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Nokomis

# Messenger



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## The 5th annual Monarch Festival takes flight on northeast shore of Lake Nokomis

By JAN WILLMS

Honoring a connection between the United States and Mexico and the flight of the Monarch butterfly, the 5th annual Monarch Festival will take place Sept. 7 at the Nokomis Naturescape on the northeast shore of Lake Nokomis.

The closest address for the day-long event is 5001 E. Lake Nokomis Parkway, and it occurs at the intersection of Woodlawn Blvd, E. 50th St. and E. Lake Nokomis Parkway.

"The Monarchs have a fall migration," said Rita Ulrich, executive director of the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA). "It can start anywhere east of the Rockies, and they migrate to Mexico."

The festival, presented by

NENA and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, drew between 8,000 and 10,000 people last year. "If it's a good day, I wouldn't be surprised if the number exceeds 10,000 this year," Ulrich said.

She explained that it was not known by outsiders until 1975 that hundreds of millions of butterflies spend the winter in Mexico, and that this has been a part of early Aztec culture.

"At Lake Nokomis we have three nature plant gardens," Ulrich continued. "These are specifically wildlife habitats, growing native plants for butterflies and bees. The gardens are certified as Monarch Way Stations."

Over the years, the focus has been centered on Monarchs and

education about Minnesota's state butterfly.

Ulrich said that some years ago NENA and the Park Board thought about having a celebration of these butterflies and their journey to winter in Mexico, but the thought came too late in the season. However, the next year a celebration was held. The second year, the event took a big jump.

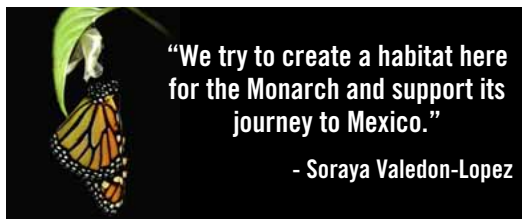
"The Park Board secured a grant that allowed us to have professional performers participate," Ulrich said. A mini-grant from the Center for Regional and Urban Affairs (CURA) was used as a seed to get the festival going. A theme was set, and partnerships between neighborhood organizations were developed.

This year, the festival will feature music from Silva Sol, Machinery Hill, RAMM, Charanga Tropical and Salsa del Soul. Dance performances will be offered by Ketzal Coatlilcue Aztec Dance.

A variety of art activities will be available, as well as the Kids Butterfly Fun run sponsored by Univision MN and U Care. Tours of the Naturescape will be given, and native plant sales and infor-



Two young guests get ready to release a tagged monarch at the 2011 Minneapolis Monarch Festival. Last year's Monarch Festival drew between 8,000 and 10,000 people. This year's festival takes place Sept. 7 at the Nokomis Naturescape.



"We try to create a habitat here for the Monarch and support its journey to Mexico."

- Soraya Valedon-Lopez

mation will be a part of the festival.

Soraya Valedon-Lopez provides Latino outreach for the Monarch Festival.

"I try to bring the community in by advertising through Latino organizations, and having Latino food vendors and performers," Valedon-Lopez said. She makes sure all the flyers and written information about the festival are written in Spanish as well as English, and she also gets bilingual volunteers to participate.

"We want to unite the community and be inclusive," Valedon-Lopez stated. "We try to create

a habitat here for the Monarch and support its journey to Mexico."

Her efforts over the past four years have resulted in a strong participation by the Latino community—last year 40 per cent of the attendees were Latino.

Another event at the festival will be the release of Monarchs that have been raised by citizens at their homes.

Ulrich said that for a number of years, volunteers have been working with Growing Monarchs in Habitat. She sent out a notice

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## Longfellow Park wins city baseball championship



Congratulations to the Longfellow Park 15U baseball team for winning the city championship against their rival Sibley Park with a 11-1 victory. The game was played at Parade stadium on July 26 and is the second year in a row that this Longfellow team has taken the first place trophy in the city championship. Pictured Top left to right: Coach Mitch Lacombe, Jake Olson, Coach Dan McGuire, Nick Duda, Conner Listul, Coach MJ Olson, Keehler Gonzales, Coach Scott Isebrand, Ed Isebrand, Malachi Lossow, Coach Rodney Lossow; Bottom row left to right: John Erickson, William Johnson, Joe Reff, Declan McGuire, Grayson Lacombe & Keith Oneal.

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# Longfellow resident makes trek to Tanzania, camera in hand

By JAN WILLMS

As a child, Moira Lennox always used to take her family's camera and shoot pictures.

"What are you wasting all this film for?" her dad would tease her.

But the experience and skills she developed as a child have resulted in a photography career that will enable her to embark on a project to Tanzania.

On Sept. 3, the longtime resident of Longfellow, who is originally from South Africa, will combine her passion for conservation and photography and make a three-week trek to Tanzania.

Sponsored by Photographers without Borders (PWB), Lennox will be on assignment spending time with the Masai community. She will capture images that document the success of the Sustainable Community Conservation collaboration between East African Safari and Touring Company (EASTCO) and the local communities.

Reflecting in a recent interview on how she got started in

photography, the blonde and athletic Lennox, speaking with traces of her South African accent, said that once she was old enough to purchase her own camera, she could use up all the film she wanted. And once digital came along, it was easy to make the photos happen.

"But my dad was a firm believer that you have to have a real job," she said. "I got a business degree in computers and worked in IT until three years ago."

She had first moved to this country to stay with a sister in Edina. When she decided she wanted a place of her own, she said the Longfellow area offered a great location and the right price range for her.

"Photography was always kind of a hobby and a part-time gig," Lennox explained. "But I realized I enjoyed it a lot more than sitting in a cubicle. I took a leave of absence."

She went to Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Missoula, MT. "I took a three-month program of immersion into photography," Lennox said. While in

Montana she discovered what Big Sky really means.

"I did this three-month course and came back with great images and a smile on my face," Lennox recalled. She was planning to return to her IT consulting business but decided not to go back. Her partner encouraged her, telling her: "Just do photography."

"I said to hell with it, let's do it," Lennox quipped. She set up a website and returned to the Rocky Mountain School of Photography with a teaching assistantship.

"I realized photography was what I loved to do," Lennox said. She has been a scuba instructor for the past 15 years, and it dawned on her that she was good at teaching and loved photography.

"I started formulating a business plan," she continued, "and in the last two years I decided to do this full-time and make a go of it."

She admits it has not been easy. "The recession hit the photography industry hard," she said.



Moira Lennox's photography work has taken her to many parts of the world, filming landscapes, people and animals. On Sept. 3, the longtime resident of Longfellow, who is originally from South Africa, will combine her passion for conservation and photography and make a three-week trek to Tanzania.

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# County responds to Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction questions

By JILL BOOGREN

County responses to questions about Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction that were asked at public meetings in July are now posted on the county's website, along with 130 written comments submitted at the meetings and online. Most questions could not be answered at the meetings.

Based on comment cards alone, the type of bikeway – whether to install on-street bike lanes or a two-way cycle track – garnered the most public input, then tree loss, use of bumpouts (or “curb extensions”), parking, traffic speeds, and snow removal.

Tree loss was a hot button issue. While some wanted to minimize tree loss (“Keep all shade trees,” commented one person from the July 17th meeting), others suggested trees could be replanted and asked the county to give a final tally for tree loss discounting those that would be replanted.

According to Hennepin County Project Engineer Kristy Morter, the project would remove 49 trees due to intersection realignment and adding turn lanes. An additional 48 would be removed in the cycle track concept to provide bus boarding areas in accordance with ADA requirements. Cycle track proponents have contested the need to remove so many trees and have asked for a redesign of a cycle track option.

The county said the number of trees to be replaced is not yet known but “removed trees would be replaced to the extent feasible within the project limits.”

To the question of whether bumpouts are really needed, the county said constructing bumpouts “is a proven technique for effectively improving pedestrian safety” and that bumpouts reduce pedestrian crossing distance, improve the ability of pedestrians and motorists to see each other, and reduce speeds of turning vehicles.

Not everyone liked the idea. “The bumpout idea is very sad,” wrote an attendee of the July 11 Longfellow Business Association (LBA) meeting. “Most of us do not have parking lots and we need all the spaces to park that we can have.”

Others were very supportive. “Shorter crossings for pedestrians would make a huge difference in safety! Thank you,” wrote a July 11 meeting attendee. The county noted that the cycle track concept has “significantly fewer” bumpouts.

While losing some parking spaces was of concern to some, others felt parking is not at capacity. The project team wrote that



Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin addresses residents at the first public meeting on Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction July 17 at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church. The reconstruction is scheduled for 2015-16. (Photo by Jill Boogren).

they will be conducting a parking survey before the next meetings to understand current parking demand.

A number of people called for slowing traffic on Minnehaha and preventing it from being an alternate route for Hiawatha.

“If we can keep Minnehaha from being more car filled or discourage more cars from coming on Minnehaha instead of Hiawatha, I’d love that,” wrote someone from the July 11th meeting. And another said: “We need to slow down traffic.” The county indicated that traffic calming elements will be used, including narrowed travel lanes, bumpouts, and a median near

Lake St.

Snow removal was a big issue, with people wondering whether on-street bike lanes would be clear after plowing and parked cars shrink the available space. Some wondered who would be in charge of plowing the cycle track and bumpouts. The county said they will discuss snow removal with snow plow operations staff but the county would not maintain an off-road facility. This would be up to the city.

“Bumpouts are horrible with Minnesota winters,” commented one person from the July 11 LBA meeting. The county acknowledged bumpouts “require special

maintenance considerations during the winter season.”

Over 100 of the 130 written comments submitted included references to the bikeway, where in people expressed a preference for a cycle track option by a nearly three-to-one margin.

“I’m a big fan of the cycle track concept,” wrote a July 11 meeting attendee. “I live five blocks off the road and commute along most of its length by both bike and car every day. My car would stay in the garage much more with the cycle track in place.”

Another from the same meeting said “As someone with kids, I would like bike lanes separated from traffic. I don’t feel safe on Minnehaha having my eight year old on their bike so close to traffic. I would prefer a cycle track.”

The county said it supported on-street bike lanes for several reasons, including “intersection safety, multi-modal safety, parking impacts, tree impacts, and maintenance responsibilities.”

Many cycle track proponents called on the county to review how other cities have implemented cycle tracks and to work with experts who have designed them. In response, the county posted a list of design guidelines, including the National Association of City Transportation Officials-Urban Bikeway Design Guide, studies, and research articles they reviewed.

Morter also replied in an email: “County staff has interacted with city staff and consultants from both the west and east

coasts to discuss cycle track design practices. Conversations have been both specific to the project as well as more general in nature.”

To the suggestion that cycle tracks are safer and will increase bike use along the corridor, the county stated: “Proposed improvements, regardless of specific tactics employed, are expected to increase safety and ridership along this roadway.”

Asked how bike lanes would be buffered from traffic, the county said the buffer zone would be striped and could be a material with “visual contrast” to that of the driving lanes. They are also evaluating the feasibility of widening the buffer, and bright green paint could be used near intersections.

“Paint will not keep cars out of a bike lane,” wrote a July 11 meeting attendee.

Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin said by phone that he doesn’t think people should be so quick to dismiss the use of paint. “The role of paint, in an urban environment, in making it safer, is very well documented,” he said.

The next public meetings are expected in late September, and city approval will be sought in November.

Minnehaha Ave. was last redone in the 1950’s. Construction is scheduled for 2015-16.

(Go to the Messenger website: LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com for more information.)

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# Viewpoints

Messenger

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That long, slow slide into autumn has begun. It is a slow process, but even on a hot evening in August you can see and hear some of the changes.

Out in the country, the fireflies are gone. The cicadas are on their way out, too, replacing by chirping crickets. And already, I have seen a flock of small birds heading south in that familiar "V" formation.

As you likely have noticed, the days are slowly getting shorter. Sometimes the heat of August distracts us from noticing, but the shortening continues. It actually started in June, right after the summer solstice. During July, the days shortened one or two minutes each day. In August, two or three minutes have been subtracted from each day and added to the night. It is a process which continues until the winter solstice in December. You can follow this change from day to day at any website devoted to the weather.

For a bigger picture, check out the website of the US



## Hiawatha Notebook

By TOM GILSEAN

### Long, slow slide into autumn has begun

Naval Observatory: [www.usno.navy.mil/USNO](http://www.usno.navy.mil/USNO). There you can see the change day by day for the whole year in Minneapolis. Or compare our city to others across the US.

\* \* \* \* \*

Butterflies are getting ready to head south, too. That wonderful Monarch Festival coming on Saturday, Sept. 7 is a great way to celebrate this migration. The festival is planned at Lake Nokomis. You can find out more at this website: [www.monarchfestival.org](http://www.monarchfestival.org).

For a great children's story about the Monarch migration, look for a copy of "The Butterflies Come" by

Leo Politi. It's long out of print, but worth searching for. There are two copies at the downtown Minneapolis library.

Politi is probably best-known for his book "Song of the Swallows" which tells the story of the return of swallows every year to San Juan Capistrano. You can also find this at area libraries.

Politi wrote more than a dozen other children's books. Each looks at an event through the eyes of a child. There are wonderful illustrations; many also have a song in the back.

I think my favorite is "Pedro, the Angel of Olvera Street." You can find that one in the downtown library, too. It's written in Spanish: "Pedro el angel de la Olvera." There is an English language edition, too.

(Tom Gilsean has been writing for the Messenger since 1997. You can write to him at [tomgilsean@gmail.com](mailto:tomgilsean@gmail.com) or via the Messenger.)

## 2013 Monarch Festival – Focus on Action

If you are a regular reader of this column you are well aware of the Minneapolis Monarch Festival coming up on Saturday, Sept. 7. The 2013 Festival has a fresh line up of performers and art activities, food from Minnesota, Mexico and beyond, games for kids, monarchs and habitat education.

The Festival celebrates the migration of the monarchs from Minnesota to the mountains of Central Mexico, and promotes habitat conservation to restore the alarmingly low migrating population. Because the number of monarchs that survived the migration to Mexico last winter was the lowest ever recorded, the number of monarchs that made it back to Minnesota (the grandchildren of those that left here last Fall) is correspondingly low. So habitat restoration is more important and urgent than ever.

Several organizations, including Wild Ones, Journey North, the Isaac Walton League, Monarch Butterfly Fund, Audubon and others will have booths where you can learn what to do that will make a difference. The emphasis will be on action – whether it is planting a small monarch garden in your yard, writing to congressional representatives, or volunteering for one of the organizations, you can be sure that the groups at the Festival will show you the best ways to help. Donations to organizations working to save the migration are also appreciated.

Admission to the Festival is free, and monarch lovers, music lovers, and arts lovers everywhere are welcome. It starts at 10am and runs to 4pm.

## NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH AND DOUG WALTER

### Monarchs, music, milkweed...and mayoral hopefuls

#### Kid's Fun Run

A redesigned Kid's Butterfly Fun Run at the Festival can handle more competitors this year, with 4 age groups (ages 1-12), and separate heats for groups with more than 30 runners. The runs are short, untimed races with prizes for the top finishers, best monarch wings, and best monarch costumes. Registration for the Run is \$7, which includes an official Fun Run T-shirt.

The race is sponsored by UCare and Univision Minnesota, which makes it possible to donate proceeds to monarch habitat restoration in Minnesota, Mexico, and along the migration route. Last year's proceeds contributed \$750 to the Monarch Butterfly Fund.

#### Monarch Festival Volunteers

We still need volunteers for the Monarch Festival – a couple hours or all day, whatever time you can make available will help make this another successful, world class event. For volunteer opportunities, please go to the festival website ([www.monarchfestival.org](http://www.monarchfestival.org)) to download the form and then send it back by email, drop it at the office (3000 East 50th St.), or fax it to 612-724-2770.

Monitoring will continue until lakes and streams freeze or dry up in the late fall.

A look at the Nokomis report and how it compares to other water bodies can be found on the website, [www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org).

## Minnehaha Watershed Quality issue up for comment

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking comments through Sept. 11, on a water-quality-improvement report for Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha in Hennepin County.

The report, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), focuses on pollution caused by E. coli bacteria in Minnehaha Creek and excess nutrients (phosphorus) in Lake Hiawatha. The predominant source of bacteria and phosphorus to Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha is storm water runoff.

## Mayoral Debate on Sept 19

Everyone is invited to a Minneapolis Mayoral Debate on Thursday, Sept. 19, 7pm at the Parkway Theatre (48th St. and Chicago Ave. S.). Doors will open to the public at 6:15pm so people can meet the candidates before the debate.

Seven candidates have confirmed: Mark Andrew, Jackie Cherrhymes, Dan Cohen, Betsy Hodges, Don Samuels, Cam Winton, and Stephanie Woodruff. The debate will be moderated by the League of Women Voters.

## Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

**Minneapolis Monarch Festival:** 10am-4pm, Saturday, Sept. 7, Nokomis Naturescape, Nokomis Parkway and E. 50th St.

**Nokomis Block Party:** 11am-4pm, Sunday, Sept. 8, in Oxendale's parking lot, 5025 34th Ave S. Presented by the Nokomis East Business Association.

**Naturescape Gardens Maintenance:** 6-8pm, Tuesdays, Sept. 10, 17 and 24. Nokomis Parkway and E. 50th St.

**Liability Working Group:** 6:30pm, Monday, Sept. 16, at the NENA office, 3000 E. 50th St.

**NENA Board:** 7pm, Thursday, Sept. 26 at NENA

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

Stay up-to-date on neighborhood events, meetings and issues: Sign up for the NENA E-mail List by sending an email to [nena@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nena@nokomiseast.org).

## Lake Nokomis does not meet water quality standards

The Water Quality department released its report on the condition of 71 lakes and bays across the District, and for the 10th year in a row Lake Nokomis does not meet the Ecoregion Water Quality Standards.

The 200 acre lake was given a C- grade, down from C+ last year. The worst grade was in 2004 with a D+, but every other year has been in the C grade ranges.

The MCWD bases its lake grades on water samples taken from May to September. It collects data on three parameters: water clarity, algae growth, and nutrients. This year's report was broken down by sub-watershed, and then by water body, allowing residents to find detailed information about their favorite lake or stream and its surrounding area.

Staff continue to monitor lakes and stream sites across the District for water clarity, nutrient levels, temperature, the presence of certain pollutants, and more.

A TMDL report is a scientific study that calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive, known as its "loading capacity," without exceeding water quality standards. After receiving public comments, the MPCA will revise the draft TMDL report and submit it to the EPA for approval. Following EPA approval of the study, a plan will be developed to reduce pollution throughout the watershed.

The TMDL draft report is available at the MPCA's St. Paul office, at 520 Lafayette Road N., and on the MPCA's website (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/public-notices/list.html?NR=1>).

Comments should be mailed to Chris Zadak, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd. N., Saint Paul MN 55155, or by email to [chris.zadak@state.mn.us](mailto:chris.zadak@state.mn.us). For more information, call Zadak at 651-757-2837 or 800-657-3864.

Written comments must include (1) a statement of your interest in the draft TMDL report; (2) a statement of the action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft TMDL that you believe should be changed; and (3) specific reasons supporting your position.

# Mpls voters to face crowded ballot in November

By IRIC NATHANSON

When they go to the polls on Nov. 5, Minneapolis voters will face a city election ballot crowded with the names of more than 50 candidates. A total of 35 people are running to succeed R. T. Rybak as mayor. Other candidates are running for seats on the City Council, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

This year, voters need to do their electoral homework if they intend to take full advantage of the city's ranked choice voting (RCV) system. Under ranked choice, voters are able to list their

first, second and third choice for each office listed on the ballot.

If a candidate receives 50% of the votes "plus one," he or she is declared the winner of that office. However, if none of the candidates receive more the 50%, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated along with other candidates who have no mathematical possibility of winning. The second choice votes cast by these candidates' voters are reallocated to the remaining candidates who have not been eliminated. If this reallocation process gives one of the remaining candidates a majority vote,

that candidate is declared the winner. Vote reallocation is repeated until one of the candidates reaches the 50% "plus one" threshold.

With the city's new election system facing its first real test since it was first implemented in 2009, ranked choice has sparked controversy as the 2013 political season heats up. In a recent *Star Tribune* opinion piece, University professors Larry Jacobs and Joanne Miller said that RCV may have discouraged lower income, less educated city residents from voting in the last city election. The two political scientists based their claim on a survey they conducted

of registered voters in 2009. Jacobs and Miller concluded that "barriers to voting ... may be aggravated by what some potential voters found to be an intimidating system."

This claim was disputed by political activists Javier Morillo and Richard Carlborn. In a later *Star Tribune* opinion article, Morillo and Carlborn maintained that RCV increases voter participation by eliminating low turn-out primaries and combining two voting rounds into one election. "Primary drop-off rates hit communities of color particularly hard; RCV diminishes this bias," they said.

In the 2nd Ward, voters will not have to contend with RCV in that ward's council race. Council incumbent Can Gordon, who is running for re-election, has only one challenger, Diana Newberry.

In the 9th and 12th wards, RCV could be triggered if no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote on the first count. Now that the 9th Ward's Gary Schiff and the 12th Ward's Sandy Colvin Roy are retiring at the end of their current terms, open council seats in both wards have attracted a sizeable group of candidates, listed below:

## City Council Candidates - Ninth Ward

Alondra Cano  
2807 18th Ave So  
Mpls, 55407  
[www.alondracano.com](http://www.alondracano.com)

Charles Curtis  
3704 15th Ave So  
Mpls, 55407  
[Curtisforcitycouncil.com](http://Curtisforcitycouncil.com)

Gregory McDonald  
3509 Columbus Ave So  
Mpls, 55407  
[GregMcDonaldWard9.com](http://GregMcDonaldWard9.com)

Abdi Abdulle  
3508 3rd Ave So  
Mpls, 55408  
[Vote4abdulle.com](http://Vote4abdulle.com)

Pat Fleetham  
2850 Cedar Ave So  
Mpls, 55407  
[PatFleetham4MplsCityCouncil.com](http://PatFleetham4MplsCityCouncil.com)

Ty Moore  
3029 Chicago Ave So  
Mpls, 55407  
[www.tymoore.org](http://www.tymoore.org)

## City Council Candidates - Twelfth Ward

Dick Franson  
5215 39th Ave So  
Mpls, 55407  
[Dickfranson.com](http://Dickfranson.com)

Chris Lautenschlager  
4545 31st Ave So  
Mpls, 55406  
[TwelfthWard.org](http://TwelfthWard.org)

Andrew Johnson  
3715 35th Ave So  
Mpls, 55406  
[AndrewMPLS.com](http://AndrewMPLS.com)

Charlie Casserly  
4705 27th Ave So  
Mpls, 55406  
[www.charliecasserly.com](http://www.charliecasserly.com)

Ben Gisselman  
4501 31st Ave So  
Mpls, 55406  
[BenforWard12.org](http://BenforWard12.org)

## Singer/Songwriter series set September 13

Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S. will present the next in their Singer/Songwriter Series on Friday, Sept. 13, at 8pm. The Singer/Songwriter Series features a solid mix of talented, emerging, and established artists. Featured will be Robin Kyle (of BlackAudience/Valet), Midwest Paul Cook (of Jack Klatt & CatSwingers), and Drew Peterson (of Dead Pigeons) plus one other performer. Doors will open at 7:30pm and the cost is \$8 in advance from artists and \$10 tickets at the door (cash or check only).

Robin Kyle is a native of Belfast who moved stateside in 1994. Kyle played acoustic sets in local circles after moving from Ireland in 1994 at the age of 17, but soon wanted to move his music in a different, more rock-

ing direction.

Midwest Paul Cook was born and raised in rural southern Minnesota. Now based out of NE Minneapolis, I play old time blues and ragtime inspired by the music of the 20's, 30's, and 40's.

Drew Peterson's music is like "coming home." In a world where heartache bursts at the proverbial seams, Drew's voice brings calm and peace. He lives in a small cabin in northern Minnesota writing and recording.

## Candidate forum planned October 9

American Legion Post 99, 5600 34th Ave. S., is planning an event so that the public can meet the candidates from Wards 11 and 12, as well as candidates for mayor, Park Board, Bureau of Tax and Estimation. On Oct. 9, at 5pm, tables will be provided for the can-

didates or their representatives to discuss positions with the public and present hand-outs. Contact Gregg Iverson at 612-724-7567 or [greggiverson@gmail.com](mailto:greggiverson@gmail.com) for more information.

## Bethlehem Covenant hosts fundraiser

Alaska Silver Salmon caught off shore in Nome Alaska will be the featured entrée for a Fundraising Dinner on Tues., Oct. 1 at 5:30pm at Bethlehem Covenant Church, 3141 43rd Ave. S. Providing the salmon and the after-dinner presentation will be Dennis Weidler, General Manager of KICY AM & FM of Nome.

Fundraising for the operation of the 50,000 watt AM station and 1,000 watt FM station, owned by the Evangelical Covenant Church in Chicago, and are staffed by volunteers.

Some are long-term missionaries and the rest live and work in the community of Nome, a largely Inupiaq Eskimo community of 3,700 on the southern coast of the Seward Peninsula.

KICY AM-850, which celebrated 50 years of service in 2010, is the only radio station in the United States licensed to broadcast into a foreign country in their language. Every evening from 11pm to 4am, the station turns their 50,000 watt signal westward and broadcasts into the Russian Far East in the Russian language.

Most of the fundraising efforts are to offset the rapidly escalating fuel costs. In Nome, a gallon of heating oil or diesel fuel costs \$6.25 a gallon and is delivered by barge. All electricity is produced by diesel generators as the nearest power grid is 550 miles away and there are no roads connecting any of the Bush

Villages. In addition, no fuel can be delivered from Oct. through May as the harbor is froze, and prices are literally 'frozen' for a full eight months.

It is a fundraiser, and a free will offering will be accepted.

## Flu Shot Clinic on September 13

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors will host a Flu Shot clinic on Fri., Sept. 13 from 10:30am to noon at their office located in the US Bank building, 2800 E. Lake St. The Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency will be administering the shots and can bill many insurance plans. Bring your Medicare and/or health insurance cards. Anyone not covered by insurance can pay \$29 by cash/check. Any adult, regardless of age, is welcome to participate.

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# Bethlehem Covenant Church Sunday School Celebrates 100 Years

Bethlehem Covenant Church, 43rd Ave. S. and 32nd St., celebrates the 100th anniversary of the beginning of its Sunday School on Sept. 8 with "Everybody Here Sunday." Bethlehem normally has two services on Sunday morning, but on Sept. 8 there will be one service at 10:30am celebrating this anniversary. Music will be provided by a "String Band," reminiscent of the church music of a century ago, lunch will be served in the street in front of the church and there will be entertainment and fun for children of the church and the neighborhood.

The Sunday School was actually started nine years before the

church was organized. It came about because the custodian of the new Minnehaha Academy, Peter Edquist, saw children in the neighborhood who he felt needed biblical instruction. He invited a few children to his front porch on a summer Sunday afternoon in 1913 and told them some Bible stories. They were interested, and he invited them back in September and also organized a meeting for the children's parents to explain what he was doing.

October brought cooler weather and Edquist received permission to bring the children inside Minnehaha's new building. The fourth Sunday in October is the first day that the attendance



An early Sunday School class, circa mid 1920's. By that time the Sunday School had grown to more than 140 students with 14 teachers.

was recorded, that day 14 children came for the stories. Interest continued to grow, Edquist recruited additional teachers, and in December of 1913 Minnehaha's school board appointed Edquist "Superintendent of Minnehaha Academy Sunday School."

Those first classes for young children were taught in English, but the neighborhood included recent immigrants, so as the numbers grew, older participants requested classes in Swedish. The first year's treasurer's report indicates expenses for materials in both English and Swedish. Classes in Norwegian were added for a time, but by 1919 the emphasis was totally English, and the Christmas program of that year was the last bilingual program.

After nine years of "Min-

nehaha Academy Sunday School," the adults involved decided in 1922 they needed a fully organized church, and

Bethlehem Covenant Church was born. By this time the Sunday School had 140 students and 14 teachers.



The farm house on 47th Avenue where custodian Peter Edquist first invited the children to his front porch for the first "Minnehaha Academy Bible School class" in 1913. It later developed into the groundwork for Bethlehem Covenant Church.



Sunday School kids, circa 1941, marching up to a tent meeting on the property where the first building of Bethlehem Covenant Church was built.

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## Tanzania

Continued from page 2

"The thing is not to spend a whole lot of money you don't have."

Lennox does portraiture and food photography and works part-time with other companies and photographers.

"I pick up freelance work wherever I go," she said. "The trick is being on the hunt for jobs all the time."

It was during one of her quests searching for work online that she came across PWB, a nonprofit founded by a group of photographers that recognizes the arts as an effective strategy for sustainable development. The organization believes images are a powerful form of communication and have the ability to foster education and understanding of the global community.

"I knew PWB was doing good stuff, the kind of stuff I'd really like to do," Lennox said. "I found out about this project and applied in May." She did not hear anything and assumed she had not gotten them again.

"They said they were overwhelmed with applications, but then I had an interview," Lennox continued. "I was one of those at the top, but there was lots of competition. A month to the day they called me back."

Learning she would be a part of the project left Lennox ecstatic, to say the least.

She has set up a website, <http://www.rockethub.com/projects/30198-sustainable-communi->

ty-conservation-in-tanzania, to try and raise funds to cover her expenses: an airline ticket, vaccinations and a fee for the host family she will be living with.

She said she has learned much about the crowd-funding aspect. "So many out there are willing to put money toward causes they feel connected to without even knowing the person," she said. "This is especially good in the arts."

EASTCO, the family-owned company she will be working with, started in Australia. The company established the community-based conservation area in Tanzania with the local Masai.

Lennox explained on her website that the ultimate goal is to conserve and protect a habitat for wildlife, especially elephants, and to provide the local Masai tribes the opportunity to continue their traditional lifestyle and benefit from the conservation efforts.

The images Lennox shoots will be used to raise awareness of the importance of this area to the conservation and protection of one of the largest single populations of elephants in northern Tanzania.

The old axiom that a picture is worth a thousand words has special meaning for Lennox.

"Images can draw up sentimental feelings that words can't do," she said.

She said she also realizes that today people are flooded with so many images, and things can be taken out of context.

"As a photographer, it scares me that someone can take my image and change it," she said. "But you can't be scared and hide in your little hole and not get out there and do what you love."

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# Ericsson resident honored as White House Champion of Change

Steven Clift of E-Democracy.org believes people can make a difference by connecting through local online forums

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Ericsson resident Steven Clift believes that people of all ages, income levels and ethnic groups should be connected.

He's been working to accomplish that goal for 19 years through E-Democracy.org.

Clift was recently recognized by the White House for his work. He was named one of 15 White House Champion of Change for Transformative Civic Engagement during a special ceremony on June 23, 2013.

"I believe in the power of people to make a difference in their communities," said Clift. "If we don't, who will?"

"Steve is an innovator because he understands how to use the technology in a way that serves the community," said Deliberative Democracy Consortium Executive Director Matt Leighninger of Washington, D.C. "The E-Democracy.org approach combines successful face-to-face organizing with an easy-to-use online platform; the result is a public arena that supports a wide array of communication and action about everything from school board decisions to how to clean up the local park.

"With his energy and determination, Steve has helped strengthen democracy from St. Paul to New Zealand."

## WHAT IS E-DEMOCRACY.ORG?

E-Democracy.org began in 1994 as the world's first election-oriented web site. Only 4% of Minnesotans had internet access then, but as Clift saw how people from across the world were using the site to get information and discuss issues, he got a glimpse into how the internet could bring people together. He saw how it could contribute to democracy.

Today, E-Democracy.org is the



Ericsson resident Steven Clift was recently recognized by the White House for his work. He was named one of 15 White House Champion of Change for Transformative Civic Engagement during a special ceremony on June 23, 2013. Clift is the Executive Director of E-Democracy.org.

equivalent of local town halls for the online world.

"It's the pulse of the neighborhood," explained Clift.

Missing a pet? Want to start a community garden? Concerned about recent violence in the neighborhood? Think something needs to be done about the dramatic airport noise increase? Need help baking lasagnas for a friend's memorial service? Turn to the E-Democracy forum for your neighborhood.

Clift's own neighborhood forum, the one for Standish-Ericsson, is one of the most active. Twenty-five percent of households there are connected online. In all, E-Democracy's BeNeighbors.org effort connects well over 15,000 people mostly in the Twin Cities across a network of dozens of online Neighbors Forums.

booths at community events to get the word out. The outreach team includes recent refugees and immigrants.

While many have a "build it and they will come" mentality, Clift knows you have to actively solicit users in order to have a conversation that involves everyone.

He believes that when people see past differences and have an incentive to work together, things are accomplished.

"Open communication is the cornerstone of getting stuff done," observed Clift, who has made open presentations in 30 countries on open government and civic technology.

E-Democracy.org is different from other similar sites in that anyone can join. It isn't closed to the residents in a neighborhood, but welcomes those who also work in it. "I want public spaces that anyone can join and find on Google," said Clift.

Users are required to use their real names on the site to prevent inconsiderate posts, and to build trust that each user is a community member and not a character created on the Internet.

## BENEIGHBORS.ORG EFFORT

"The white, middle class, college-educated get asked all the time to be active," noted Clift. To make up for the divide, E-Democracy is targeting the less represented groups with a focus on expansion in St. Paul.

With the help of a grant from the Knight Foundation, E-Democracy is combining old-fashioned methods with technology. Workers are going door-to-door to sign people up as users, and manning

communities as much as they would like, said Clift.

Being at a certain place at a certain time in order to have a say in local affairs prevents many people from being involved.

"With today's busy work and family schedules, traditional 'democracy' isn't readily accessible," remarked Clift. "The reality we experience from shopping around the clock to watching television on-demand or downloading music to our iPods is dramatically different and far more accessible than engagement in public life."

Before televisions and air conditioning, people by the hundreds used to walk down to Lake Hiawatha at night to take a cooling dip, observed Clift. Folks gathered together at the trolley stop and at the butcher shop. That in-person connection doesn't happen as much anymore. But community members can "bump into" each other online.

"My vision of democracy is based on strong, local communities," Clift said.

"We're very proud of Steve," said E-Democracy Board Chair Mary Reid. "Steven understands the importance of inclusive civic engagement in digital spheres, and is fundamentally committed to closing the gap in online civic engagement. Steven and E-Democracy understand that while our world requires global leadership, it's our local communities that truly host the conversations and build the tools we need to better reach a globalized world."

## REDEFINING DEMOCRACY

Participation in public meetings is declining, membership in national voluntary associations with local chapters is as low as Depression-era levels, and the number of people who claim to have ever contacted an elected official is falling. A significant 76 percent of citizens say they don't have the time to be involved in their com-

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[www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Todd Bol believes that everyone does better if kids can read. Because of that, the former Hale resident co-founded the Little Free Library movement in 2010.

Since that first Little Free Library (LFL) was erected in Hudson, Wis. on May 8, 2010, the idea has taken off. And although he no longer lives in Minneapolis, Bol has found a great deal of support for Little Free Libraries.

The Little Free Library World Map lists 11 LFLs in the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods.

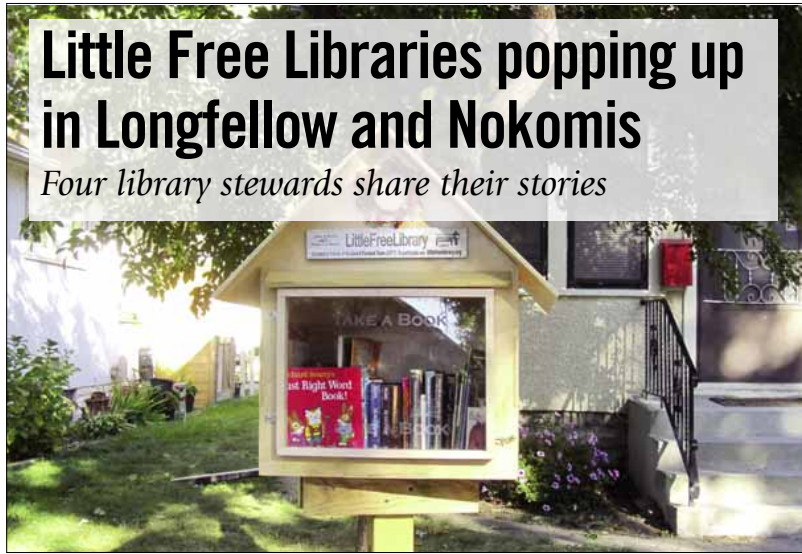
Minneapolis Public Schools, Little Free Library and local residents are working to place 100 LFLs in the city. The idea of a Little Free Library is simple. A small structure is erected in an accessible yard and filled with books. The "Take a book, return a book" system means anyone can add to the collection or take from it. Readers include those over age 50, as well as preschool children.

A child with 20 books in his or her home will read up to two grade levels higher than children without, according to Bol.

In September 2011, there were 5 Little Free Libraries in

# Little Free Libraries popping up in Longfellow and Nokomis

## Four library stewards share their stories



The Little Free Library at 3824 47th Ave. S., right before completion. The construction crew included homeowners Tim Grebner and Anne Benning, as well as her father Mike Benning and wife Pam Benning.

Minnesota. Now there are 900. There is a LFL in all 50 states, and in 50 countries.

Learn more at <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org>.

bookstores. "We learned about their similarities and differences," said Lander. They took

the city bus and school buses to visit different libraries and a bookstore, and interviewed librarians. They took a field trip to a hardware store to learn about the tools needed to make a LFL. They worked with Jaci Smolund's art class at Roosevelt High School to make little clay libraries for each child to take home. A parent built a LFL that was taken to Haiti for their first ever LFL. They even had Little Free Library Co-Founder Todd Bol visit the classroom. "And one of my students convinced his grandparents to put a LFL library in their yard so they added another one to the neighborhood," said Lander.

After many visits to the LFL website to look at all the libraries, the students worked as a group to design the library. Classroom volunteer, Bob Olsen, built the library and the students painted it.

For their grand opening, students invited the preschool across the street. Lander's students made the preschoolers little bags with books in for them, sang songs and read with each other.

Continued on page 9



Judy Lander's first grade students at Wenonah Elementary spent last year learning about libraries before building their own Little Free Library at 5625 23rd Ave. S. The Little Free Library was constructed by a volunteer who followed plans created by the students.

### 5625 23rd Ave. S. Wenonah Elementary School Judy Lander, LFL Steward

Lander thought a LFL would be a great service-learning project for her first grade. "It is a wonderful way to share our love of reading with the neighborhood," said Lander. "I often see families walking to the library to take books and to put books in."

There is a second LFL in the school entrance that is available for families to take and give books.

The Wenonah school LFL has a large collection of children's books, with some adult books, dictionaries, etc.

Lander's class spent last year learning about libraries at school, public libraries and



Homeowner Jerry Casey built his Little Free Library at 4436 47th Ave. S. with his brother Gene from scraps they had in their garages.

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# Little libraries

Continued from page 8

**4243 44th Ave. S.  
Michael & Claudia Wondra,  
LFL Stewards**

"We just love our LFL!! We are having so much fun with it," remarked the Wondras.

They installed a LFL library because they knew that living across from a park it would get a lot of patrons.

"It gives us an opportunity to meet more neighbors in our

community and talk about one of our favorite pastimes: reading!" they said.

They have seen an incredible variety of books visit their LFL. Sci-Fi, mysteries, classics, non-fiction, biographies, self-help, cookbooks, etc.

"Please stop by and visit our LFL," encourages the Wondras. "If you are lucky, you might even meet one of our pug/librarians!"

**3824 47th Ave. S.  
Anne Benning, LFL Steward**

"Last summer our block had 12 kids under age 10 for the first time since we moved here 25 years ago. Our family loves to read and liked the idea of shar-

ing books with our smallest neighbors," explained Benning.

The library began with children's books, including a shorter box for toddlers and preschoolers, and has grown to include books for all ages. The books change over all the time and neighbors have been very enthusiastic, according to Benning. "A favorite benefit is watching kids come over and choose a new book or leave a book for someone else and talking with new neighbors about what they like to read," she said.

They designed and built the LFL with help from a visiting family. "Lots of people stopped by and asked about the project as we worked, then came back with books to donate. Our li-

brary was made using high tech equipment at a fabrication lab including a laser cutter and shop bot," said Benning. "The pieces fit together without fasteners."

"This is a true grass roots community project that anyone can join / promote," said Benning.

**4436 47th Ave. S.  
Jerry Casey**

Casey read an article about Little Free Libraries in the *Star Tribune* and thought it sounded like a neat idea for his block.

"The Little Free library is all about building community and passing the joy of reading on to the children in the neighborhood," said Casey.

There have been a wide variety of books in our library, including classics and best sellers. Children's books are especially popular.

"The LFL is a place for neighbors to stop and chat," said Casey.

In the morning, a few kids on the block stop by to see what's new. In the afternoon, seniors from Becketwood stop by while out for a walk. In the evening adults check out library contents on their walk home from the bus stop.

Casey and his brother Gene built the library from scraps. To get design ideas, they looked at the pictures on the Little Free Library website.



Claudia Wonder and pug Otis encourage everyone to drop by and visit their Little Free Library at 4243 44th St. Their library is the Cedar Sunrise option from the Little Free Library web site.

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how we learn from our failures

how developing the whole child affects how we teach

our definition of rigor

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# Longfellow Community Council

Serving Longfellow, Hiawatha, Cooper, and Howe neighborhoods

## Minnehaha Avenue Reconstruction Community Meeting

How will the reconstruction of Minnehaha Avenue in 2015 impact you? If you live, walk, bike, drive, park or own a business on Minnehaha, we want to hear from you. Hennepin County held two community meetings in July 2013 to discuss preliminary plans for the road construction on Minnehaha Avenue. Now that the plans have been presented, LCC would like to hear your thoughts about how this project will affect you and your livability during and after construction.

LCC is sponsoring a meeting on **Wednesday, September 11th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** at the Tapstry Folkdance Center at 3748 Minnehaha. The meeting will feature a panel with local residents, a business owner and a representative from Hennepin County. If you would like more information, please contact the LCC offices at 612-722-4529. We hope to see you there!

## Corn Feed

Thanks to everyone who came out to the 43rd Annual Longfellow Corn Feed! We had a great time and hope you did too! See you next year!



## Sign Up For a New Tree!

Sign up now to receive a free or reduced-cost tree for your yard! Our Environment & Transportation

Committee is working on a program to distribute up to 500 new canopy trees in Longfellow next summer. Participants will be able to choose from a variety of tree species to plant in their yards next summer. Assistance with planting and maintaining the tree will be available. The new trees will help enhance Longfellow's great tree canopy and reduce storm water runoff and pollution. To sign up, go to [www.longfellow.org/trees](http://www.longfellow.org/trees) or contact Spencer: [spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org) or 612-722-4529 (ext. 5). Once you're signed up, we'll let you know about final details regarding schedule and cost when they have been determined.



## LCC By-laws Amended

The LCC Board of Directors has been reviewing the organizational by-laws for the past several months. Members have made and approved changes to provide increased clarity in the language of the by-laws, to update our requirements of communication to the broader community and to increase the number of years a member may participate on the Board.

The proposed amendments were advertised in August edition of the Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger and have been posted on LCC's website for the past month. The Board approved the by-law amendments at the August 15th meeting. The newly amended by-laws can be viewed on our website at [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org).

## Your Vote Needed!

Over the past several months, LCC has gathered input from community members on the things they would like to see improved in the neighborhood. Now we need your help to prioritize those issues and guide our work over the coming years. Go to [www.longfellow.org/priority-plan](http://www.longfellow.org/priority-plan) to review the issues identified

by community members thus far and rank the things you think are most important. Your input will help us finalize a Priority Plan to guide our resources and ensure we are working on the things that matter most to our community. Spencer: [spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org) or 612-722-4529 (ext. 5)

## Calendar of Meetings and Events

# SEPTEMBER 2013

Meetings are free and open to the public, and are accessible. Check the calendar on our website [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

### ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, Sept 4  
7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Fireroast Café  
3800 37th Ave  
FFI: [jessica@longfellow.org](mailto:jessica@longfellow.org)

### NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, Sept 9  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
check website for location  
FFI: [spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org)

### RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Monday, Sept 9  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Hiawatha School Park  
4305 42nd St. E  
FFI: [joannalund@longfellow.org](mailto:joannalund@longfellow.org)

### LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, Sept 10  
12:00 - 1:30 pm  
check website for location  
FFI: [joannalund@longfellow.org](mailto:joannalund@longfellow.org)

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, Sept 10  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S  
FFI: [joannalund@longfellow.org](mailto:joannalund@longfellow.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, Sept 19  
6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Brackett Park  
2728 39th Ave S  
FFI: [melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)

### ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, Sept 24  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
check website for location  
FFI: [spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org)

## Share the Gorge Ice Cream Social

We had 200 people come out to the Share the Gorge Ice Cream Social on July 30th! Thanks to all our volunteers who organized the great event, and to East Lake Dairy Queen for donating Dilly Bars!



## Save the Date!



## Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55406  
Phone: 612-722-4529  
[www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

Melanie Majors	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:melanie@longfellow.org">melanie@longfellow.org</a>
Ruth Romano	Office Staff	<a href="mailto:ruth@longfellow.org">ruth@longfellow.org</a>
Spencer Agnew	Housing and Environment Coordinator	<a href="mailto:spencer@longfellow.org">spencer@longfellow.org</a>
Joanna Lund	Community Engagement Coordinator	<a href="mailto:joannalund@longfellow.org">joannalund@longfellow.org</a>
Jessica Buchberger	Communication & Events Manager	<a href="mailto:jessica@longfellow.org">jessica@longfellow.org</a>



# In Our Community

## Messenger

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for both the newspaper as well as the Messenger Facebook page (Facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger). You can also go to our website, LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com and enter the information in the online Event Calendar.

### Movie night at Crosstown Aug. 31

Friends and neighbors are invited to a free movie night at Crosstown Covenant Church, 5540 30th Ave. S. The movie starts at 7:30pm outside (if it rains it will move inside) on Sat., Aug. 31. The movie being shown is "Prince of Egypt" (PG). You bring a chair or blanket, and they will have popcorn and prizes!

### Veterans housing facility to expand

In August the County Board, acting as the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, authorized staff to work with Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) on a concept development plan for the Veterans East Project.

The concept development plan is an initial step towards an amended enhanced use lease with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that would allow for the expansion of the existing Veterans and Community Housing project by up to 80 affordable rental units serving homeless and near-homeless individuals, primarily targeted to veterans. The current project is located on the campus of the Minnesota Veterans Affairs Health Care System, 1 Veterans Dr, Minneapolis.

### A Sunday A'ffair planned September 8

Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 East 50th St., is planning their "Sunday A'ffair" for Sun., Sept. 8 from 11am-3pm. The event will start with an outdoor worship at 11am followed by fair trade and eco-friendly products and information, handmade arts and crafts, entertainment, food, dancing, and a children's carnival from 11:45am-3pm. A walking prayer for a better world is also planned for 1:45pm that afternoon.

### Epworth to host dance

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 32nd Ave. S., will hold an "Old Time Dance" on Wed., Sept. 25 from 1-3pm. If you like to dance to music made before the birth of Rock and Roll, this dance is for you! Light refreshments will be offered.

### Cub Scout Roundup scheduled Sept. 19

Visit Cub Scout Pack 38 on Thurs., Sept. 19, 6:30pm at St. Helena Catholic School (3200 E. 44th St.) to learn about upcoming fun and exciting adventures. Pack 38 will camp, hike, climb, shoot, fish, and camp. They will build things with tools, play new

sports and games, learn about nature and wildlife, practice being good citizens, and much more.

Pack 38 welcomes all boys Kindergarten to 5th grade, regardless of special needs or ability to pay. For more information or to join at any time, contact Dan Fehler at 612-724-6284 or cubmaster38@gmail.com. Visit their webpage at www.BSAPack38.org.

### Nokomis East plans block party Sept. 8

The 4th Annual Nokomis East Block Party will be held on Sun., Sept. 8, from 11am - 4pm. The event will take place at 34th Ave. S. and East 51st in the parking lot of Oxendale's Market and the lawn of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Block Party hosted by Oxendale's, Faith Evangelical, and Nokomis East Business Association will feature approximately 60 vendors, food and drinks stands, silent auction, bounce house, live music, antique cars, and more. Come for the fun; enjoy the fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

### Garden Club to meet September 11

Chickens coming home to roost? Thinking about starting your own henhouse? Master Gardener Theresa Mooney will discuss the ins and outs, and City regulations, of keeping chickens in Minneapolis. Join us at 7pm, Wed., Sept. 11 at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S.

### ReUse-Rummage Sale at Epworth

The fall ReUse-Rummage Sale at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., will be Sat., Sept. 21, 9am to 3pm. The sale features a good selection of used clothing in all sizes for all ages, household goods, linens, crafts, books, kitchen items, toys and games and small furniture pieces. The church is happy to accept and recycle your clean, unwanted goods; please call 612-722-0232 before dropping off any contributions (last day is Sept. 18). Coffee and bars will be for sale, too.

### Hearing loss topic September 17

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a presentation about hearing loss on Tues., Sept. 17 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. Do you have a difficult time hearing conversations, telephones or the television? Julie

Rindalub of Vision Loss Resources explains why this happens and what resources are available to help us improve the hearing ability we have. Call 612-729-5799 for more information.

### Danish aebleskiver breakfasts planned

Aebleskiver breakfast will be held and open to the public at the Danish American Center from 9:30am - 12:30pm on September 15, (and every 3rd Sunday of every month, except Dec., through Mar.) Cost for the "all you can eat and drink" breakfast is \$8.50 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The breakfasts include aebleskiver (Danish pancake balls), eggs, sausage, orange juice, milk and coffee. The Danish American Center is located at 3030 West River Parkway (right off of Lake Street). No reservations are necessary.

### Duna and Duncan get jazzy Sept. 15

Cool Summer Jazz continues at St. Albert the Great on Sun., Sept. 15 at 1pm with piano virtuoso Bill Duna on the Steinway 9 ft. concert grand, accompanied by Cory Duna on bass, Jay Epstein on drums, Kenny Holman on sax, and with special guest vocalist Debbie Duncan (often called the "Twin Cities' First Lady of Song"). Tickets are \$10 at the door. St. Albert the Great is located on E. 29th Street (one block north of E. Lake St.) at 32nd Ave. S. Visit [www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org) for more information, or call 612-724-3643.

### Thanks given to Falls Liquor

The Minnehaha Food Shelf Board and volunteers thank Falls Liquor Store (46th and Minnehaha Ave.) for their July beer tasting event and silent auction. All proceeds went to the Minnehaha Food Shelf. Their gift helped the Food Shelf continue to serve a large part of south Minneapolis with free monthly food. Last month the Minnehaha Food Shelf served 750 people in the area bounded by River Road, Lake Street, Cedar Ave and the Airport.

### Festival of Giving planned September 7

Common Ground Meditation Center will present its third annual Festival of Giving, a day of music, food and community, 11am-3pm, Sat., Sept. 7 at the center, 2700 East 26th St. in the Seward neighborhood. Among the participating nonprofits are St. Stephen's Human Services,

and the Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership.

Local musicians Larry Long, Fiddlin' Pete Watercott, Dean McGraw, Marc Anderson and Alex Goldfarb will perform at the family-friendly event, which will include simple folk dancing led by caller Ann Carter, with music by Linda Breitag and friends.

Spoken-word artists Louis Alemayehu and Kevin Freidberg will also perform, accompanied by Fernando Silva on the flute.

Sawatdee, Birchwood Cafe and Peace Coffee and others will provide food and drink for purchase. Admission is free.

The festival raised \$10,000 for community organizations during each of the past two years' festivals, according to Mark Nunberg, the center's guiding teacher.

### LBA to tour Harriet Brewing on Sept. 12

The Longfellow Business Association (LBA) will host a tour of Harriet Brewing and networking event on Thurs., Sept. 12. The brewery tour starts at 3pm and ends in the taproom at approximately 3:40 where the group can mingle and socialize while enjoying a brew and the downtown skyline from the patio. New LBA members are especially invited to join us. Food trucks arrive at 4pm. FFI Ruth 722.4529 x1.

### Kinetic Kitchen set September 20-21

Sarah LaRose-Holland presents Kinetic Kitchen at Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., on Fri., Sept. 20 and Sat., Sept. 21 at 7:30pm. The performance will feature choreography by: Kinetic Evolutions Dance Company; Lori Mercil; DAdance; and Stacy Boeddeker and Nate Poole. \$8 in advance from artists and \$10 tickets at the door (cash or check only).

Kinetic Kitchen is a dance series produced by Sarah LaRose-Holland that showcases professional choreographers and dance companies at Patrick's Cabaret. Performances take place a few times per year and generally showcase four or five choreographers in a given performance.

### Vine Arts opens member exhibit

The Vine Arts Center, a cooperative gallery in the Seward neighborhood, has chosen "Get Behind The Work" as the theme for its Fall Member Show. The public is invited to an exhibition of works from a diverse member base that includes painters, photographers, potters, multi-media/fiber/collage artists and more. The opening reception is scheduled Sept. 28 from 6-9pm.

This free event will kick off the month-long exhibition which ends Oct. 26. Visit for more information.

### Eclectic Electric planned Sept. 14

"I Like You" is planned at Patrick's Cabaret (3010 Minnehaha Ave. S.), on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 8pm. Doors will open at 7:30pm. Cost of the performance is \$8 in advance from the artist and \$10 tickets at the door (cash or check only).

"I Like You" performs felicitous, joyous, deliciously beautiful music. Whether gathered around a campfire, on a large outdoor stage, a dimly lit dining room or the dramatic confines of a theater, "I Like You," makes every situation better with their universal messages of hope, love and redemption. These talented musicians weave a tapestry of rich, deliciously beautiful harmonies with an eclectic blend of ukulele, trumpet, violin, acoustic guitar, upright bass and percussion. Delivering a timeless, energetic sound that evokes elements of funk, folk and swing with pop, reggae and gypsy-jazz, the ever-colorful Wendy Soleil leads this group of talented musicians with her gorgeously full vocals, soulful songwriting and ecstatic devotion to her primary instrument, the ukulele.

### Free tree offer open to businesses

The City of Minneapolis Environmental Services Unit is partnering with Tree Trust to plant trees on commercial properties that pay an annual pollution control fee. Tree Trust will help choose the tree, place and plant the tree, while the business owner's only obligation is to care for the tree over the years. To apply for the program, or for further information, contact Margaret Tyler, Environmental Inspector, at 612-673-5815.

In order to qualify, businesses need to: 1. Pay a pollution control annual bill (a "PCAB" or pollution registration for equipment such as air conditioning units, public restrooms, restaurant hoods, etc.); 2. Have enough green space to accommodate a tree; and 3. Be able to maintain and water the tree (especially the first 2 years).

Our urban forest has been hit hard with storms, pests and diseases. Trees are so important in our urban landscape. They provide energy savings, act as wind screens, capture and filter storm water, and clean the air. Did you know studies show they make us feel better when we are sick?



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# Minneapolis to replace its ash trees

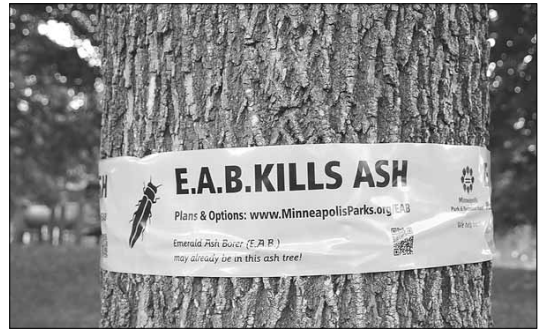
'Resistance is futile,' according to Parks Commissioner Scott Vreeland

BY TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Wondering why some trees in the neighborhood have been marked with green tape?

They're ash trees. And within 10 years, the city expects them to die, victims of the tiny, green Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) bug.

In all, Minneapolis expects to lose 20% of its boulevard trees or 38,000. There are an estimated total of 200,000 ash trees in the city, but this does not include the tens of thousands of ash trees growing in parks and natural areas such as along the Mississippi River corridor.



A number of the Emerald Ash trees in the neighborhood have been tagged with green tape to alert the residents. Homeowners can ask the city to replace their boulevard ash trees right now. Fill out a form at [minneapolisparcs.org/EAB](http://minneapolisparcs.org/EAB). (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

## ASH VS. ELM

The situation now is different than the one facing elms in the 60s, according to Minneapolis Park Commissioner Scott Vreeland. Elms could be saved if they did not come in contact with Dutch Elm Disease, and because of that it was effective to remove the infected trees to save others. Emerald Ash Borer kills all. Plus, the dead trees are brittle and are likely to fall on homes and vehicles.

"Resistance is futile," Vreeland said. "Basically it will destroy a species."

While some cities, including St. Paul and Milwaukee, have decided to treat their ash trees with insecticides, Minneapolis has opted to remove all the ash trees on city-owned property.

## DANGER OF LARGE-SCALE CHEMICAL TREATMENT

Why not use chemicals to save the trees? According to Vreeland, the insecticides don't actually save the tree although it may prolong its life. It does, however, kill every last insect currently living on the tree. No one knows the long-term impact of using these chemicals to treat Emerald Ash Borer. Those answering the safety questions are often the same companies that stand to make millions of dollars in profit if the chemicals are used, Vreeland observed.

He recalls that in the 1960s, DDT was used because it was "perfectly safe for people and animals."

It's one thing to treat the ash

tree in your backyard that you use to hang your hammock, but it's another thing to treat 38,000 trees with insecticide, pointed out Vreeland.

"Basically you have people pouring poisons in their backyards and boulevards, and it is very likely it will go into the stormwater system. It has quite a toxic affect on aquatic life," said Vreeland. "The city of Minneapolis has encouraged people to not use chemicals."

However, citizens can opt to pay for insecticide treatments on their own property as well as their boulevard trees, using certified companies. Learn more about the chemicals and get a list of those with permits at the park web site [www.minneapolisparcs.org/EAB](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/EAB).

## \$1.2 MILLION LEVY

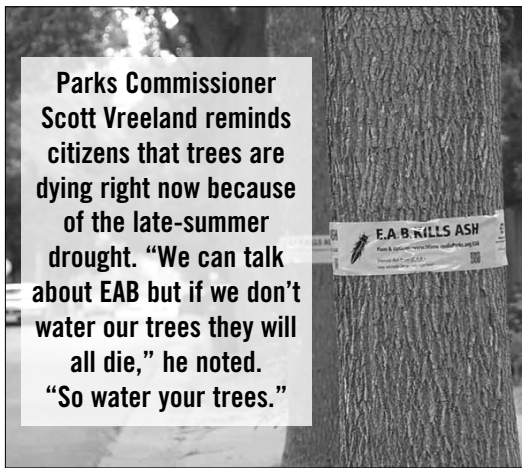
The city is embarking on an 8-year plan to remove all of its ash trees. It plans to remove no more than 20% of the trees on a block at a time.

The ash trees will be replaced with other varieties, such as oak, honey locust and ginkgo.

"Species diversity is really our best weapon," said Vreeland.

How will the city pay for these new trees and the cost of tearing down the old ones? The parks department has asked for a \$1.2 million tree levy for each of the next 8 years. It would cost each taxpayer about \$8 a year. The final decision on this levy, which is supported by Mayor Rybak, will be made in December.

Homeowners can request that their boulevard ash trees be removed by going to the park web site.



## POTENTIAL IMPACT OF EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive pest introduced from Asia that attacks ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). This metallic wood boring beetle was first found in Detroit, MI, and Ontario, Canada, in 2002. It is believed to have arrived in shipping crates. Since the initial discovery it has been identified in multiple Eastern and Midwestern states.

The destructive potential of EAB is enormous because there is currently no known cure. It has already killed more than 40

million ash trees nationwide, most of which were in southeast Michigan. Minnesota has the potential to lose 867 million trees because it has one of the highest volumes of forestland ash in the U.S.

As bad as these losses would be, they do not address the losses that would be suffered by municipalities. In Minneapolis the impact to the total urban forest canopy would be significant because 21 percent of all trees, both public and private, are ash. This translates into

more than 200,000 trees.

On public property, Minneapolis would lose approximately 38,000 ash trees growing on boulevards. The cost of removal, stump grinding and replanting of these trees would exceed \$26 million. This does not include the tens of thousands of ash trees growing in parks and natural areas such as along the Mississippi River corridor.

From <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1220>

This question is asked every summer around here, usually after a storm. Our garage has been leaking for a long time. Back in the mid-nineties, after a big storm, we had our house and garage roof replaced by a professional roofer. At the time, we bought a thirty year roof, mostly because we were in our fifties, and really, how long could we live? Happily, we're still here!

The garage roof started leaking some time ago, around the skylight. I thought, at the time, it was a good idea to keep it. Now, it looks more like a bad idea. It's leaking into the decking, and causing a big mess. Over time, it's compromised the roof.

Mr. M. was going to tear off half the roof, and put on new decking, tar paper, and shingles. I had second thoughts about him



# The Old White House

By SHERRI MOORE

## Should we hire a roofer?

crawling all over the rotten part of the roof, so I called a company who had done work for me on the duplex roof and gutters. Their work was good, and their price reasonable. They also did it in a timely manner.

The owner of the company came by and gave me an estimate. The price was fair, and the timing even better. It could be done in a week. His timing was about two weeks short of the time Mr. M. would take, not to

mention any complications that could come up.

We decided to hire the roofing company and save Mr. M.'s labor for the front porch, where two of the pedestals are leaning, and it's getting worse. It's the old story—too many projects, too little time.

On a bright, sunny Tuesday morning, the roofer and his employee showed up, set up a ladder and got busy. The entire project took only an hour. Then, the

clean up took ten minutes and they were packed and gone before I knew it.

What a deal! The roof was patched. Yes, it looks like a patch job, but really, does it matter? The shingles will fade in time, and it will look the same. Gone is the aged sky light, rotten shingles, and big dip where water ran to.

I know it cost good money. I know we aren't the kind of people who hire work done. I know

this is a do-it-yourself column. The roof is patched, Mr. M.'s daughter is coming with our granddaughter, and I don't have to think about it again. The roof looks beautiful again!

Yes, I'm one of those people who appreciate the view of a beautiful roof.

If you are looking for a roofer, I can highly recommend ours. Please email me and I'll send you his information.

Happy September! Golden light, crisp apples, Labor Day, and back to school. I hope it's a nice, long fall. It gets better every year.

*(Sherri Moore is a freelance writer and resident of the Nokomis neighborhood. Sherri and Mr. M. are still working on their old white house. Sherri welcomes your comments and can be reached at sherrimoore92@msn.com.)*

## NAMIWalks scheduled September 28 at Minnehaha Park

NAMIWalks is changing minds one step at a time. NAMIWalks is a 5K walk to increase public awareness of mental illnesses, fight stigma, and raise funds for NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota.

NAMIWalks will be held at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis on Sat., Sept. 28 at 1pm. Over 200 walk teams and more than 4,000 people from across the state are expected to participate in this walk and one scheduled in Rochester the same day.

Mental illnesses affect persons of any age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or socioeconomic status. One in four adults and one in ten children are affected by a mental illness in any given year. NAMI provides educational classes and support groups, and advocates for better mental health services.

"The Walk brings people together to raise awareness that mental illnesses are treatable medical conditions, and that there is help and hope for children and adults with mental illness and their families," said Sue Abderholden, executive director of NAMI Minnesota.

Over 100,000 individual walkers and supporters participated in NAMIWalks in more than 80 cities across America last year. Allina Mental Health, Cigna and UCare are the top sponsors of NAMIWalks Minnesota, along with over 50 corporate and individual sponsors including HealthPartners, Preferred One, Regions Hospital, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic, HealthEast Care System, Hennepin County Medical Center, Park Nicollet and others.

To join NAMIWalks, captain

a team, volunteer, or make a donation, call 651-645-2948 or 1-888-NAMI-Helps, or go to [www.namihelps.org](http://www.namihelps.org) and click on the NAMIWalks logo.

**NAMI Walks**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

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(on the Parkway between Minnehaha Ave. & Hiawatha Ave.)

## Finding an adoptable or lost pet just got easier

The City of Minneapolis has launched a refreshed version of the Minneapolis Animal Care & Control website (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/animals/index.htm>) that makes it easier than ever to find a new pet, or to look for a lost pet. The site now shows photos and short descriptions of all dogs, cats, and small animals that are either lost or available for adoption from the shelter. This section of the website is updated in real time so folks can check the website before making a visit to the shelter.

The website also features a

fresh new look and more user-friendly navigation, making it easier for people to license their pets, report an animal problem, and learn more about all the services that Minneapolis Animal Care & Control provides.

Minneapolis Animal Care & Control operates a state-of-the-art animal shelter that takes in more than 4,000 animals each year. In 2012, Minneapolis Animal Care & Control sent more than 90 percent of all adoptable pets home in 2012 thanks in part to its partnership with 46 pet rescue organizations.



**Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!**

**Bethlehem Covenant**  
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768  
[www.bethlehemcov.org](http://www.bethlehemcov.org)  
Pastor Ryan Eikenberry-Barber (Handicapped accessible)  
Children especially welcome  
Contemporary Worship at 9am on Sept 1 (8:30am on Sept. 15 and thereafter)  
Sunday School for all starts Sept. 15 (Coffee at 9:30, Classes at 9:45)  
Traditional Worship 10:30am on Sept. 1 and 8 (11am thereafter)  
Lunch and fun on Sept 8 at Noon 43rd Ave S. (Outside in the street)  
Everyone Invited!

**Christ Church Lutheran**  
3244 34th Ave. • 612-721-6611  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am  
Childcare Provided  
Education Hour at 11:00 am  
Pastor: Kristine Carlson  
A welcoming congregation  
[www.christchurchluth.org](http://www.christchurchluth.org)

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Education: Adults at 9:45 am; Children and Youth, 11:30 am  
(Childcare Provided)  
(Wheelchair Accessible)  
Rev. Pam Armstrong

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran (LC-MS)**  
3430 E. 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
Worship 9:00 am  
Fellowship Hour 10:00 am  
Education Hour 10:30 am  
Rev. David Domanski

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

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

**St. Albert the Great Catholic**  
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. • 612-724-3643  
Sunday Mass 9:30 am (Childcare available)  
Saturday Mass 5:00 pm  
M,T,Th,F,Rosary at 8 am, Daily Mass 8:15 am  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament first  
Fridays from 9 am - Noon. Air conditioned!  
(Handicapped accessible)  
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.  
[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)

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# Proponents continue push for cycle track along Minnehaha

By JILL BOOGREN

At the Aug. 11 Minnehaha Open Streets event, in front of a "pop-up cycle track," made using flower planters and temporary street arrows, the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition unveiled 900 postcards from people requesting a cycle track along Minnehaha Ave.

The postcards were collected by the Coalition along with Midtown Greenway Coalition, Sierra Club, and SPOKES, and delivered two days later to Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin and City Council Members Sandy Colvin Roy and Gary Schiff.

Nicole Nafziger, of the Keewaydin neighborhood, helped deliver the postcards and spoke at the press event in the company of her kids, Linus and Freya, and her husband Adam. She said by phone that while she's confident to ride in-street by herself, when she has two kids with her "it's a totally different ball game."

"As a mom, who is carrying her most precious cargo in the world, I can tell you — the status quo doesn't cut it," she said. "We are not asking for more. We are asking for better."

A cycle track is a designated area for bikes to travel that is physically separated from the roadway. For Minnehaha it would be raised to the curb and run in both directions on the west side of the street. It is one of two bike-way layouts for the reconstruction project. The other, which has been recommended by the county, would use on-street bike lanes alongside the driving lanes on each side of the street.

Proponents say cycle tracks increase not just safety but the perception of safety for bicyclists and tend to increase ridership. The county suggests that for Minnehaha, it would be safer to keep bicyclists riding with traffic.

The Coalition is asking for a



Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Ethan Fawley stands with Keewaydin residents Adam and Nicole Nafziger and their two kids, Freya and Linus, at the Minnehaha Open Streets event in August, where they unveiled 900 postcards from community members in favor of a cycle track along Minnehaha Ave. Behind them is a "pop-up cycle track" to demonstrate what it's like riding on an on-street protected bikeway. (Photo by Kristina Perkins)

revised cycle track plan before it goes to the City Council for approval, which is expected in November. More trees and parking spaces would be removed for cycle tracks than bike lanes in the current county design. The Coalition has asked for a revised cycle track layout.

Coalition Executive Director Ethan Fawley said he hopes elected officials will hear the public input and move towards a cycle track proposal that protects trees and parking and allows "maximum benefits to the neighborhood and community."

"I hope they listen and follow what the community is saying," Fawley said. "It definitely can be done in a way that increases safety and comfort for everyone using Minnehaha."

Getting a new cycle track design may be an uphill climb.

On Aug. 8, county staff briefed Hennepin County Board members on two separate projects — Washington Ave. downtown and Minnehaha Ave. Staff shared

details of each project, stating their preference for cycle tracks on Washington Ave. and on-street bike lanes on Minnehaha.

Some Board members in attendance hammered at details of including cycle tracks on Washington Ave., which differ from Minnehaha in that they would be one-way tracks on each side of the street instead of a two-way track on one side of the street. Driving lanes on Washington Ave. would be reduced from 3 to 2 in each direction, but there would be turn lanes.

"We're going to pay \$10 million to restrict use?" said Commissioner Jeff Johnson.

This is a political reality Commissioner McLaughlin can't ignore.

"I need four votes," he said, adding that cycle tracks are a new feature that some of the seven board members are not comfortable with.

When asked if there are plans to revise the cycle track option for Minnehaha, he said having the

board override a decision recommended by staff, when their recommendation is based on safety concerns, is a "pretty tall order."

He added that the fact that staff are recommending cycle tracks for Washington Ave. "gives us a fighting chance" they'll be approved for that roadway.

This is not lost on Fawley, who gives "a ton of credit" to county staff for recommending the cycle tracks on Washington Ave. downtown.

"We aren't trying to be critical," he said. "All we have to do is look to Washington Ave., and they've done a fantastic job looking at community input and designing the project based on that. Let's have a similar thing here on Minnehaha."

Asked to comment on receiving copies of 900 postcards, Council Member Colvin Roy wrote in an email that while it's unclear with a petition how many details signers understand, she does think more discussion of the county's design is warranted.

"The volume of petitions certainly shows a large number of the public are very interested in having improvements that will make bike riders feel safer, especially on Minnehaha Ave. where the investment will also benefit the local businesses and their customers who arrive on foot or on a bike," she wrote. "People really want to see a change that will make this fifty-year rebuilding of a street meet their needs now and into the future."

Council Member Gary Schiff could not be reached for comment. Council Member Cam Gordon spoke at the Open Streets press event in favor of a cycle track for Minnehaha.

The City's recently adopted Climate Action Plan includes a goal of installing 30 new miles of protected bikeways, which include cycle tracks, by 2020.

The next public meetings are expected in late September. Watch the Messenger website and Facebook page for dates and times as they are scheduled.



Nicole Nafziger (left), of the Keewaydin neighborhood, spoke at the August Open Streets event in favor of a protected bikeway, or "cycle track," along Minnehaha. With her are her husband, Adam, and two kids, Linus and Freya. Council Member Cam Gordon is in the background. (Photo by Kristina Perkins)

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Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Messenger Classifieds, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Want ads must be mailed to the Messenger before September 16 for the September 26 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyter-nelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyter-nelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

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## RUMMAGE SALE

Holy Emmanuel Church Rummage Sale. September 5, 6, 7 (Bag \$3), 8am-7pm. 201 E. 104th Street, Bloomington. 9-13

Hiawatha School Rummage Sale - The Hiawatha Community School PTO will be hosting their annual rummage sale on Saturday, September 14 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. to help our 5th graders go to Camp Audubon. Items will not be priced but rather we ask you make a donation for those items you wish to keep. Hiawatha Community School is located at 4201 42nd Avenue South. If you have questions, please call the PTO at 612-642-1786. Hope to see you on September 14 for some great bargain hunting!

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# Monarch Festival

Continued from page 1

asking if anyone in the community would be interested in raising monarchs for the festival, and had 45 people who responded that they would help.

"If the Monarchs are raised in different places, it helps," Ulrich noted. "If all of them are raised in a lab, and a disease strikes it can spread quickly. The Monarchs' chance of survival goes way up if they are raised by someone who knows what they're doing."

Elisabeth Young-Isebrand, of the Monarch Lab at the University of Minnesota, conducted workshops at the Nokomis Community Center to teach people

how to raise Monarchs.

"Raising Monarchs in the home is pretty easy to do," she said. "I use lettuce tubs and put milkweed in and watch the Monarchs grow." Young-Isebrand said it takes about a month for them to transform from eggs to a butterfly.

"We provided eggs for the participants at the workshops," she added.

The Monarch population has been decreasing as of late. According to an annual survey by Mexico conservation authorities and the World Wildlife Fund, North America's overwintering population occupied just three acres in Mexico this year, 59 percent less than last year, which was already in record low numbers.

Young-Isebrand said that in North America, through the Monarch Monitoring Project, people report on the number of Monarchs and the stages they are in.

"People report online and verify with proper data in the fall. Some of our volunteers have been doing this for 10 years. They say that we are experiencing record low numbers of Monarchs," she said.

Young-Isebrand said the major reasons for the drop in Monarch population are habitat loss and drought.

"The way agriculture is done now, crops are bio-engineered to withstand herbicide spraying," she explained. But the spraying can destroy everything else, in-

cluding the milkweed in a cornfield that is a natural habitat for the Monarchs.

"There are a lot of other changes to the environment, but they are harder to measure," Young-Isebrand said.

"And the droughts that have been occurring all along the eastern United States have affected the Monarch population."

According to Young-Isebrand, her work is primarily as a liaison between teachers and scientists.

"We use Monarchs and other

insects, sometimes birds and focus on education. You find insects everywhere, and they are easy to raise in the classrooms. It's a wonderful way to get kids interested in nature and ask questions."

The Monarch Festival serves as an event that raises interest throughout the whole community.

"Everybody comes together to celebrate this amazing organism that weighs less than a paper clip," Young-Isebrand emphasized.



Visitors of all ages learn about monarchs and their life cycle at the Minneapolis Monarch Festival. Over the years, the focus has been centered on Monarchs and education about Minnesota's state butterfly.

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