building was leveled. Town Talk Diner owners Kacey White and Charles Stotts said they were in the process of creating a list of everything that had been in their building for the insurance company, going room by room. "It's so much work to get done before we contemplate the next step," observed Charles.

He added, "We really love being part of the Longfellow neighborhood. Hopefully we can figure out how to be a part of the rebuilding."

KB Balla was close to opening his sports bar, Scores, on the far east side of the El Nuevo Rodeo building (2713 E. Lake St.), and celebrating his grand opening.

"It's been kind of surreal,"



Folks empty out the Glass Endeavors building on Friday morning, May 29, 2020. Although it survived the burning of the post office, staff were not sure it would survive another night. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

said Balla. He is one of the Black business owners affected by the protests and works as a firefighter in Brooklyn Center. "I can't tell you what the plan will be. I'd love to say that we'll stay in the community. Right now we don't know how long it will take to rebuild," said Balla.

Until then, he's hoping to figure out how to help others.

Minnehaha Lake Wine and Spirits, directly across from the Third Precinct at 2613 E. Lake St., was looted, vandalized and burned down. Like Town Talk, owners Jason Krause and Steve Krause said they were still focused on the immediate needs.

They are also evaluating a potential temporary location site.

"This is pretty devastating," said Krause. He pointed out that many of their staff have worked there for 10-15 years. To help those out of work, they started a GoFundMe. It raised \$9,000 in less than 24 hours.

Steve pointed out that he learned it was the responsibility of the property owners themselves to demolish their sites and make them safe, and the line item from their insurance company for this item was pretty small. They don't know yet what requirements might be for environmental clean-up.

"Every hour there's a new issue that comes up," said Steve.

Coliseum building damage

Across the street at the Coliseum Building at 2700 E. Lake St., numerous small organizations including the FATHER Project and Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice were affected.

Created 20 years ago, The FATHER Project has been located at the Coliseum building for the last 10. There was considerable smoke and water damage to their space, according to program manager Guy Bowling.

The FATHER (Fostering Actions To Help Earnings and Responsibility) Project became a program of Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota in 2004. Since then, the FATHER Project has served thousands of fathers through an extensive network of community partners. The program offers: case management, parenting support, child support services, employment services, and GED tutoring.

"The resources we provide are part of a systems change," observed Bowling.

Also located in the Coliseum, Literacy Minnesota is looking for a new space, according to Kristin Collins, just like so many others.

The Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice program in the Coliseum Building was able to salvage all of the things most im-

portant to their program, according to Michele Braley. Staff have been working from home due to COVID-19 and will start looking for a space, as well.

Businesses not as heavily damaged have offered up space that could be used for programming, future relief efforts, and more, including: Hook & Ladder, The Lift Garage, Tapestry Folkdance (large meeting room), Kennedy & Cain (conference room space), pointed out Jakus.

Wellington properties

Casey Dzieweczynski of Wellington Group reported that the ALDI in the former Rainbow space will be cleaned up and reopened in about two months.

There was a little damage to the charter school on the back side of the building, but the classrooms were all fine.

The Wendy's was burned down, as was the affordable living apartment building under construction in the parking lot. "That was heartbreaking," said Dzieweczynski, who is the project manager. It will be rebuilt, although they're not sure if the foundation will be salvageable.

On the west side of Hiawatha, portions of the Hi-Lake Shopping were burned to the ground, but there was minimal damage to the ALDI there, and it reopened in early June. The condo building above was fine. The Lake Street Station apartments and the low-income seniors that reside there, lost power on Thursday and were evacuated on Friday night. They returned on Sunday.

"We're glad to be part of this neighborhood," said Dzieweczynski.

'A long road ahead'

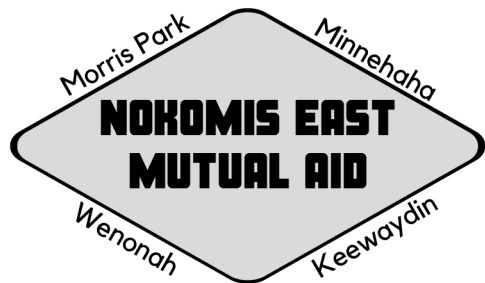
A fire was set at one of the area's oldest buildings, the Schooner Tavern (2901 27th Ave. S.), according to Wendy Kremer, but it was put out. There was also looting and vandalism. Thankfully, none of the 20 tenants were hurt. The building was still without power as of the meeting

LBA PULLS TOGETHER >> 13

Need help?

A growing group of neighbors in Nokomis East is organizing to support each other during the COVID-19 crisis. **If you are sick, at-risk, or just someone who needs a hand, please get in touch.**

We can pick up groceries and run errands, connect you to community resources, or just check in with you every once in a while. **We're in this together.**



NokomisEastMutualAid.org

Call or text: 612-440-9174

Volunteers welcome! See website for more info.

Food resources

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of stores on Lake Street, food insecurity is an even greater issue in our community. There are several food resources for Nokomis East neighbors. The Minnehaha Food Shelf is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information found at www.minnehaha.org/foodshelf. Minneapolis Public Schools offer free food boxes for kids under 18 at the Keewaydin Elementary School and Bossen Field. More info at <https://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/covid19>.

The Minnehaha Food Shelf and NENA will be launching an additional biweekly free food distribution site in the Bossen area at the intersection of 33rd Ave. and Sander Dr. The project will run through October. Visit www.nokomiseast.org or call 612-293-9683. Se habla Español.

Running for seat on NENA Board of Directors

NENA's Annual Meeting and

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association



By BECKY TIMM, Executive Director
becky.timm@nokomiseast.org

Board Election will be hosted on Wednesday, Aug. 26. NENA will hold the event online and Nokomis East residents will vote for Board candidates online or by phone this year.

Serving on the NENA Board of Directors is a great volunteer opportunity. Board members feel connected to the community they call home and help guide NENA to continue to meet the needs of Nokomis East. To learn more about serving on the board, visit www.nokomiseast.org. We will be hosting online information sessions in July and you can schedule a call with NENA executive director to learn more. We

hope you will consider running for a seat in August.

Mutual Aid Group

Content provided from the newly formed Nokomis East Mutual Aid:

In this difficult and uncertain time, we support our community. The COVID-19 crisis has already affected all of us, and it will almost certainly get worse before it gets better. We're your neighbors, and we're here to help:

- If it isn't safe for you to go to the grocery store, we'll go for you.
- If you're sick and need supplies, we'll get them.
- If you need food, we'll help you find some.
- If you just want someone to check in every once in awhile, we'd love to say hello.

There's no charge for these services. Everyone at NEMA is a volunteer who lives in the neighborhood. If you need support and aren't sure whether we can help, please get in touch. Call (612) 440-9174 or visit <https://nokomiseastmutualaid.org>.

ABOLISH THE POLICE

>> from 1

Schwesnedl have been active with and supportive of different organizations and campaigns for prison and police abolition for over 25 years.

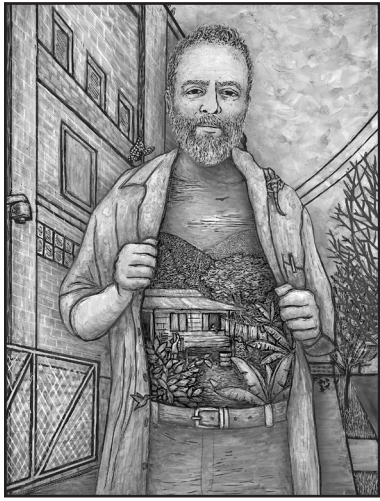
"Many communities in our society have been prevented from functioning and thriving because of the police, and the institutions of white supremacy and predatory capitalism that the police protect and enforce," the couple pointed out. "We absolutely need to figure out ways to keep all of our neighbors and communities safe. The Minneapolis Police Department was not created or designed to keep everyone safe, and it hasn't functioned to do that."

They support defunding and disbanding the police.

"Police forces in America have always served as slave-catchers for the Prison-Industrial system, which is a direct continuation of the brutal institution of antebellum slavery," explained the Schwesnedls. "American police have grown increasingly more militarized, and use larger and larger amounts of city, county and state budgets, and have always functioned to terrorize communities of color, and enforce social control to protect the interests of the owning class, at the expense of workers' rights."

"Instead of the lie that police exist to keep us all safe, we want systems that are actually designed to keep the people in our communities safe. We want systems and institutions that value ALL human life, including the lives of Black people, Indigenous people, trans people, women, people of color, etc."

They added, "We feel terrible for everyone who lost businesses that represent countless hours and years of their labor and passion. And none of our businesses are as important as human lives



Ricardo Levins Morales has been involved with MPD150 for years, and encourages people to go there for thoughtful answers and information on disbanding the police. (Art submitted)

that have been lost to police violence. Lives of Black people, Indigenous people, people of color. None of our businesses are as important as putting an end to the trauma and suffering that police violence and intimidation has wrought on so many of our neighbors for so many years."

As white, Euro-Americans, the Schwesnedls are currently working to amplify the voices of the groups and people leading the struggle on the ground, as well as providing some financial support, and making phone calls, sending emails, attending rallies, protests and meetings when they are able.

To learn more, they encourage people to check out groups like MPD150, Reclaim the Block, and Black Visions Collective.

Artist and activist

As an artist and an activist, Ricardo Levins Morales (3260 Minnehaha) has been involved with MPD150 for years.

In 1967 at 11 years old, Morales and his family left Puerto Rico and landed in Chicago during a time of great turmoil and police brutality. It was safer for him to walk the alleyways



Moon Palace Books owners Jamie and Angela Schwesnedl support a change to the police and prison system in favor of one that is "actually designed to keep the people in our communities safe." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

and take his chances with the gangs than to be on the streets and deal with the police, he recalled. "It was clear the police were dangerous people to be around," said Morales.

One day the police shot a Black teen who was running home to catch a television show. "They said if he was running, he must have been running from a crime," said Morales.

By age 14 or 15, Morales had started his life of activism and art when he discovered print making and screen printing. He's been involved in labor organizing, farmers' movements, peace activism, ecological work, international solidarity and more. "To me, they are really all the same thing: supporting human resilience in the face of hardship," he explained.

He opened a studio at Minnehaha and 38th in 2009, and moved to his current location next to Peace Coffee two and a half years ago. Right now, Morales is giving away buttons to protesters that state: "Abolish the police, reform is not enough."

As a Latinx man, Morales believes in the importance of solidarity with others who have had bad experiences with the police. This stands in contrast to the white racist narrative that believes if the cops are doing some-

thing bad to you then you must have deserved it, he pointed out.

What struck him about George Floyd's murder was the "absolute indifference of this killer cop." He said, "The police are essentially fulfilling the role lynch mobs did."

Too broken to fix, only solution is replacement

Three years ago, on the 150th anniversary of the Minneapolis Police Department, MPD150 released a report detailing brutal practices baked into the formation of the department and tracking them through the years.

"We broke down how they interact everyday with people in crisis. They don't do anything well," said Morales. "You need grown-ups, not people who show up with tear gas and tasers and shoot at people. It's all based on the mythology of how they supposedly keep us safe."

Morales stated, "Having more cops in a city doesn't make crime go down." He pointed to white suburbs that have less police and policy brutality and less crime.

"People want decent homes, green spaces, parks for children. These are the basics of life that white suburbanites take for

granted," said Morales. When people have what they need, crime goes down. He supports using the millions spent on police in other ways to help people get their needs met, and implementing common sense solutions. Top on that list is stable housing.

Reforms instituted over decades haven't work to fix police departments, said Morales.

On July 22, 2006, 19-year-old Fong Lee was shot eight times and killed by St. Paul Police Officer Jason Andersen. The gun authorities said they found nearby his body came from the police evidence room, Morales pointed out. "The officer was let off the hook."

More training, review commissions, residency requirements – these simply do not work, said Morales. "It's one of those entities so riddled with corruption, the only solution is replacement."

He added, "There are a lot of people with solutions to problems that don't involve killing them."

If the mission is to help people, then the solution is to figure out what people need on a case-by-case basis and send those specific resources, such as mental health service providers, social workers, people trained in trauma and deescalation, victim/survivor advocates, religious leaders, and block clubs.

He encourages people to listen to what people of color are saying they need, and to read the thoughtfulness that has already gone into answering these questions by groups such as MPD150, Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective.

"Police have played a major role in making sure people without any money don't have a chance," said Morales, but he sees hope in what's happening today and in people doing the work now that should have been done long ago.

"We're living in different times but no more different than the other times," he said. "The only difference is people are demanding better."

LBA pulls together businesses to share needs

>> from 12

on June 3. They don't yet know what will be involved to get the building fixed.

"We've got a long road ahead," said Kremer.

Schubert and Hoey (2747 26th Ave. S.) outdoor advertising was first broken into and later damaged by fire, according to Mike Hylandsson. They were dealing with a broken water pipe that was still running, unable to shut it off inside because it was too dangerous. They were also trying to figure out how to get their mail. The suggestion was made that businesses get a PO box at a neighboring post office as a temporary solution.

Despite its location to the south of the Third Precinct, the Hook and Ladder Theater and Lounge (3010 Minnehaha Ave.) had minor damage, according to Jesse Brodd and Chris Mozena. As they haven't been able to hold any shows, the performance venue is in a state of transition, and looking for ways to support the community.

The Hub Bicycle Shop wasn't damaged by fire, but some bicycles there for repair were stolen, according to Lisa Olson. They anticipate that insurance will



Members of the National Guard rest in the entryway of the looted U.S. Bank building at 2800 E. Lake St. a few hours after they were called into the area. The Guard blocked off sections of the most heavily damaged for most of the day, and then opened it back up Friday evening, when more structures were damaged. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

help them replace the items.

Tony Kersey of Boker's (3104 Snelling Ave.) reported their buildings were fine, but they have a larger concern around the issue of neighborhood safety and the need for law enforcement.

Cathy Heying of the Lift Garage (2401 E. Lake St.) reported that although the Arby's 10 feet away burned down, their building was still standing. The

non-profit repair center hopes to offer space as needed in the community as they can.

"My heart goes out to everyone on this call," observed Chris Romano of Seward ReDesign. He pointed out that the non-profit has services that will benefit businesses. "Hang in there. They're a lot of support around you."

Healthy Seniors lose space at U.S. Bank

The Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors office has been located at the U.S. Bank (2800 E. Lake St.) for over 20 years. The office was significantly damaged.

From Mary Albrecht: "We are awaiting our insurance adjuster to come in. We don't have direct access into the bank and our office since the rioting and looting occurred. One laptop was stolen and several monitors were destroyed by looters. We will have to hire a mitigation service to clean up our office because there's broken glass all over, soot and smoke damage. It's not safe for our staff or volunteers to try to deal with on their own. The day after the first night of looting two of our staff who live close by were permitted access into our office and were able to bring out our desk top computers (CPUs) and set them up in their homes. We did not have any data breach since the desktop computers were not stolen. Those staff are now working out of their homes. I am temporarily working out of the Southeast Seniors office (a program similar to ours) located on University Ave. in Minneapolis. It may be quite some time before the bank will reopen.

"Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors provides many services to help area seniors live healthy, independent and socially connected lives. We serve 600+ seniors and caregivers annually. Right now the biggest needs of our clients are getting groceries and prescriptions. Due to damage incurred from the rioting and looting, Target, Cub, ALDI and Walgreens are closed. Our neighborhood has suddenly become a food and pharmacy desert. Local seniors, many of whom don't have their own transportation, are having a harder time getting groceries and prescriptions. Our staff and volunteers are doing grocery shopping and delivery for our clients, and are delivering food from local food shelves as well. We recently got a Hunger Solutions grant for food distribution and delivery to lower-income seniors. We plan on distributing perishable foods such as meat, dairy and fresh produce to eligible seniors soon. We're always looking for more volunteers to help us in our work. Our temporary phone number is 763-458-0484.

"Now, more than ever, we need the community's support. We're asking for financial support from individuals, organizations, businesses, churches and community groups. Donations can be sent to our temporary mailing address at P.O. Box 17133, Minneapolis, MN 55417 or by donating online through our website: LShealthyseniors.org (click the 'Donate' tab.)"

Rebuild Repair Recycle

REBUILD LONGFELLOW

Grassroots group is partnering with local businesses

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

At a spontaneously organized meeting on May 30, 2020, community activist Francisco Segovia spoke to a crowd of several hundred people gathered at Longfellow Park. With many Lake Street businesses still smoldering, he said, "Now is the time to show up and make a difference - we need to really show our heart as a neighborhood."

Human resources specialist Sonja Blackstone was in the crowd that afternoon. She has been a block club leader since she bought her Longfellow home five years ago, and the block she moved to has been organized consistently for more than 50 years.

She said, "People were worried about immediate safety during the riots. Keeping an eye on our neighborhoods, that's what we do as block club leaders. A lot of people were exposed to block clubs that day who hadn't heard of them before. We started the idea of night shifts. We suggested guidelines for safety. We got people connected."

Josh Peterson was in the crowd, too. He said, "We were all trying to get our collective feet on the ground, and figure out how to best respond to the destruction in our community."

A former special operations officer in Afghanistan and Iraq, Peterson is used to thinking quickly and mobilizing teams. He joined five other business professionals interested in helping small businesses affected by looting and arson along Lake Street. The result of their first brainstorming session at the park,



Hundreds of people lined up for a hygiene supply and food distribution outside the Hennepin Health Care Clinic at 27th Avenue and East Lake Street on June 18, 2020. The clinic had filled out Rebuild Longfellow's Business Needs survey, requesting volunteer support for this event. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

and nearly daily meetings since then, is a new grassroots initiative called Rebuild Longfellow.

"Often when there is crisis, people don't know what to do because it's so overwhelming," said Peterson.

Matching business owners and block clubs

Rebuild Longfellow is trying to keep things simple. Their primary goal is to match two neighborhood groups: business owners and block clubs. Longfellow contains some 500 restaurants, coffee shops, hardware stores, beauty parlors, grocery stores, mosques, banks, laundromats, pharmacies, daycare centers, churches, libraries, doctor's offices, dental clinics, and more. All are considered businesses for the purposes of this partnership. Rebuild Longfellow is partnering with the Longfellow Business Association (LBA), Longfellow Community Council, and Lake Street Council to balance mov-

ing quickly with planning for the long-term community work the neighborhood needs.

Peterson said, "We have already received requests from 90+ block clubs that want to adopt local businesses and help them succeed well into the future. We're looking at both the physical damage from the recent unrest, and the economic devastation from COVID 19. Each participating block club will receive a list of 10 businesses to contact."

In the days since that first meeting in Longfellow Park, the business group has developed a short questionnaire and sent it to every business listed in the Longfellow Business Directory, published jointly by the LBA and the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*.

Peterson said, "We're focusing on the long term needs of our area businesses. We'll let the business owners lead, and tell us how we can support them with our available skills."

Stepping into really long story of racial inequality

Neighbors see this as a turning point to finally do something about racial inequality.

Peterson said, "Our group isn't about being fancy. Rebuild Longfellow is scrapped together and focused on action. We're stepping into a really long story of racial inequality, one that was written hundreds of years ago. We're taking these initial steps of creating a survey and a website, and connecting block clubs with local businesses. We're hoping our partnership goes way beyond replacing buildings, but this is where we're starting."

Blackstone added, "Now that curfews and vigilant night watches are over, we're still watching out for our neighbors. We're helping to build more meaningful connections. Once those relationships are solid, we can start having conversations about fighting racism. I'm focusing my energy on deepening community connections."

ENRAGED AND INSPIRED

"Many of us see this as a moment to reflect upon the broad systems that have entrenched racial injustices in our community. However, reflection is only the first step, and we are determined to take actions to ensure that Longfellow centers justice in all of its decision making. We are simultaneously enraged and inspired to create 'un mundo donde quepan todos los mundos:' a world where all worlds fit."

From Francisco Segovia, executive director of Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action (COPAL)

The Rebuild Longfellow website will be up and running soon at www.rebuildlongfellow.org. Email Josh Peterson with questions about how to get involved at rebuildlongfellow@gmail.com. Email Sonja Blackstone if your block club is interested in adopting Lake Street businesses at LongfellowCommunityGathering@gmail.com.

Blackstone concluded, "This process of partnering with local businesses and deepening relationships with our neighbors is going to take time. It's going to be a marathon, not a sprint. Let's give ourselves a full year, like the city council is doing with the Minneapolis Police Department, to look slowly and critically look at ourselves, our neighborhoods, and our city."



FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES
**NEWSPAPERS
HAVE
YOUR BACK.**

Local newspapers have the print and digital advertising solutions to help businesses bring customers back and quickly regain lost revenue. Local newspapers' reach across products has never been higher. And with special packages tailored to local businesses, there are options for any size business with any budget.

When it comes to delivering results for local businesses,

**NEWSPAPERS
HAVE YOUR BACK**

Reach, Results, Solutions

Support your local newspaper today.
The Messenger needs your help
to keep publishing.

Donate for a chance to win:

- ◀ Week 6, July 5-11: \$20 at Corazon Gifts
- ◀ Week 7, July 12-18: \$20 at GINKGO coffeehouse
- ◀ Week 8, July 19-25: \$20 at Urban Forage Winery and Cider House
- ◀ Week 9, July 26-Aug. 1: \$20 at Urban Growler

in Household: _____
Age/s: 0-19 20-99 30-44 45-64 65+

**PRIZE DRAWING
WINNERS MAY 24-JUNE 20:**
Corazon Gifts - H Davis and
Hannah Sheu, Urban Forage
Winery & Cider House -
Anita Hruby
CONGRATS!

Messenger
Longfellow • Nokomis

VOLUNTARY PAY DRIVE

Support your neighborhood newspaper during these challenging times for our advertising base. Help us continue delivering to your front door as we have for 38 years, and keep the future strong for the trustworthy, relevant and local news you need. Donate online or via mail.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please write your check out to TMC Publications or donate online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

\$24 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ \$5000 _____

America's
Newspapers
NEWSPAPERS.ORG

Messenger
Longfellow • Nokomis

TMC
PUBLICATIONS, CO.
News for you

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417 | 612-345-9998
www.longfellownokomisemessenger.com | tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com
www.monitorsaintpaul.com | tesha@monitorsaintpaul.com

ATTENTION BIG & SMALL BUSINESSES

Get word out for free about opening, fundraisers Change your listing any time

You're working hard to keep your business going. But your customers may not know that. **We can help.** What's Open is a free public service available to all businesses. We'll publish your info on our website so your customers know that you're still working hard. **And the basic listing is absolutely free.** All you do is fill out a simple form.

Want to stand out from the crowd? • Premium listings offer more details, including downloadable menus, extended contact info and premium display
• You can offer deals that we'll promote • We can also publish your info in our print editions



Sign up on our website: www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

“The Messenger is a great way to connect with our neighbors!”

“The In Our Community section helps to inform and invite the community to activities, many for families and children. Our holiday ads in the Messenger let people know about concerts and special services, and the monthly listing offers a resource for people exploring church options.

Overall the Messenger helps to build a sense of strong community in the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods.”

~ Suzanne Caquelin, Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls

Messenger

Longfellow • Nokomis

www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com
 Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com | 651-917-4183
 Tessa@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com | 612-345-9998
 Schedule a marketing analysis today.

BE MORE MINNESOTA

Extra support will be needed more than ever during the 2020-21 school year. Tutor students in reading or math, and **be the difference!**

Learn more at ReadingAndMath.net

Ready to Make Your Move?

We're Ready to Help.

River Realty

www.RiverRealty.net

Our Neighborhood Grocer Offering Local Meat, Produce and Essentials

Seward

COMMUNITY CO-OP

2823 E. Franklin Ave., MPLS
 & 317 E. 38th St., MPLS
www.seward.coop

'We're not going to go on with our lives the way things were before'

>> from 1

Being an ally

Nokomis Community School - Wenonah campus second grade teacher Rebecca Priglmeier is driven to protest because of her students, "who had to be witness to all of this, as if this year wasn't hard enough."

Priglmeier explained, "I think white people need to be allies. This isn't going to change without everybody's help."

She pointed to the 88 people of color killed by police this year in the United States, and school shootings. "I want kids to not have to live in fear - especially not kids of color. It's enough. It has to stop."

'We can no longer be silent'

Nick and Rebecca Kimpton, and their four-year-old daughter, Bea, stood with a large Black Lives Matter sign on Friday night,

June 12. They bring their young daughter along because "it's never too early to teach about race and teach them to be part of the solution," observed R. Kimpton. They hope their daughter grows up to be part of the change.

"We feel like there is a lot of momentum right now and we want to keep it going," said Rebecca. "Finally some real change can happen."

They're working to be more aware, and to talk to the people in their circle of influence - within their family, neighborhood, and workplace.

"Ever since the murder of George Floyd, we knew we needed to take a more active role in change in our city," added Nick. "We're here because now is the turning point in our society to dismantle the systematic racism. We know we can no longer be silent."



Local residents protest at the Roof Depot site (28th and Longfellow) on June 12, fighting for environmental justice in one of the city's most diverse areas. The city has proposed building a new water yard that would create more air pollution in a neighborhood where residents already deal with high levels of asthma. Instead, the neighborhood developed its own plan that would include green jobs and locally grown food - food that could have been available three years ago and helped provide for an area that is now in a food desert, point out supporters. Learn more at the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute website: www.eastphillipsneighborhoodinstitute.org. (Photo submitted)

Holding space at George Floyd Memorial site

>> from 1

"It's a memorial, it's a protest, it's a repast, it's a movement. The site of 38th and Chicago Ave. is many things at once. That space is being held as an autonomous protest site by the tireless efforts of the people who patrol for safety, provide medical care, distribute food, feed the mourners, provide music, and stand in solidarity every hour of the day.

It is being held by all those who are here as a pilgrimage, and those here to take photos, or here to speak, while some are here to cry, while others are here to scream the names of our dead.

"This space is being held by all of these people. Depending on the hour of the day, the site of George Floyd's murder looks and feels like Grand Old Days, or a Baptist revival, an art festival, a New Orleans jazz funeral, a block party, and the headquarters of the revolution. Yet, every hour that I am there, it feels like community. It takes all our presence to hold the space. Come. Bear witness. Listen to the voices de-

manding justice. Add your own so that we can be heard. Come one, come all. Say her name. Say his name. Say their names."

Ms. Howard, as this beloved Roosevelt High School teacher is known, is on site multiple times each day, always wearing a mask because of the pandemic. On June 3, the day the three other officers present when George Floyd was killed were charged, she ran to the intersection, video rolling.

"They charged 'em all. All of 'em. Aiding and Abetting, and they upgraded the murder charge," she called. Tears flowed as the crowd erupted in cheers. "All of 'em! All of 'em!" To which

someone else called out, "Conviction!"

On one rare occasion, after going a whole morning without hearing his name, Ms. Howard set aside her teacher voice, raised a bullhorn and addressed the people gathered in front of Cup Foods.

"Everybody who saw that film knows [what happened]," she said. "Notice how secure this man was [referring to Derek Chauvin, as he pressed his knee against George Floyd's neck] that he would not get caught. That he would not get in trouble. That he smirked. And put his hands in his pockets... Do you understand

the security of white supremacy that you have to feel to do something so egregiously wrong, so antithetical to your job as a police officer, that you don't even feel... fear at all? At all?... I'm telling you now, Minnesota though, we gonna hold 'em accountable, Yeah?"

With the crowd shouting "YES"! in agreement, Ms. Howard led the call and response that has become so familiar here and in marches throughout the city, the one she especially needed to hear that day. "Say his name." "George Floyd!" "Say his name." "George Floyd!" "Say his name." "George Floyd!"



WE DELIVER

Now Serving Longfellow & our NE areas!

Central-Liquor.com

Deliveries made after 12 noon, \$25 minimum order.

Please place orders online at Central-Liquor.com. Same-day delivery orders must be in by 8 p.m. If you don't see what you need, please use the comments section to let us know what you want. Order by phone **612-781-3424** if you don't have internet.



Welcome Sights:

The Central Avenue Liquors delivery van and appropriately social-distancing driver.

YOUR INDEPENDENT LOCAL BEER SHOP

Open Mon.-Sat. 10am to 10pm, Sunday 11am -6pm with social distancing and sanitizing for in-person shopping and in-store pickup orders. Credit cards preferred. Our local family-owned independent business appreciates you and keeps your health and safety top of mind.

4th of July Hours: 10 am to 9 pm

2538 CENTRAL AVE NE MPLS.
@ CENTRAL & LOWRY
612-781-3424






Download Froogle Today!
Friendly Location
froogleapp.com



ART BY LINNEA