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Wild animals in our backyard

By JAN WILLMS

Today's news headlines often focus on schools being forced to close because of budget cuts or a dwindling student population. Minnehaha Academy, with campuses on West River Parkway, has a different story to be told.

This year the private Christian school celebrates its 100th anniversary. Its homecoming activities held Sept. 21 and 22 included an all-school reunion, and the presence of the first homecoming queen crowned in 1944. An archive house, filled with historic school artifacts, was open to the public during homecoming and is now open by appointment.

Donna Harris, Minnehaha Academy's president since 2009, said the school was founded by Swedish immigrants who had a passion for Christian education and were committed to sacrifice for it.

"There were people who mortgaged homes in the early days to keep the school operating," Harris said. "And this dedication to education has continued over the years."

She said she was drawn from California to serve at Minnehaha. "As I learned more about the school, its mission resonated with me," Harris continued. She said the school has focused on arts, academics and athletics.

"The school has continued to flourish because of its mission to provide high quality education integrating Christian faith and learning," Harris said. With a student population of 900, the South campus serves children in pre-K to middle school, and the North campus schools children in the upper grades through grade 12.

Harris said the North campus still has parts of the original building from 1913. "Alumni touring the school recall early partitions," she said. "They may be used differently today but they are still preserved."

"We are one of the few schools that survived the Great Depression," Harris said with pride. "We have continued through times of drought and times of harvest."

Harris also cited the Academy's distinctive programming in global awareness that makes the school unique.

This is emphasized in the cultural field experiences that are a part of every high school student's study. Harris said students in grades 9-11 engage in another culture.

"This could be living on a reservation or working in a Somali store," she said.

Minnehaha Academy students are also designing an exper-

Celebrating 100 years, Minnehaha Academy stops to reminisce



This year the private Christian school celebrates its 100th anniversary. Its homecoming activities held Sept. 21 and 22 included an all-school reunion, and the presence of the first homecoming queen crowned in 1944. An archive house, filled with historic school artifacts, was open to the public during homecoming and is now open by appointment.

iment for the International Space Station, according to Harris. "We are the first school in the Midwest to do so, reaching out to the outer limits of space," she said.

But for Harris, the success of the school always comes back to community.

"I am overwhelmed with the response from the community in embracing me as the first woman president and the first African American president," she said. "And this level of passion is amazing to me. There are alums who still get tears streaming down their cheeks when they are talking about the school."

A 1967 graduate of Minnehaha Academy, David Anderson now serves as board of education chair. He considers the integration of faith and higher academic learning to be the cornerstone that has kept the school thriving for 100 years.

"It's not just a place where the chapel was grafted in to the

academic curriculum, but was integrated with the elements of teaching. But science is still science, learning is still learning and academics are still academics," he said.

Anderson, whose daughter graduated from the school in 1999, said it is a place where lifetime friendships are forged.

Anderson, who also serves as Centennial Chair, said there is a special Centennial service project that the Minnehaha Academy community is doing this year, which contains a local, national and international component, focusing on adequate and affordable housing.

Locally, the school is working with Urban Homeworks, doing a hands-on project to help refurbish and remodel some low-income housing. Nationally, the school is partnering with a housing nonprofit in Tennessee and internationally, the school is joining in a project in the Congo with

the Evangelical Covenant Church Department of Compassion, Mercy and Justice.

Another tangible part of the Centennial celebration is the creation of a book, "Minnehaha Academy: A Century of Faith and Learning." Justin Ekstedt, a 2001 graduate, has compiled photos and researched stories to compile 100 years of information into 128 pages.

"That was definitely the biggest challenge," Ekstedt admitted. His mom teaches at Minnehaha Academy and when she heard they were looking for someone to write a book for the Centennial, she encouraged her son, a Hamline graduate in English, to apply for the job.

Ekstedt said he started in the summer of 2011 going through stacks of boxes filled with pictures, yearbooks and business notes from the school.

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Longfellow musician honors mother with new album

By JAN WILLMS

The last time Longfellow resident Spencer Wirth-Davis' mother saw him perform was at a hip hop festival in Shakopee in 2009. She had chemotherapy in Rochester earlier that day, and then drove back right afterwards to see him play.

This is what Wirth-Davis, 26, remembers about his mom, Christi, who lost her battle with ovarian cancer in April 2010. She would do whatever she could to watch him in concert.

And now Wirth-Davis has produced an album dedicated to his number one fan, called "For My Mother." The hip hop instrumental sounds he created were his way of honoring her and the support she showed him throughout his life as he pursued his love of music.

The album will be released Oct. 2 and a release concert will be held Oct. 11 at Cedar Cultural Center.

Hip hop was not Wirth-Davis' first musical choice. He started playing upright bass when he was 9 and studied classical music for 10 years. "I played in orchestra all through school and in youth symphonic jazz," he said.

Christi was there to drive him all over the Metro for various lessons and concerts as he was growing up.

"My brother and I are both painters and into music," Wirth-Davis said. "There were always instruments and paintings all over the house."

"My parents, my mom especially, were very supportive of art and music and creative kinds of things," he recalled. "They helped financially with lessons,



The last time Spencer Wirth-Davis' mother saw him perform was at a hip hop festival in Shakopee in 2009. She had chemotherapy in Rochester earlier that day, and then drove back right afterwards to see him play. This is what Wirth-Davis, 26, remembers about his mom, Christi, who lost her battle with ovarian cancer in April 2010. She would do whatever she could to watch him in concert. And now Wirth-Davis has produced an album dedicated to his number one fan, called "For My Mother." (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

and my mom took me to lessons and band practice."

Wirth-Davis said he thinks his mother really enjoyed the fact that he and his brother were creative and in the arts. "She was always involved and wanted to see the paintings and hear the music. It has to be cool for a parent to see their kids creating something."

Eventually Wirth-Davis got his driver's license and began driving himself to practice. As a teenager, he started exploring hip hop, played with rock bands and also classical jazz.

"During middle school and high school, I was into any kind of music I could get into," Wirth-Davis said. When he attended

the University of Minnesota, he moved from Roseville to Minneapolis.

"A lot of people in Minneapolis were taking hip hop more seriously," Wirth-Davis explained. "I didn't know too many in Roseville who listened to or played hip hop. When I went to school at the U, I got into performing it."

Wirth-Davis has performed with numerous artists over the years and currently is part of a hip-hop duo, The Tribe & Big Cats! Wirth-Davis is Big Cats!, a name that he and his brother dreamed up as teens and which has stuck.

Although he got his BFA in painting, music has been Wirth-

Davis' calling.

"Bass is my primary instrument," he noted. "I also play piano, drums and guitar. But bass is the one I feel comfortable in saying I am proficient in. The others are self-taught."

Wirth-Davis was around 21 when his mom was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2007. She spent a lot of time the next three years listening to music.

"She liked classical and instrumental," he said. "I think she listened to music for a couple reasons. It helped her relax, and it took her mind off the things that were happening. She spent a lot of time in waiting rooms at

Continued on page 10

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Thursday, February 7th, 2013 at 4:30pm

Register by contacting the school office at 651-492-7106 or e-mail us at info@tcgis.org

Where will playground go at Howe?

Community members debate pros and cons of rebuilding playground at existing location

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN
Where should the playground at Howe School be located?

That was the subject of debate during an informational meeting on the Howe project held on Sept. 17, at Hiawatha River Community School.

Right now the school district plans to rebuild the playground exactly where it was before, behind the school building next to 43rd Ave. The playground was ripped out a few years ago while the school sat empty and the district contemplated selling it.

However, rebuilding it will require a variance from the city, which requires a 20-foot setback from the street.

Paul Mays of Miller Dunwiddie Architecture explained that the curbing around the old playground still remains. Replacing that and performing the needed ground work would cost an estimated \$40-50,000.

"We're trying to take advantage of the concrete border," said Clyde Kane, Minneapolis Public School (MPS) manager of design and construction. "If it goes someplace else, we will be hard-pressed to find the budget to move it." The total budget for the project (including construction, architect fees and other "soft costs") is \$8 million.

By adhering to the city's setback, the school would lose roughly half the playground space.

There is also space set aside



Katie Bicek and Robb Luckow review plans for the renovation of Howe School during a community meeting on Monday, Sept. 17. Both have children who will be attending Howe next year as third graders. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

in the back of the school building for hard surface play such as hopscotch and four square. On the east side will be an employee parking lot, an enclosed trash area, and space for delivery trucks.

In the current plan, the green space for the soccer/ball fields remains as is.

Some attendees at the Sept. 17 meeting voiced their support for retaining the playing fields as they are and rebuilding the playground where it was. A few pointed out that the soccer field is used by not only school teams, but community ones, as well.

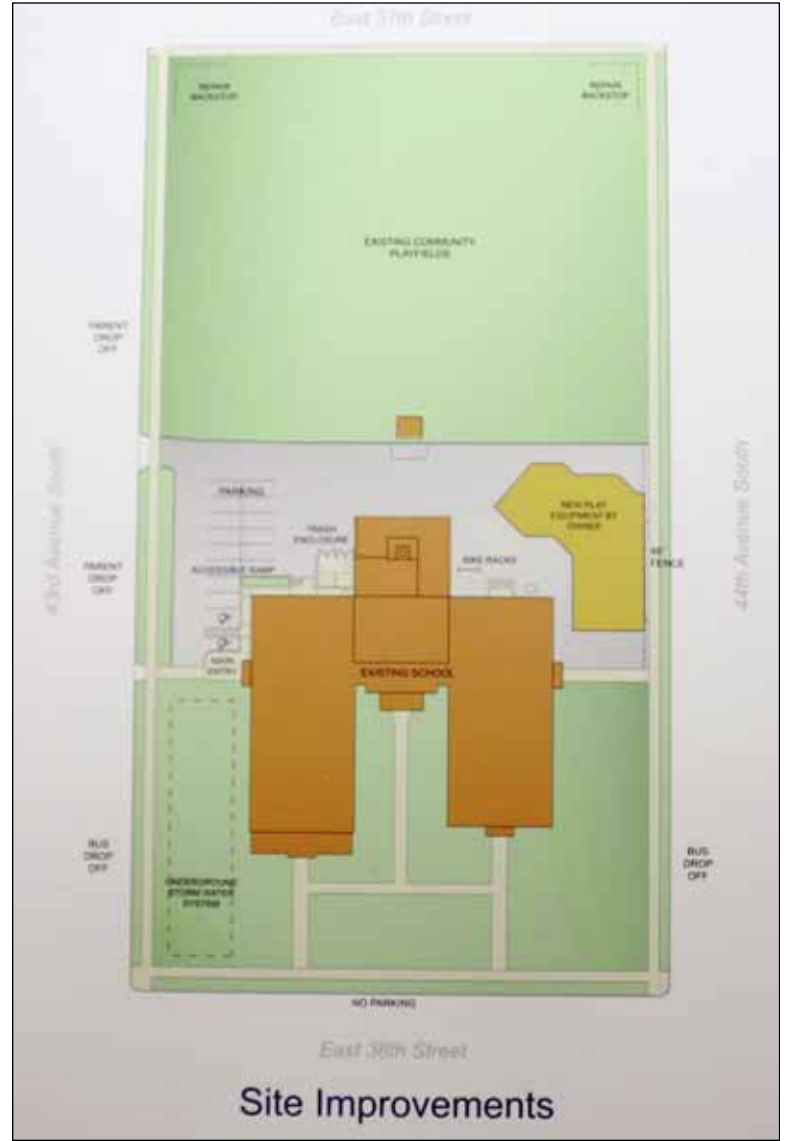
"The need for fields in the com-

munity is very strong," noted MSP Area B Community Liaison Kristen Berg Thompson.

Other community members expressed concern about the playground, and how it is used outside school hours.

"We're not trying to talk against building the playground. We want to see good management," said Rolf Almquist, who lives across the street from the proposed playground location. He suggested that security cameras be installed, and a management plan be created by the school district.

Continued on page 14



This graph provides details of the Howe renovation project. Construction will begin in January and it will be completed by August 2013 in time for the start of the 2013-14 school year.

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Viewpoints

October is the first full month of fall. Summer is slipping away, but it is not usually until the second or third week of October — and the first frost — that we really notice the change. Nights may be cooler (which is a great relief!), but the days are still warm and sunny.

On the Ojibwe calendar above my desk, this is binaakwii-giizis — the month of the falling leaves moon. Like the Jewish and Islamic calendars, the Ojibwe calendar is based on the moon rather than the sun. The calendar I have comes to me each year from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. You can order a free copy of the 2013 calendar at the commission's website: www.glifwc.org. Or send a request to GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

I love to walk along the Mississippi River trails during the fall. My favorite is probably the Winchell Trail, which winds its way from Franklin Avenue to 44th Street. The trail is just below the West River Road, but a world away. My other favorite trail in the autumn is along Minnehaha Creek below the falls.

I also like to ride bike along 46th Street, where the trees form a canopy over the street and the autumn leaves are so beautiful. I ride up to Lake Street and often beyond into the Seward neighborhood.

During October, I like to go to the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings. That's probably because I first 'discovered' the market on an autumn Saturday a lot of years ago. It was a lot smaller then, but I remember piles of squashes and pumpkins.

And then the month ends with the great burst of Halloween.



Hiawatha Notebook

By TOM GILSEAN

Savoring the first full month of fall

Of course, autumn does not usually end in October. There is another full month — November — which follows. So how about you? What are your favorite activities for fall around our neighborhoods. Let me know and I'll pass your ideas on to other readers in an upcoming column.

* * * * *

One of my favorite local musicians will be at the Nokomis Library on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. Paul Metsa, who has been part of the local music scene for more than 30 years, will be at the library to talk about his new book "Blue Guitar Highway." Published by the University of Minnesota Press, this is a memoir of his musical journey.

Metsa is probably best known for songs with social and political themes. In "Slow Justice," for example, he sounds like Woody Guthrie:

Why does justice go so slow
Slow justice slowly go
Poor means stop
Rich means go

And in "Second Avenue Sunset" he offers moving observations about homeless individuals he sees on a downtown street:

Some march in single file,
some stumble two by two
They wear cardboard tuxedos,
and their top hats are made of wire
They rub their hands 'neath the frozen moon

'Round a trash can full of fire

At one point in the song, he sees a couple and poignantly refers to them as "Raggedy Ann and Andy."

Metsa has also written some beautiful love songs. "Prettiest Girl in Town" is one example. "Carved your name on the oak tree by the river where we first kissed." And his song "St. Louis County Fair" paints a picture of Minnesota life as exquisite as Garrison Keillor: "Saturday night on the Midway...our Mardi Gras Midwestern style."

At the October 27 event, Metsa will talk about his book and read from it. Copies will be available for purchase. And, who knows, he just might get out a guitar and sing a few songs.

* * * * *

Our public libraries need friends like you, friends who help out in many ways, from organizing special events to volunteering at fundraising events. Find out more at a meeting of Friends of the Library on Saturday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m.

(Tom Gilsean has been writing for the Longfellow-Nokomis Messenger since 1997. You can write to him via email at tomgilsean@gmail.com. Or write to him in care of the Messenger, 1885 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104.)

By the end of the Minneapolis Monarch Festival on September 8, there were a lot of tired, but happy kids, families, artists, performers, volunteers and staff. An estimated 10,000 people attended and enjoyed the art activities, music, monarchs, flowers, food, games and more.

At the Information Booth, we asked people to write what they thought about the festival. A few comments:

Each year it gets bigger and better! Great attendance, fantastic music. Thank you!.... Nice blend of education, art, music and food.... Buena musica y comida! (Good music and food!).... Great time! Volunteering was fun.... Vengo cada ano, muy buen festival, nos vemos el proximo ano. (I come every year, very good festival, see you next year).... Beautiful! How can I bring this event to my community?

People didn't even seem to mind that the music started over an hour late. Both the primary and backup portable generators for the sound equipment failed. Thankfully, one of the food vendors, Taco Taxi, allowed us to tap into their generator.

We would like to hear your comments if you were at the festival. You can email us at nenan@nokomiseast.org or go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YFXZFB> and take a quick survey. We are always working on improving the festival, so all suggestions are welcome.

Ambassador Monarch

Perhaps the most enriching part of the festival is how it



Some estimates put the attendance at 10,000 guests for the 2012 Monarch Festival held at the Lake Nokomis Naturecape Gardens.

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

By Rita Ulrich and Doug Walter

Festival draws large crowd, great reviews

brings Hispanic and English speaking people together to celebrate something they have in common: their love of the Monarch butterfly. The Monarch is probably the most commonly recognized butterfly in the world. And it certainly is in Minnesota. Parents point them out to their young children, we remark on them when we see them, and if we know a little about their migration to Mexico, we can't help but be amazed. How do they do it?

Now imagine living or growing up in mountains of central Mexico where the monarchs spend the winter. Starting in late October, hundreds of millions of butterflies converge there to spend the winter in semi-hibernation. It is truly a unique place and a unique phenomenon. To ancient Aztecs, Monarchs represented the return of fallen warriors.

So many butterflies cover the trees that they weigh down the branches. Butterflies? Seriously? Yes, they cover the forest floor, trees, everything. When the sun begins to warm them up, the butterflies start flying—so many that you can hear the hum of the wings beating. It's the only place in the world where you can hear that sound.

No wonder the Monarch is an ambassador between our cultures and countries. Aztecs celebrated the return of the Monarchs — and the Minneapolis Monarch Festival celebrates the beginning of the 2,000 mile migration that takes them to their winter home.

Pictures of the festival are on the Minneapolis Monarch Festival Facebook page (or click the FB icon at www.monarchfestival.org). To learn more about monarchs, the migration, conservation efforts, and more, go to www.monarchbutterflyfund.org.

Keewaydin Construction Update

The school construction project is moving along on schedule. The footings and foundations have been poured, and now the walls are being built. Mechanicals that need to be in place before the floors are poured are going in currently.

The power transformers for the Rec Center and the

pool have been moved, and new feeds installed.

Discussions on what should be included or removed because of budget concerns are going on between the School's Principal, Martha Sprigg, her staff and parents.

RSP Architects supplies NENA with a short, biweekly construction update, complete with photos. We post them on www.nokomiseast.org. A link to the update page can be found on our home page.

Volunteers Needed for Kids Vote on Election Day

Do you have a child between five and seventeen years old? Then, take them with you to vote on November 6th. On Election Day, Kids Voting Minneapolis provides students an authentic voting experience either during the school day (in specific schools), or with their parents between the hours of 2:00 and 8:00pm. Students cast a Kids Voting ballot that includes many of the same candidates and issues on the adult ballot.

Kids Voting Minneapolis can only provide this with the help of many volunteers working 2:00-5:00, 5:00-8:00, or 2:00-8:00 on Election Day. They would like a volunteer in every precinct to explain the voting process and ensure that each precinct's votes are tabulated correctly. They are especially looking for volunteers who neighborhood kids might recognize: parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, directors, etc.

For more information or to volunteer in your neighborhood, contact Will Howell at will@kidsvoting.org or 612-568-VOTE.

Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

Livability Group: 7PM, Monday, October 8, at NENA, 3000 E. 50th St.

NENA Board: 7 PM, Thursday, October 25, at NENA. Last-minute schedule changes are posted on our Calendar page at www.nokomiseast.org or you may call (612) 724-5652.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, contact the NENA Office at (612) 724-5652 or email.

By IRIC NATHANSON

After a series of lengthy delays, work has finally begun on the long-awaited Longfellow Station at the 38th and Hiawatha. The \$31 million project will provide a new supply of mixed-income rental housing on the former Purina Mill site. The project will also include a 10,000 square foot commercial building across from the 38th Street LRT station.

Longfellow Station's origins extend back to 2006 when Dale Joel, a St. Paul developer, unveiled an ambitious plan to replace the aging grain elevators along a three block stretch of Hiawatha Avenue with a series of high rise towers containing more than 2,000 units of housing.

Joel described his project as a "transit-oriented development," a term not widely used back in 2006. He explained that he was drawn to the site because of its proximity to the Hiawatha LRT line, which had opened three years earlier.

Local development officials were intrigued by Joel's plan because they hoped to use LRT to spur development along the underutilized Hiawatha corridor. Soon, the St. Paul developer was receiving public financing commitments which could enable him to purchase South Minneapolis site and prepare it for development.

Joel's plan also attracted the attention of the Longfellow Community Council which began negotiations with him for a non-binding agreement spelling out ways that his project would promote community betterment in Longfellow. At one point, the draft community benefits agreement called on Joel to provide direct funding to LCC, but that provision was later dropped when council leaders concluded that it could entangle LCC in a conflict of interest.

By 2007, Longfellow Station was scaled back to a partial block site on the east side of Hiawatha between 38th and 39th Street, occupied by the Purina Mill. That year, Joel received the

Work begins on long-delayed Longfellow Station project



After a series of lengthy delays, work has finally begun on the long-awaited Longfellow Station at the 38th and Hiawatha. The \$31 million project will provide a new supply of mixed-income rental housing on the former Purina Mill site. The project will also include a 10,000 square foot commercial building across from the 38th Street LRT station.

green light from the City of Minneapolis to move ahead with a revamped project, now scheduled to provide 300 units of mixed income rental housing.

But then, Joel, like other local developers, got caught up in the real estate crash of 2008. His financing dried up and he lost the development rights to the Purina site. Even though the project was now on hold, public funding was still in place to pay for the demolition of the Purina Mill and the clean-up of the polluted site. That work occurred in 2009 and 2010 while city officials began looking for another developer who could resume work on the project.

They eventually selected George Sherman, who had a long track record in the real estate field. Sherman was adept at working with complex projects that tapped a broad range of public funding sources. Over

the years, his firm had forged effectiveness partnerships with public agencies that wanted to promote development on distressed or underutilized sites.

"When the public is involved, the project may take longer to complete and it must meet high standards of transparency," Sherman told the *Messenger* in 2010. "You have to be patient and you have to be willing to withstand public scrutiny. Even the simplest projects have complex elements and face substantial obstacles that must be overcome."

Sherman soon discovered several serious obstacles that had been placed in his path by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The federal agency had been expected to provide a loan guaranty for a city revenue bond used to finance the project. The financing, known as a conduit bond, relied

on private investors to purchase the bonds issued by the city's development agency, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED)

"First, HUD had concerns about the power lines that ran through the site," said Wes Butler, the CPED development manager who helped oversee the project. "Those concerns were resolved when we were able to show that the power lines were not harmful. Then there were new concerns from HUD about the impact of noise from the rail line along the edge of the site. George was able to show that the noise levels were within HUD's acceptable level, but still we weren't able to get a green light from HUD."

"Finally, George concluded that he needed to move ahead without HUD, so he arranged private financing through a partnership between

U.S. Bank and a large east coast insurance company," Butler explained.

Under the plan now in place, Longfellow Station, which relies on more than 20 public and private funding sources, will provide a mix of 180 market rate and affordable rental units. A total of 108 units will be affordable to people with incomes at or below 60% of the area median. Of those, 36 units will be affordable to people with incomes at or below 50% of median.

"This project is important to the city, because it helps us achieve three of our key goals," Butler said.

It cleans up a polluted site; it increases the supply of affordable housing and it promotes transit oriented development. By this time next year we are hoping that people will be ready to start moving in."



Monarch Festival Volunteers Rock!

NENA would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2012 Minneapolis Monarch Festival a success, especially the volunteers and staff who went above and beyond:

- **The Planning Team** that organized the festival: MaryLynn Pulscher (MPRB), Liz Young-Isebrand (Monarch Lab, U of M), Vicki Bonk (NENA volunteer), Susana DeLeon (KeztaCoatlrique), Larry Long (Community Celebration of Place), and the NENA staff, Soraya Valedon, Doug Walter and Rita Ulrich

- **Volunteer Team Leaders:** Jessica Vasquez, Andrea Jauli, Eric Rehm, Marian Streitz, Ron Leurquin, Lynne St. John, Beth Bergun, Carol Kuechler, Vicki Bonk and Lisa Dunn

- **And the 60 other people**, including 15 bilingual volunteers, who came from all over the metro area and who gave up their Saturday to help make this a spectacular event for an estimated 10,000 guests!

You all have our continuing gratitude, awe, and respect.

Event photos are on the Minneapolis Monarch Festival's Facebook page. Watch for information on the 9/07/13 Festival at www.monarchfestival.org



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What's Cookin' ...

By COLETTE MULLENMASTER

Standard Heating and Air Conditioning, Scott Pearson

CM: How did Standard Heating & Air Conditioning get its start?

SP: "Standard Heating & Air Conditioning started in 1930. In the late 20s, a solicitor knocked on the door of our grandmother's NE Minneapolis home. This solicitor asked Mrs. Ferrara if the family needed to have its heating equipment serviced. She agreed to purchase the service with the condition that the company give her son a job, which they did. And that was the start of a long story for Tony Ferrara and his family in the heating and cooling business.

After working for some time in the area, Tony Ferrara went to St. Louis to sell heating equipment with Standard Heating in St. Louis; because he missed his home in the Twin Cities so much, he decided to come back and start Standard Heating & Air Conditioning in his parents' backyard.

Today, after more than 83 years, Standard Heating & Air Conditioning is still owned and operated by the Ferrara family. Todd and Ted Ferrara work hard every day to provide the Twin Cities with the highest professional service with the care of a family business.

CM: What is the best thing about doing business in this community?

SP: The Longfellow/Nokomis community has

good quality homes with unique craftsman architectural style; that is why our technicians enjoy working in this area. In addition, it wouldn't be surprising to find out that most of the heating and air conditioning equipment has been installed by Standard Heating & Air Conditioning in the area, since we have been part of the community since 1930.



Scott Pearson

CM: How does Standard Heating & Air Conditioning see itself in the community in the next five years?

SP: Standard Heating & Air Conditioning is an active community member committed to serving the community with professionalism and the expert care of a family owned and operated company. For more than 83 years, we have served generations of Longfellow/Nokomis residents, and we will continue to do that.

TIP!

With the winter months ahead, the house will be closed up most of the time, which makes it a critical time to check to see if your carbon monoxide detector is working properly. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas that is always present in low levels in the air. It is formed from incomplete combustion from any flame-fueled device, including, furnaces, space heaters, and water heaters. Low levels of carbon monoxide poisoning cause symptoms similar to those of the flu or a cold, including shortness of breath, mild headaches, and nausea. Higher levels of poisoning could cause severe health damage. Because carbon monoxide is slightly lighter than air and also because it may be found with warm, rising air, detectors should be placed on a wall about five feet above the floor. The detector may be placed on the ceiling. Each floor needs a separate detector. Also, be aware that the average life span of many carbon monoxide detectors is about two years.

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Oct. 30, 6:45 p.m.



Dedication day June 30, 1912. (Photo courtesy of the Minnehaha Academy Archives)

Minnehaha Academy

Continued from page 1

"I had to organize all that to make it easier to do the research," Ekstedt recalled. "I spent several months going through the material."

He said the book has a significant number of pictures.

"We wanted it to be something people could easily browse through, with each section broken into decades," Ekstedt noted. "We also wanted something that students from each decade could connect with. We focused on getting a lot of faces of teachers and administrators who people would recognize."

He said that completing the book took him about a year. He added that it was a collaborative effort, with the school's history committee providing massive assistance.

"I found all kinds of materi-

al," Ekstedt related. "It was definitely an educational experience for me."

He said he found a story of how the school supporters sold off nearly everything the school had that wasn't being used, like typewriters. "They were doing almost anything they could to keep the school going during the Depression," Ekstedt said.

He said he stuck to archive material for the book, rather than doing any interviews, in order to keep each decade equally significant. But he drew heavily on voices through the history of the school, such as a speech given by the first president, Rev. Theodore Anderson.

"I was really struck by a couple of things," Ekstedt said. "One was how the school got started, with educational work beginning in the homes. The other thing that evolved from my research was that people in every decade were as concerned about the future of the school as they were with its history. And that's still happening today."



Physics lab at Minnehaha Academy 1918. (Photo courtesy of the Minnehaha Academy Archives)

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GET READY FOR FALL

By DEBORAH BROTZ

While you're still enjoying the warm, sunny days of summer, fall is right around the corner. It's not too early to be thinking about what you need to do to get your home and garden ready for winter.

If you feel your home could use some fixing up, you might want to check out how to get some financial help for your project from the Neighborhood Energy Connection.

HOME & GARAGE

Gutters and Downspouts

Clean gutters and drain pipes and be sure they drain away from the house. Drain outside faucets.

Be sure water is not coming down behind gutters and that

all support brackets are securely in place.

Check to ensure water drains properly and doesn't pool.

Windows and Doors

Change summer screens to cool weather storm windows and doors.

Inspect and repair any loose or damaged window or door frames.

Install weather stripping or caulking around windows and doors.

Clean and lubricate garage door hinges, rollers, and tracks and be sure screens are tight

Remove window air-conditioners or put weatherproof covers on them.

Heating Systems

Replace the filter in your furnace.

Have a heating professional check your heating system.

Clean your ducts to better your heating system's efficiency.

Clean your thermostat's heat sensor, contact points, and contacts. Lubricate hot water heater's pump and motor. Bleed air from radiators or convectors.

Drain hot water heater. Remove sediment from the bottom of the tank.

Plumbing

To prevent pipes from freezing and bursting, ensure that the pipes, as well as the wall cavities where they reside, are well insulated.

Be sure that you know how to locate and turn off the water shut-off valve in case pipes freeze.

Chimney and Fireplace

Have a certified chimney sweep inspect and clean the flues and check your fireplace damper.

Test your fireplace flue for a tight seal when closed.

Install a carbon monoxide alarm near the fireplace and furnace.

Attic Ventilation

Be sure attic insulation doesn't cover ventilation vents in the eaves to prevent winter ice dams on the roof.

Be sure ridge vents and vents at

eaves are free of plants and debris.

Check bird and rodent screens for attic vents to prevent any unwanted guests.

Roof

Check roof and around vents, skylights and chimneys for leaks.

Minnesota Housing Fix-up Fund

If you want to fix up your home, Neighborhood Energy Connection can help with the Minnesota Housing Fix-up Fund. The

Continued on page 13

LAWN & GARDEN

Lawn Care

Fertilize cool season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue, and perennial ryegrass.

Eliminate broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, broadleaf plantain, and ground ivy with weed killer.

Continue mowing every week or so until grass has stopped growing.

Lay seed so that your lawn gets a head start in the spring. Cover the seeds lightly with straw or mulch to protect from feeding birds.

Dethatch or aerate, or do both to reduce thatch, a layer of dead

grass stems and roots that build up faster than they can decompose, accumulating on top of the soil layer and reducing water penetration to the roots.

Run all gas-powered lawn equipment until the fuel tank is empty.

Trees & Shrubs

For cooler regions, plant trees, shrubs, and vines now through the end of October.

This gives most plants a head start in the spring, since roots will grow in still-warm soil long after air temperatures drop.

Protect plants from rodents by keeping mice, voles, and other rodents from feeding on the bark of young trees in winter by wrapping a cylinder of 2-inch-mesh hardware cloth around the trunk.

Protect tender evergreens from cold by surrounding these plants with a shelter of burlap or old sheets. Provide additional protection by using an anti-transpirant spray on the foliage after the first hard frost.

Soak soil around trees and shrubs if rainfall has been light

to ensure that plants enter winter fully hydrated.

Prune your trees and shrubs after the leaves turn to encourage healthy growth in the spring.

Remove leaves from lawn and planting areas.

Trim any tree limbs that are dangerously close to power lines or the roof of your house.

Flowers & Gardens

Plant bulbs such as crocus, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and other spring-flowering bulbs.

In cold-winter areas, mulch after a hard freeze. Spread 2 to 3 inches of compost, composted

cedar, pine, or fir bark, weed-free straw, or similar material.

In northern areas, dig and store tender bulbs such as tuberous begonias, dahlias, and gladiolus.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer has been found in Como Park and the North End as well as other places and the disease is spreading.

Telltale signs of the emerald ash borer can include D-shaped exit

Continued on page 16

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A few examples of the wild animals you will find in the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods. Photos by (clockwise from top left): wild turkey, Gordon Dietzman; red fox, National Park Service; great blue heron, Erin Stinson, Mississippi River Fund; coyote, Debra Aune; deer, National Park Service; eagle, Gordon Dietzman.

Wild in the city

By JILL BOOGREN

From their home atop a sloping hillside near Minnehaha Creek in south Minneapolis, Gail and Mike Foster see a lot of wildlife. Great blue herons, egrets, muskrats and ducks frequently take to the water. Mink and red fox make the occasional appearance. Even a coyote has been lurking nearby.

Another resident, Caitlin Cudd, with three of her kids, Junior, Dominic and Damien, counted 14 black-crowned night herons in trees at the creek.

People are seeing wild turkeys along W. River Parkway (some may remember one who commandeered the circle of grass inside the roundabout at Minnehaha Falls). Bald eagles soar over the river by day, and raccoons emerge from storm drains at night. Deer make their homes at Fort Snelling State Park.

Minneapolis, it seems, is where the wild things are.

The Fosters say it wasn't always this way.

"I don't remember the wildlife as so prevalent," said Gail, who lives with her husband, Mike, in the same house she lived in as a young girl in the early 1950's. "It's kind of fun to watch it all."

Mike, whose childhood home was about 6 blocks away, said he never saw wild turkeys, great blue herons, egrets, fox, or mink. "None of those things I ever saw as a kid," he said. "Eagles were endangered, so we just never saw them."

Coyotes especially, Gail thinks, are a newer thing. "I just don't think they were around," she said. "If they were, they were scarce. It may have made the front page [news]."

With no census data tracking wildlife populations in the city, it's hard to say whether and how much of an increase there is for any given species. But based on the phone calls he gets and stories he hears, Dan Niziolek, man-

ager at Minneapolis Animal Care & Control, said deer, wild turkey and coyote sightings "without a doubt are up."

Certainly the chatter is there for coyotes, who have made the news recently in area suburbs. Wild turkeys, according to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website, have made a tremendous comeback, going from just a few birds in the 1970's to more than 30,000 statewide.

Beavers are now found cruising Minneapolis waterways, and otters were recently seen across the river at Crosby Farm.

"25 years ago you never saw beaver or otter anywhere in the metro," said John Moriarty, natural resources manager for Ramsey County Parks. "Now populations are rebounding. They're expanding into the developed habitat."

And there are definitely more bald eagles. According to Moriarty, whose job includes flying the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) corridor to survey eagle nests, eagle numbers have been increasing at about 20% per year since surveys began in 2006. There are active nests at Pike Island, Crosby Farm, Lilydale, and up the Minnesota River, as well as others that fall outside the MNRRA boundary.

Rich Habitat

Why we attract such a wide diversity of species says a lot about conservation efforts.

Erica Hoaglund, nongame wildlife specialist for the DNR's Division of Ecological and Water Resources, said what they look at when surveying wildlife in really urban areas is habitat: how much, the quality, and its connectivity from one patch to another.

"The more areas you have that are more native vegetation, less disturbed, more connected, all of those things are factors that we look for," she said.

It's not just that the river, creek and lakes form natural linkages. Since the mid-1990's the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) has been converting areas, many that were previously mown, to natural areas. This is done through shoreline restoration and by creating wetlands, native gardens, and stormwater treatment ponds.

"We provide a phenomenal amount of habitat," said MPRB Environmental Education Coordinator MaryLynn Pulscher. "Birding is fantastic because of the ponds." Pulscher explained that they provide plants that attract insect species that attract songbirds.

Cudd, who lives near Lake Hiawatha, said they've seen tons of Baltimore orioles and blue birds lately. "It really adds to our quality of life," she said.

While "generalists," like deer, turkey, coyote, and fox, who do not require specialized habitats or diets to thrive, can easily adjust to new surroundings, other species, like night herons, are more particular.

"When they pick a place to nest, it's fairly significant... It has to have the resources needed to complete their lifecycle, there are only so many places they can be in," said Hoaglund. "They're one of those things that you don't see that often. Even when they're around, they tend to be a little more secretive and hide."

The presence of nesting waterbirds, eagles, mink, beavers and otters is also an indicator of improved water quality.

"Restoration of habitat has a positive cascading effect, improving water quality, reducing disturbance. All of that makes an area more attractive to a species," said Hoaglund.

Coexisting

Wild animals are also getting more used to humans. Eagles

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Wild in the city

Continued from page 8

that fledge nearby who see people won't be as bothered by us as those raised in the wild. "It's the same way for a lot of other wildlife. They don't need that wilderness habitat to survive," said Moriarty.

Especially coyotes, which are very adaptable. If the coyote they saw was "brazen" and "didn't seem real skiddish," to use Gail's descriptions, it could be that this generation has figured out that people here aren't a threat for them.

This gives little comfort to Mike, who said the coyote he saw was just 15 feet from their fence line and looked not bothered in the least.

"The thing that concerns me is if that coyote was raised in the area and has a reduced fear of

humans, he'd have no trouble taking a dog or cat," he said. He worries about letting their dog out in the morning (there have been reports of coyotes taking pets in nearby suburbs). "Your dog is a family member."

Niziolek said the policy at MACC is to let wildlife be and intervene only when there is injured wildlife or there is a truly aggressive wild predator. "Beyond that, we ask people to get out the camera, sit back and enjoy."

Niziolek reminds people to keep a distance and not to feed or encourage wild animals. There have been no coyote bites in Minneapolis, he said, and nationally, bites that have occurred are people who are feeding the coyotes.

People should cover garbage cans and compost bins, watch their pets outdoors and keep them on a leash. If a wild animal gets too close for comfort, people should use "hazing" — make noise, yell, bang pots and pans,



A coyote caught on camera. (Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

spray them with a hose to scare them away.

For Mike, the techniques sound okay in abstract, but in practice it's clumsy. He rejects the

notion that living with coyotes is "the new normal." "Having all this other wildlife around is fantastic," he said. "But [coyotes] are at the top of the food chain

around here for predators."

Niziolek said if an animal is unfazed after hazing and still appears aggressive, people should call Animal Control.

Supporting wildlife in the Minneapolis area

By JILL BOOGREN

Opportunities abound for people to experience our urban wildlife, and fall is a great time to get out and volunteer.

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board invites participation in its neighborhood naturalist programs for kids and its Come Out and Play Family Nature Club. We want kids to "get down and grubby," said MPRB Environmental Education Coordinator MaryLynn Pulscher. "One of our goals is to connect with nature. We want that next generation of park stewards... If you don't love it, how's the next generation going to love it?"

Visit www.minneapolisarks.org, and look under Volunteer and Environmental Programs for listings.

Friends of the Mississippi River offers a variety of ways for volunteers to get involved. Check opportunities at

www.fmr.org (Oct. 13th Oak Savanna Invasive Species/Brush Removal, 36th St. and W. River Pkwy - pre-registration required).

The Department of Natural Resources relies on volunteers to help with activities throughout the year. Go to www.dnr.state.mn.us to see opportunities and to sign up.

Mississippi River Fund hosts River Action Volunteer Events (RAVEs) as a fun way to explore and support the river under the guidance of National Park Rangers. See www.missriverfund.org (Oct. 6th Bike RAVE at Coldwater Spring - pre-registration required).

Deer found at Fort Snelling State Park. (Photo by Gordon Dietzman)



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Longfellow musician

Continued from page 2

the doctor's office and waiting to take her chemo, and so she listened to music."

Wirth-Davis said he was not writing or creating as much as he used to while his mom was sick. "When a family member is dying from cancer, you feel like you're prepared in a way," he said. "At some point you know she's not getting better."

But her passing in April 2010 at age 59 was devastating, and it took some time for Wirth-Davis to work his way through his grief. Then he knew what he wanted to do: produce an album to honor

his mother.

With this in mind, he applied for a composer's fellowship from the McKnight Foundation. When he received it, he was the youngest to be awarded the grant, and as far as he knows, the only hip hop artist to receive it.

The grant enabled him to leave his job at Lionsgate, a school where he worked with autistic youngsters, and devote his full time to working on his album.

"I've always worked with children, and I loved that job," Wirth-Davis said, "but it was nice to be able to take time to create the music. Before, I worked 9 to 5 and then was doing gigs until 2 or 3 a.m. It is easier to be creative when it's not an afterthought."

And the creative juices started flowing. "A lot of stuff came out, pretty quickly. A lot of ideas were

being brought up. Getting some of that stuff out was therapeutic," Wirth-Davis said.

He started working on the album in stages. "I began writing music in the summer of 2011, and I wrote for two to three months," he noted. "Then I had to get the band together to rehearse and record." He records at Waterbury Studios in Minneapolis.

"Then I went back to the studio to flesh it all out," Wirth-Davis continued. "It took almost a year."

He wrote and recorded a number of songs, and then sampled from the music he had written and recorded for the album. Sampling is the act of taking a portion, or sample, of one sound recording and reusing it as an instrument or a sound recording in a different song or piece.

"There are elements of hip hop in the album, but it is not a hip hop record," he explained. "There are no vocals, and it's laid back with elements of jazz and classical music, too."

He said he tried to keep the music positive and not sad to listen to. He will perform the entire album at the concert Oct. 11 with a 15-piece band. K. Raydio, an R and B soloist, and The Chalice, an all-female hip hop group, will also perform.

Wirth-Davis is donating 75 per cent of his album sales and the concert proceeds to the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance.

His mom would have been proud.



Longfellow resident Spencer Wirth-Davis' new album will be released Oct. 2 and a release concert will be held Oct. 11 at Cedar Cultural Center. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)



Join the second annual Chloe's Fight 5k/Coffee Stroll to raise money for exciting research being conducted at the University of Minnesota.

Fundraiser for Chloe Oct. 20

Does sipping coffee on a Saturday morning change the world? Sometimes it can. Join us for the second annual Chloe's Fight 5k/Coffee Stroll to raise money for exciting research being conducted at the University of Minnesota. Research is aimed at finding a cure for MLD, a rare genetic childhood disease and advances in curing MLD hold the promise of finding cures for

other degenerative diseases. Your participation will contribute to cutting edge research in your own backyard. Festivities include a race around Lake Nokomis, live music, puppet show, kid's race, and great coffee! What: 5k/Coffee Stroll. Where: Lake Nokomis (starts at the beach)

When: Saturday, October 20th. 9-11 a.m.

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Longfellow Community Council

Serving Longfellow, Hiawatha, Cooper, and Howe neighborhoods

Be on the Lookout for Art in All Directions

Coming soon to East Lake Street will be displays of art in many shapes and sizes. LCC is partnering with the League of Longfellow artists to install displays of artwork in vacant storefronts and on utility boxes. Be on the lookout for 10 utility boxes along East Lake Street to be transformed with colorful artwork from LoLa beginning in early October. Bright yellow LoLa posters will also be popping up in various storefronts along East Lake Street over the coming year on a rotating basis, each with a work of art and a picture and quote of the artist that created it. Thanks to the City of Minneapolis Great Streets program and City of Minneapolis graffiti prevention program for making these projects possible!



Free Community Dinner

Tuesday, October 2
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church
4104 37th Avenue South

Join the Longfellow Community Council (LCC), Volunteers of America (VOA), and Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church for the third and final free community dinner. VOA residents will prepare chili and soup made with fresh vegetables from the Minnehaha Community Garden for this autumnal meal - the grand finale of the Neighborhood Partnership Initiative project which funded jobs training, a stipend and educational workshops for VOA residents. We're so proud of what our partners and participants have achieved. Join us to celebrate their hard work as we close out the program for 2012.

Calendar of Meetings and Events

October 2012

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

Advancement

Wednesday, October 3
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Fireroast Mountain Café
3800 37th Avenue S
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

Neighborhood Development Caucus

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

River Gorge Committee

Monday, October 8
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Hiawatha School Park, 4305 42nd St. E
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

Longfellow Faith Forum

Tuesday, October 9
Holy Trinity Church
2730 East 31st Street
12:00 - 1:30 pm
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

Community Connections

Tuesday, October 9
6:30 - 8:30 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: joanna@longfellow.org

Board of Directors

Thursday, October 18
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S
FFI: melanie@longfellow.org

Environment and Transportation

Tuesday, October 23
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Hiawatha School Park 4305 42nd St. E
FFI: spencer@longfellow.org

Longfellow Community Council

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



Rake for the River Community Clean Up

Through Nov. 4th

Be part of Longfellow's 2nd annual Community Rake! Build community, help the river and win great prizes! Organize your block, faith group, school, or other group of volunteers to spend an hour or two raking the leaves, dirt and other debris from your street and storm drains. Help improve water quality and be eligible for gift certificates to local businesses! Lawn signs, bags and other materials provided by LCC's River Gorge Committee. Register online at www.longfellow.org or contact Hillary Oppmann at hillary.oppmann@gmail.com or 724-8110.

Identification required to vote at LCC General Membership – Bylaw Amendment Vote

The October 23rd LCC General Membership "Best Meeting Ever" is open to everyone and we encourage people community-wide to attend. At this year's meeting we will be voting to amend the LCC Bylaws (see at www.longfellow.org).

In order for LCC to keep its good standing as a non-profit, we must follow the Minnesota Statute that requires us to identify our members in order to allow them to vote.

If you live in greater Longfellow (Hiawatha, Cooper, Longfellow or Howe neighborhoods) then you can vote as long as you show a valid ID or have a Longfellow resident who can vouch for you that has a valid ID. If you represent or own a business, you need to show proof of your ownership or employment.

One of our goals at LCC is to be as inclusive as possible. We want everyone to feel welcome at our meetings and to share



their opinions. If you have any issues with identification but want to be allowed to vote,

please call our office at 612-722-4529. We hope to see you on October 23rd.

In Our Community

Garden Club meets Oct 10

What is all the fuss about heirloom tomatoes? Did this summer's disappoint? Come and hear Charlie Bowler, local tomato and garlic grower extraordinaire, talk about which varieties do well in Longfellow and how to improve your results growing them.

And why is garlic planted in the Fall? Charlie knows about raising garlic here in the neighborhood, too, and can help you get started. Get garlic bulbs to plant from any food co-op (must be organic), or check with the local garden stores.

Time: 7-9 p.m., October 10, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave South.

Find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub> or <https://sites.google.com/site/longfellowgardenclubminnesota/>

Banking films screened locally

Two analytical films related to banking, Wall Street, and economic issues in the US will be shown Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis - "Inside Job" Oct. 4 and the new "Heist" documentary on Oct. 11. Freewill offering for refreshments. 2730 East 31st St. www.htlcmpls.org 612-729-8358.

Something new is happening here!

Living Table United Church of Christ (formerly Minnehaha/Spirit of the Lakes), 4001 38th Avenue South, is holding a multi family yard sale to benefit the church on Saturday, October 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Besides gently used household items and clothing, Arts and Crafts sold by vendors, books homemade pickles, and many other items for sale will be there, as well as chances to win prizes. Our famous Sloppy Joes will be served for lunch over the noon hour. Please join us for shopping, lunch, or both!

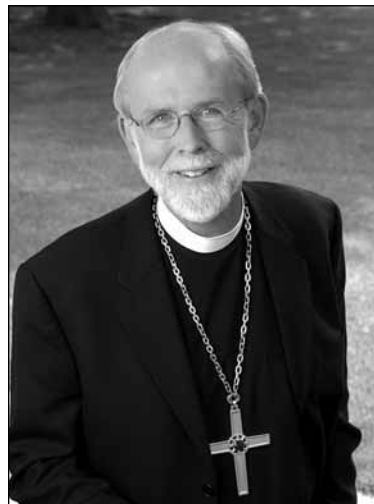
Coldwater Photo Blitz

Bring your camera to Coldwater Spring for the park's second Photo Blitz on Sunday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-noon. Take pictures of life and landscape at this park in progress, located at 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive South; between Minnehaha Falls Regional Park and Fort Snelling State Park. Hosted by Mississippi River Fund.

Genealogy can be fun

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis

Community Education for a presentation about genealogy on Tuesday, October 16 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st Street. Dr. Stephanie Branson will assist seniors in finding their roots, as well as leaving a trace of themselves for future generations. Basic methods of online and postal mail searches will be explained, and participants will have an opportunity to begin their own family tree.



Bishop Mark S. Hanson

Bishop Hanson speaks at Holy Trinity

Bishop Mark S. Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will be the speaker at the Johnson Symposium on Faith & Society at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E 31st Street, Minneapolis. Friday, Nov 16 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov 17, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. For tickets, contact the church office at 612-729-8358, www.htlcmpls.org, or email office@htlcmpls.org.

Harvest Dinner October 11 at Epworth

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., will have its annual Harvest Dinner Thursday, Oct. 11, serving from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu is roast turkey with all the trimmings; tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children, children under 5 are FREE and \$25 for a family (dine-in only). Carry-out is available for individual meals. A Mini-Boutique will be open 4:45 to 8 p.m. for a jump-start on holiday shopping. Call 612-722-0232 for information.

Faith Church hosts Potato Dinner Oct. 28

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church 24th Annual Baked Potato Dinner will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 28, 2012, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The dinner will be in the

lower level of the church at 3430 East 51st Street. Menu includes a large baked potato, toppings, salad bar, pie and beverages for only \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 5-12, and under 5 free. Call the church office at 612-729-5463 to order your tickets or for more information. Tickets are also available at the door.

Longfellow Community Event-ECFE Speaker

The ECFE East Parent Advisory Council (PAC) for Minneapolis Schools Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program will be sponsoring speaker Erin Walsh. The topic will be "Setting Loving Limits: Concrete Strategies for Positive Discipline". The event date is Thursday, October 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. The location is Anne Sullivan Communication Center at 3100 East 28th Street 55406 in Minneapolis. No cost, and limited free childcare available. For childcare reservations or questions, call 612-668-4980.

LBA meets at Gandhi Mahal

Longfellow Business Association meets on Thursday, October 11, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at Gandhi Mahal community room, 3009 27th Avenue S. for a Social Media Workshop.

Peter Fleck will present an overview of web sites and social networking geared for small businesses and describe some easy and time-efficient methods to extend your reach on the Web using tools like Google Plus, Yelp, Twitter, and Facebook. For more information call Ruth 612-722-4529 x1

Minnehaha Communion Fall Rummage Sale

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Av South. Fall Rummage Sale, Saturday, October 13th from 9 to 1 p.m. Noon to 1 p.m. - bagtime. Great sloppy joes available. 612-722-9527.

Coldwater Spring Events: Sept. 29, Oct. 13 and 28

On National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to noon, volunteers can plant trees and native wetland plants at Coldwater Spring. The National Park Service, Mississippi River Fund, and REI are coordinating this major volunteer event. REI will provide lunch and T-shirts. Volunteers need to register online at www.missriverfund.org.

National Park Service rangers will lead free tours of Coldwater from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. to celebrate

the park's opening. (no reservations needed for tours.)

Launched in 1994, National Public Lands Day is the country's largest hands-on volunteer effort to enhance America's public lands. With the help of many volunteers, the National Park Service is restoring Coldwater to an oak savanna prairie. Coldwater Spring is located at 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive South; between Minnehaha Falls Regional Park and Fort Snelling State Park.

On Saturday, October 13, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., a National Park Service ranger will lead a free tour of Coldwater Spring, a landmark considered to be Minnesota's first American settlement. The National Park Service is restoring Coldwater to an oak savanna prairie. Coldwater Spring is located at 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive South; between Minnehaha Falls Regional Park and Fort Snelling State Park. (No registration needed)

On Sunday, October 28, from 8 a.m. to noon, the Mississippi River Fund is hosting a Photo Blitz at Coldwater Spring, a historic landmark considered to be Minnesota's first American settlement. People are encouraged to bring their cameras and take pictures of life and landscape. The National Park Service is restoring Coldwater to an oak savanna prairie. Coldwater Spring is located at 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive South; between Minnehaha Falls Regional Park and Fort Snelling State Park. (No registration needed)

Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner November 3

The Annual Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner will be held Saturday, November 3 at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church 4101 37th Av South. Served family style, servings 4pm, 5:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., \$16. Call church office 612-722-9527 reservations necessary.

Benefit featuring musician Michael Monroe

Join People for Parks' Falls 4 All Committee for an intimate concert featuring Regional Emmy-award winning Minnesota musical artist Michael Monroe on Saturday, October 27, from 6 - 9 p.m. at 2720 W. 43rd St, Minneapolis (above the Wild Rumpus Bookstore). Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages while shopping at the silent and live auctions, including items such as a North Shore getaway, 4 new tires for your passenger vehicle, original artwork and others. Admission: \$80 single, \$150 a couple.

Proceeds benefit the universal access playground being planned for Minnehaha Park's

Wabun Picnic Area, specially designed for children with disabilities to ensure that everyone, with and without disabilities, can play together. To register, visit www.falls4all.com or mail your check to People for Parks Fall Concert, PO Box 24901, Minneapolis MN 55424. Limited seating available, so be sure to register early. For more information, contact Peggy Halvorson athalvop2000@yahoo.com.

Can't dance? Tapestry Folkdance can help

International folk dance lessons for beginners will be given Fridays, 7:30-9 p.m. starting in September, at Tapestry Folkdance Center, 3748 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55406. The cost is \$8 or \$6 members/\$5 students/ kids 13 and under FREE (must be supervised by an adult)

Beginning International Folk Dance classes have returned to Tapestry Folkdance Center on Friday nights. Fun for those who have never danced before, or for anyone who wants to learn the fundamental steps and patterns that are the building blocks of the world's dances, we'll learn a wide variety of line and couple dances from many countries: the Balkans to England, the United States to Israel and everywhere in between (and beyond).

The dances will start off easy, little more than walking to music, and we'll gradually get more complicated as the year and our skills progress. Feel free to start coming at any time; come whenever you can. There's no need to bring a partner; there will be plenty of opportunity to trade off partners and learn all the steps.

Above all, we'll have fun learning to dance together. After the lessons, we can stay and practice our new skills alongside other dancers during request dancing until 11:30 p.m.

Theresa Mish, Ed Stern and Fer Horn have been teaching Beginning International at Tapestry since 2005 and dancing since long before that. Their fun and friendly style concentrates on learning to enjoy the dance, the music and your fellow dancers in a stress-free environment.

Hope for Parents Oct. 8

Hope for Parents will be presented Monday, Oct. 8, from 7-9 p.m., at Hope Lutheran Church, 5728 Cedar Ave. S. The program will focus on "Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution for Families." This free session is designed to assist families in making healthier decisions to reduce conflict between members. It is presented by Dr. Mark Carlson. CEU credits are available.

Recently, I got a job selling appliances. Since I've sold everything in the 'F's'; that is, furniture, furs, and floors, I thought I'd jump to the head of the alphabet. It's back to work, and more good old disposable income. Those bath towels I bought in August only sparked my interest in changing the colors in the bathroom. Thelavender sponge paint job from 12 years ago wasn't looking so hot. It was time for a change.

A month later, on a Friday morning, I woke up with the idea to paint the bathroom a smoky blue, or French Blue. It's funny how everyone I talked to had their own idea of what is French Blue. I asked a couple of designers, and they both described completely different colors. My French Blue is a nice medium blue with some gray in it, to calm it down. I saw myself lounging in my clawfoot bathtub, listening to classical music, and sipping tea. It's easy to envision this scene, and very difficult to make it reality. Now that I'm working, I have more disposable



The Old White House

By SHERRI MOORE

Got a job, start a project

income and less disposable time.

My new bathroom started with a print my mother bought in Boston. It's of a couple in the 1800s, walking on a cobble stone street. It's a wet, busy street of walkers with umbrellas, the cobblestone is a gray-blue color. That was blue I longed for.

An hour later, I was out the door, dragging the picture with me. When decorating a room, I buy the textiles first, then the paint. These days, you can get paint in every color and shade, and even have a custom color mixed while you wait. The textiles are limited to a few shades of the most popular colors. I shopped Macy's for towels on sale, adding another \$50 dollars

on my credit card.

At Home Depot, it took just a few minutes to match a color of paint to the towels, pick out a chrome light fixture, and find two chrome towel racks; and I just went in there for a gallon of paint! I was in and out in 15 minutes, having added another \$130 dollars on my Home Depot card. Since I was out, I headed to Bed, Bath and Beyond for some plastic, floral accessories that would help complete my new look.

Evidently, that look is over. A brushed silver and chrome waste basket caught my attention. It was on sale! Next to it was a footed soap dish and a covered dish for cotton balls, both on sale! Mr. M. needs cotton balls to

clean out the dog's ears, so now I need to keep them on hand. I didn't know he even knew cotton balls existed! That's something we've never discussed in 28 years of marriage.

There was one more stop at JoAnne Fabrics to pick out some fabric for the sink skirt. Years ago, I skirted the ugly sink so I could hide a basket of bathroom junk underneath. I wondered if I had enough time to double back to Home Depot and buy a new sink. That idea was quickly dumped since I would need Mr. M., or a plumber to install it. The fabric, a nice French print, set me back \$25. The new sink project will be saved for another day.

The actual painting wasn't

as much fun as the shopping. My muscles were sore, and my back hurt! I should really paint more often; there's immediate gratification and it's good exercise.

The bathtub, covered by a tarp was calling me. It was the next day before I was throwing out half used tubes and jars, and setting out the new towels, but I was driven to complete the job before Mr. M. came home from his business trip. I finished just before I picked him up at the light rail. We had our customary happy hour on the front porch to catch up on his work. I waited for him to go in the "new" bathroom for the first time. It took him a whole hour before he announced he was going to bed. I watched him brush his teeth and wash up, never noticing any difference. What can I say, he's not into color.

(Sherri Moore is a freelance writer and resident of the Nokomis neighborhood. She and Mr. M. are in their 20th year of renovating their old white house. Sherri welcomes your comments and can be reached at sherrimoore92@msn.com.)

Fix-up fund

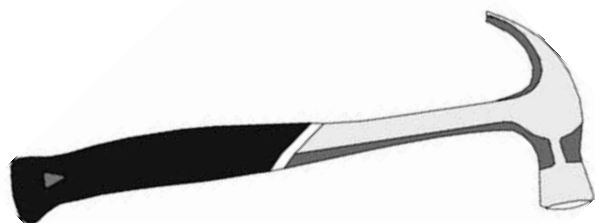
Continued from page 7

Fix-up Fund is a statewide program that offers affordable, low-interest fixed rate home improvement loans.

Eligibility requirements are that household income must be at or below \$96,000 (income limit may be waived if the improvements are being made for the accessibility of a family member with a disability). The property must be owner-occupied. Single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes or four-

plexes are eligible.

Loan features are as follows: You may hire a contractor or do the work yourself. Maximum loan term of 10 to 20 years is based on the loan amount. Loan amounts are from \$2,000 to \$35,000. Unsecured loans are now available up to \$10,000. A lower interest rate is



available for funds that are used exclusively for energy conservation or basic accessibility improvements. A higher loan amount may be available if the improvements are being made for the accessibility of a family member with a disability.

Most improvements to the ac-

cessibility or energy efficiency of a home, or general repairs are eligible, such as windows, new furnace, electrical wiring, garage, insulation, central air conditioning, new roof, and septic repairs.

In addition to energy-saving upgrades, homeowners may also finance renewable energy improvements. These include solar thermal, solar electric and wind turbines/generators.

Ineligible home improvements include swimming pools, gazebos, reimbursing or refinancing for improvements already done, hot tubs, recreational or en-

tertainment facilities, and mobile homes not on a permanent foundation and not taxed and financed as real property.

If you are ready to get a loan, first decide on your project. Get contractor's bids or an itemized materials estimate from a home improvement retailer for your proposed project.

Contact this lender, the Neighborhood Energy Connection, 624 Selby Ave., at (651) 221-4462 Ext. 132 (LeAnne). Your lender will help you apply and work with you to complete the loan process and close your loan.



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Sunday Worship 10:30 am (begins 9/9)
Education: Adults at 9:45 am;
Children and Youth, 11:30 am
(Childcare Provided)
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Faith Evangelical Lutheran (LC-MS)
3430 E. 51st St. • 612-729-5463
Worship 9:00 am
Fellowship Hour 10:00 am
Education Hour 10:30 am
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dan Matasovsky

Holy Trinity Lutheran (ELCA)
2730 E. 31st St. • 612-729-8358
www.htlcmpls.org
Sunday Worship 8:45 & 11:00 am
Education opportunities for all ages 9:45 am
Childcare available
Pastor: Jay Carlson
Traditional Worship - Contemporary
Message - A Call to Social Justice
All are welcome - No exceptions

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church
5011 31st Ave. S. • 612-729-2323
www.lakenokomis.org
Summer Worship at 9:30 am
Sunday Worship at 8:00 am & 10:30 am
(nursery; fully accessible)

Minnehaha United Methodist
3701 E. 50th St. • 612-721-6231
www.minnehaha.org
Traditional Service 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship 11:00 am (Sept.-May)
10:30 am (June-Aug.)
Education for all ages 10:15 (Sept.-May)
(Childcare; fully accessible)

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. • 612-724-3643
Sunday Mass 9:30 am (Childcare available)
Saturday Mass 5:00 pm
Daily Mass 8:15 am M,T, Th, F
(Handicapped accessible)
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
www.saintalbertthegreat.org

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000
Worship 9:00 and 10:30 am,
Summer - 9:00 only
Education for all at 9:00 am
(Childcare; Wheelchair Acc., Braille)
Coffee 10 am
Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
www.stpeders.net

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Sunday Worship 8:30 am Traditional,
11 am Contemporary
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 am
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays 7 pm

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Minnehaha Food Shelf,
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Minnehaha United Methodist, 3701 E. 50th St.

Howe Playground

Continued from page 3

The playground location will be evaluated by the Minneapolis Planning Commission during a

public hearing on Oct. 1. Also at that time the commission will review the conditional use permit requested by the school district for the renovation.

The permit process is required because the district is remodeling a school building that was closed, explained Kane.

RENOVATION DETAILS

After being closed in 2005, Howe will reopen for the 2013-14 school year as a dual campus with Hiawatha. Hiawatha will house the younger grades, and Howe will take third, fourth and fifth graders.

There will be a total of 16 classrooms in the reopened Howe building, according to May. The maximum capacity for the school will be 285 students, and in the first year it will start with between 150 and 180.

There will be three third-grade classes, two fourth-grade classes and two fifth-grade classes, pointed out Hiawatha Principal Deb Regnier.

The classrooms at Howe will solve the space crunch at Hiawatha. Until then, Hiawatha lacks enough classrooms, according to Regnier.

Right now, there is a split class with both fourth and fifth graders, and the school has implemented "Art on a Cart" in order to accommodate an additional kindergarten class.

"We are packed to the gills here," said Regnier. This is a year of transition before the space issues are resolved, she added.

Before Howe is reopened, the



"I really appreciate all the support from our families here at Hiawatha," principal Deb Regnier told those gathered on Monday night, Sept. 17 at Hiawatha to learn about the Howe project. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

guts of the school will be reinvigorated, according to May. "We are bringing this school into the 21st century," he said.

Air conditioning will be installed, along with a new HVAC system and electrical system. More insulation, new windows and a new roof will make the school more energy-efficient, as will new lighting. All of the flooring and finishes in the building will be replaced and repainted.

The stormwater and sanitary sewer will be now be separated so that the stormwater can be filtered on site. This sustainable system will be installed in the southwest corner

of the property. Once the tanks are buried, the area will be resodded.

White boards, smart boards, projectors and computers will be placed in each classroom. Howe will match Hiawatha in several ways, including the designation of "learning zones" defined by flooring.

"We have been on a long journey with Howe School. Everyone is very excited to see it opening again," said Minneapolis Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy.

"We are going to need your support through the whole program," Kane told community members and parents.

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Wednesday, October 10, 2012 1:30 p.m.
Tai Chi: The Holistic and Safe Way to Exercise
 Jean Jentz, Physical Therapist from Nokomis Healthy Seniors will discuss the basics of Tai Chi to keep us all moving!
 Nokomis Square Cooperative
 5015 35th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55417
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Classifieds

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Messenger Classifieds, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Want ads must be mailed to the Messenger before October 15 for the October 25 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denisw@aplacetoremember.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

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Need a handyman?? Any job, big or small. Plumbing? Electrical? Remodeling? Decks? Leave it to Dynamo Dave. Call me first and save money. 612-701-2272. Shhhh! Don't tell my wife, but my own home projects can wait because yours will always take priority! 12-12

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HEALTH STUDY

The Urinary Biomarkers of Dietary Intake Study (UB-Diet Study) at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health is looking for healthy adult (ages 20 - 59 years) volunteers for the evaluation of a new dietary assessment tool.

Participants must live in the Twin Cities Metro Area and be a non-smoker in good overall health (no history of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease or stroke). Participation in this study will involve two visits to the University of Minnesota, the completion of two questionnaires, a DNA sample collection, three days of recording all the foods and beverages you eat or drink, and collecting urine samples. Participants will be PAID for their time in this study. For more information, please contact the study coordinator at 612-626-7924 or e-mail ubdiet@umn.edu. 10-12

HOUSES FOR RENT

45XX 43RD Av. S., 2+ BR, HW Floors, Fenced yard, gar, Nr. Minnehaha Falls and Bus/LRT, Rent & Credit ref. req., \$1200+ util. 763-535-0190. 10-12

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Painting, wallpaper removal, basement floors, paneling, porches, small wall repairs, small jobs wanted. Jim 651-698-0840. 12-12

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Continued on page 16

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Lawn & Garden

Continued from page 7

holes in the bark, S-shaped tunnels under the bark, vertical cracks in the bark, sprouts around the base of the ash tree, dead branches in the top tree canopy, and heavy woodpecker activity on the ash tree.

To see if you need to treat your ash tree, consult with an arborist. If you're not within 15 miles or so of an infected area your ash tree may not need treatment.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture suggests "the rule of thumb" is to start treatments when the nearest confirmed emerald ash borer infestation is within 10-15 miles of your property. This currently includes most of the Twin Cities.

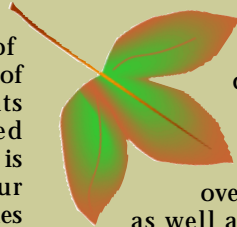
Watering in Drought

In this very dry summer, water deficits can severely damage both young and old trees, and set up healthy trees for other problems. Drought conditions can lead to tree decline, pest



problems, and permanent damage. Supplemental watering can greatly assist in maintaining tree health during drought, both during the growing season and during the dormant season.

The best way to water a tree is with a garden hose—opened for newly planted trees and equipped with an oscillating lawn sprinkler for established trees.



Young, newly planted trees need additional watering care. For new trees, concentrate water over the root ball, as well as the planting area, to assure survival.

You can create a circular mound of earth 3 to 4 inches high around the plant at the edge of the planting area.

Large established trees can be watered by wetting the soil surrounding the plant roots.

Known as the "root zone," this area serves as a storage tank

from which the tree draws moisture.

Avoid frequent light watering. This promotes the development of shallow root systems that are susceptible to summer heat stress and winter injury. Water infrequently but deeply (at least 6 to 8 inches into the soil) and allow the soil to dry out between applications.

Trees should be watered once or twice a week during the growing season if there is no rainfall that particular week. The best time to water is at night from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. Watering at night allows effective use of applied water and less loss from evaporation, assuring more water moves into the soil and tree. The next best time to water is when foliage is dry and evaporation potential is not at its daily peak. This time is late afternoon.



Monarch Festival a big success



After a little education, a family meets their Monarch before tagging and releasing the butterfly for its long journey home. (See article on page 4.)

Classifieds

Continued from page 15

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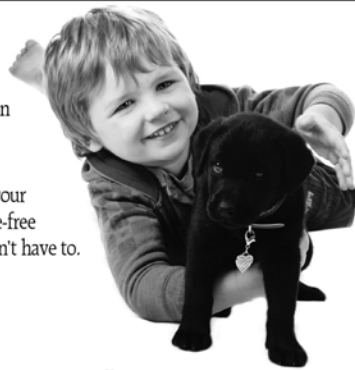
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