



The Blue Line averaged over 32,000 riders a day last year. (Photo by Terry Faust)

## Ridership was setting records... then there was a pandemic

*Metro Transit says it is a good thing fewer people have been using light rail since March*

By CHLOE PETER

Normally, a summer day in July or August would mean big business for the Metro Transit Light Rails. Twins' games would bring in riders to Target Field or concert goers might take the light rail to US Bank Stadium or the Target Center. Even just summer activities in local neighborhoods, would bring in business to the Green or Blue Lines. Local families often use the light rail for groceries, doctor's visits, or entertainment like going out to dinner. But, the light rail lines have been seeing fewer riders since COVID-19, and Metro Transit says that's a good thing.

"We want people to exercise social distancing. A packed car does no one any good," said Metro Transit public relations manager Howie Padilla.



According to Howie Padilla, there are only about 5-6 riders a car right now.

In the last few years, Metro Transit has seen record ridership. The number of riders continued to go up until the pandemic. Last year, there were more than 14 million riders on the Green Line which averaged at 44,000 riders each day. And, on the Blue Line, there were more than 11 million riders with an average of over 32,000 on a given weekday.

METRO TRANSIT >> 6-7

## Pregnant and parenting during COVID-19: THERE ARE NO MANUALS FOR THIS

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Ingrid Rasmussen had everything well-organized for her second pregnancy, and the first two trimesters went according to plan. When the Stay-at-Home Order was issued, Rasmussen was six months along. With her husband and their three-year-old daughter, she settled in to being at home.

As the senior pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, one of Rasmussen's new responsibilities was to help the church transition into lockdown mode. Sunday services and all other face-to-face gatherings were quickly put on-line. Some two months later George Floyd was murdered. She said, "The church went from being completely closed to completely open in about 10 minutes."

Located one block from the 3rd Precinct, the most immediate need of the church was to provide space for a medic station. Holy Trinity staff welcomed teams of medics and helped them set up in the church community room. Suddenly Rasmussen was back at work, and in a COVID-19 exposure situation that could only be described as very high risk.

The medics brought resources to help with emergency needs around the clock. People coming in were treated for tear gas exposure to eyes and skin; injuries resulting from being shot with rubber bullets, scrapes and bruises; and emotional trauma sustained from being around the Third Precinct both before and after it burned.

None of this was part of Rasmussen's pregnancy plan.

She explained, "During the unrest, it was all-hands-on deck for pastors from our church, and clergy from other faith communities, too. We assisted the medics and offered pastoral care to anyone who needed it. Frequently people came into the church just for a moment of silence."

"Not insignificantly, after fires overtook so many of the nearby buildings, we had one of the few working toilets in the neighborhood."

### A movement worth leaving quarantine for

Rasmussen and her husband agreed that supporting the



Ingrid Rasmussen and her six-week-old son Lars, carried through and delivered in the time of COVID. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Black Lives Matter movement was worth leaving quarantine for, even though they both knew that exposure to tear gas, and many other things Rasmussen would encounter, weren't good for a pregnant woman. She remembered the restrictions of her first pregnancy: the doctor had cautioned her not to eat sushi and to limit her caffeine intake.

This was clearly a very different pregnancy.

Rasmussen said, "I did what I could in those early days of the unrest. The church community and the volunteers were so supportive of me in my obviously pregnant state. People were very kind and protected my physical health as I tended to the needs of others. It was an extraordinary experience of liv-

ing through mutual aid.

"One of the refrains ringing through our church in this season is that there is enough for everyone: enough food, enough medical care, enough kindness, enough compassion, enough love."

### More tough choices

Seven days before her expected delivery date, Rasmussen was given a COVID-19 test, which is standard procedure at M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Medical Center where she would deliver. The test results were negative, and she returned home to wait for the arrival of her baby.

Rasmussen's husband suffered a cardiac arrest five years

PREGNANT >> 3

## New life for used plywood

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

In the wake of the Uprising, Minneapolis was flooded with a reusable commodity that residents weren't used to seeing everywhere: plywood. Within four days of George Floyd's murder, plywood covered hundreds of businesses and organizations along Lake Street from end to end, and just about everywhere else. If one business owner chose to cover windows and doors, it seemed like everybody on the block followed suit.

ReUSE Minnesota Board President Jenny Kedward is a recycling educator by trade, a professional trash talker who has been taking the message of recycling to schools, businesses, and neighborhood groups for 14 years. She said, "ReUSE Minnesota stands with our communities advocating for systems change and pursuing justice for George Floyd."

NEW LIFE >> 10

## Neighbors at George Floyd Square issue demands for justice

By JILL BOOGREN

It doesn't get any more local than this: chocolate chip cookies baked in the commercial kitchen across the street and brought out fresh - still warm - for sale. These "Cookie Crumbs" cookies from Hosea Gourmet are offered, along with t-shirts, jewelry, candles, oils, face masks and other wares by entrepreneurs, at the Reimagine 38th Street market taking place on Saturdays at George Floyd Square (38th St. & Chicago Ave.).

Asked about baking and serving up cookies at the Square, Ashley Hosea said, "It just feels so good. It's just genuine, organic, real, true."

George Floyd Square is the focus of talks after the city of Minneapolis said it would be reopened to traffic in mid-August (the city placed barricades at each entrance to provide safe access for visitors).

DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE >> 5



BACK TO SCHOOL:  
A conversation with  
homeschoolers

PAGE 12-14



Violent labor protests  
rock South Minneapolis  
in the 1930s, 2 die

PAGE 17



THROUGH THEIR EYES:  
Business owners deal  
with crime on E. Lake St.

PAGE 18



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Regards, Sharon

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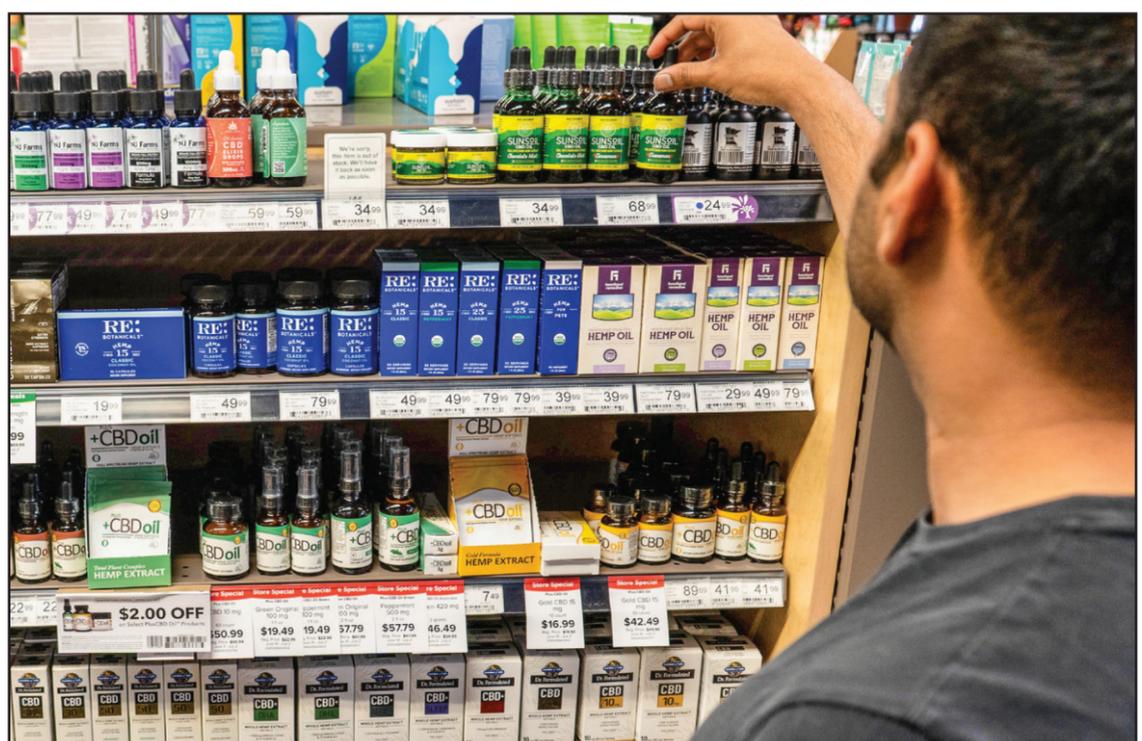
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# 'Nightwatchers:' New mystery novel by local author Vincent Wyckoff coming in September

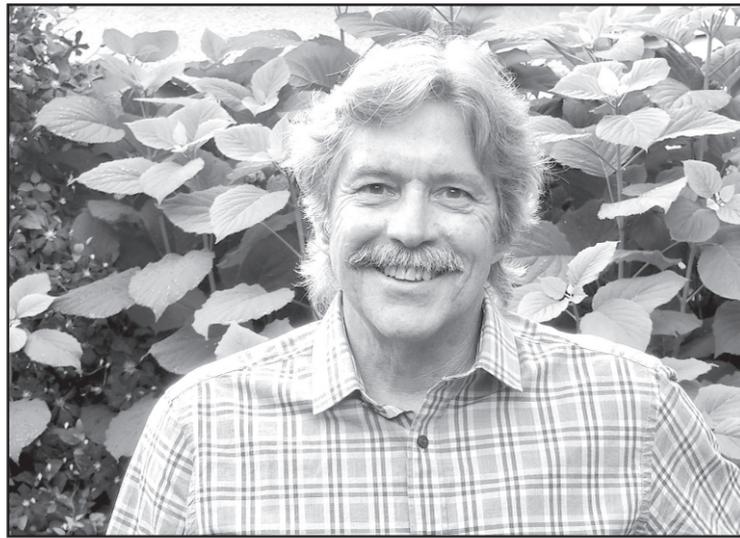
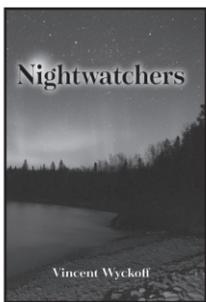
By JILL BOOGREN

Get ready to see Minnesota's North Shore in a new light – or rather, in the dark – in Vincent Wyckoff's new novel, "Nightwatchers," to be released on Sept. 8.

The sequel to his first novel "Black Otter Bay," "Nightwatchers" returns to the same fictional small town on the big lake with the same cast of characters – Sheriff Marlon Fastwater, Postmistress Mrs. Virginia Bean, Café Proprietor Marcy Soderstrom, and more. Lake Superior, in all its mist and majesty, forms the backdrop.

The story opens with the shadowy intrigue of something, someone, slinking through the forest in the early light of dawn. The mystery unfolds as residents seek to find what, or who, is out there and intensifies as a legend is revealed.

In keeping with its prequel, "Nightwatchers" is crafted as a non-violent mystery. Asked why, Wyckoff explained:



Catch former Nokomis mail carrier Vincent Wyckoff talking about his new book during a virtual interview on Saturday, Sept. 19, noon to 1 p.m. It is hosted by Once Upon a Crime. Signed copies of "Nightwatchers" are available at Nokomis Shoe Shop and Nokomis Beach Gallery and Frame Shop.

she'd call for me to come in after dark, and of course I didn't want to," explains Wyckoff. "Finally, she'd say the Nightwatchers will be out soon. I didn't actually believe her, but when you're a little kid your imagination takes over. I'd conjure up all sorts of monsters lurking around and eventually head inside." A poem written by his mother is included on the dedication page.

"It seems every mystery thriller now pushes the boundaries on violence; especially against women. My thought is, Why not [tell] a thrilling story with engaging characters without all the violent, vulgar blood and gore." The heroine in "Black Otter Bay," for example, is a 13-year-old girl, who returns in "Nightwatchers" and again in the third installment of the series, which Wyckoff is currently writing.

Readers can expect more of a "thriller" in this installment. The term "Nightwatchers" comes from Wyckoff's mother.

"When I was a child and playing outside with my friends,

Wyckoff is familiar to many Nokomis area residents as their former mail carrier and author of "Beware of Cat," which chronicles his experiences delivering the mail. Black Otter Bay, his first work of fiction, was published shortly after Wyckoff retired from the postal service. The novel was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award and won runner up for the Midwest Independent

Booksellers Award. His short story, "Lemonade on a Parkside Bench," which takes place at Lake Hiawatha, is included in an anthology entitled, "Home."

Signed copies of "Nightwatchers" will be available at Nokomis Shoe Shop and Nokomis Beach Gallery and Frame Shop on Sept. 8. Once Upon A Crime is hosting a virtual interview with Wyckoff on Saturday, Sept. 19, noon-1 p.m., and will have signed copies at the store. Books are also available for preorder on the Moon Palace Books, Magers & Quinn Booksellers, Barnes & Noble and Amazon websites.

Follow the release schedule on Wyckoff's Facebook page. He also welcomes you to contact him at vincentwyckoff@gmail.com for socially-distanced book clubs, virtual book clubs, and personalized signings for gifts.

## Pregnant and parenting during COVID-19

>> from 1

ago, and the couple decided that COVID-19 exposure risk in the hospital was too great for him. They made the difficult decision that he would not attend the labor and delivery. He needed to care for their three-year-old anyhow. Because of COVID-19, neither set of grandparents could help.

When it was time for Rasmussen to deliver, her husband and daughter dropped her at the cul de sac of the hospital and waved goodbye.

Of that decision, Rasmussen said, "There was disappointment for both of us, but we knew we needed to take a long view. The most important thing was that my husband be part of our kids' lives for many years to come."

Lars Rasmussen was born at 12:36 p.m. on July 26. All during Rasmussen's labor, the anesthesiologist held a cell phone up so her husband could be in the delivery room via Facetime. Rasmussen said, "The delivery went well, and Lars came out screaming just the way you hope a baby will."

### A moment of peace

Rasmussen's planned three-month parental leave from work turned into a two-week leave instead. She is working part-time from home due to the extraordinary demands currently placed on the church. Her husband works from home as well, and they pass the child care baton back and forth.

The community of Holy Trinity Church participated in a drive-by baby shower at Rasmussen's home a few weeks ago. Cars streamed by on a Saturday afternoon: one mask-wearing person at a time got out of their car, dropped a gift for Lars or the family on the lawn, and shouted "Congratulations!" as the next person pulled in.

Both sets of grandparents have come up to Minneapolis for backyard visits. Other family members have met Lars during Zoom calls. It isn't what Rasmussen had in her original plan, but it's the time the community is living in.

With so much on her plate, does Rasmussen have any quiet moments with her new baby? She said, "I feel most present with Lars right after he's done eating, when he is satiated. His body is heavy and full, like he

### A necessary agility

"The church as an institution has never been known for being particularly nimble. In these last weeks and months though, we have found a necessary agility in meeting the needs of our neighbors. We became a medic station. We became a food distribution site serving 700+ people each day. We became a place where anyone could seek and receive pastoral care. We have felt the walls of our church dissolve, to become a place where everyone is truly welcome," said Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Senior Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen.

doesn't have a care in the world. With him resting against my chest and shoulder, I'm given a moment of peace – and it's enough."

# Faith Matters

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

**Bethlehem Covenant Church**  
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[www.bethlehemcov.org](http://www.bethlehemcov.org)  
Pastor Rick Mylander  
(Handicapped Accessible)  
All sermons can be found online at [www.bethlehemcov.org](http://www.bethlehemcov.org)  
Contact the office at [office@bethlehemcov.org](mailto:office@bethlehemcov.org) to find out how to join other gatherings virtually.

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
[www.epworthmpls.org](http://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/EpworthUMCPLS/>  
2nd Wednesday: Beer/Bagel & Bible Study via Zoom from 6:30-8:00 pm

**Faith Ev. Lutheran Church**  
3430 East 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
[www.fatihlutheranmpls.org](http://www.fatihlutheranmpls.org)  
Pastor Jesse Davis  
Live Worship - Sundays 9:00 am  
Bring a Mask

**Minnehaha Communion Lutheran**  
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527  
[www.minnehahacommunion.org](http://www.minnehahacommunion.org)  
Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom  
All services and programs temporarily on-line. Check church website for any changes.  
9:45 am-online Sunday Worship  
"Building Relationships with Christ & Each Other"

**Park Avenue United Methodist Church**  
3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863  
[www.parkavechurch.org](http://www.parkavechurch.org)  
Senior Pastor Gregg Taylor, Minister of Preaching Steven Belton  
Reaching & rebuilding in the Central Neighborhood. 100+ years of lively worship and diverse congregation.  
[info@parkavechurch.org](mailto:info@parkavechurch.org) for information about service times.

**Spirit Garage** - The church with the really big door  
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Pastor Holly Johnson  
Music: John Kerns and bands  
Meeting and worshipping online during this weird time.  
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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.

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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  
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Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor  
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[www.stpeders.org](http://www.stpeders.org) or on FB @ [stpedersmpls](https://www.facebook.com/stpedersmpls)

**Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls**  
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[www.trinityfalls.org](http://www.trinityfalls.org)  
Pastor Matt Oxendale  
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### PROJECT OF NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES

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What categories should the newspaper add? Let us know.

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# 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](mailto:news@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com) or call 612-345-9998.

## Dear Mayor Frey and Minneapolis City Council

As representatives of businesses, community organizations and residents in areas impacted by the rioting after the murder of George Floyd, we are concerned by the lack of leadership, transparency and coordination by our elected officials and government agencies, particularly at the City level. We are requesting answers to the following questions:

1. Rebuilding: We appreciate hearing the recommendations from Minneapolis Forward: Community Now Coalition. Can you please provide greater detail around process and timeline of implementation and how the larger community will be involved?

2. Future of Policing: How will the City purposefully engage with residents to envision, educate and collaborate on the fu-

ture of policing in our City? Are there plans to rebuild the 3rd Precinct building in the same location? If not, what are alternative plans for that property and for the relocation of the 3rd precinct building? Who is informing the direction of those plans?

3. Funding: Will the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County or the State of Minnesota be allocating financial resources to businesses, local community-based and neighborhood organizations to assist in rebuilding our communities? What have you done to secure those financial resources?

4. Coordination Among Elected Officials: Are you working with your fellow elected representatives at all levels to align around a specific plan for rebuilding and to lobby the state legislature for funding to stabi-

lize our communities over the long-term?

5. Community Engagement: How do you plan to engage residents, community organizations and businesses in plans to rebuild our communities and to find out the actual needs on the ground? If we organize the voices of businesses and residents, what processes and plans are in place for those voices to be heard?

6. Racial Equity: Please explain how your efforts (fundraising, policy, coordination etc.) are and will be done with an intentional focus on racial equity.

Until hearing the recommendations of Minneapolis Forward, few community organizations, businesses and residents of the impacted areas had received information or communication on the efforts of our City elect-

ed officials and departments. We still need responses to the above questions and action by the City to support the rebuilding of our communities. Please respond by Friday, Sept. 4. A lack of response will be interpreted as disregard for the voices of all of those who have been most deeply impacted by the recent rioting and unrest. Your responses will be shared with our communities through social and print media.

Our organizations, businesses and residents are currently engaged in many efforts and we are eager to share them with you. We are working hard on these same issues that we are asking you about, but we cannot and should not be forced to act without leadership and resources from our City, County and State governments. A more coordinated and inclusive City response is still absent, so we respectfully request that you do not direct

us towards our individual City Council Members. The City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and State Officials are responsible for a coordinated response to our communities that cannot be delayed and requires your cooperation.

Please send your response(s) to [info@longfellow.org](mailto:info@longfellow.org)  
Sincerely,  
Corcoran Neighborhood Association  
Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association  
Seward Civic and Commerce Association  
Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association  
Longfellow Business Association  
Longfellow Community Council  
Longfellow Nokomis Messenger

## Letters to the Editor

### Police union standing in way of change

Dear Editor:

I am a union retiree so normally I would be inclined to be supportive of the interests and existence of labor unions. However, for reasons I don't yet fully understand I do not yet embrace the existence of police unions. In the case of the Minneapolis Police Officers Federation I regard it as a rogue union with rogue leadership. It is my view that no reconstitution of policing in Minneapolis which is long overdue will happen as long as this union and its leadership continue to exist or stand in the way.

Donald Hammen  
Greater Longfellow

### Use your voice to end human trafficking

Dear Editor:

Everyone deserves to be free, but over 40 million people are trapped in slavery today. On Thursday, June 25, the U.S. State Department released the 2020 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The TIP Report sheds light on this hidden crime and ranks 187 countries, including the U.S., on their efforts to combat it.

As Gary Haugen, CEO of International Justice Mission, says, "Nothing happens just because we are aware of modern-day slavery, but nothing will ever happen until we are." With the truth out there for all to see, we can no longer

look away.

As we take a hard look at the injustices within our own society, I ask that our members of Congress also continue to use their power to help fight the injustice of slavery around the world by protecting the integrity of the TIP Report and the American-led programs that help rescue slaves and put their perpetrators behind bars. We're counting on you, lawmakers, to use your voice and tip the scales towards justice. If we can summon sufficient political courage, we can end slavery in our lifetime.

Patricia Busse  
Ericsson

### Mail-in voting important for safe, fair election

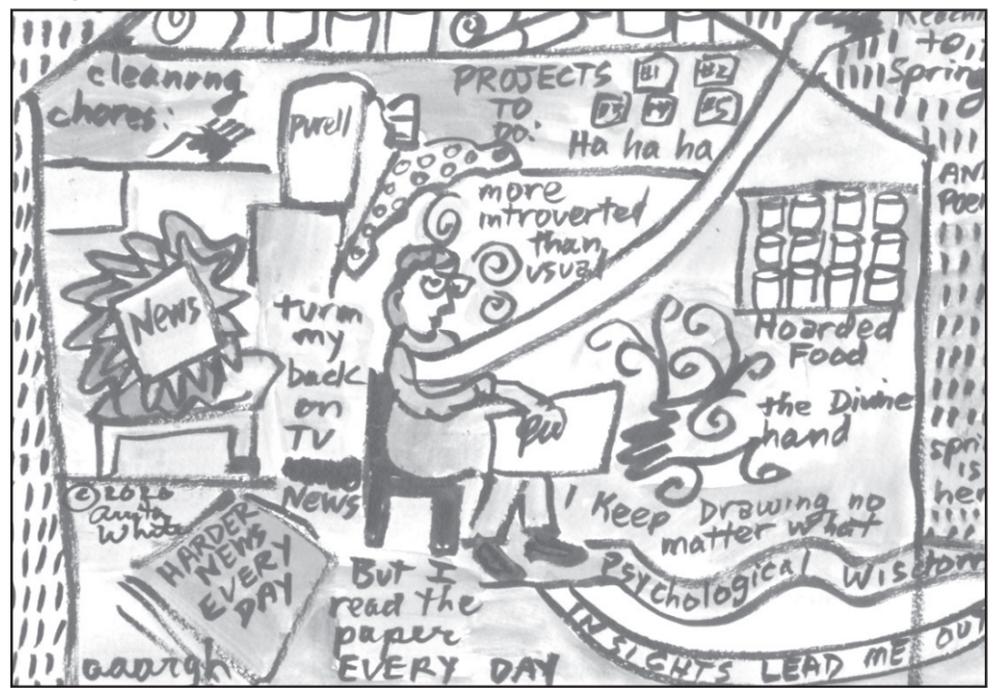
Dear Editor:

As someone who will be using an absentee ballot this year, I've been concerned about doubts that are sometimes mentioned regarding mail-in ballots and want to voice some positives about that method of voting.

Voting by mail is popular, safe, and vital to voting participation – especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the U.S. Federal Election Commission and nonpartisan National Vote at Home Institute:

- Voting by mail increases voting participation in local elections.
- Mail-in ballots increase voting participation among voters with disabilities
- Vote-at-home is less expensive than in-person voting.
- Ballots are only sent to regis-

### Muses by Anita White



tered voters.

- Ballot envelopes are barcoded to one individual voter and validated by voter signature verification.

- Tampering with or diverting a mail ballot is a felony punishable by large fines and years of jail time.

- Voters can track their ballot in real time using USPS mail-tracking tools.

I'm calling on our local Board of Elections and state election officials to take action today. To ensure a safe, fair election this November, all voters must be able to cast their ballot by mail.

Eileen Collard  
Longfellow

### Messenger is an asset to our community

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for buying this newspaper and keeping it going! It's such an asset to our community! Really helps us to bind together.

In gratitude,  
Michele Bevis  
Minneapolis

Dear Editor:

With a bit of guilt I admit to glancing over but not reading your newspaper the 15 years my husband and I have lived in Longfellow... until today. Thumbing

through the pages I was drawn to the precious photo of a little boy doing the all important task of watering a boulevard tree. I noted that the photographer was Margie O'Loughlin, a woman with whom I've crossed paths a few times in the past. That led me to the beautiful photos on the back page and to read the engaging accompanying articles.

It's nice to know I can read the daily Strib and savor the Messenger stories all month. Even the letters to the editor made me realize what I had been missing. I especially look forward to Too Much Coffee!

Sue Kearns  
Longfellow

**Messenger**

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News for you!

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### 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@longfellownokomisessenger.com](mailto:news@longfellownokomisessenger.com). Unsigned letters will not run.

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# People & Pets Together keeps families from giving up animals

Local nonprofit helps families and their pets during economic crisis

By CHLOE PETER

An older woman walked through the door of People & Pets Together, a program that provides pet food and supplies for those in need. When getting her pet food, she started up a conversation with volunteers and pulled out her phone to show pictures of her two cats, her face lighting up. She's a regular at the food shelf.

Her husband is no longer living, and her children live out of state. Often, she'll come in and give updates on the cats' health or something funny they did that week. Nick Atwood, the program director at People & Pets Together, has come to know her very well over the years.

"For seniors like her on a fixed income, surviving largely on Social Security, our services are very important," Atwood said, "She has told us more than once that without us providing her with food and cat litter, she would not be able to afford to keep her pets."

People & Pets Together is a nonprofit organization based at 3745 Bloomington Ave. The program started in 2009. It was the midst of a financial crisis. People were out of jobs, and families were struggling to keep their homes. Not only did People & Pets Together provide food, but also, cat litter, food and water dishes, leashes and collars, and even flea and tick prevention, so the families could keep their

beloved pets and have one less thing to worry about in difficult times.

"We heard stories of people who were considering surrendering their family pet because they could not afford to care for the dog and cat anymore. The stories were heartbreaking," Atwood said.

The official pet food shelf opened in 2016. They first focused on getting food and care out for people who had pets in the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods of Minneapolis. But, they have since expanded to serving the entire city. People qualify to receive free pet food if they participate in a government assistance program, such as food support, Medicaid or housing assistance, or if they are unemployed or their annual income falls below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. On average, People & Pets together help 25 families get the food they need for their pet each day. In 2019 alone, they served nearly 900 households.

The program's mission is "to support the relationships that people have with their pets, and to prevent the surrender of pets during times of economic crisis."

## Donation drop box

During COVID-19, People & Pets Together has seen an increase of demands for pet food and other supplies. There

*"When we give people food to feed pets, we take one worry off their list and allow them to focus on their own needs."*

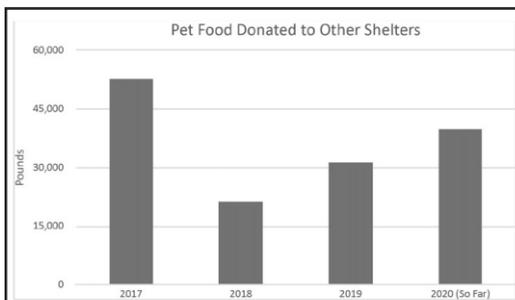
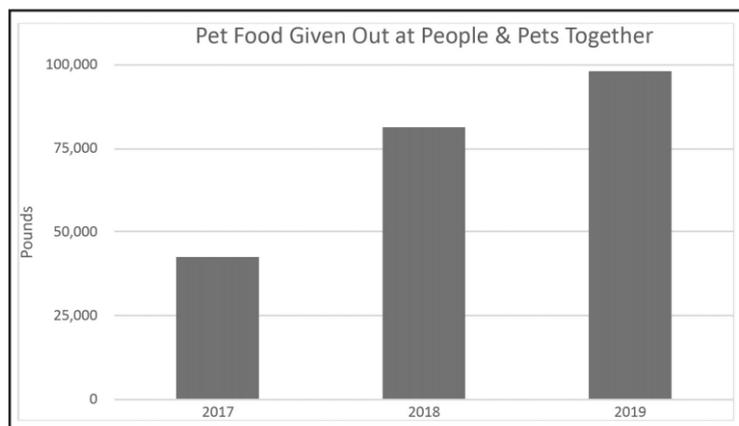
~ Nick Atwood

are more first-time clients than in years past, and they're serving many people who worked in restaurants and other businesses closed by the pandemic.

People & Pets Together is also providing pet food to other food shelves in the Twin Cities and have had to increase their deliveries because the other shelters are seeing increased demand, as well. This year, the program has delivered more than 40,000 pounds of pet food to other food shelves.

"We welcome donations of pet food and gently used pet supplies. We have a drop box in the parking lot behind our pet food shelf where donations can be placed at any time. Financial donations are especially appreciated," Atwood said. Financial donations can also be made online at [peopleandpetstogether.org](http://peopleandpetstogether.org).

People & Pets Together has also been impacted by the recent protests and uprising. Many grocery stores, small markets, and dollar stores in the program's area were damaged or closed.



would spend their last dollar to purchase food for their pet rather than to buy food for themselves."

The People & Pets Facebook page is overflowing with comments of gratitude from other shel-

ters, individuals, and families that the program has impacted. Several people made comments about fundraising in their neighborhoods, donating money for birthdays instead of receiving gifts, and even starting a lemonade stand where all proceeds go to charity and set up laundry baskets labeled "PETS" to be filled with supplies.

"When we give people food to feed pets, we take one worry off their list and allow them to focus on their own needs," Atwood said.

This, too, has increased the number of people coming to look for pet food and supplies at the food shelf because essentials are difficult to find. However, this has not stopped the community from giving back. People & Pets Together has seen increased donations both from neighborhood drives and pet food manufacturers.

"It has been encouraging to see the community respond by donating food and money to help residents and community groups," Atwood said, "We often hear from our clients that they

## Neighbors at George Floyd Square issue demands for justice

>> from 1

In response, community leaders drafted Resolution 001, which includes a set of 24 actions they are demanding be taken by city, county, state and federal governing bodies in order to reopen either 38th St. E. or Chicago Ave. S.

"The George Floyd Memorial is first and foremost a place of protest, not commissioned by the city but by the people against the city," states the resolution. The National Lawyers Guild of Minnesota and AFSCME LOCAL 2822 have endorsed the demands, available at [bit.ly/George-floydsquare-a](http://bit.ly/George-floydsquare-a), which include police accountability measures as well financial investments in the neighborhood and youth.

At an Aug. 15 press conference held by community leaders at the Square, Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO) Executive Director Carmen Means said they didn't want to diminish calls for safer streets. "But we live in a land where they're trying to make us choose between safety and justice," said Means. "That should not have to be a choice."

As of Aug. 23, the city has delayed reopening the street as talks continue (a statement by the city was posted on the Messenger Facebook page Aug. 17) Meantime, residents hold meetings twice daily in the Square, at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., and events there continue apace. A "sit-in"



Top photo: View of George Floyd Square from Chicago Ave., facing north. Above, left to right: Amitri Hosea, Ashley Hosea and Semhara McBrayer pose with their freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies at the Reimagine 38th St. market on Aug. 22. (Photos by Jill Boogren)

by silent protesters was held on Aug. 17, and the following weekend visual artists were invited to "Occupy With Art!" by contributing a piece to the zone. Resident and Certified Balloon Artist Scott Nichols answered the call by creating a giant Prince symbol made

of shimmering purple balloons (Prince spent some of his formative years in this neighborhood), and there's now a piano on site.

The Reimagine 38th Street market, presented by CANDO, will continue on Saturdays through Sept. 5.

## What if I need to...

They look at the combination, never verbally questioning. But they don't have to - their stares speak the question as loudly as their mouths could. I don't think too much of it anymore, unless I'm in a new situation or back home in India. The funny looks they give roll off my shoulders like water off a leaf. Gradually, but still forgotten nevertheless.

When they finally get the answer their eyes are craving, they try to play it cool.

"That's cool that your adoptive parents are white. So what?"

Well, so...what.

What if I need to talk about how scared I am around police? To share my experiences and to hear others' experiences. To connect with someone who has personally felt that type of fear build up in their bones.

What if school asked me to talk about all of the characteristics I "got from my mom" and why my hair is so thick and why I am so short?

What if I want to learn about my culture, immersing myself in the smells and sights and thoughts of my homeland?

What if the doctor asks me about medical history or genetic history as they're performing tests?

## Capturing moments

By ABHA KARNICK



What if a stranger asks me if I "know that man" as my guardian comes to pick me up from practice?

What if a pandemic and riots and racism overtake me heart, soul, and mind, and I need a safe place to process, a safe place to be fully Indian?

What if...what if I don't have the answers?

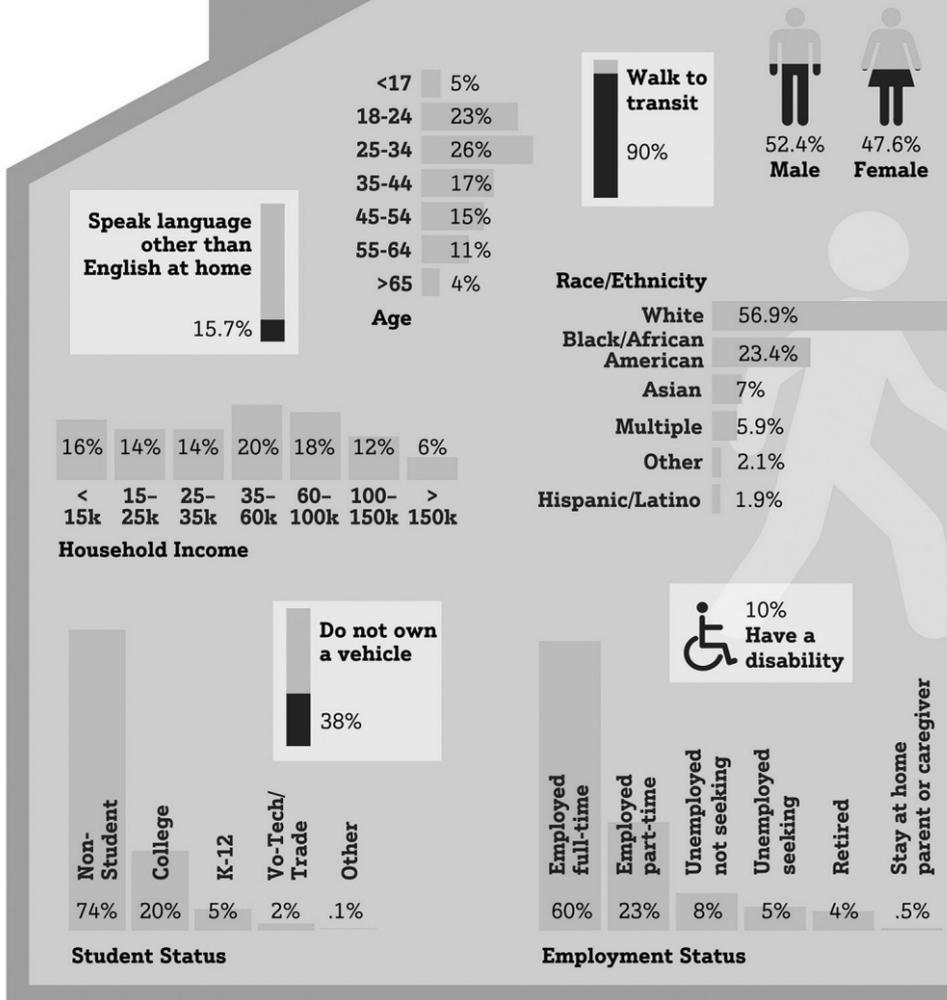
Abha Karnick is a south Minneapolis resident with East Indian roots who graduated from Hamline University in 2019. She grew up in the Twin Cities and found her passions in music, photography, and writing. She has pieces published with CAAL, MNAsianStories, and HER Online Journal, and her passion lies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

## ADOPT-A-BUSINESS

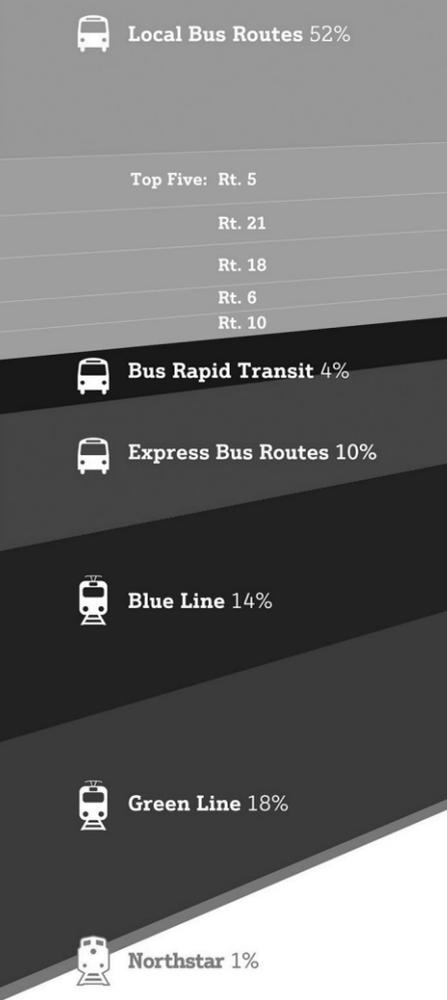
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# Metro Transit Riders

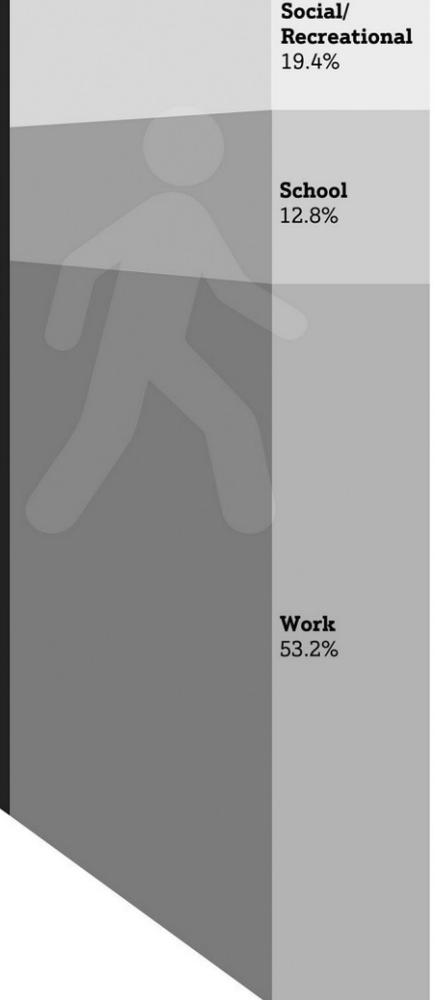
## WHO rides?



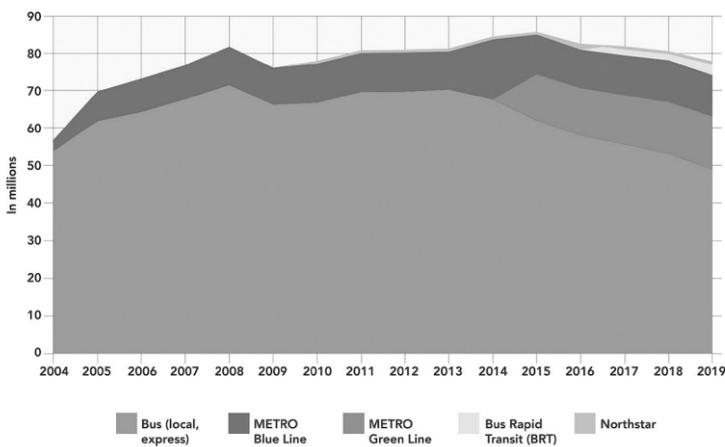
## HOW do they ride?



## WHERE do they go?



METRO TRANSIT ANNUAL RIDERSHIP, BY MODE (2004-2019)



Since opening in 2004, the Blue Line has offered folks an alternative way to get to doctors' appointments, grocery stores, and restaurants. With the addition of the Green Line in 2014, people can travel from the airport to downtown St. Paul via downtown Minneapolis. (Photo by Terry Faust, 2004)



This photo from 2004 shows the inside of a train. Riders can sit or stand, and there is space for bicycles. (Photo by Terry Faust)

## Ridership was setting records... then there was a pandemic

>> from 1

Most of these were local community members in everyday use. But now, it's common to see only five or six riders per car. Metro Transit encourages riders to find another way to get to their destination during the pandemic. If a trip is not a necessity or if there is another form of transit available to use, Metro Transit would prefer riders do not use the light rails and save

the seat for someone who absolutely needs it.

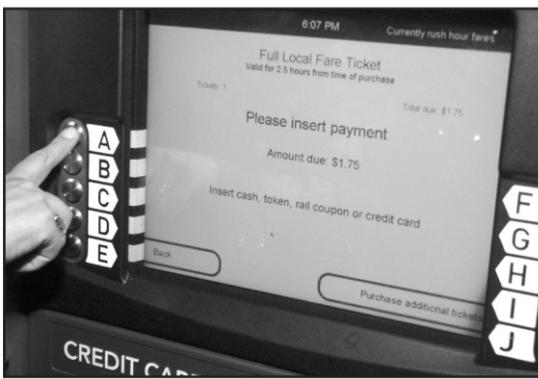
"Our priority is the same as it's always been - to provide a safe environment for our riders to their destination," said John Humphrey, who is Deputy Chief Officer of both the Green and Blue lines.

### COVID-19 plan

Metro Transit also put a plan in effect to keep riders safe. Light

rail cars are fogged with a sanitizing solution each night in order to ensure that every surface is completely clean. Face masks are required even on the platforms. The website instructs riders to social distance, practice good hygiene and to stay home if they are ill. More on their COVID-19 plan can be found at [metrotransit.org/health](http://metrotransit.org/health).

"All of our decisions are METRO TRANSIT >> 7



The method customers use to buy tickets has changed over the years. At left is the original interface. At right is the new one. (Photos by Terry Faust)



A Blue Light Rail train heads south near 42nd St. in 2004, shortly after the line opened. More than 14.2 million rides were provided on the Green Line in 2019, a 3% increase from the year before. Ridership on the Green Line has risen every year since service began in 2014. More than 11 million rides were provided on the Blue Line, just shy of the annual ridership record set on the light rail line in 2018. (Photo by Terry Faust)



"Our priority is the same as it's always been – to provide a safe environment for our riders to their destination," said John Humphrey, who is Deputy Chief Officer of both the Green and Blue lines. Because of COVID-19, ridership is down this year. (Photo submitted)

#### RIDERSHIP >> from 6

made with our riders' and staff's safety in mind," Padilla said. "We're in this with the community."

The light rails have provided the community with another option of transportation since 2004. This has caused property values to go up, pollution levels to go down, and traffic to decrease, according to Metro Transit.

"The community was incredibly appreciative that the train was up and running the day after," Humphrey said. "We don't operate in a vacuum. We're out there with the community."

Metro Transit aims to provide easier access to essential spaces during this time, and, to provide reliable transportation even if that means less riders for the time being.

#### Housing vouchers offered

Metro Transit is working with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) in order to pass out vouchers for rental spaces that homeless riders can use. The LRT is used by homeless people as a place to sleep, especially in the winter. These vouchers will provide shelter for those riders in need. The decision to displace homeless riders from the trains in August of 2019 received mixed reviews from the community, but Metro Transit's Homeless Action Team says it is still working to find more of a permanent solution to homelessness even through the pandemic. They've put more than 100 people into housing and have given out \$1.8 million in assistance.

"The light rail is not a replacement for a bed or home. We're working on getting people into more permanent housing," Padilla said.

#### Volunteers cleaned to get light rail back up and running

The community has also given back to the Blue and Green lines. Metro Transit representatives mentioned that they would not be able to reach record amounts of ridership by the special event riders alone. Local community members have been the ones to use the light rails most throughout the years.

Another example of this is when Humphrey visited the Lake Street Station, 2310 Lake Street East, to check on the line after the first three nights of the Uprising. When he arrived, he found that community members were already there. Volunteers were cleaning graffiti and debris off of the tracks. They asked Humphrey for more ways to help in order get the light rail back up and running.

#### Expanded bus, light rail service coming in September

Upcoming schedule changes will provide riders more options and space when traveling on buses and trains. The changes taking effect on Saturday, Sept. 12, will mean that many local bus routes, the METRO A Line and the METRO C Line will have about as much service as they did before the COVID-19 pandemic. The METRO Blue Line and METRO Green Line will offer 10-minute service throughout most of the day.

Because of a significant drop in demand, around 50 express bus routes will remain suspended and the Northstar Commuter Rail Line will continue to operate on a limited, weekday-only schedule.

In July, ridership on local bus routes and the METRO A Line and METRO C Line was down about 50% compared to the same month last year. Light rail ridership was down about 75%. Increases in local bus and light rail service will help riders keep a safe distance on buses and trains as more people return to transit.

Other notable changes taking effect on Sept. 12 include:

- On Route 63, bus stops will be eliminated or relocated and several new shelters will be installed.
- Route 54 will begin serving a new transit center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's Terminal 1.
- Routes 7 and 68 will be extended to provide residents in south Minneapolis and St. Paul better access to services.
- A new route, Route 363, will replace routes 361 and 365 with express trips between Cottage Grove and downtown Minneapolis via downtown St. Paul.



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# Aging Well

## How are seniors adjusting to COVID-19 pandemic?

### Local organizations offer various resources

By CHLOE PETER

Seniors at Hiawatha Suites Senior Living, 4140 Dight Ave. S., watched as Irish dancers performed in the parking lot. The seniors enjoyed the dancing from a safe distance in the dining room or outside on the patio. Hiawatha Suites Executive Director Tanya Welch mentioned that this had become the “new normal” for seniors. Families, other visitors, or performers all need to keep their distance.

Hiawatha Suites Senior Living is a care facility that houses seniors in order to provide their care. However, their aim is still to make seniors feel independent and dignified. They focus on community life and memory care for seniors, and also offer 24-hour care. These ways of helping seniors have all been challenged due to COVID-19.

Many seniors have underlying health conditions, which adds to the complications of living through COVID-19. Seniors’ health is often already fragile but contracting COVID-19 would create many new challenges. Welch believes that a senior

without a community supporting them would make even the simplest of tasks difficult – especially, if they did not have access to electronics or know how to utilize apps like Zoom or Skype.

“Encountering COVID-19 could be a death sentence for the elderly,” Welch said.

Residents at Hiawatha Suites are allowed to go out for essential healthcare visits only. Even though Hiawatha Suites provides Metro Mobility, seniors want to go out and shop, eat or visit friends and family. Hiawatha Suites has tried to encourage video chats and phone calls with family, but they understand that these are not the same.

“We have begun outdoor patio visits. This has brought much joy to residents and families,” Welch said.

These visits must still be outdoors, with all visitors and residents wearing masks and standing six feet apart. These visits are monitored and the families are asked to provide Hiawatha Suites with a 24-hour notice before they visit. Families are also screened and asked to sign an outdoor

visit policy in order ensure that guidelines are followed. To call for an appointment, Hiawatha Suites Senior Living’s phone number is 612-351-6060.

For the seniors that don’t get visitors, there is a full-time activities director who spends time with all residents. But, Hiawatha Suites still encourages the community to reach out and help. Sending letters to seniors can be done by using their main address listed above.

“We strive to keep residents safe, secure, happy and entertained on a regular basis. Just having personal connection and conversation is good for anyone’s soul,” Welch said.

Because Hiawatha Suites Senior Living is a care facility that directly houses seniors in order to get their care, their COVID-19 safety plan can be more challenging because of closer living quarters. Hiawatha Suites has a strenuous process of screening all visitors. They encourage hand washing more regularly, sanitize the building daily and staff wear masks and personal protective equipment (PPE). They also test residents and staff often.

“It’s very important to me

that seniors are well cared for. My own mother went through the various phases of Dementia and Alzheimer’s,” Welch said. “She lived in a skilled nursing facility for the last three years of her life.”

In preparing for the future, Welch believes that it is important for the community to keep reaching out to seniors they know, not just seniors living in Hiawatha Suites. She encourages people to reach out to seniors for a conversation, to show support or even just to share a smile.

“You would be surprised at what you could learn from seniors. They were once young, too. Some of their life stories would amaze you. I have worked with seniors who were airline pilots, nurses, doctors, teachers, writers, published authors and more,” Welch said.

Welch acknowledged that the pandemic has been hard on everyone and is continuously so. But, seniors are more susceptible to getting COVID-19 and compromised because of their health and age. She encourages people to still visit and check in with one another in a safe manor.

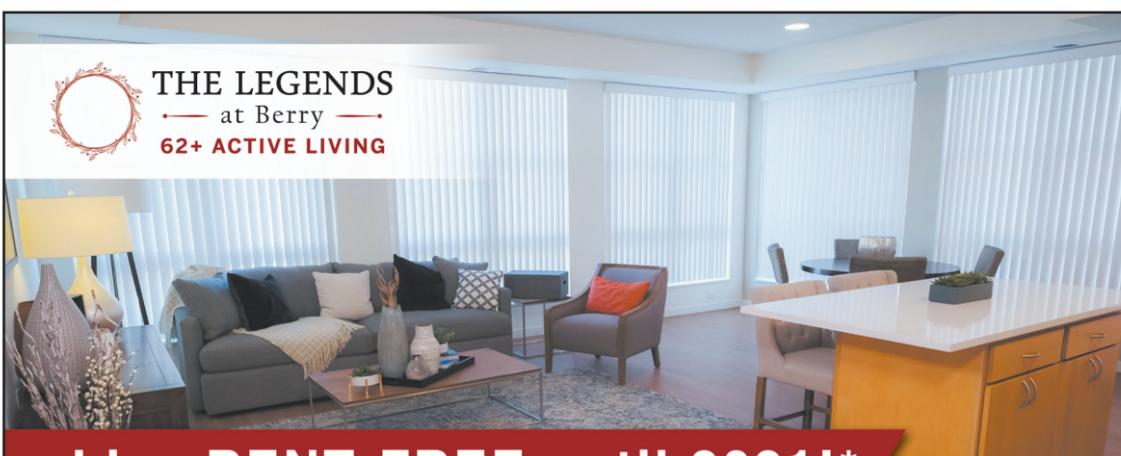
“Everyone loves getting a



Hiawatha Suites Senior Living Executive Director Tanya Welch encourages community members to send letters and reach out to the seniors around them. “Just having a personal connection is good for anyone’s soul,” said Welch.

visit from time to time. It makes us feel remembered and appreciated,” Welch said.

ADJUSTING >> 19



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## LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

Larvel Bunker, the co-owner of Comfort Keepers Twin Cities, (275 4th St. E., Suite 345 in St. Paul), believes that loneliness is a big struggle for many seniors during the pandemic.



Socially isolated seniors have a greater risk of mental and physical decline while socially engaged seniors have higher levels of physical, mental and cognitive functioning according to a study done by Forbes. Social interaction may even slow Alzheimer and Dementia patients' decline, according to the National Institute of Health.

Comfort Keepers Twin Cities provides in-home, non-medical care for seniors and other adults in need of assistance with daily activities. They have more than 700 offices nationwide, and serve the local communities in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Along with daily assistance, Comfort Keepers Twin Cities provides 24-hour home care, dementia and Alzheimer's disease care and end-of-life care.

"Feelings of isolation are universal and far reaching, especially during the statewide Stay at Home order. Some seniors found themselves walled-off even from residents within their own buildings, which although necessary for safety, could not have been easy on seniors and may have lasting effects on some," Bunker said.

## LONGFELLOW SEWARD HEALTHY SENIORS

provides many services to help area seniors live healthy, independent and socially connected lives. They serve 600+ seniors and caregivers annually. Although their office in the U.S. bank building was destroyed during the civil unrest, they are still providing essential services (although they have temporarily suspended in-person classes and events due to social distancing requirements).

Food insecurity is a pressing need for many seniors now. "Our community became a food desert practically overnight when Target, Cub and Aldi's closed due to significant building damages," said Executive Director Mary Albrecht. "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 received a Hunger Solutions grant for food distribution and delivery to lower-income seniors. Older adults age 60+ who live in the greater Longfellow and Seward neighborhoods are encouraged to contact us to see if they're income-eligible for free food distribution and delivery.

"We're always looking for more volunteers to help us in our work. Contact us by calling 612-729-5799 or email us at [info@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:info@LShealthyseniors.org)."

## NOKOMIS HEALTHY SENIORS

is now able to deliver food from the Minnehaha Food Shelf to your home every Tuesday, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you could benefit from this service, call the NHS office at 612-729-5499. Staff is working remotely, and will respond to voicemails as soon as they're able.

"With the advent of Covid-19 and its impact on our community, we've all been very concerned for our friends and family, especially our elders. We also know how difficult it is to be a caregiver during the pandemic, when we are asked to stay at home. One of the ways that we are going to help is by making memory boxes that can help those with dementia to relive favorite memories and stories of their past. Please call the office for more information," said Executive Director Megan Elliasen.

"Social distancing means that most of us have had to rely on electronic means to stay connected with others, and many of our participants are not comfortable with, or don't have access to, technology.

Similarly, the stress of living during this unprecedented time of a world-wide pandemic and the uncertainty and disruption it brings will likely worsen existing mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety. Even before the pandemic, there was evidence that substance abuse has been rising among the older population, and the fear and panic many feel during this time of Covid-19 may very well result in more men and women struggling with substance abuse.

"On another note, NHS participants have experienced further stress and fear in their neighborhoods this spring and summer due to the rioting, violence, and mayhem in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, putting many of us on edge."

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) is not offering in-person programming until further notice, such as in-person events/programs, including bingo, lunch and a movie, support groups, Nurse is in Blood Pressure Clinic, educational presentations, and foot care.

### Virtual Program Offerings:

« Exercise with Becky, Nokomis Healthy Seniors' Exercise Instructor. She is creating several different videos with tips on exercising at home using items you probably have on hand. Visit our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/NokomisHealthySeniors](http://www.facebook.com/NokomisHealthySeniors)) for a link to the video, or leave a message at the office (612-729-5499) and Becky will send you the direct link via email.

« Exercise: Juniper Program – The Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA) offers its Juniper program classes online. Call 855-215-2174 or visit [www.yourjuniper.org](http://www.yourjuniper.org).

« Friendly Phone Visitors – Volunteers and staff are happy to call seniors who would like to chat with a friendly visitor.

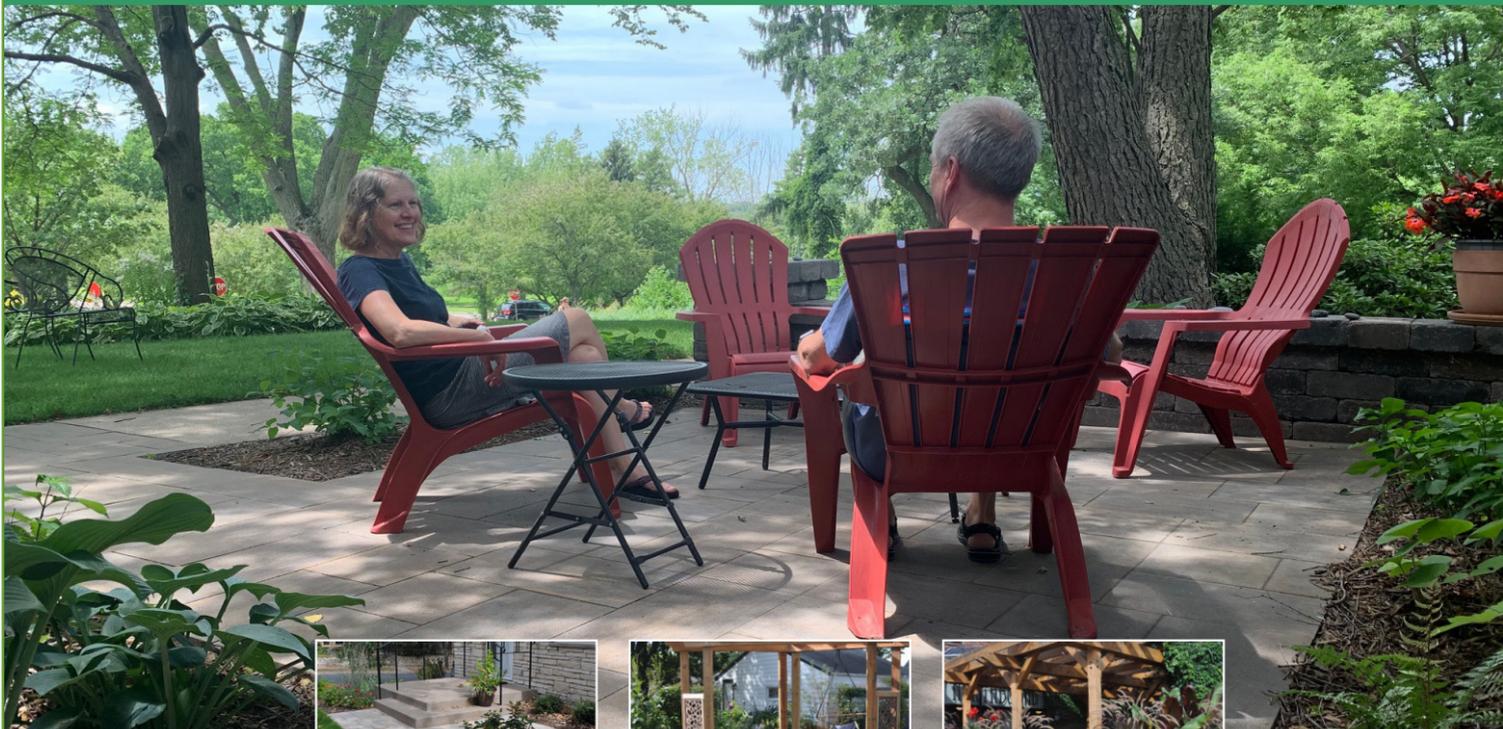
« Rides – NHS is still coordinating rides, provided by volunteers, for essential services such as picking up prescriptions, grocery store runs, and doctors' appointments.

« Book Club, via Zoom – Call the office for details.

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- Cover the ground in green. Use spreading ground covers as a "living mulch" under trees and shrubs.



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# Rebuild Repair Recycle

ReUSE Minnesota focuses on plain boards that will get reused in building projects and more

## New life for used plywood

>> from 1

ReUSE Minnesota is a member-based network that promotes Minnesota's reuse, rental, and repair sector. As the only organization of its kind in the state, ReUSE Minnesota highlights the benefits of reuse both for people and the environment.

Kedward reflected, "The main thing on everybody's mind is, 'What can I do now?' As a reuse organization, we are committed to keeping as much of the used plywood out of the waste stream as we can. We don't want this stuff going into incinerators. Toward that goal, our board started a new initiative called Twin Cities Plywood Rescue."

So far, ReUSE Minnesota has collected 642 pieces of plywood and strand board. Their volunteers have made 46 pick-ups from local businesses and organizations at no charge.

Kedward wants to keep spreading the word that Twin Cities Plywood Rescue is alive and well. She said, "We're in the phase now of getting those materials back out into the community to be used in new ways."

St. Paul's Mano a Mano (which means Hand to Hand in Spanish) received 40 boards to use in shipping recycled medical materials to underserved people in the mountains of Bolivia. Pillsbury United Communities used 30 boards to protect the floor of their newly expanded food shelf in South Minneapolis.

Non-profits or individuals may request boards for free, if

it's a hardship to pay. If possible, ReUSE Minnesota requests \$3 for a full sheet of strand board and \$4 for a full sheet of plywood. A full sheet measures 4' X 8'. The fee offsets disposal costs for reclaimed boards that aren't usable.

A full sheet of strand board normally costs about \$15; a full sheet of plywood costs about \$25.

### Board with murals treated differently

Kedward said, "When people hear about Plywood Rescue, their first concern is for the murals. We've separated out the boards we've collected that have graffiti on them. We're offering those boards to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) organizations and neighborhood museums first. Then we will reach out to larger institutions like the Minnesota History Center. We understand the emotions associated with artwork and controversies in working with larger institutions."

ReUSE Minnesota is interested in plain boards for community redistribution. To donate strand board or plywood, visit their website at [www.reusemn.org](http://www.reusemn.org). (minimum size 2' X 4').

The vision of their organization is to build a strong Minnesota reuse economy that leads the nation in well-paying reuse jobs and sales, and is driven by citizens and institutions who support a circular economy aimed at reducing waste.



ReUSE Minnesota Board President Jenny Kedward said, "We are leading the effort to collect, store, and distribute plywood used in the Uprising for reuse. We respect all artwork and murals. We are working with several organizations to preserve those pieces, and to get unmarked boards back out into the community where they can be used again." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

"ReUSE Minnesota is a network of people led by a volunteer board of directors. We facilitate connections in the reuse, rental, and repair sector. Our members are from both for-profit and non-profit organizations of any size that are part of this sector. We welcome government partners whose works focuses on waste reduction and reuse – and we welcome individuals who are passionate about reuse."

~ Board President Jenny Kedward

### PLYWOOD FOR GOOD

Another local initiative focuses on plywood with artwork.

According to Plywood for Good organizers: The plywood covering Minneapolis and St. Paul businesses following the killing of George Floyd is a grassroots art project. It captures the cries emanating from the people of our cities and nation to combat police brutality and systemic racism. We want to connect with the artists and businesses owners and learn their stories. Our goal is to help preserve and protect the art of this movement, to make sure art doesn't get tossed out when taken down."

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# Green Chair Project helps homeless youth

By JAN WILLMS

Resilience, collaboration, flexibility. All choice descriptions that organizations have needed to follow in these times of pandemic and social unrest. So why not bring back a project that worked before in the early 1990s?

Joel Sisson and Chris Hand came up with the Green Chair Project around 1991. It was shortly after the Rodney King beating in LA, and Sisson had recently moved to a South Minneapolis neighborhood around 31st and Pleasant.

"It was a crack neighborhood, off and on, and Minneapolis was called Murderapolis at that time," Sisson recalled. "I got jumped and beat up by some guys, and I had to decide: fight or flight? What do I do to not be afraid of these young people who were identifying as gang members? How do I change that interaction for both them and myself, so we can get to know each other in different ways?"

And so the Green Chair Project was born. Sisson and Hand had inner city youth building Adirondack lawn chairs and painting them green. "The idea was that we would build chairs and give away two to each house on our block. We worked in the backyard that we tore up to put this



Lue Her (left) and Marcellius Watley build a chair. Through the Green Chair Project at Elpis Enterprise, youth who are homeless or who have been homeless learn woodworking skills. Right now, work is being done at the Elpis workshop or outside. To purchase a chair or have a group sign up for a workshop, contact Elpis Enterprises at [info@elpisenterprises.org](mailto:info@elpisenterprises.org) or call 651-644-5080. (Photo by Jan Willms)

project together."

And as the chairs were being constructed, Sisson noticed that neighbors came out on the street. Normally no one came out unless there was a fight, or a shooting or a bust, according to Sisson.

The project took off, and later chairs four times the size of the original were built and placed around Minnesota and in Washington, D.C. Sisson said chairs were placed at Duke El-

lington High School in D.C., and installations were done at the Washington Monument and at Congress.

After about 12 years, Sisson stepped back from the project. He was no longer working with youth, and the chair-building was placed on a back burner.

Fast forward to the spring of 2020. A pandemic unlike anything since 1918 was ravaging the country. And then, in Minneapo-

lis, George Floyd died as a police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes. This time, not just this country, but the world exploded in social unrest.

And Sisson got a call from Paul Ramsour, executive director of Elpis Enterprises, an agency working with homeless youth. Elpis, located at 2161 University Ave. in St. Paul, offers internships in screen printing and woodworking to youths who have been homeless, are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. They also have trainees in the summer who are a part of Right Track and Step-up youth programs in St.

*Through process, youth learn something and then teach the next person to do it*

Paul and Minneapolis.

Normally, the woodworking trainees would be learning how to build birdhouses and bird feeders and then going out into the community and teaching younger children how to build them. However, due to COVID-19, all the park and recreational center workshops for this had been canceled.

GREEN CHAIR PROJECT >> 15

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If you have any questions, email [AdoptaDrain@Minneapolismn.gov](mailto:AdoptaDrain@Minneapolismn.gov) or call the Minneapolis Adopt-a-Drain Hotline at 612-673-5522.



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# Back to School

24 authors of all walks, including Standish resident, talk about how homeschooling works for them in new book

## Why they love homeschooling

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

As COVID-19 forces educational changes, some parents are considering whether online schooling through their district or homeschooling on their own will work better for their families.

To help families decide, Midway-Hamline resident Kathy Oaks has co-edited a new book with Brynn Steimle titled, "Why I Love Homeschooling." In it are essays written by 24 people on how homeschooling works for them, including an essay by Standish resident Theresa Redfern-Hall. The book is currently available on Amazon.

"For everyone, those homeschooling and those not, I'd like to reiterate that what most people did this spring isn't homeschooling," stated Oaks, who has been homeschooling her three boys ages 8 through 16 since the beginning of their education. "For the majority, it was way harder, for the students, the parents, and the teachers. Our hearts went out to you, watching the struggle. Whatever your choice in the fall, we all wish you an easier time, and joyous learning."

The *Messenger* spoke with Oaks and contributor Theresa Redfern-Hall, whose children are current 24, 23 and 20. She and her partner homeschooled from the birth of their first child in 1995.

"The book can be useful for those people who are consider-

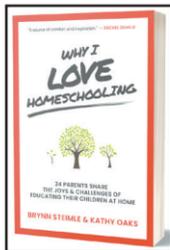
ing homeschooling and for those homeschooling. There are reflections from 24 different people, all different backgrounds, lifestyles, and types of homeschooling," said Redfern-Hall. "The essays show that there is no one correct way to homeschool and that even seasoned homeschoolers have questions and bad days. It also shows that homeschooling is a wonderful opportunity to watch, learn and grow with your children."

**What makes homeschooling different from crisis schooling?**

Oaks: Crisis schooling is just that, throwing together a way to keep

regular school going during a crisis. It's not meant to be long-term, nor is it an ideal way to learn. School teachers did not go into education to do online school, and have been scrambling to make things fit into a different format and many are ill prepared and certainly underpaid for this extra work.

Homeschooling, on the other hand, is intentional. The best part of homeschooling is that it isn't one size fits all. Families get to find ways that work best for them, instead of trying to squeeze into a more rigid system. Some kids love online learning, but it would work better for the family if it wasn't at a set time. Other kids do poorly with online learning, and would benefit from having more hands-on instruction. And sometimes those kids are in the same family! With ho-



Kathy Oaks



ABOVE: Sophia Redfern-Hall stands in front of painting at an art show. It was created in one of the many classes she took. AT LEFT: Zane Redfern-Hall took a rocket launch class. Homeschooling enabled the students to pursue their interests through various classes.



meschooling, everyone can be accommodated.

There are plenty of places that are already set up to do online learning, and do it well, for any income level, and home-schoolers have been taking advantage of them for years.

Redfern-Hall: I'd have to say that homeschooling is a lifestyle choice. The parent is the one making the choices on how learning will proceed and what type of materials or programs their students will follow. Crisis schooling is just trying to keep things as much like a normal school day as possible - still following along with the school-mandated lessons or materials. Making sure that the kids will keep up with all the classes and subjects in school so they don't fall behind.

**What questions have you heard from people who are thinking about switching to homeschooling and what are the reasons driving this discussion?**

Oaks: I have seen all kinds of reasons for switching to home-schooling. For some, the stress of dealing with online public school was just too much, and they hope to see happier kids (and parents) through home-schooling. Others are worried that their kids won't be safe and are intending only to homeschool until the pandemic eases. Still others have said they were already considering homeschooling and are taking this opportunity to jump in.

Many of the questions I've seen have centered around finding the "right" curriculum. Honestly, there is no "right" curriculum. Sure, there are all-in-one box sets you can buy, for quite a lot of money. But what if your family ends up hating it? Many homeschoolers draw from a variety of resources rather than using one set curriculum.

**What is your advice for those who would like to transition from homeschooling to crisis schooling?**

Oaks: The best advice I know of is first, to deschool. That

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### Highlights from book contributors:

"Our goal with 'Why I Love Homeschooling' is to show parents the various ways that people from all walks of life homeschool," stated co-editor Kathy Oaks. "We hope it will give confidence to those who are ready to give it a try, and those who feel it's the best option for them right now, even if they don't feel ready yet. We reached out to 24 authors to get their perspectives on the joys and challenges of homeschooling and why they love educating their kids at home. Lots of people only talk about how great homeschooling is, without addressing the challenges, and leave parents unprepared. There are always challenges, but managing them can in fact become part of the learning process, adding emotional intelligence to education."

### Some quotes from the book:

Carrie Pomeroy ("The Art of Knowing When to Push," *Home School Life Magazine*) - "Above all, homeschooling requires the patience to trust that even when my kids spend most of their time on pursuits that aren't conventionally academic, there is often important learning, development, or rest and gestation happening, even if I don't see it right away."

Mary Jo Tate (*Flourish: Balance for Homeschool Moms*) - "There will never be a perfect time or place for homeschooling. Life will always present challenges, whether big or small. Instead of being disappointed and paralyzed by what you can't do, focus on what you can do and how you and your family can best use each day's opportunities."

Melissa Calapp (*Homeschool Adventures: Learning Through the Power of Field Trips*) - "Homeschooling can be examined and designed to fit your particular child and family. It can include all the things that you thought were missing and all the pieces you think they will need. There can be room to pursue individual passions. And for parents who are new to homeschooling, you can start slow."



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## More highlights from book contributors:

**Michelle Huddleston** (Just for Today's Homeschooling Mom) – "Being an ex-school teacher, I had many hurdles of my own to jump. Not only did I have a teacher mindset, but I also had a public school system mindset. It was embedded in me that school looked like waking up at a certain time every morning, starting school work by a certain time every day, and having subjects taught separately according to what was in the lesson plans.... Now our homeschool doesn't look much like school at all. When it comes to home-schooling, the possibilities truly are endless."

**Faye Badenhop** (Help Me Homeschool!)— "Lest you think you do not have it in you to give and give with nothing in return, let me remind you that you get to pick what you teach! Have you ever wanted to learn to decorate fancy cupcakes, do yoga, excel in a certain art or craft, or start an herb garden? Add it as a subject and you get to learn it too!"

## WHY THEY LOVE >> 12

is, take time off. Fortunately, the summer is helpful for that! But also spend some time thinking about what you and your family like and don't like about school. The people most likely to give up on homeschooling are those who try to faithfully reproduce school at home instead of fitting homeschooling to their unique needs. Start slowly with one subject – ideally your favorite or your child's favorite subject – and add in another as you get your footing. Adjust as you go along. Most people are surprised at how little actual instruction is needed; much of the public school day is taken up with things like moving from classroom to classroom, waiting for students to all be ready, and busywork to make sure the slowest students have enough practice.

**Redfern-Hall:** My first suggestion would be to let go of what you think you should do to teach your children. Don't plan to re-create a school environment. Let your kid do some unschooling. (There are lots of books and info on unschooling.) Unschooling is particularly useful for students who have suffered from bad situations in school – anxiety, bullying, depression and so on. Just let them be for a period of time. You don't

have to have everything figured out all at once. I know homeschoolers who change curriculum more than once a year because it's just not working for them or their kids.

Don't feel tied down to a certain way of doing things. Reach out to the online homeschooler community. There are so many folks out there now who are homeschooling. When COVID-19 was not an on-going issue, the opportunities to meet other homeschoolers at events and get-togethers was amazing. Often, we laughed about the socialization issue. We wanted less socialization. There was so much to do. Hopefully, this will be available again in the near future.

**Does homeschooling have to be all or nothing? What are some other options for people?**

**Oaks:** Anyone with more than one child has noticed they're not the same. I know a number of homeschoolers who send one child to school and work with another at home. In Minnesota, depending on the school district, homeschoolers can participate in classes and sports through their local schools, as well. There are also local homeschool co-ops, including secular ones, that meet weekly to cover academic needs. We participate in Planet



The Redfern-Hall family of Standish started homeschooling after the birth of their first kid in 1995. Left to right: Sophia, Joni, Zoe, Zane and Theresa.

Homeschool, which is online for the fall semester. Through our co-op the kids have taken math, creative writing, history, language, fencing, ballroom dance, and theater classes, which are just a small sample of the options that have been offered over the years.

**Redfern-Hall:** No home-schooling does not have to be all or nothing. I have known some families who have utilized some online learning programs

that were perfectly okay with students having outside learning activities. Some kids have taken classes at co-ops while attending the online schools. My kids attended a project-based high school, Avalon, and still took classes outside of the classes there. They received credit for those classes and projects. Even while not homeschooling, I tended to put an educational element into most of the things we did as a family. We enjoyed and learned.



# LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Longfellow Strong Yard Signs Available at More Locations!

Our Longfellow Strong yard sign fundraiser is going strong! This fundraiser is for and about our community.

We want to clarify that Longfellow Strong signs raise money for the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) to help rebuild our community in a way that preserves our



minority-owned businesses and respects black, indigenous and people of color in Longfellow. LCC represents all Longfellow residents and is particularly focused on reaching residents who have been historically under-represented including people of color, renters, and seniors.

The messaging "Longfellow Strong" was chosen to recognize and display the amazing solidarity across our community following the recent unrest. Signs are \$10 each and available at the following locations:

- Every Monday from 11am-1pm at the LCC Office | ABC Construction bldg. 2727 26th Ave S.
- Fireroast Cafe & Wine Bar | 3800 37th Ave S
- East Lake Liquor Store | 3937th Ave S
- The Fix Studio | 3725 Minnehaha Ave.
- Mother Earth Gardens | 3738 42nd Ave S

## SAVE THE DATE Best Zoom Meeting Ever: LCC General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Election – Tue, Oct 27 6-7:30pm

If you live or own a business in the Longfellow, Howe, Cooper or Hiawatha neighborhoods, we'd love your participation in our Board of Directors elections! At this time, we are seeking candidates interested in running for a seat on the board.

In October, our annual board election and General Membership Meeting will be conducted online via Zoom. We will have a town hall style meeting. Residents will be provided an opportunity in advance of the meeting to submit questions that you have for elected officials, the 3rd Precinct Inspector, the LCC Board of Directors or to LCC in general. Your questions will be selected randomly and sent to the corresponding person so they will be prepared to answer during the meeting. We are living in a time when there are many questions and few answers. Your questions will help to bring forward issues that your neighbors and friends have wanted a response to and that impact your daily lives and wellbeing of your community.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and unrest after the murder of George Floyd, the LCC is working with residents and through community partnerships on emergent issues facing our community including:

- 1) Rebuilding businesses and community resources in the impacted areas
- 2) Food security
- 3) Safety and security of residents and businesses

LCC is your citizen participation organization in the place you live, work and/or play. No one should feel intimidated by joining the LCC Board of Directors. LCC is committed to having a Board that is welcoming and that represents the cultural diversity of Greater Longfellow. Any resident or person who owns a business in Greater Longfellow can nominate themselves. LCC needs your participation to represent the broader community.

## Submit a Question for the General Membership Meeting:

Do you have a question for our elected officials, the Police Inspector, our LCC board, or for LCC in general? Submit your question with the form found here: <https://longfellow.org/2020/08/17/gmm2020/>

During the meeting, questions that were randomly selected will be answered.

Based on the number of questions submitted, time may not be allotted to answer every and all questions.

## Join Our Board of Directors

The LCC Board of Directors is responsible for fundraising, organizational management and planning.

Members attend monthly meetings and other special meetings as needed. LCC staff ensure that all board members have the resources and support they need to participate. All members will also receive training soon after the October elections.

If you have an interest in joining the LCC Board, or if you just want more information please contact Melanie Majors, LCC Executive Director via email at [info@longfellow.org](mailto:info@longfellow.org) or by sending a request in the mail to 2727 26th Avenue S., Mpls MN 55406. Visit [www.https://longfellow.org/2020/08/17/gmm2020/](https://longfellow.org/2020/08/17/gmm2020/) to learn more about board responsibilities.

More information will be available in September through the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and social media. LCC staff are working remotely but you can leave a message for Carly Swenson at 612-722-4529 ext. 11.

## Longfellow Community Council

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# Mississippi River connects teachers from 'The Headwaters to the Delta' despite COVID-19



## The Virtual Mississippi River Institute blends online and hands-on outdoor learning

Last February, more than 30 educators from Minnesota and Louisiana were looking forward to a special river journey. They were making plans to come together on the banks of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities for the 16th annual River Institute, an intensive, highly experiential learning event focused on America's greatest waterway that is offered by Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) in St. Paul.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic sent the teachers, along with their peers across America, scrambling for online learning resources and strategies to use for distance instruction. CGEE, drawing on the an extensive multimedia and video archive about the great river, quickly adapted the institute to a breakthrough hybrid format that combines online and hands-on experiences.

"We were uniquely positioned for doing a very quick pivot," said Tracy Fredin, CGEE Executive Director. "We had content and pedagogical expertise, decades of experience in hands-on education as well as distance learning, plus a huge online media library. Out of COVID-19 chaos, we created a new model of professional development that celebrates and educates students about our most important river. And from the results, I'd say this is only the beginning."

CGEE's The Mighty Mississippi (<http://electronic-field-trips.wyes.org/>), an award-winning public television special about the Mississippi featuring student reporters, gave Institute participants a rich documentary introduction to the river from its headwaters to Gulf. This program was complemented by three of CGEE's modular online multimedia learning programs about



Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) in St. Paul offers free online learning resources and strategies that combine online and hands-on experience. They quickly pivoted this spring to help teachers and students to learn about the Mississippi River. (Photos submitted)

the Mississippi and its watershed: the wide-ranging Waters to the Sea® Mississippi River Adventure program (<https://waterstothesea.org/mississippi/>); Big River Journey Online (<https://bigriverjourneyonline.org/>), which focuses on the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities region and was developed in collaboration with the National Park Service; and Adopt a Drain Interactive (<https://waterstothesea.org/AADInteractive/>), which engages citizens and schools in reducing urban water pollution by keeping harmful debris and pollution out of storm drains.

"CGEE is an international leader in creating interactive educational resources that are free for educators everywhere to use, and many of them focus on the Mississippi River," Fredin continued. "We have hours and hours

of online activities about multiple subjects in our award-winning Waters to the Sea® programs about North American waterways."

"Learning to use Waters to the Sea® is always an important part of the River Institute," said Robinsdale School of Engineering and Arts Program Coordinator Cara Rieckenberg, who has led CGEE Rivers Institutes for nine years. "But by the end of the school year, everyone was tired of sitting in front of their computers all day. So, we created a virtual institute that used video conferencing for building community, presentations by content experts, and sharing among participants. Exploring CGEE's online learning resources were balanced by several hours of outdoor, hands-on activities each day. This hybrid approach to distance learning

ally resonated with our 50 participants, who are excited to use the same strategy with their students this fall."

The successful hybrid River Institute program will be offered again this fall with a special focus on the Mississippi Delta region. It will be available to teachers nationwide at no cost.

"I will use the Waters to the Sea website with students - a lot. Our students do a Mississippi River Project each year and [the] web adventure touches on so many great topics. I'm planning to rewrite much of my curriculum in order to incorporate much of this," said Katie Humason, middle school science teacher at Minnehaha Academy.

"Inquiry activities are possible! Connecting students to their actual environment is possible! There are lots of resources avail-

able if we're willing to look!" remarked Anwatin Middle School science teacher Laura Kimball.

Educators were inspired by the connections they made with colleagues across the Mississippi's enormous watershed, despite only interacting with each other via video conferencing.

When asked about the top take-aways she left the Institute with, Mill City Museum Education Curriculum Coordinator Wini Froelich said, "Students can handle a lot more depth and scaffolded activities digitally than I thought. CGEE is pretty amazing. The stories of the Mississippi are varied and vast. It is alright to have a narrow focus at one point but make sure to consider it as "One River" as well."

"The collaboration with other teachers in Minnesota and Louisiana on this topic is an eye-opening experience," said a New Orleans Middle School teacher. "As a teacher from Louisiana, I realized there is much more to the Mississippi River... [Our students] have not learned all about the watersheds and how precious the Mississippi really is from North to the South."

"We're excited about the impact that our new hybrid Institute had on educators," Fredin said, "especially in a time when these skills and resources are more important than ever."

In addition to Waters to the Sea® Mississippi River Adventure (<https://waterstothesea.org/mississippi/>), CGEE has an extensive archive of interactive, multimedia educational resources available for free online that span the country from Hawaii to Texas to Georgia to Minnesota (<https://www.hamline.edu/education/cgee/youth-resources.html>).

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# Green Chair Project helps homeless youth

>> from 11

## An idea that came back around

But Ramsour had an idea. He and Sisson had met years ago in a church basement, where they had both been talking about their youth projects. And Ramsour had taken a couple of the crates used to build chairs and had hung onto them.

"Paul and I had talked over the years, and he messaged me not long after the riots," Sisson said. "Maybe it's time to resurrect the chair project," was Ramsour's message.

"A couple other people had been whispering in my ear about it, also, and so I messaged Paul back and said yes, I would like to give the project to him and help him make it happen."

And so, inner city youth are again building chairs.

The chairs are made of 5-core cedar, the same kind of wood that is used to build decks. Sisson said they can easily last 10 years, especially if they are covered and placed inside during the winter months.

The kit for each chair unfolds into two work tables on wheels. A youth center could unfold the kit, build the chairs, then fold it up and put it away. Sisson said the kits are made to be shipped. "That's what I want to do. I really want to open source this project, and Paul is in line with that. He has kind of taken this on, with Elpis serving as the training center.

"We are trying to develop a

manual that we are putting together, with pictures and diagrams of how to build the chair, so someone might be able to take this kit and set up their own workshop."

## Staying safe while building

Sisson said the initial idea was to have three workshops in the areas hardest hit by the rioting: Lake Street, North Minneapolis and St. Paul. "We would be doing the workshops outside amidst the rubble, and building from there."

However, Sisson said he is comfortable with shifting goals if needed as long as more young people can be put to work. So the plan now is to offer the workshops at Elpis, either outside or in an upstairs space or in the woodworking shop.

"Paul has been in conversations with Ain Dah Yung," Sisson said. That is an organization that also serves homeless youth by providing housing and other benefits. He said the Green Chair Project has also worked with corporate training, and that is also a possibility.

"If we didn't have COVID-19 to worry about, we would probably be doing workshops like crazy right now. But we are all trying to figure out how to stay safe and distance."

Working safely, about four to six trainees could complete the four-hour workshop and can easily build six chairs in that time. The workshops are free, and one chair is given away for every two

that are sold. The profits are used to fund the workshops. There is no capacity for painting right now, so the chairs are unpainted cedar.

Sisson said that after a workshop, the youths will have a couple chairs that they can decide what to do with: display them, paint them or sell them.

Each workshop has three stations, according to Sisson. At one station, the arms of the chair are built. At the second station, the back of the chair is built. And at the third station, all the pieces come together.

"It's good to team up a little bit," Sisson said. "We are using my favorite model. You learn how to build something, and then you have to teach the next person how to do it."

At this point, Elpis trainees have already started building chairs. Sisson said with their first run of 50 chairs, 22 have already been sold.

"Our chairs have gotten so much better over the years," Sisson stated. "The quality, the size and the longevity."

He said the development of the product has been a result of some of the people who have been involved over the years with the project. Tim Schwietzer helped design the big Adirondack chairs, which weigh over 2,000 pounds. And Mike Hoyt was involved with running the project for many years and is still involved in community art projects.

"We have the ability to extend this through the fall to the end of the year," Ramsour added.



Joel Sisson (left) joins Elpis workers constructing chairs. The Green Chair project started in South Minneapolis, has been reinvented, and is now based in the St. Paul Midway. (Photo by Jan Willms)

"We would like to do that, selling the chairs to help fund the workshops we do. We have an opportunity this fall to have more interns, and they can learn to build the chairs and can then teach workshops. We are excited about

the process."

He said Elpis is also excited about helping bring back the Green Chair Project and that interns have the opportunity to work on a project that has been happening for a number of years.

"We have talked to a number of people about it, and people are interested. I think the challenge is figuring out how this works in the COVID-19 ecosystem. I think it can."

Ramsour explained that COVID-19 can be a reason to build the chairs. "You can have the chairs out and about so people can sit and space and talk, and the chairs are good for doing all that."

To purchase a chair or have a group sign up for a workshop, contact Elpis Enterprises at info@elpisenterprises.org or call 651-644-5080.

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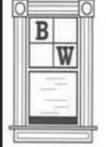
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Want ads must be received by the Messenger by Sept. 21 for the Oct. 1 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

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# Inspector discusses state of policing in Third Precinct

*'To be told all police officers are racist and irredeemable is hard to take'*

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Third Precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) covers such a huge square area that if it were a city, it would be third biggest in the state.

Its headquarters suffered serious fire damage and looting during the Uprising, and all staff have been disbursed to work in locations across Minneapolis. Inspector Sean McGinty has been in charge of the Third Precinct since last August. He said, "Our crime prevention specialists are working from home, our investigators are operating off-site, and our beat officers are storing their gear in various other precinct buildings."

He continued, "We started the year with 110 sworn officers. Every city department had to make cuts due to COVID, and we were heavily impacted in our precinct. Most of my discretionary officers have been absorbed into the 911 response team, and the city is in a hiring freeze."

What does that mean for this neighborhood?

The precinct had to cut 17 Community Support Officer (CSO) positions. A CSO works 20-30 hours per week in the MPD for up to three years in a civilian capacity, while enrolled in an approved, two-year law enforcement program. The program exists to improve communica-

tion, understanding, and cooperation between MPD employees and Minneapolis's diverse communities.

New hires to the police department come from the pool of CSOs who have completed their training and education. There was a class of 29 recruits slated to start this month. According to Inspector McGinty, "It was the most diverse class we've ever had, and now we can't hire them."

It's anybody's guess what the MPD will look like after the 14-month review period has ended. All six city council members from the Third Precinct support dismantling the MPD. Inspector McGinty said, "That's very difficult for us to understand. To be told that all police officers are racist and irredeemable is hard to take."

"Everyone agrees that deep reform must happen within the police department, and I don't know anyone who has done more to try and change policing than MPD Police Chief Medaria Arradondo."

For his part, Inspector McGinty attends every community meeting he is invited to. He said, "It's not uncommon for me to spend a couple of hours after a community meeting talking with residents. We can write the word 'reform' on a piece of paper, but until we start human build-

ing relationships – nothing will change."

As mentioned in last month's *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*, Inspector McGinty encourages people who live in the Third Precinct to connect with him in small, safe, backyard conversations. He can be reached at sean.mcginty@minneapolismn.gov, and is interested in having honest, challenging conversations.

## Need for community reform

While he believes strongly in police reform, Inspector McGinty also believes that there must be some level of community reform. He said, "There's a hyper-partisanship rippling through everything right now. Everybody's on a hair trigger. My officers tried to enter the homeless encampment at Powderhorn Park when an adolescent girl was raped last month, and they were chased out with rocks and bottles. We cannot provide public safety if we are under assault."

In the wake of COVID cuts and the murder of George Floyd, there is a reduced police force in the Third Precinct more focused on crime response than crime prevention, according to McGinty. In addition to the lack of new hires and the eliminated community engagement positions, there have been officer res-



Inspector Sean McGinty has been coordinating the operation of the Minneapolis Third Precinct since August 2019. It has been a year filled with events he could never possibly have imagined. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

ignations and PTSD claims filed for extended medical leave.

*Editor's Note: The Longfellow Nokomis Messenger welcomes reader comments on the future of policing in Minneapolis. What do you hope to see? How do you feel*

*about the nature of this change for our city? Comments can be sent to editor Tesha Christensen at tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.*

## Third Precinct may relocate to 2633 Minnehaha

The Minneapolis City Council is currently reviewing a proposal from property services staff to relocate the Third Precinct Police Station into the Seward industrial area at 2633 Minnehaha Ave. A council committee received the recommendation and final approval of a lease agreement will be up for a vote on Friday, Aug. 28.

According to Ward Two Council Member Cam Gordon, "If the action is approved, the hoped for move-in date would likely be sometime in mid to late October. This facility would offer space for most of the staff formally housed at the third precinct, excluding 311. This follows an extensive search of any and all suitable alternative loca-

tions, the recommendation from staff is to authorize a three-year lease with an option to renew, which would give the city time to make a longer-term plan.

"I regret that this proposal is moving so fast that we have not had more time to work with the community. I have until the 28th to determine my vote and to influence this decision for others. I have already made clear to staff and my colleagues that this

proposal is certain to raise concerns from nearby residents and property owners. While some are likely to welcome it as a positive thing, others will have more uncertainty and some may have strong objections.

"I believe that if this move is to happen those concerns and objections need to be addressed and there needs to be clear community benefits, reassurance and accommodations made for the

local residents and businesses and that those should be made with their input. I am working with staff and neighborhood leaders to convene a virtual and an outdoor meeting early next week to hear from people and get feedback. In the meantime I welcome you to send it to me." cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov, 612-673-2202, 612-296-0579



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Visit [nokomiseast.org/calendar/](http://nokomiseast.org/calendar/) to learn more!

## Food resources

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were swift and continue to unfold for our Nokomis East residents and businesses. The Civil Uprising and the destruction of local stores utilized by many of our transit-dependent community members make food insecurity even more challenging. Our community is served by two nonprofit projects helping local families put food on the table. The resources are available to all:

- Minnehaha Food Shelf – Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located in the Minnehaha Methodist Church at 3701 E 50th Street. Phone: (612) 721-6231. Website: [minnehaha.org/food-shelf.html](http://minnehaha.org/food-shelf.html)

- Nokomis East Pop-Up Food Distribution – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Located at 5734 Sander Drive. Outdoor event, dress for the weather. Phone: (612) 293-9683. Email: [nena@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nena@nokomiseast.org)

## Monarch Festival re-imagined

For the past 12 years, NENA and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board have hosted the Minneapolis Monarch Festival. This year the festival looks a little different as we move online.

## Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

By BECKY TIMM,  
Executive Director  
[becky.timm@nokomiseast.org](mailto:becky.timm@nokomiseast.org)



The festival is organizing cultural, artistic, and educational virtual activities to keep the spirit of the festival alive and promote our core message of protecting the Monarch Butterfly.

We are hosting a pop-up pollinator plant sale on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lake Nokomis Community Center. Pollinator plant kits are available for online pre-order and payment. Order ahead, pick up, and plant in your yard!

Visit our festival website at [www.monarchfestival.org](http://www.monarchfestival.org) and on Facebook at @MinneapolisMonarchFestival to see what is new!

## Housing resources

Housing concerns are also on the rise as the COVID-19 pandemic continues into its sixth month. NENA works with gov-

ernment agencies and nonprofits to keep you informed of available resources:

- Hennepin County Community Resources – Food, rental assistance, business assistance, health and mental health resources. and more at 612-348-5139 or [www.hennepin.us/residents/emergencies/community-resources](http://www.hennepin.us/residents/emergencies/community-resources)

- Foreclosure Prevention Nonprofit Organization – Minnesota Homeownership Center at [www.hocmn.org](http://www.hocmn.org)

- Renters Rights Nonprofit Organizations – Tenant Resource Center at [www.trc2020.com](http://www.trc2020.com). HomeLine Legal Hotline at 612-728-5767

- NENA Programs – Low-interest home improvement loans; Staying In Place Grants for seniors, veterans, residents living with disabilities, and low-income households; home security matching grants (October); and renters rights support at [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) under "Projects"

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Your guide to news, events, and resources! Get your neighborhood news delivered to your inbox every Thursday. Sign up today at [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org). Once you sign up, you'll receive updates on news and happenings for your neighborhood.

# VIOLENT LABOR PROTEST ROCKS SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS IN THE 1930S

*Police claim picketers fired on them, protesters blame armed guards for 'fomenting strife'*

By IRIC NATHANSON

On the Midtown Greenway at 27th Ave., a foliage-clad structure known as the Ivy Building was caught up in the violent protests that swept through the East Lake corridor following George Floyd's murder. The artists and small businesses that occupied the historic building were forced to vacate when the building caught fire on May 28, 2020.

During the height of the Great Depression more than 80 years ago, that same corner of 27th Ave. and 27th St. was the site of another violent protest that rocked South Minneapolis for three nights in September 1935.

In 1935, the Ivy Building was the home of the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, a metal fabricating business owned by Walter Tetzlaff. That year, the fiercely anti-union Tetzlaff had faced off against a Minneapolis labor organization, the Ornamental Iron Workers Local 1313, that was working to organize his plant. A year earlier, Minneapolis's beleaguered labor movement had scored a major victory. The victory came when the Teamsters union was able to win major concessions from a group of local trucking companies after a bloody summer-long strike.

With an emboldened labor movement follow the settlement of the truckers strike, Walter Tetzlaff found himself on the defensive as he pushed back against Local 1313's demands. When Tetzlaff refused to bargain with the union, Local 1313 called his workers out on strike on July 11. At first, Tetzlaff tried to keep Flour City open with a nonunion crew. But faced with a hostile crowd of labor sympathizers who surrounded the plant night after night, he backed down, at least temporarily, and closed the factory on July 28.

Later in the week, a small contingent of Tetzlaff's non-striking workers met with Minneapolis Mayor Thomas Latimer and told him that they wanted to go back to work. Latimer assured the group's leaders that they would get ample police protection if the plant reopened. On Friday, July 31, a few of the men were able to get through picket lines with the help of about 50

Minneapolis policemen. That night, as they were leaving the plant, a crowd of nearly 1,000 union sympathizers stoned the strikebreakers. Tetzlaff closed the plant again but obtained a court order a month later which enabled him to keep a skeleton crew of armed guards inside the plant.

Tetzlaff's ploy only succeeded in further enraging the strikers who surrounded the plant for days at a time. "Each night the singing and shouting crowd passed in front of the plant," the pro-business *Minneapolis Tribune* reported, "missiles were hurled through windows. The crush of broken glass sounded above the imprecations shouted at the workers housed inside the plant."

By Sept. 10, the crowd had swelled to more than 5,000. Just before midnight on the 10th, the police charged with tear gas to disperse the strikers and their supporters. "Firing over their heads," the *Tribune* recounted, "the police drove the protesters and spectators, including women and children, down alleys and between buildings. In the charge, the police did not distinguish between picketers and spectators."

## Two killed on Sept. 11, both sides blame other

The next night, on Sept. 11, the picketers were back in force and so were the police. At about 11 p.m., a local police official gave the order to disperse the crowd. "Armored cars roared into action," the *Tribune* reported. "Up and down 27th Avenue they went, laying down a barrage of tear gas. The crowd scattered. It seemed for a moment that the crisis had passed. But then a new group of strikers rushed up to the plant and shouted to the crowd not to turn back."

"Just after 11, the first shots were fired," the *Tribune* told its readers. "The picketers scurried for cover as the police advanced, clearing 27th Ave. Then the battle settled into guerrilla warfare. Members of the mob dodged in and out between the houses, peppering away at the police and the plant with rocks and stones. Rifle bullets whizzed through the street and fire poured into the police line from a vacant field near the railroad tracks."

en-foot-tall rose statue. The statues are on display in public spaces throughout Roseville from July 1-Oct. 31, 2020, offering people of all ages a safe, free public art experience to enjoy in the summer and fall. The rose statues were built by TivoliToo, the local company that created the Peanuts characters for the "Peanuts on Parade" public art project in Saint Paul. The circumference of each rose blossom is 100 feet and the total weight of the statue (rose, rose pot and base) is 658 pounds.

Free rose maps are available at numerous locations throughout Roseville, or download maps at [www.rosevilleinbloom.com](http://www.rosevilleinbloom.com)

WEATHER U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast. Forecasted and under Thursday. Additional weather on page 11. **The Minneapolis Tribune** MORNING EDITION Three Cents In Minneapolis

Sixty-ninth Year, No. 111. 3 MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1935. Twenty-six Pages

## Two Shot to Death, 28 Injured When Police and Pickets Battle



During the height of the Great Depression, the Ivy Building at the corner of 27th St. and 27th Ave. was home to Flour City Ornamental Iron Works. It was the site of a three-day protest by the iron workers union. By the end, two were shot to death and 28 injured. The same building was damaged by fire in the May 2020 protests over the murder of George Floyd by police officers in South Minneapolis.

Two hours later, the battle was over. Twenty-eight people had been wounded. Two bystanders, 21-year-old Melvin Bjorkland and 18-year-old Eugene Cooper, had been killed in the cross fire. Bjorkland happened to be walking through the neighborhood surrounding the plant after attending a church social when he was killed. Cooper was standing on the sidelines watching the battle when he was shot in the chest.

After the shooting had stopped, the police claimed that a group of picketers armed with rifles had fired on them, a charge vigorously denied by union leaders. Later in the month, a story in the *Minneapolis Labor Review* reported that the first shots were fired from within the plant by Tetzlaff's armed guards. "It is known that 20 of the 26 inside

the plant were private detectives brought into the plant," the *Labor Review* maintained. "There is only one conclusion that can be reached, that they were brought in deliberately with the idea of fomenting strife."

In the end, neither side was able to prove its case. The source of the bullets that killed Bjorkland and Cooper was never determined.

Then, almost as quickly as it started, the strike at Flour City Ornamental Iron was settled when Tetzlaff and the heads of eight other iron working firms agreed to Local 1313's demands.

On Sept. 21, both sides signed an agreement which enabled strikers workers to go back to work. The agreement established a 40-hour work week and gave workers a small, but significant wage increase.

In later years, Minneapolis's labor movement would celebrate more wins and suffer more defeats. But the battles of the mid-1930s, including the one at the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, would succeed in breaking the tight hold of Minneapolis's anti-labor organizations on this city's economic life.

## In Brief

### Midway artist part of 'Roseville in Bloom'

Local artist Daniela Bianchini, a native of Argentina now based in Nokomis is one of the artists chosen to participate in the Roseville in Bloom public art project, a celebration of "20 Roses in 2020." Bianchini designed and decorated a sev-



### Black Women Rising

On June 2, nearly 10 Black women filed to run for U.S. Congress and State Senate and House Representative seconds before the deadline. To learn more about Black Women Rising and the candidates, visit [www.blackwomenrising.net](http://www.blackwomenrising.net).

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# Through Their Eyes

## 'Sometimes I feel scared'

> Clementina Serna <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Clementina Serna and her sister Estela opened El Norteno Restaurant 24 years ago. In all that time, they didn't take many vacations and they worked long hours serving up their signature dishes from Chihuahua, Mexico.

Clementina said, "When the pandemic happened, I didn't think we'd be closed for very long. So many customers came in to support us on that last night before we had to shut down in March. The restaurant atmosphere was like a party."

As winter turned to spring, Clementina and Estela were joined by their third sister, Rufina, who was working from home due to COVID-19. The three of them started buying sandwiches at the Longfellow Market, and bringing them onto their own patio at El Norteno as soon as it was warm enough to sit outside. Why not? As it turned out, the

restaurant wouldn't open again for almost five months. The flowers were growing by April and they wanted to enjoy them.

It's been 35 years since Clementina made the Longfellow neighborhood her home. When the Uprising happened, she and Estela weren't sure they wanted to board up their restaurant. They thought it wasn't necessary, but several of their friends, customers, and neighbors thought otherwise. Boards went up on the windows and doors, and the restaurant was not harmed. Clementina said, "We don't have the words to express our thanks to everyone who helped us."

Then on July 15, Clementina's phone rang at 6 a.m. The security company called to say their restaurant had been broken into. They had been closed for four months. There wasn't a dime inside to steal. Several people walking their dogs through the neighborhood had already called the police, and there was



Sisters Estela (left) and Clementina Serna (right) have operated El Norteno Restaurant together for 24 years. They are now open again for business after a five month hiatus. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

no physical damage besides a shattered window.

These things take their toll – but to the upward trend in crime along E. Lake St., Clementina has one word of response, "NO." She believes that the neighborhood will get through this tough

time. She said, "Sometimes I feel scared, but Longfellow is a very strong community where people care about each other."

El Norteno reopened on Thursday, Aug. 13 in compliance with state health recommendations. The sisters have reduced

the number of tables for indoor dining to six, and patio seating has been reduced by half. Masks are required for entry, and reservations are highly recommended. A plexi-glass shield separates take-out customers from Clementina and Estela as they work the register, and they are busy. A table in the entryway overflows with flowers and cards from well-wishers.

Through it all, the sisters are smiling. Clementina said, "We have had wonderful times with our family since March – that has been the hidden blessing. We've been home so much more than usual. From our 84-year-old mom to our two-year old nephew, our family is healthy and doing great. Estela and I are eager to see our customers again, too. We have an incredible family, and our customers are a big part of that."

El Norteno Restaurant is located at 4000 E. Lake St. Reservations can be made by calling 612-722-6888. Hours of operation will be Tuesday-Saturday from 4-9 p.m.

## 'This is still where I want to be'

> Jim Lee <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

A donor to the East Lake DQ GoFundMe campaign said it best, "I love going to the DQ in the summer. Jim has always been a supporter of neighborhood events. Now it's our turn to support him."

Jim Lee has operated the Dairy Queen at 4400 E. Lake St. for 16 years. When he and his brother acquired the location, there was a chop shop next door – that's a business that takes apart stolen cars for the purpose of selling their parts. Jim said, "They were nice guys actually, and they bought a lot of ice cream. We had no idea what they were doing."

East Lake has undergone a solid business revival in the last 10 years. The chop shops are gone, and most of the empty buildings are filled.

Jim said, "That was my first frustration when COVID-19 hit. I worried especially about all the new restaurants, and how they were going to make it. I thought we'd be okay at DQ because we're designed for our customers to be served outside."

As it turned out, the DQ was vandalized multiple times during the Uprising. On top of the store's COVID-19 losses, Jim lost \$3,000 worth of newly delivered inventory on the night of May 27 – and suffered serious damage to his ice cream making equipment and property. By the

time the dust settled, he lost two months of income, too. That's a huge hit for a business that's only open nine months of the year, on average.

Out of respect for the issues that drove the Uprising, Jim didn't want to start a fundraising campaign until a couple of weeks later. On June 11, the East Lake DQ GoFundMe site started accepting donations. A little more than a month later, they'd met their fundraising goal.

Jim said, "This was one of the real positives for us, realizing how much people value our business. Former employees donated, current customers, old customers who had moved away, people we'd never even met before."

Two weeks later, in a spate



"As a business owner, I continue to have faith in this community," said Dairy Queen owner Jim Lee. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

of burglaries that hit E. Lake St. from 38th to 44th avenues, the DQ was broken into again. Some things don't get easier with practice. This time it was harder to bounce back.

Jim said, "When I'm interacting with customers or with my employees, I feel pretty good – but most days my anxiety level is high. As a business owner, I continue to have faith in this community. I try to remember how it was when we moved in. Sixteen years ago, I was worried about running a store on E. Lake St. It seemed like things got so much better in the neighborhood – but lately, it's almost like I'm waiting for the call or text telling me there's been another burglary. Several people have asked me if I'm going to sell, but I tell them, 'This is still where I want to be.'"

## Another set of eyes on the neighborhood

> Anonymous <

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Super heroes have secret identities, and members of the newly formed East Lake Street Business Watch Patrol do too. By day, they run their business along E. Lake St. from 32nd Ave. to the Lake Street Bridge. By night, they are prepared to take turns peacefully patrolling the business corridor and neighborhood if there's another uptick in crime or unrest.

Their founding member, who spoke under the condition of anonymity, said, "My busi-

ness was broken into on May 28, and our cash register was stolen. When things calmed down the following week, I started wondering what business owners could do to protect themselves, each other, and the neighborhood?"

Eight weeks ago, he organized a meeting with a few other business owners and block club leaders. The core group continued meeting and talking; they have now grown to include 19 business owners, and more are likely to come forward as the word spreads.

The idea for the watch patrol is simple. Every business owner

in the designated area will be contacted by a member of the watch patrol. They can either agree to participate as a patroller, or they can request to be contacted if the person on patrol sees anything suspicious happening in or around their business.

Ideally, there will be 30 business owners willing to take one nightly shift per month. In that role, they would drive E. Lake St. between 32nd Ave. and the Lake Street Bridge – as well as one block north and one block south (29th and 31st streets) along that same stretch.

If the person on patrol sees

an active break-in, vandalism, or fire at a business, they will call the business owner and the police. If they see something questionable happening on a residential street, the block club leader for that block will be called or texted.

Members of the Business Watch Patrol are committed to being nothing more than another set of eyes on the neighborhood.

Should the patrol be mobilized, the person on duty each night will have a magnetic sign stuck to their car door that identifies them as a member of the Business Watch Patrol. Participating business owners will not be confrontational. They will be

armed only with a cell phone. They won't get out of their car if they see something of concern, and will make whatever call is appropriate from a safe distance.

Now that they have enough members to be viable, the Business Watch Patrol will be reaching out to block club leaders in the designated area to see if they want to be connected.

The participating members have long-established businesses along E. Lake St. They are requesting anonymity to protect their employees and their livelihoods. Their desire is to help promote a safer business corridor, and a safer neighborhood for all.

# HOME IMPROVEMENT

Stay busy during the winter months and plan for next year.



Coming October 2020. Deadline Sept. 21.

AD TIPS: What sets your business apart? What do you offer that others don't? Let potential customers know!

Use photos to showcase your work.

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# Community Bulletin Board



Supporting the neighborhood by supporting our local businesses

adxlabs.com  
longfellowbusinessassociation.org

## Rebuilding and Reopening

Welcome to our second edition of the ADX-Longfellow Business Association's Community Bulletin Board! We continue to provide this resource to help our neighbors during this difficult period of reconstruction. With the financial support of Minneapolis-based tech and entertainment company ADX, and the merchant community leadership of the Longfellow Business Association, look to Community Bulletin Board each month in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger for a guide to our businesses.

## Rebuild Longfellow: a grassroots community guide to our neighborhood

### REBUILD LONGFELLOW

Rebuild Longfellow is a grassroots team of Longfellow residents who partner with the Longfellow Business Association, Longfellow Community Council, and Seward Redesign. Their focus is to provide the Longfellow neighborhood with practical ways to support local businesses. This is made possible by partnering with block club leaders in Longfellow to gather the needs of businesses, categorized by type of support required and timing. Businesses can reach out to [rebuildlongfellow@gmail.com](mailto:rebuildlongfellow@gmail.com) to update their need requests. Volunteers can find a business to help at [rebuildlongfellow.org](http://rebuildlongfellow.org).

Want to help? The following are a few businesses featured on the site that could use your support:

#### 1 Corazon Inc

Needs finance & account support

#### 2 Open Arms Child Center

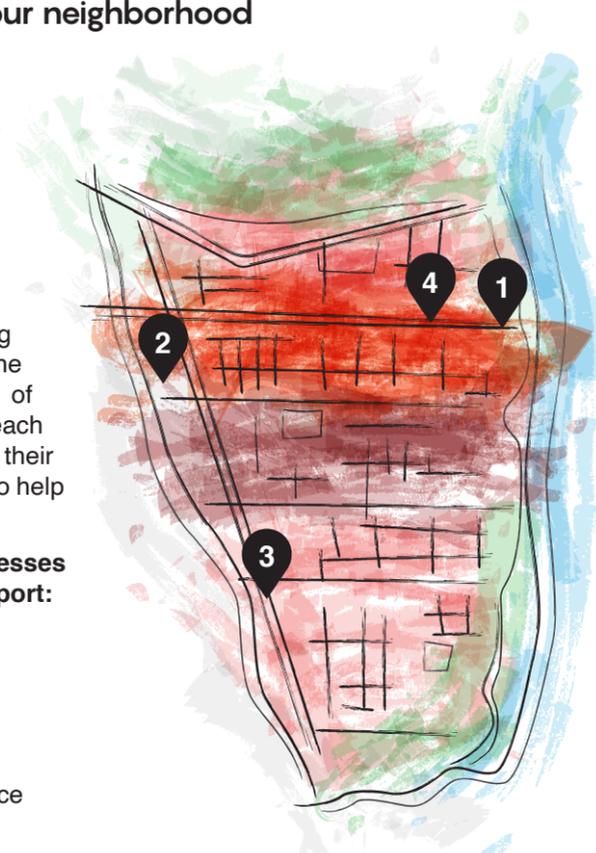
Needs general labor help and painting assistance

#### 3 Minnehaha Yoga

Needs professional services support with marketing (PR, social media, content writing, fundraising) business consulting (operations, strategic planning) and legal assistance

#### 4 Milkweed

Needs help with organizing and general labor as well as technical (software, website, web applications), marketing (PR, social media, content writing, fundraising), business consulting (operations, strategic planning), and finance & account support



## Thank You

Thank you to our community for lending a hand and sharing your expertise!

### Post Plus

During the civil uprising, Post Plus, our neighborhood shipping, printing and mailbox rental store, experienced property damage and lost electronic equipment to vandalism. In the rebuilding efforts, the owner has been focused on cleaning up and reopening in a safe and sustainable way. The Longfellow Business Association and Rebuild Longfellow teamed up to help Post Plus with several rebuild efforts, including recycling several large office printers.

### Daisy Nails

Situated at Lake St and 30th Ave, Daisy Nails experienced property damage and needed repairs to their street-side door. Rebuild Longfellow contacted a neighborhood volunteer who quickly assessed the damage, and coordinated the door replacement work with the owner of Daisy Nails. The storm door was replaced, along with a section of drywall that had been damaged. The owner and staff of Daisy Nails would like to thank everyone for their support!

## About ADX LABS

ADX Labs, Inc. (ADX) is a Minneapolis-headquartered global technology company focused on providing innovative products and services for individuals, home-based businesses, and the small to medium enterprise market. It is the core company in a global group of technology, entertainment and services brands and businesses. ADX independently funds the ADX Foundation, a registered non-profit philanthropic organization which has invested in children, communities, and social justice since 2013.

## About the Longfellow Business Association

The Longfellow Business Association (LBA) exists to ensure a vibrant business climate for the area by monitoring issues that impact our area businesses, facilitating communication between area businesses, providing business development resources, and supporting the greater Longfellow Community, which includes the Longfellow, Cooper, Howe, and Hiawatha neighborhoods. We are home to more than 22,000 residents and over 500 businesses, all of whom we strive to support and promote.

## Portraits from 6ft

Portraits from 6ft is a project of photographer Carina Lofgren that captures Minnesotans' everyday lives amid the COVID-19 crisis. During this time of uncertainty and social distance, this project brings people together by sharing unique stories from our community. The LBA and our partner organization Redesign are working with Carina to document Longfellow businesses impacted by the virus. Thanks to Redesign and the City of Minneapolis for funding this project through the Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Program.

See all the latest **Portraits from 6ft** at the Longfellow Business Association's website, [www.longfellowbusinessassociation.org](http://www.longfellowbusinessassociation.org)

## happy human



Amber and Jesse Walker are the co-owners of Happy Human Fitness. Haven't heard of them? They're one of many home-based businesses in Longfellow that often go under the radar. Normally, Happy Human provides in-home personal training to busy families and seniors interested in lifelong health and happiness. The Coronavirus has cut revenue in half and limited their normal scope of operations, but they are still able to offer online personal training and training outside in parks or backyards.

Like so many people, Amber, Jesse and their two boys (ages 9 and 4) are experiencing wide ranging emotions and coping day to day can be a challenge. But, their outlook provides grounding in the midst of uncertainty: "People think being a happy human means never having a bad day or being in a bad mood. We think that is an unreasonable expectation. Being honest with yourself and those around you about your moods and struggles is the quickest way back to happiness."



Photography by Carina Lofgren

For Amber and Jesse, kind words are the fuel that keep them going. If you find Happy Human helpful in any way (classes, Facebook posts, or personal training), let them know. The encouragement is what gives them the passion to run an amazing business - even during a pandemic.

Happy Human offers a free daily virtual workout and meditation. All are welcome. Go to [www.happyhumanfitness.com](http://www.happyhumanfitness.com) to get moving!

Tell Us About Your Local Business

Please contact LBA executive director Kim Jakus with your news, promotions, deals, operating hours or stories of recovery. We are seeking YOUR story for next month's Community Bulletin Board. Email [kim@longfellowbusinessassociation.org](mailto:kim@longfellowbusinessassociation.org)

adx

# LOLA'S SUPERPOWER

Book by Nokomis resident features resilience of girl who loses a leg – echoing her own life after amputation at age six

By ELENA VAUGHN

Leslie Pitt Schneider doesn't take any pity.

The 52-year old Irondale High School alumna lost her leg just after completing first grade. She spent her entire summer in the hospital, but was determined to get back to school. "I was not going to miss the first day of second grade – thank you very much," said Schneider.

She was run over by a dump truck hauling gravel, and the weight of the tire crushed her left leg so severely that a life-saving amputation was necessary.

The Nokomis resident has written a children's book called "Lolo's Superpower" echoing her own life with one leg.

The character Lolo's name is an acronym for Love Ourselves, Love Others. Schneider explains, "The concept behind Love Ourselves, Love Others is my belief that we must truly, madly and deeply love everything about ourselves, first... When we love all that makes us individually unique, then we can be accepting/tolerant/loving of others.

"LOLO is OLOL, in reverse; and OLOL represents my One Life with One Limb that has made me stronger. It's how I pay homage to my life's experience in losing a leg at the age of six and the amazing life that has ensued, in spite of being "differently abled," said Schneider.

Her familiar classmates and teachers helped her adjust smoothly to a new normal. "It was because my peers didn't treat me as anything different or



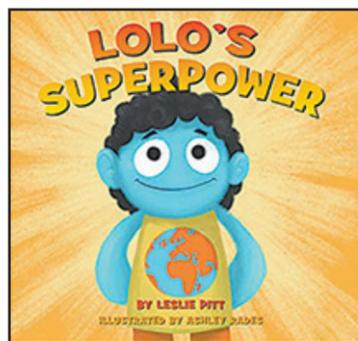
Leslie Pitt's life changed forever on the first day of summer vacation when she was six years old. After playing with her best friend, she hopped onto her bike for a short ride but before she could make it to her New Ulm home, she was struck by a dump truck. The impact completely crushed her left leg, forcing her to have it amputated. On a day that would otherwise conjure up bitterness and negativity, it's a day that Leslie celebrates. Living with limb loss taught her that our greatest losses are the pillars of our greatest strengths. (Photo submitted)

teased me for being 'disabled' that I quickly adjusted to life with a prosthetic leg," remarked Schneider. But the bullying and teasing started in junior high. "We had moved to a new town and a new school with new kids who didn't know my story. I was confused as to how my peers could be so cruel. It made me less shy since I had to advocate

for myself in proving that I was just like everyone else."

### Dreaming big dreams

Schneider hasn't let anything get in the way of her education. Her "education 'itch' every eight years" has led her to three degrees – in law, nursing, and global health and human rights. She was pre-med in college and



obtained a bachelor's degree in biology and planned to attend medical school. After graduating from Sr. Olaf, she moved to Colorado to ski on the U.S. Disabled Ski Team and to "have some playtime" before applying to medical schools. However, she decided that obtaining a nursing degree would be a good interim step until deciding on medical school. Schneider explained, "I ultimately decided to obtain my Juris Doctor degree as it fit more with my personality of always trying to prevent crises."

She completed her graduate degree at the University of Geneva, studying how proper care is "a non-reality for too many kids living with differing abilities." She describes it as "the educational cornerstone from which I created Project Lolo."

Schneider told her younger self "to always hold on to your larger-than-life dreams; to dream BIG dreams; and to always believe that the right dreams do come true.

"I'd also say to never lose your childhood perspective that good people always exist; that

goodness always prevails; and that better times will always come with a blessing of a lesson learned."

Schneider pointed out that "Lolo steadfastly believes that being different is a 'superpower' and finds strength in this core belief... Lolo teaches us to embrace everything that makes us amazingly and uniquely different from everyone else, and to return to that perspective when we're being teased or biased against because of our 'difference'.

"I truly believe we are given our life paths or purposes, often for a greater good... It gives me perspective as to the amazing strength we get when life challenges us as I have never, never, never considered myself as 'disabled' or as an 'amputee.' Instead, I am a human who has been given an amazing gift in using my experience to make the world a little kinder place."

"Lolo's Superpower" is available on [www.lologlobal.com](http://www.lologlobal.com), as well as Amazon, Target.com, Barnes&Noble.com, and Walmart.com. Locally, it's available at the "I Like You" stores Minneapolis and St. Paul. Schneider is also working on a prototype companion doll for the book that will be ready in time for the holidays later this year.

An advocate for those with limb loss for decades, she founded Project Lolo: (Love Ourselves Love Others) a non-profit organization that helps children around the world who need orthopedic care or assistive mobility devices. More at [www.project-lolo.org](http://www.project-lolo.org).



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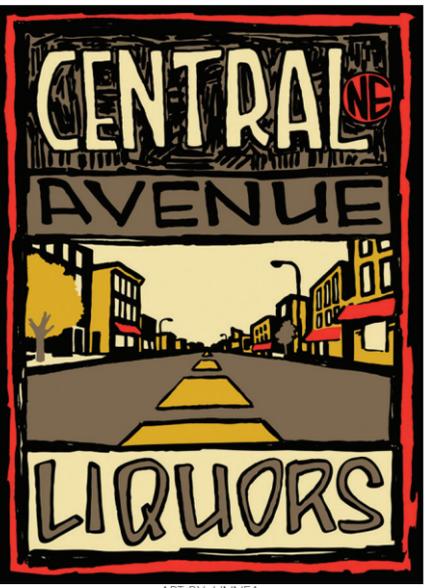
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