



Candidates face off in City Council and Park Board races

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New building next to 38th St. lightrail station clearing construction hurdles

Plan to revitalize 38th St. station includes three new buildings, two plazas, new street, stoplight, and bike parking

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

While the proposal for multi-story buildings at the 38th St. and Hiawatha fits within the city's plans for development along the lightrail line, neighbors argue that it doesn't fit within their Minneapolis neighborhood.

During a public hearing on Sept. 18, Jennifer Halter, a resident along 29th Ave., pointed out that most of the buildings in the neighborhood are one-and-a-half story bungalows or two-story homes.

She specifically opposes the plan by the developer, Lander Group, to put a four-story building on the southeast corner of 38th St. and 29th Ave.

"A four-story building has no business on the south block of 38th St. if the city and developer intend to retain the character of the neighborhood," wrote Halter in a letter opposing the proposal.

The plan shows a building that is two stories along 38th and steps back to four stories on the south side, which means that the 100-year-old, 1.5-story farm-



A wedge-shaped building next to the lightrail line will house offices and a restaurant. Next to it will be a privately-owned, public plaza with seating and a water feature. (Illustration submitted)

house on the south will be right next to a four-story wall without a setback, Halter said.

Halter was joined by three other neighbors who are also concerned about the size of the building proposed for the south

side of 38th, parking issues along residential streets, and the traffic congestion that will be generated by the new development.

"People want their cars. They don't want to go grocery shopping in January on the bus," stat-

ed Caroline Smart.

Yvette Roberts, who lives north of 38th along 29th Ave., is also concerned about traffic, specifically the buses that will be traveling down her street, and she's a regular bus rider who

doesn't own a car. She also expressed concern about where cars were going to park. "Everyone wants to park by the lightrail station. They want a park and ride," she stated.

Station to be redone

The Lander Group is planning to revitalize the 38th St. lightrail station "through privately-led, publicly-visioned development," according to city documents. By making the site larger through the purchase of the six homes on the west side of the property along 29th, the Lander Group will enlarge the bus turnaround and drop-off, create a new city street, add two new station plazas with public art and water features, and construct three new buildings. The buildings will house a mixture of office, retail, and housing.

A great street

While neighbors spoke about the overall development during the Sept. 18 public hearing, Planning Commissioners were looking at just a portion of the project.

"We're excited to be here," said Michael Lander of Lander Group. "One could argue this is the culmination of a vision that started 27 years ago." The vision for lightrail along this corridor included the redevelopment of the area with high-density housing along the line and additional amenities.

"There's been a lot of people talking about what they want to happen, and we're excited to make it happen," Lander stated.

The Lander Group envisions a "great street" from its soon-to-be complete project at 38th and 28th east to Hiawatha. They intend to invest in streetscaping improvements along the corridor. The new city street within the development, the extension of 30th Ave., will be a full city street and not merely the bus lane that is there now and it will have broad sidewalks.

One of the highlights of the site for the public is a 100 by 40-foot plaza along 38th and the lightrail line. This will be a privately-owned public space with sidewalks along the edge, seating, planters, and a water feature within 20 feet of what developers hope will be a restaurant.

The public improvements will be financed and paid for by new resources directly from the

A part-time job led to a 45-year career in hardware

A loss to the community as River Lake Hardware to close its doors by the end of the year

By STEPHANIE FOX

Jim Logan, one of the owners of River Lake Hardware at 36th and E. Lake St., has been greeting a steady stream of customers all morning, as he does most days. Often showing up as early as 7:30am, he has been doing this for 45 years and this morning, the word has gotten out that by the end of the year, the shop will close for good.

In the beginning, Logan and his business partner Mark Enderlein never planned to be in the hardware business. Logan was in college, within 12 credits of getting an accounting degree, when he took what he thought would be a short-time job at River Lake Hardware. He remembers the exact date, he said. "It was Sept. 10, 1972," and now, just one day short of 45 years, a sign announcing the going out of business sale appeared above the door. "I lived across the street and needed a job," he said. "And, I thought it would be a good idea to get business experience. I didn't think it would last long. But, I fell in love with it."

Logan and Enderlein bought the store, a True Value franchise,



Jim Logan (pictured above) and his partner Mark Enderlein will be closing River Lake Hardware at the end of the year. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

in 1974. It was not Logan's first business. He had owned a small sandwich shop in St. Paul, but somehow, hardware (and not sandwiches) got into his blood.

Enderlein also owns River Lake Small Engine and Racing, just down the street, which serves the go-kart racing community. "Jim and I have been 50/50 owners of the hardware store for 45 years," he said. "I like to say that

I own the half he doesn't own." Enderlein still works at the hardware store when the place gets crowded and busy. "In theory, I work every other Saturday when Jim gets off, but a lot of the time both me and Jim end up working together."

At about 3,000 sq. ft., the shop is small, with a main floor and a basement, located down a narrow staircase. There are bins

of nuts, bolts, nails and fasteners, racks of hand and power tools, lawn and garden, paint, shelves of plumbing supplies—and Logan knows where everything is located, down to the inch. The store offers services, too. And while Logan claims that brick and mortar businesses are dead, most of his customers disagree.

Many of his customers have been coming here for years. The 200 to 300 customers who come in each day are not big box store people. They come for good advice and expertise and because the store supports the neighborhood. (Yelp gives the store their highest five-star rating.) Logan calls his place the most laid-back hardware store in the Twin Cities.

"I can support my local hardware store because I grew up here," said Travis Berg, who came in looking for a line level. "I used to come in here as a kid and spend my allowance. Now, I'm in construction. This place is partly the reason for that." Logan sends him down to the basement for the level.

One customer comes in

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Rick's Place welcomes vets and their families

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Rick's Place is not your ordinary coffee shop. Walking through the doors of the storefront at 4307 E. 54th St., it feels informal and welcoming—but there's not much that's trendy about it.

Rick's Place opened in late July as a gathering spot for veterans and their families, as well as members of the community. The owners proudly state that, by choice, there's no WiFi. It's a place where people can come to enjoy a cup of coffee and baked goods from Berry Sweet Kitchens just down the street, and it won't cost much. It's place where people, and especially war veterans, can come to connect with each other—and to feel safe.

Rick's Place is currently open Monday through Friday from 8am-2pm, but that will likely change in the fall to an earlier start time. There is no charge for coffee or treats, though donations are welcome.

Tom Mckenna and his wife Jessi are the driving force behind Rick's Place. Mckenna, whose job title is, "Head Veteran Supporter," was a member of the United States Marine Corps. He served on active duty from the time he was 18 until he turned 22. "When we were thinking about opening this place," he said, "what we really wanted was to bring awareness to the veteran suicide epidemic. It's estimated that as many as 20 vets kill themselves every day in this country."

Master Sergeant Rick Gustafson, for whom Rick's Place is named, was one of those vets. Gustafson was a member of the US Navy and the Air Force Special Operations Unit for 19 years, serving nine full combat deployments and several smaller missions during that time.

"Only about 10% of the military actually expects to see combat," Mckenna said, "but Gustafson did in every one of his deployments. As a tactical air controller, his job was to parachute behind enemy lines to identify targets. For that to occur, he had to get really close. In the end, he was volunteering for deployments so that younger soldiers wouldn't have to."

Rick Gustafson committed suicide in May of 2015 while suffering from serious Post Trau-



Tom Mckenna, Head Veteran Supporter at Rick's Place with Mack, his service dog. Like more than half a million vets, Mckenna suffers from PTSD symptoms, which a service dog can help alleviate. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

matic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a diagnosis that's been around for as long as there have been wars.

Opening Rick's Place was something tangible that Tom and Jessi Mckenna could do for vets in this community. It sprang out of work their family had been doing for more than a decade. Along with their three kids Brendan (19), Shannon (17), and Kayla (16), the couple had spent the last ten years collecting clothing, blankets, and personal care items, and delivering them all over Minneapolis to vets experiencing homelessness.

"The first time I met a homeless vet on the street, I asked him what he needed," Mckenna said. "I expected him to say money, and I had a \$20 bill ready. Instead, he said, 'I need socks and underwear,' so we walked to the nearest store we could find and bought him those things."

He continued, "I've been through many programs and therapies at the VA (Veteran's Administration). They do a great job, but they focus only on the veteran, and everyone else is sec-

ondary. Here at Rick's Place, and at the nonprofit we operate next door called Every Third Saturday, we welcome spouses and extended families as well as vets. There's healing power in being with a small group of people that have been through the same thing, and we're cultivating that here."

True to its name, Every Third Saturday opens its doors wide on the third Saturday of each month from 11am-1pm. Staff and volunteers distribute all manner of seasonal clothing, personal care items, sleeping bags, quilts, and more to vets who need them. The Every Third Saturday office is open from 8am-2pm, Monday through Friday. Mckenna said, "We encourage vets to come in during those hours whenever they need supplies or resources. Our biggest distribution day is every third Saturday, but we want vets to know that the office is open more than one day a month."

Call 952-356-5116 with any questions about Rick's Place, or to donate money or clothing to Every Third Saturday.

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Letters to the Editor

Five urgent priorities for Lake Hiawatha and surrounding parklands

Will you stand with the Friends of Lake Hiawatha in supporting these five priority measures for Lake Hiawatha and surrounding parkland?

1. Comprehensive and effective mitigation of the "north pipe" storm sewer system as defined in previous planning discussions by the MPRB as the "open channel" option. Lake Hiawatha receives tons of trash and pollutants that dump directly into the Lake via the north pipe storm sewer. This pollution severely impacts the water quality and ecological health of the Lake and its habitat. Given the scale of this particular urban sub-watershed, it is essential that an effective mitigation system is installed at the end of the line and should be a given in any public use scenario going forward.

2. Protection of existing habitat. A rich and diverse community of wildlife calls Lake Hiawatha home. Any use of the land should include protection and preservation of the areas where existing wildlife populations reside, including generous buffer zones to limit intrusion into vital habitat areas.

3. The creation of new wetland habitat. We support the increase of habitat zones by increasing the ecological diversity of the land surrounding Lake Hiawatha. We want to see more biodiversity,

climate resilience and flood storage capacity.

4. Discontinuation of the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on the parkland surrounding Lake Hiawatha. Given the park's proximity to this important water resource and the porousness of the substrate, the use of these chemicals is unacceptable because of their impact on water quality, wildlife, and ecological health.

5. Equitable and accessible uses of the Park that invite all members of our community to benefit from it as a resource, while focusing on sustainability and ecological health. We honor the Indigenous People of this land and believe they should be involved in the planning processes related to Lake Hiawatha and the surrounding parkland.

It is not our policy as a group

at this time to advocate for any specific public activity on the parkland. Our mission is to restore health to the Lake and its habitat. We must also prepare for the Park's stated intention to reduce groundwater pumping, and we will work to ensure that if pumping is reduced, the health of the Lake, its habitat and wildlife residents are primary considerations in any future planning. We support and join councilman Andrew Johnson's request that indigenous people are given a seat and fair representation on the Community Advisory Council and are part of the planning process for the future of Lake Hiawatha.

Friends of Lake Hiawatha
www.friendsoflakehiawatha.org
friendsoflakehiawatha@gmail.com

The Ford site is important to Longfellow/Nokomis too

The future of Highland Park in St. Paul and the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods in Minneapolis are intertwined. Many have friends and family in each of these adjacent neighborhoods and we need to work together to help build a better future.

This means getting Minneapolis residents in nearby neighborhoods engaged in the future of the Ford Site. When it comes to regional economic health, the

Ford Site is a prime opportunity to add to our region's bottom line while adding new housing and new businesses. I encourage residents of Greater Longfellow and Nokomis to engage and support the current proposed zoning and public realm plan.

When a city can no longer grow out, it must grow up. I mean this both literally and philosophically. This applies to both sides of the Mississippi River.

Nathaniel Hood

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There are about 50 local players on the Minnesota Freeze men's and women's Australian Football teams. They play each Saturday at the Lake Nokomis fields along Cedar from April to mid-October. Practice begins at 9 a.m. and is followed by a scrimmage at 10:30 a.m. (Photo submitted)

Nokomis woman plays on local Australian football team

Men's and women's Minnesota Freeze teams play games at the Lake Nokomis fields every Saturday during football season

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

The day Bri Ostoff moved into the Nokomis neighborhood three years ago, she joined the women's Minnesota Freeze Australian Football team.

"I found the Minnesota Freeze on Meetup, a website for different activities, and they practiced in my new neighborhood at Lake Nokomis, so I decided to try it as a way to meet people," recalled Ostoff. "I have been hooked and playing for over three years."

The Minnesota Freeze has over 50 members from the Twin

Cities area playing on the men's and women's teams. Their season runs from the end of April to mid-October.

The teams are at Lake Nokomis fields just off Cedar on Saturdays with practices at 9am and inter-league scrimmage starting around 10:30 a.m. Men practice Wednesdays at Northwestern Health Science University in Bloomington at 6pm, and women practice Mondays at Bryn Mawr Park in Minneapolis at 6pm.

The Freeze started in 2005

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125 First Ave. NW, PO Box 168
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651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Calvin deRuyter, editorial@deruyternelson.com

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe (651-917-4183);
denis@deruyternelson.com

Production:

Tim Nelson

Contributing Writers:

Tesha M. Christensen, Jan Willms, Jill Boogren,
Matthew Davis, Margie O'Loughlin,
Stephanie Fox

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As the paint dries on the Bossen mural, it is time to celebrate! Join Nokomis East mural artist Victor Yopez and NENA for an open house. Meet our artists including Nokomis East mosaic expert Dani Bianchini, learn about the community process and celebrate the newest public art addition to our neighborhood. The Bossen Mural Celebration Open House will take place on Tues., Oct. 3, from 6-7:30pm.

The mural project goals were to engage the community through art-making and art access on what makes a healthy, livable neighborhood with a lens for healthy eating, being active and tobacco-free living. The mural was also created to demonstrate the community interest in creating a healthy and livable neighborhood, and prevent graffiti. To find out more about projects like the Bossen Mural, subscribe to the NENA newsletter at nokomiseast.org.

Fall Garden Social celebrates new food garden

The first gardening season is drawing to a close for the Nokomis East Food Garden, and thanks to dedicated volunteers it has been a success. The garden donated over 200 pounds of produce this summer to local food shelves, churches, and community members in need. This project is made possible through a partnership between NENA and St. James On The Parkway Episcopal Church, who donated their lawn and garden beds for the community garden.

The food garden volunteers invite you to celebrate with them with family-friendly activities, prizes, and a potluck lunch on Sun., Oct. 8 from 12:30-2pm at St. James On The Parkway Episcopal Church, 3225 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

4313 54th St. E.

Bossen Mural Celebration Open House scheduled Oct. 3

NENA upcoming meetings and events:

- 10/03/17: Bossen Mural Celebration Open House, 58th Street & Sander Drive, 6pm
- 10/04/17: NENA Housing, Commercial, and Streetscape Committee, NENA Office, 6:30pm
- 10/08/17: Fall Garden Social, St. James On The Parkway, 12:30pm
- 10/11/17: NENA Green Initiatives Committee, NENA Office, 6:30pm
- 10/26/17: NENA Board Meeting, NENA Office, 7pm

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NENA welcomes Americorps member Tyra Payer

NENA is pleased to announce that Tyra Payer has joined the staff as a Public Allies Americorps member, an apprenticeship program designed to change the face of non-profit leadership. Payer recently graduated with a BA in Psychology from North Dakota State University, where she had the chance to volunteer and discover her passion for community leadership and social change.

Payer will spend her service term compiling a Nokomis East Community Snapshot, which will identify opportunities for new programs and services in Nokomis East Neighborhood. If you live in the Nokomis East area and would like to be a part of the Community Snapshot process, contact Payer at tyra.payer@nokomiseast.org or 612-724-5652.

Bee-lieve it: White Crane Construction has a hive

It all started with a trip to the State Fair. Jonathan Kvasnik noticed a flyer while he was tasting the honey in the Agricultural



A hive frame full of honey created by the White Crane Construction honeybees. (Photo submitted)

Building that advertised a beekeeping class from the U of MN Bee Keeping Club, and decided to sign up. After the class, Jonathan was hooked on beekeeping. His employer, BankCherokee, a community bank, was supportive of Kvasnik's new hobby, particularly in light of the benefits to the environment. BankCherokee in St. Paul allowed him to build a beehive on their roof, where it would be away from mice, raccoons, and other creatures

that may disrupt the hive. After a bountiful first year, Jonathan gave some of the hive honey to a longtime client. That client was the owner of White Crane Construction, Susan Denk.

As soon as Denk heard about the beehive, she wanted one on the roof of her own business. Jonathan was more than willing to lend his support and time to the project, and on Apr. 13 the beehive moved into its new home on the White Crane

building roof at 50th St. and 28th Ave.

White Crane is a design: build residential remodeling company, their tag line is "Harmony by Design" very "beefitting" this great endeavor. Denk named the queen bee "Mama D Honey Bee," after her mother, who passed away that month.

"There's nothing I love more than to go up and see those bees. The whole office is crazy about them," Denk said. "We have an interest in bees as builders in the natural world. As a builder, I find it fascinating. I also believe we need to start taking care of the creatures on this earth." According to the 2015 and 2016 United Nations reports on pollinators, the bee population has declined 27% from 2008-2013. The USDA also reports that 60% of Minnesota bee colonies did not survive this past winter. This trend concerned Denk, who also has a Monarch Mile pollinator garden, a NENA program, on her business property to help curb pollinator habitat loss.

Although it is not yet at the point for a honey harvest, the White Crane Construction hive is doing well. Next year the office hopes to donate their honey to be part of the Honey Money program, which provides funding for new urban hives and community education on bees. If you want to follow the hive's progress, the White Crane Facebook page provides regular updates.

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River Lake Hardware

Continued from page 1

needing a new key. "That's what I sell the most of—we sell 23,000 keys a year," said Logan. He claims that most hardware stores take much too long in making new keys. "Count the seconds this takes for me to make this," he said. There's a new key, ready to go, in six seconds. Locks are repaired in 30 (or fewer) minutes. The shop also offers 24-hour window repairs service.

Customer Sacha Muller lives nearby and says that the store closing is a loss to the neighborhood. "Business like this know the kind of houses in the neighborhood and what they need," he said.

Logan said that after the store finally closes, he'll spend more time in Saigon. Since buying a home there ten years ago, he's visited Vietnam 97 times, spending two weeks every other month there. He brings back tiny painted wooden dragonflies, which he gives as gifts to his female customers. "There are only three women in the world who make these," he said. He says he might get a job when he gets back, mostly to socialize. "I like people too much to do accounting."

Enderlein plans on closing his machine shop business, as well. "I love the businesses, and I love the people, but the reason I want it to be done is that I just turned 65 years old and have ten

grandchildren. I have an 86-year old mother who lives in Colorado, and I see her only once a year. My wife and I are going to do

more family and more traveling." "This has been a wonderful time," Logan said. "But, what's most important to me are the

people who have supported us for 45 years. When Frattallone's [Hardware Store] came in ten-and-a-half years ago, our customers still came here. I have no re-

grets. I could have made more money doing something else, but I wouldn't be anywhere as happy."



River Lake Hardware will be closing at the end of the year. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)



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Candidates face off in Wards 11 and 12 races; Gordon unopposed in Ward 2

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Not sure where your polling location is? Go to <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/where-to-vote> and enter your address.

CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

Cam Gordon (incumbent)

www.camgordon.org



Cam Gordon

Gordon has lived in Minneapolis all his life and in or near the second ward since 1977 in the Cedar-Riverside, Longfellow, and Seward neighborhoods. He has owned a duplex in Seward since 1991 where he lives with his family. After getting his bachelor of science degree in education, Gordon went on to complete extensive graduate work in early childhood development and Montessori education.

Gordon aims to work effectively and cooperatively with a variety of people from different backgrounds while also maintaining his independence, holding true to his principles and never losing sight of the larger vision and ultimate goals.

CITY COUNCIL WARD 11

Erica Mauter - DFL

www.ericamauter.org



Erica Mauter

Mauter grew up in Detroit and has lived in Minneapolis

since college. She earned her BSE in chemical engineering, University of Michigan. Volunteer activity includes: City of Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee (CLIC), American Civic Forum Board of Directors, Headwaters Foundation for Justice Board of Directors, Minnesota Fringe Festival, Open Arms of Minnesota, and Election Judge.

"I know what the effects of disinvestment look like and I believe that Minneapolis should be accessible and affordable for all its residents," she said.

John Quincy (incumbent) - DFL

www.JohnMQuincy.org



John Quincy

Quincy has lived in Minneapolis since 1994. Before his 2009 election to the city council, Quincy was a marketing services consultant.

"I have delivered on the issues of affordable housing finance and development, worked to end homelessness—one person at a time, advocated for robust multi-modal transit options, increased support for bicyclists as well as pedestrians, championed our move to single-sort and organics recycling, and been involved in leading many green

and open space initiatives," said Quincy. "I will continue to fight for investments in our roads, parks, bike trails, recycling programs, and our efforts to address airplane noise."

Jeremy Schroeder - DFL

www.jeremyschroeder.org



Jeremy Schroeder

Schroeder currently works as the Policy Director for the Minnesota Housing Partnership. Other experience includes: Executive Director for Common Cause Minnesota; National Strategy Counsel for National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty; Executive Director for Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty; Deputy Legislative and Policy Director, for Service Employees International Union, Healthcare Illinois and Indiana; and Board of Directors for Amnesty International USA.

"I believe government can and should be a force for good, but we need bold and proactive leadership to capture that potential," said Schroeder. "I have a long track record of bringing together people on different sides of an issue, and creating consensus despite deep divides."

CITY COUNCIL WARD 12

Andrew Johnson (incumbent) - DFL

www.andrewwmpls.com



Andrew Johnson

A Longfellow resident, Johnson formerly served as the president of the Longfellow Community Council.

Among his accomplishments, Johnson lists: Providing excellent constituent service and being accessible, transparent, and responsive; establishing a Small Business Office and cutting red tape by eliminating more than three-dozen ordinances; securing paid sick leave for over 100,000 workers and paid parental leave for nearly 4,000 city employees; saving taxpayers \$3 million a year by leading the effort to break-up the largest city contract and voting against more spending than any other council member; leading efforts to increase the number of firefighters, reduce 911 wait times, and secure more investigative resources for the police department; leading to unprecedented transparency by authoring the Open Data Policy, launching a portal, and getting council videos permanently online; and helping mentor and

elect the nation's first Somali American legislator, Ilhan Omar.

Will Jaeger - Independent

WillJaeger.com



Will Jaeger

On his website, Jaeger lists energy independence, transit equality, affordable housing, healthcare at the community level, responsible spending, and public education as issues he's concerned about.

On health care at the community level, Jaeger says that "The city should step up and speak up for health care needs specific to our communities. Working closely and diligently with county and state health care programs is essential to this huge need."

On energy independence, Jaeger believes "that Minneapolis should continue to take steps towards creating an energy independent future for Minneapolis. There is no time like the present for this mission."

Harrison Bullard - Independent Health Labor

While Bullard has filed for the Ward 12 seat, his campaign website is not currently active.

Races will change face of Minneapolis park board

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

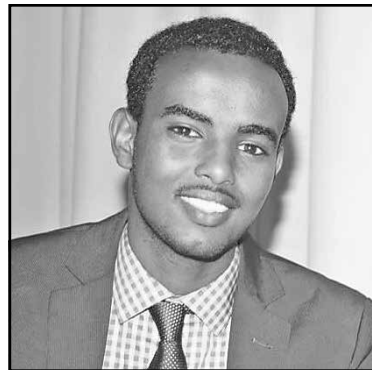
A wave of first-time candidates and new faces are looking to fill several empty seats left by incumbents on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. President Anita Tabb (District 4), Vice President John Erwin (at-large), At-Large Commissioner Annie Young, District 1 Commissioner Liz Wielinski, District 2 Commissioner Jon Olson, and District 3 Commissioner Scott Vreeland are not running for re-election.

The park board manages 160 neighborhood parks and 19 regional parks and has an annual budget of over \$111 million.

PARK COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

AK Hassan

akhassan.com



AK Hassan

Since coming to Minneapolis in 2008, Hassan has served as a youth coordinator at Franklin Library, Outreach Officer for the Senate District 62 DFL, DFL Somali Caucus Chair, and Ventura Village Neighborhood Association Chair.

Hassan said his campaign is "about equal access to our beautiful parks for everyone—especially for our children—regardless of where they live. ... I want to bring more growing space and community gardens into or near

our parks, with District 3 serving as a pilot program, and add 100 native tree species plantings in the district. I want to see more educational opportunities and strong community and school board involvement in our parks, all of which is possible through equitable funding, coalition building, and by listening to residents' needs and concerns."

Abdi Gurhan Mohamed

gurhanforparks.com



Abdi Gurhan Mohamed

Born in a densely populated town in Somalia, Gurhan moved to the West Bank neighborhood in Minneapolis 12 years ago. He earned his degree in business administration from Metro State University. Gurhan has worked

with the Somali Community of Minnesota and as Somali Public Radio host. He is the owner of two private businesses in Minnesota and employs over 40 workers. He also works as a strategy consultant.

"I am running as a candidate for Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board District 3 because I'm passionate about equity, sustainability, recreation and helping families thrive in our amazing city," said Gurhan.

Charles Exner

www.betterparks.net



Charles Exner

Exner would bring a renter's voice to the park board. He

Continued on page 6



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Candidates

Continued from page 5

earned a bachelor of arts in environmental studies from Augsburg College in 2016. Exner served on the Environmental Stewardship Committee there, which installed a permanent bike fix-it station on campus—something he'd like to see at all Minneapolis parks.

While working as an environmental consultant, he learned the ways the private sector attempts to fit sustainability into their profit margins. His tenure as a board member with the environmental nonprofit MPIRG taught him the importance of coalition building and showed him some of the obstacles that community groups face when dealing with the government. He is endorsed by the Green Party of Minnesota.

PARK COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

Andrea Fahrenkrug

fahrenkrugformplsparcs.com

Fahrenkrug has lived in South Minneapolis for over 20 years. She is a long-time member of the Junior League of Minneapolis, the Woman's Club of Minneapolis, and Crew 52. She is a past president of the Minneapolis Jaycees and Women's Metro Links golf league.



Andrea Fahrenkrug

She lists her top issues as "managing the wonderfully diverse park system while bringing back good fiscal management; celebrating the diverse nature of our park's offerings, and ensuring basic park maintenance for all parks, not just a few."

Steffanie Musich - incumbent

www.musichforparcs.com



Steffanie Musich

Musich is a resident of the Wenonah neighborhood and former president of the Friends of Lake Nokomis, which she helped form in 2010. She has been a Master Gardener with the University of Minnesota Extension service in Hennepin County since 2010.

"I am running for re-election to the park board because I am fully committed to ensuring that the parks implement policies that enable the Minneapolis Park and Recreation board to continue to adapt to park users' needs as those needs change and evolve," Musich said. "These policies need to also allow for sustainable growth and thoughtful maintenance of existing properties and amenities."

Bill Shroyer

billshroyer.com



Bill Shroyer

Shroyer has been an employee of the Minneapolis

Parks and Recreation Board for 17 years and is a certified arborist, park keeper, and aquatic facility operator. He is Union Steward and Recording Secretary of City Employees Local #363, Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), and speaks English and Spanish.

If elected, he would: plan improvements and expansion

that communities want and approve of; utilize full-time staff rather than outside contractors whenever possible; examine park board administrative costs; insist on real diversity not just sensitivity training; and put biomass and wood utilization as a guiding principle to "stop wasting thousands of trees removed each year."

PARK COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE

There are nine people are running for the three at-large seats that are available on the park board.

- **Charlie Casserly:** charliecasserly.com
- **Mike Derus:** derusforparcs.com
- **Meg Forney - incumbent:** megforney.org
- **Londel French:** londelfrenchforparcs.com
- **Russ Henry:** RussHenryForParks.com
- **Devin Hogan:** devinforparcs.com
- **Jonathan Honerbrink:** JonathanforMinneapolis.com
- **Bob Sullentrop:** bobsullentropforparkboard.com
- **LaTrisha Vetaw:** latrishavetawforparcs.com

Australian Football Team

Continued from page 3

with a few Australians who had moved to Minnesota. But, you don't need to be Australian to play with the Freeze. Today, the Minnesota team has the fewest Australians playing on it compared to any other in the U.S., while being one of the largest teams in the country. Ages of players range from as young as 16 all the way to 50. The Minnesota Freeze is part of the non-profit United States Australian Football League (USAFL), an organization dedicated to the development of and participation in Australian football in the United States.

The USAFL's first ever game was played in 1996 between Louisville and Cincinnati at Louisville, Ky. The league was founded the following year in 1997 at the first USAFL Nationals in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The men's Freeze team has won three National Championships: 2005 (Division 3), 2007 and 2012 (Division 2).

The women's team travels twice a year, once to play its nearest team in Chicago and once to attend the USAFL National Championship Tournament. The men's team travels more often because there are men's teams to play in Des Moines, Chicago, and Madison.

But traveling is not a requirement, according to Ostoff. Many members just play locally until the Nationals in October.

"This is a welcoming team full of people who wanted to train and play like a team," said Ostoff. "Some of us came from other sports. For some, this is their first team sport. It's social, and the people are amazing. I do



The Australian Football team representing the United States in Australia in August 2017 included Minnesota Freeze players (left to right) Bri Ostoff, Kait Peterson, and Kate Mullins. (Photo submitted)

also really enjoy tackling people."

The sport requires skill, strength, and strategic thinking. At whatever level one plays at, the game improves fitness, strength, and coordination.

Learning as she went

Like many others on the team, Ostoff had no idea what she was doing and learned the rules as she went. During her first game, she got a 50-meter penalty—that's one rule she'll never forget.

Australian rules football, officially known as Australian football, or simply called football or footy, is a contact sport played between two teams of 18 players on an oval-shaped field that

could easily fit an entire football field. There are no pads, but it is a full tackle sport. Games are played in two 20-minute halves with a 7-minute half-time break.

There are jump balls similar to basketball at the start of quarters, after goals, and when there is a struggle for possession without any prior opportunity, according to Ostoff. If a player tackles a person who has possession, the ball is turned over, and he/she gets a free kick. You have to kick the ball through the middle posts for 6 points; if you get this through the posts on either side on a kick, it is called a behind and worth only one point. A behind turns the ball over to your opponents' defenders, and they get a free kick.

"It's a continuously moving sport, so changes are made on the fly," said Ostoff. "There are no offsides. And you can only score by kicking."

Women and men's teams play by the same rules.

"I find it to have similar structures to hockey," noted Ostoff, who played hockey in high school and college. "It combines so many aspects of different sports that it fun to learn and we love to teach it."

Ostoff's biggest challenge has been learning how to kick, as this is the first sport she's played where she needed that skill.

"The kick is most similar to a football punt, but it has its own technique because you

should be able to kick without really breaking your running stride," explained Ostoff. "This is something every American on the team has had to learn. Your kicks have to be accurate enough for your teammates to catch on the fly while fending off a defender."

She typically plays the position of Half Back Flank, a defensive position on the D line closest to the midfield and flank. "Tall people are generally in the middle of the field," stated Ostoff. "I'm short, so I play on the outside."

Ostoff had competed in over 13 different sports growing up, so changing sports wasn't a new idea for her.

"I love team sports," Ostoff said. "Working and training to achieve a common goal is an amazing, empowering place for people to bond and grow."

Representing the U.S. in Australia

This past August Ostoff went to Australia as a member of the USA Women's Liberty team—a development team made up of women who play footy from across the U.S. Team members played local women's clubs in Australia, winning three out of the five games. This opportunity exists every three years, and Ostoff learned about it during her rookie year and worked three years to make the team.

"It was amazing to play footy in Australia," remarked Ostoff. "The feel is similar to small-town hockey. The whole town comes out to support their clubs and cheer each other on. It was a great honor to represent the USA and our women."

The Minnesota Freeze is always looking for new men and women to join and play. More at www.mnfreeze.com.

Historic Millworks Lofts fills to capacity in a month

1920s-era shed and brick building made into affordable lofts featuring original woodwork and geothermal system

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Saying Nick Andersen has been involved in the Millworks Lofts project along Hiawatha Ave. since the beginning is almost an understatement.

Before working as a developer with the Plymouth-based Dominion, Inc., Andersen eyed the property at 4041 Hiawatha Ave. S. for a school project. He was enrolled in the real estate graduate program at the University of St. Thomas, and the former 1920s-era Lake Street Sash and Door Company complex was part of a case study associated with the 2007 University Real Estate Challenge.

Together with a team of students, Andersen envisioned re-making the historic millwork into a site with affordable housing and retail.

Eight years after graduation, Andersen was employed full-time by Dominion when he got a call from a fellow St. Thomas student. "Remember that project we worked on?" Mike Doyle asked Andersen. "I think you should look at it as an apartment conversion project." His uncles, Kevin and Dennis Doyle, the property owners, were interested in selling.

Andersen revisited the project and pitched it to fellow Dominion employees.

This time the primary focus was on affordable housing. The retail component was nixed in part because of the difficulty accessing the site from the southbound lane of Hiawatha; drivers would have to make a u-turn at 42nd St. and head back north for a block.

Others had envisioned housing at the site, but they wanted to tear down the historic shed and brick building and start fresh.



To restore the buildings to their historic look, paint was removed from the bricks on the northern building. On the southern side, metal sheeting was removed to showcase the original clapboard siding. The project was funded in part by historic preservation grants. (Photo submitted)



Once home to Lake Street Sash and Door Company, this brick building and adjacent shed now offer 78 affordable housing units, courtesy of a project completed by the Plymouth-based Dominion, Inc. The project wrapped up in July 2016, and renters began moving in during August. A month later, 100 percent of the lofts had been rented out. Residents come from within a few miles of the site, drawn in by a banner on the building, flyers at local businesses, handouts at the light rail station at 38th, and word of mouth. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Andersen saw the potential for using what was there, showcasing the timber posts and beams present in the old factory in new loft-style apartments with high ceilings and polished concrete floors.

The original windows in the peaks of the shed bring in light once more. Plus, the metal sheeting added in 1986 was removed to let the historic clapboard show.

"It's a really cool project where we took a blighted area and transformed it," said Andersen, "at the same time providing 78 affordable housing units to the community that are desperately needed."

"This development checks a lot of boxes: affordable work-force housing, historic preservation, transit-oriented, even geothermal heating—not to mention the units are beautiful, and there

are plenty of amenities for residents," observed Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson.

He loves driving past the lighted Millworks at night. "The way the sheds turned out (in particular) exceeded my expectations," stated Johnson. "It's great to see buildings along this historically industrial and mill-based corridor being reused in a way that helps address our affordable housing needs."

Housing that's affordable

While there are many new buildings being built in Minneapolis, those luxury apartments are going for between \$2 to \$3 a square foot, adding up to \$1,600-\$2,200 a month for a unit the size of one in Millworks Lofts.

With the rent restrictions in place at Millworks, the lofts range from between \$1,000-

\$1,200 a month.

"There is an overwhelming demand for affordably priced rental housing in Minneapolis right now," observed Andersen.

As a participant in the affordable housing program, total household income must be under certain limits based on household size: one occupant: \$37,980; two occupants: \$43,440; three occupants: \$48,840; and four occupants: \$54,240.

Unique geothermal system

Another unique component of the building is that it uses a geothermal heating and cooling system. While many city lots are too small for such a system, this one had a parking lot in back that offered enough space to bury 96 vertical geothermal wells 225 feet deep.

The system is 20 percent more efficient than a traditional natural gas heating system. The coils pull heat out in the winter and cold in the summer. A boiler connects to vents that push the hot and cold air into apartments so no natural gas heaters are used in the building at all.

"It's a very green renewable source for heating and cooling," pointed out Andersen.

Complicated beginning

A deal between the Doyle brothers and Dominion was struck in January 2015, but it took another year and a half before the purchase was official. In the meantime, Dominion lined up necessary city approvals and obtained financing.

The project required some zoning permit changes as it was in an industrial area. However, because of its proximity to light rail, the city's plans for the corridor include high-density housing and this use fit within that.

The trickier piece was pulling together financing, and they had to work with a number of different agencies.

Because the project preserves the historic integrity of the buildings, Dominion worked with the State Historic Preservation Office, as well as the National Parks Service (which handles historic

buildings on a national level), to get project approval and tax credits.

The project was also financed in part by the Affordable Housing Tax Credit program. Dominion received tax-exempt bonds from Hennepin County and funding from the city of Minneapolis.

With the incorporation of geothermal heating and cooling, the project qualified for environmental grants from Hennepin County and the Met Council.

U.S. Bank signed on as an investor.

Everything was finally in place for an April 2016 purchase and construction began a few months later in August.

Past Dominion projects include the \$125 million redevelopment of the once-neglected Schmidt Brewery in St. Paul into apartments for artists to live and work, and the \$156 million conversion of the fabled Pillsbury A Mill complex of buildings into the 251-unit A Mill Artist Lofts. Other similar adaptive historic reuse projects have been completed in St. Louis, Mo.

Just what he envisioned

The finished product is exactly what Andersen had envisioned.

Loft features include private patio/balconies, washers and dryers in every unit, large walk-in closets, kitchen bars/islands, stainless steel appliances and quartz countertops.

The southern shed where Lake Street Sash and Door used to store its windows and doors has been remade. The space now houses a spacious community room, fitness room, yoga studio, and leasing office. The shed has also been divided up to offer 20 indoor parking spaces, a bike storage area, and individual storage lockers.

A smaller community room and patio sit on top of the three-story brick building.

With any renovation project, there are unforeseen challenges that arise. During the time-intense and costly process of removing the paint from the exterior brick

Continued on page 14

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Thousands celebrate monarchs at 2017 Monarch Festival

Article and photos by JILL BOOGREN

Thousands gathered under sunny skies near the Naturescape of Lake Nokomis on Sept. 9 for the Minneapolis Monarch Festival - Festival de la Monarca. The annual event celebrates the 2,300-mile journey of monarchs from Minnesota to Mexico, through art, music, dancing, and food. The festival also teaches visitors about the butterfly's life cycle and the importance of growing monarch habitat—milkweed and native flowering plants—for their survival. The festival is hosted by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, in partnership with the University of Minnesota Monarch Lab and the U.S. Forest Service.



Mina Leierwood, from Powderhorn, decorated her bike for her first visit to the Monarch Festival. She will be part of a monarch butterfly migration shanty on Lake Harriet this winter, inside of which will be a re-creation of the forest in Mexico (those interested in participating can reach Leierwood at Emerson School).



A goal of the festival is to raise awareness about the importance of growing monarch habitat. Vendors, like Minnesota Native Landscape (staffed here by Ridge Campbell), had plenty of monarch-friendly native plants for sale so people could grow monarch habitat in their yards.



Alice Thueringer from Northrup decorates a bright orange pennant at the Minneapolis Institute of Art tent.



The always-popular Monarch Education tent, under the guidance of the U of M Monarch Lab, teaches visitors about the monarch life cycle. Butterflies with tracking tags, like the one shown here, are then released outdoors, where they'll feast on nectar to fuel up for their long flight south. Over 150 butterflies were released throughout the day.



Tara Fahey, upper right, and Dylan McDonald, next, lead the costume parade through the festival. Fahey, from Powderhorn, is with Chicks on Sticks. McDonald, from Cooper, learned stilts in a class with Art Start.



Dancers of Kalpulli KetzalCoatlilcue dance "for the butterflies and our families." "Comme les mariposas—like the butterflies—we come for safety and a better life," the group leader told the huge crowd assembled.

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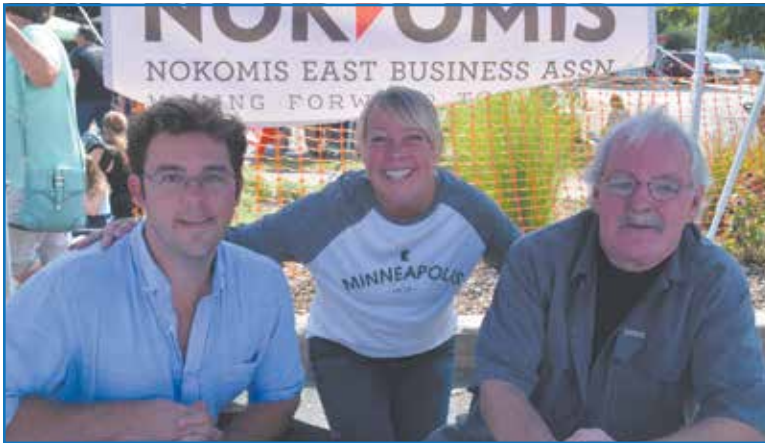
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WWW.SEWARD.COOP

Food, friends, and fun mark Nokomis Block Party

Article and photos by JILL BOOGREN

It was a taster's delight on Sept. 10, as people sampled a variety of food at the 8th Annual Nokomis Block Party at 51st St. and 34th Ave. On the menu were some of the foods featured at Oxendale's Market as well as corn on the cob and root beer floats. People also got to listen to music by the Stone Arch Jazz Band, play games, make art, check out booths of local businesses, and visit the Classic Car Show. The Block Party is hosted by Oxendale's, Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA), Faith Lutheran Church and McDonald's Liquors.



Jack Dickinson, of Sand Creek Post and Beam, Kerstin Erickson, with Nokomis Shoe Shop, and Scott Wende, of St. Paul based-Lunning Wende Associates, pose together at the NEBA booth. "Bridging community and coming together in unity is this event in a nutshell," said Erickson.



Jean Kemling and Monica Hirsch taste chicken on a stick.



Local "Spicy Girl" Dhea Tait sells her sauces at local farmers markets.

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Faith Lutheran volunteer Aris Vogt guides young Elliott Nevergall as he tries his hand at a "Plinko" game.



Left to right: Roosevelt High School Wrestlers Neil Grube, Andres Freberg, Ethan Mack, Benji Huff and Ben Oman, take to the mat. Their matches will begin in November.

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Sign-up deadline is Tue, Oct 17

FAQs on LCC Committees:

What are LCC Committees?

Committees are essentially the grassroots of LCC, and act as the most fundamental way for residents to be involved. LCC has 4 standing committees, each with unique focus areas: Community Connections, Neighborhood Development & Transportation, River Gorge, and Environment. Committees meet monthly to discuss and develop projects that facilitate community engagement and impact the quality of life in Greater Longfellow.

Who can participate?

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in LCC Committees. Whether you're a lifelong resident, new to the community, or just looking for a way to get involved in your neighborhood, your voice is important and needed. To vote in a committee, you must live or own a business within the Longfellow, Cooper, Howe, or Hiawatha neighborhoods. But again, everyone is welcome to attend.

How can I participate?

It's easy- just show up! Each committee meets for 90 minutes a month, usually at a neighborhood park building. For a schedule of upcoming meetings, go to longfellow.org or call 612-722-4529, ext. 13. You can also subscribe to monthly committee agendas on our website. Just head to www.longfellow.org/committees.

Why should I participate?

LCC exists to engage and empower residents of the community to take action on issues that directly impact YOU! By "Helping us help you," you are contributing to the future of Greater Longfellow by ensuring that it continues to reflect the needs and values of the people who live and work here.

Still not convinced, or have more questions?

Contact LCC's Program Manager, Ashleigh Walter at ashleigh@longfellow.org.

LCC seeks approval of the reallocation of unfrozen Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds: Review and vote held at October 24th General Membership Meeting

Total funds unfrozen: \$691,943.29

Total funds available for 2017 & 2018: \$345,971.64

Total funds recommended for reallocation: \$342,000

In February 2017, the City Council voted to restore \$9,141,951.05 of frozen Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds to Minneapolis Neighborhoods. The funds, originally allocated to neighborhoods based on size and demographics will be available to neighborhood organizations on an annual basis through 2020. The Longfellow Community Council has a total of \$691,943.29 that will be unfrozen.

In March of 2017, The LCC Board of Directors approved a plan modification/approval to use \$342,000 of unfrozen funds for program activities. The funds, \$171,000 for 2017 and \$171,000 for 2018 will be used to support the programs, projects, events and activities prioritized and approved by LCC committees and the LCC Board of Directors.

If this action is approved by the General Membership of Greater Longfellow, the funding will be reallocated as follows:

	2017	2018
Community Connections Committee	\$42,750	\$42,750
Neighborhood Development & Transportation Committee	\$42,750	\$42,750
Environment Committee	\$42,750	\$42,750
River Gorge Committee	\$42,750	\$42,750
TOTAL	\$171,000	\$171,000

Each LCC committee uses a list of predefined and prioritized strategies to fund programs, projects activities and events. If this funding is approved, members of LCC's committees will reallocate the funding to NRP Phase II strategies relevant to the work of the committees. All members of the community are welcome to attend committee meetings and participate in the reallocation of these funds and continued funding of projects, program, activities and events to support the neighborhood.

The motion for consideration at the General Membership meeting is:

A motion to approve the reallocation of \$171,000 in 2017 and 171,000 in 2018 of unfrozen NRP Phase II funds from Phase II Housing Strategies to support the programs, projects, activities, events and strategies of the four LCC committees;

Approve the allocation of funds to be divided among the four LCC committees equally and;

Allow LCC's Board of Directors and members of the four LCC committees to determine where to reallocate the funding based on existing strategies.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCRD) require that Plan Modifications/financial actions greater than \$25,000 require community notification and a community vote for approval.

For more information on the NRP unfrozen funds go to this link:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/WCMSP-194107>

For questions or concerns, please contact LCC Executive Director Melanie Majors at 612-722-4529 ext. 14 or email to melanie@longfellow.org

Longfellow Business Support Network

When we surveyed the community for feedback and input, you repeatedly let us know that supporting local businesses should be a priority. The Longfellow Community Council heard you, and is pleased to announce the creation of the Longfellow Business Support Network.

The Business Support Network will assist local businesses in multiple ways. We will work to highlight and promote local businesses throughout our community. Every business and business owner has a story. We will connect businesses to

residents by helping tell these stories and reminding people to support the local businesses that are an integral part of our unique community.

Additionally, LCC's Business Support Network will offer a grant program to help either individual businesses, or multiple businesses working together, connect with and strengthen the community. The application period for the grant program will be opening soon, so stay tuned for additional details or email bsn@longfellow.org with inquiries.



LONGFELLOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
2727 26th Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

612.722.4529 www.longfellow.org

Melanie Majors, Executive Director
Ashleigh Walter, Program Manager
Carly Swenson, Communications & Events Manager

melanie@longfellow.org
ashleigh@longfellow.org
carly@longfellow.org

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.

Epworth rummage sale set Sept. 29-30

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., will hold its annual fall rummage sale on Fri. and Sat., Sept. 29-30, from 9am-3pm each day. Come and explore what unusual and perhaps needed items you might find!

Women's conference scheduled Oct. 14

The women of Jesus in the City Fellowship, 3249 30th Ave. S., invite you to their second annual Women of Influence Conference on Sat., Oct. 14, 11am-3pm. Come together with your sisters to celebrate, worship, learn from dynamic speakers, have fun, make new friends, and enjoy a delicious brunch. Everyone is welcome! Free will offering will be taken. Please RSVP by Oct. 9 to Kristen at 612-227-1946 or krissieetc@aol.com.

NA group meets every Friday

A Narcotics Anonymous group meets every Friday evening at 7pm at Faith Evangelical Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St. All are welcome to attend.

A hero's journey starts Oct. 13

Mad Munchkin Productions (MMP) is proud to announce its new original puppetry work, "Odyssey on the Edge of Light," at Squirrel Haus Arts (3450 Snelling Ave.), Oct. 13-21. Audience members will follow a Hero through a fantastical journey of challenges, dangers, and discoveries. Patrons will be lead from stage to stage throughout the space for an immersive storytelling experience.

"Odyssey on the Edge of Light" was created collaboratively by the Mad Munchkin company members shortly after the November election. "As we started talking about themes, two things floated to the top—we wanted a Hero, and we wanted something hopeful," said Artistic Director Laura Wilhelm. The team drew inspiration from their nostalgia for fantasy stories, desiring to recreate the thrill of championing a hero through adversity and obstacle. Not only does this production feature a magical world created from scratch, but Wilhelm also worked with two local composers to create an original score to accompany the otherworldly atmosphere of the physical space.

MMP specifically chose to bring this piece to the neighborhoods of South Minneapolis where the company is headquartered. "When you talk about

hope and heroes, that's not just something for the wide world but something we want for our families, friends, and neighbors. Letting people see art in the neighborhood made by people you know gives it more meaning. It belongs to all of us as a community." Reinforcing their goal of investing at home, MMP is holding youth workshops about how they create puppetry and music and connecting with students at Blue Tree Music School and Courageous heARTS.

Squirrel Haus Arts "is the perfect place for this production. They have multiple large open spaces for us to transform that also allow for several reveals as the play moves forward. The audience can't look ahead to see what's next," explains Wilhelm. Audience members will be enjoying the performance on their feet in different locations throughout the venue. There is no traditional seating, but chairs are available for those that cannot stand for the duration. Tickets may be purchased online or at the door at www.madmunchkinproductions.com/current-projects. Tickets are limited so advanced purchase is recommended. A Sliding Scale ticket price is available at the door for the Oct. 19 performance.

Dates of the performance are Oct. 13, 7pm (with reception); Oct. 14 and 21, 1pm, 3pm, and 7pm; Oct. 19, 7pm; Oct. 20, 7pm and 9pm. ASL interpretation will be provided at the Sat., Oct. 21, 1pm, performance.

General admission tickets are \$12.

OCC Speaker from Moldova on Oct. 1

Operation Christmas Child impacts the lives of children all around the world with shoebox gifts filled with hygiene and school supplies, clothing, and simple toys, all packed by volunteers. On Sun., Oct. 1, Trinity of Minnehaha Falls (5212 41st Ave. S.) will host a "full circle speaker," Oleseal Ialanji, who received a shoebox gift in Moldova when she was five years old.

Ialanji will tell her story about the impact that gift had in her life. She will speak at Trinity at 9:15am in the lower fellowship hall and briefly in the service at 10:30am.

Trinity has scheduled packing shifts throughout October when individuals can pack shoeboxes in groups. If you are packing your own boxes at home, you are welcome to drop off them off at Trinity before Nov. 9 to be taken to the warehouse processing center. Call Suzanne at 612-724-3691 for more information.

Community Meals are back at Trinity

Wednesday evening meals will

be served at 5:30pm at Trinity of Minnehaha Falls, 5212 41st Ave. S. All are welcome to join in the meal; donations are appreciated but not required. Call 612-724-3691 for more details.

Faith Blind Ministry meets Oct. 14

Faith Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St., hosts a Blind Fellowship Ministry the second Saturday of the month. The group will gather on Oct. 14 from 12-2 pm. Lunch is served at noon followed by Bible Study discussion and fellowship.

Ingebretsen's to host book signing

Norwegian author and award-winning crime novelist Vidar Sundstøl will sign his new book, "The Devil's Wedding Ring," at Ingebretsen's (1601 E. Lake St.) on Mon., Oct. 9, 1-2pm. Sundstøl is previously known for his Minnesota Trilogy series, which included "The Land of Dreams," "Only the Dead," and "The Ravens." The book is published by the University of Minnesota Press.

Mt. Olive Hymn Festival set Oct. 8

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents a hymn festival as part of the year observing 500 years since the beginning of the Reformation. The hymn festival will include several hymns composed by Martin Luther himself, some still widely sung (such as A Mighty Fortress), some not so often (Even as We Live Each Day).

The event takes place at 4pm, on Sun., Oct. 8, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. A reception in the church's Chapel Lounge follows the hymn festival. This event is free and open to the public; a free-will offering may be received to support the Music and Fine Arts program.

This is the first event in the 2017-2018 Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts season.

Baked Potato Dinner scheduled Oct. 22

The 29th Annual Baked Potato Dinner will be held at Faith Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St., on Sun., Oct. 22 beginning at 11:30am. The menu is a large baked potato with a variety of toppings, unending salad bar, pie/ice cream, and beverage. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 5 and over, and a family ticket for \$25. Tickets are available at the door or call the church at 612-721-2537.



Ann Reed in album debut concert Nov. 12

Longfellow resident Ann Reed will give a debut concert for her new CD, "Winter Springs Summer Falls," on Sun., Nov. 12, 7pm at St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave. S. Tickets are \$25. Though we live in interesting and troubling times, Reed's thoughtful lyrics and beautiful songs give voice to our doubts and hopes. (Watch next month for an feature article on Ann Reed.)

AA and NA meets

Every Monday night there is an AA meeting at 7pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), and every Tuesday and Wednesday night there is an AA meeting at 7:30pm. On Thursday night, there is an NA meeting at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Adoption support group meets Oct. 3

The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), for parents with adopted teens. Next meeting will be held on Tues., Oct. 3, 6:30pm.

Adoptive parents are provided with a confidential, non-judgmental environment where they can support each other and share resources. Teens are invited to meet other teens who understand what it's like to be adopted. The teen group is not a drop-off group—parent(s) must attend the parent support group. For more info and to RSVP, contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or ginyblade@nacac.org (parents); or Christina Romo at 651-644-3036, ext. 17, or christinaromo@nacac.org (teens).

Danish Center plans breakfast Oct. 15

The Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy., will hold one of their Aebleskiver Breakfasts on Oct. 15, 9:30am-12:30pm.

Cost for the "all you can eat and drink" breakfast is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free.

The menu includes aebleskiver, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee. No reservations are required. For more information, call 612-729-3800.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the Hope Room at Living Table Church, 3805 E. 40th St. Anyone with a desire to stop gambling is welcome.

Annual Rummage Sale slated Sept. 30

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., will sponsor their Annual Rummage Sale on Sat., Sept. 30, 9am-1pm. Bag time starts at noon. Lunch is served with the best sloppy joes and homemade bars available for purchase. Stop by and check out what they offer.

Faith Book Club meets Oct. 7

The Faith Ev. Lutheran Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month from 10-11am at the church, 3430 E. 51st St. The book being discussed Oct. 7 will be "Main Street" by Sinclair Lewis.

Living Table plans Basement Sale

Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St., will hold their Big Basement Sale on Sat., Oct. 7, 8am-3pm. Church mem-

Continued on page 12

In Our Community

Continued from page 11

bers say they have been saving up the good stuff for a whole year just for this event! Refreshments will also be available for sale, and there will be a \$2 Bag Sale the last hour, 2-3pm.

Interactive map of public artwork

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and City of Minneapolis have debuted six interactive map tours that make it easy and fun to explore the approximately 300 publicly owned artworks in Minneapolis.

Yesterday City and MPRB staff, artists, Art Commissioners, representatives from Minneapolis neighborhood and arts organizations and other community members celebrated the launch of these new interactive maps with an abbreviated Nice Ride bike tour and a short program that included an interactive map demonstration.

You can check out the tours for yourself by clicking on the easy-to-share short link www.arcg.is/mpsart into your internet browser.

There are six geographically organized tours within Minneapolis: North, East, Downtown, Southeast, South, and Southwest. A seventh tour, Nicollet, will be added once the Nicollet Mall Reconstruction project is complete.

Within each tour, you find detailed information about each artwork and directions through Google Maps, along with the estimated walking, biking or driving time and distance. You can follow the recommended tour route or create your own route.

For example, the tour in Southeast Minneapolis—which includes the entire Longfellow area as well as Seward and Cedar Riverside—includes 11 artworks (45 individual pieces) scattered over an 8.3-mile biking/walking tour. It includes the oldest, an 1892 bronze sculpture of “Hiawatha and Minnehaha” by Jacob Fjelde, to the newest, a 2011 aluminum, steel and lighting sculpture “Kuulo” by Jim Hirshfield and Sonya Ishii.

Ancia Quartet to perform on Oct. 28

The locally based Ancia Saxophone Quartet will present a concert at the Art Gallery of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist, 511 Groveland Ave., on Sat., Oct. 28 at 7:30pm.

Angela Wyatt, baritone saxophone, and Joan Hutton, alto saxophone, are East Nokomis residents.

The concert features the world premiere of Yehuda Yannay’s “The Center Does Not Hold,” a work recently commissioned by Ancia. The program will highlight iconic works by master composers, including Ancia’s interpretation of Dmitri Shostakovich’s “Prelude and Fugue #17 in A Flat Major,” and Maurice Ravel’s “Quartet in F.” The program will also feature a new arrangement of Thelonious Monk’s classic jazz composition, “Round Midnight,” by Ancia Quartet member David Milne.

Tickets are \$10 advance sales/students/seniors, \$15 at

the door and can also be reserved through <https://anciaquartet.com/selected-performances>. There is no charge for patrons enrolled in one or more of the following: TANF, MFIP, WIC, General Assistance, Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Benefits, Food Stamps, Section 8, or Free/Reduced Price School Meals.

The ANCIA Saxophone Quartet will also present a concert at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Pkwy., on Sun., Oct. 29 at 4pm. The concert features the world premiere of Chris Rutkowski’s “Changes,” an exciting, contemporary work recently commissioned by Ancia. The program will also feature “Prelude and Fugue #17 in Ab Major,” “Quartet in F,” and “Round Midnight.”

Fall Book Sale scheduled Oct. 13-14

Friends of East Lake Library, 2727 East Lake St., invite you to the Fall Book Sale. Hours are Fri., Oct. 13, 12-5pm and Sat., Oct. 14, 9am-5pm. Bag sale starts at 2pm.

Prices are great: Children’s and teen books are 50 cents. Adult hardcovers are \$1; adult paperbacks are 50 cents; DVDs and CDs are \$1 to \$3.

Stop by, enrich your winter reading, and support the Library. There will be a wonderful selection of books, many donated by the community.

All proceeds from sales are used in programs at East Lake Library.

Winter bulb care at Oct. 11 meeting

Join the Longfellow Garden Club on Wed., Oct. 11, for a presentation by Jess Heimer of Mother Earth Gardens. The meeting begins 7pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. Meetings are free and open to everyone.

Learn how to overwinter your tender bulbs and start them next year—bulbs such as canna lilies, dahlias, gladiolus, tuberous begonias, acidanthera, caladiums, calla lilies, colocasia (elephant ears), and eucomis (pineapple lily). Please bring notebook and pencil, and any extra bulbs you have to share!

You can learn more about the garden club at www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub and sites.google.com/site/longfellowgardenclubminnesota.

Rally for Rakhma scheduled Oct. 7

On Sat., Oct. 7, the Fourth Annual Rally for Rakhma will take place at the Lake Nokomis main beach from 9:30-11:30am. This event is a fun run, walk or bike ride around Lake Nokomis to support those with memory loss at Rakhma Homes.

Rakhma is a local nonprofit that provides a safe, loving home to those with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. Everyone who attends, regardless of the dollar amount raised, plays a vital role in the event’s success. Your generous support of the organiza-

tion has continued to keep their doors open for 30+ years.

Registration of \$30 includes a t-shirt, coffee, breakfast snacks and a chance to win prizes.

All proceeds raised at this family-friendly and pet-friendly event will go directly to benefit those at Rakhma homes.

Food Addicts Anonymous meets

Food Addicts Anonymous meets every Friday, 8pm, at Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St. No fees are required, and everybody is welcome.

Exercise Class every Monday at Faith

Faith Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St., hosts the Nokomis Healthy Seniors Exercise Class every Monday morning at 10am. Suggested donation is \$2

Rummage Sale scheduled Oct. 6-9

The Third Annual Ovarian Cancer Rummage Sale is planned for Fri. and Sat., Oct. 6-7, 9am-4pm, and Sun., Oct. 8, 11am-1pm (half price) at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St. More than 50 local survivors, family, and friends have teamed together to highlight Ovarian Cancer Awareness.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) funding for research, and also to the Ovarian Cancer Survivors Foundation, which supports free Survivor Retreats at Camp Make-A-Dream. Your support will be rewarded with a variety of great bargains, bake sale treats, and the

comfort of shopping indoors!

October events at LS Healthy Seniors

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors’ monthly Senior Social/Health Talk will be held on Tues., Oct. 17 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. The presentation is entitled “Healthy Teeth—Healthy You.” Discover how your teeth change as you age and how oral health can affect your whole body.

Tai Chi Easy exercise classes will be held on Mondays from 10:30-11:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church through Nov. 27 and cost \$5/class (discounts available for lower-income seniors).

The Fall Senior Art Class Series, “Coloring: It’s Not Just for Kids Anymore,” meets on first Wednesdays of the month (Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6), 2-4pm, at Trinity Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St. Participants don’t need to be residents of the apartments to attend. The Oct. 4 class will be on Stained Glass Coloring Paper (this refers to special effects paper, not to coloring pictures of stained glass). The Nov. 1 class will be on Mandala Design Coloring, and the Dec. 6 class will be Participant’s Choice. Each class costs \$4 including supplies. Registration is required for the classes by calling 612-729-5799.

A Diabetes Support Group for adults will be held Wed., Oct. 11, 6:30-8pm, at Hiawatha School Park Recreation Center, 4305 E. 42nd St. A guest speaker will do a presentation on “Ask the Dietitian.”

A Low Vision Support Group meets Tues., Oct. 10, 1:30pm at Trinity Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St. (You do not need to be a resident of the

apartments to attend.)

Healthy Seniors is looking for “Friendly Visitor” volunteers and volunteer drivers to help seniors live independently. Call Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 or email info@lshealthyseniors.org for more information on activities, services or volunteer opportunities.

Trunk or Treat scheduled Oct. 28

Kids in the community are invited to a Trunk or Treat event on Sat., Oct. 28, 10am-noon at Trinity of Minnehaha Falls (5212 41st Ave. S.). Treats will be handed out from decorated cars and everyone can enjoy cider and donuts. Costumes are encouraged. There will also be a sign-up to receive Thanksgiving baskets. Call 612-724-3691 for more details.

Election absentee voting has begun

All voters in Minneapolis can choose to vote early. Voting absentee can be done in person at the Early Vote Center, 217 S. Third St., or entirely by mail. If a voter chooses to vote early in person, that can be done during regular business hours, 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, with extended hours including weekends in the final days before Election Day.

To vote by mail, voters may request a ballot now. Requested ballots will be mailed out and include everything a voter needs to send back the completed ballot. Visit vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/absentee for ballot applications in multiple languages that can be printed out and mailed in to request a ballot.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

Bethlehem Covenant Church
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
www.bethlehemcov.org

Pastor Matt Kennedy
Children especially welcome
Handicapped Accessible
Contemporary Worship – 8:45am
Sunday school for all ages – 10:00 am
Traditional Worship – 11:00am
Español – 1:30pm
Wednesday Meal – 5:45pm
Wednesday Kids choirs and bible studies
3:45 – 5:45pm
Youth Activities 6:30 – 8:00pm

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

Pastor Steven Reiser
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Fall Rummage Sale September 29-30,
9:00-3:00 each day
(Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Living Table United Church of Christ
3805 40th St. E. • 612-729-7556
www.livingtable.org

Pastor Rachael Keefe
Sunday Worship 10:30
Open and Affirming
Wheelchair accessible
We also invite you to join us for:
Big Basement Sale
October 7, 8AM to 3PM
(We have been saving the good stuff all year for this event)

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.com

Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
Sunday Worship – 9:45 am
Sunday School – 9:45 am
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Spirit Garage
3010 Minnehaha Ave. • 612-827-1074
www.spiritgarage.org

Worship: Sundays, 10:30am
The Hook & Ladder Theater & Lounge

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. •
612-724-3643

www.saintalbertthegreat.org
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am (Childcare available)
Saturday Mass: 5 pm
M,T, Th, F: Rosary at 8 am, Daily Mass
8:15 am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,
First Fridays from 9 am to noon
(Handicapped accessible)

St. Peder’s Evangelical Lutheran
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000
www.stpeders.org

Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
Sundays: 9 am Worship (childcare available)
10 am Coffee & Fellowship
(Handicap acc., Braille)

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org

Pastor Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Sunday School/kids & adults 9:15 am
Wed. Community Meals - 5:30 pm
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 pm

PROJECTS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES INCLUDE:

Minnehaha Food Shelf,

Serving People Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm

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

38th Street Station

Continued from page 1

project—new property taxes, a Hennepin County Transit Oriented Development (TOD) grant, and a Met Transit Livable Communities TOD grant.

Due to the large scale of the project, The Lander Group broke things up and asked first for approval of the plaza and “building 2,” the 10,000-square-foot structure next to the lightrail line.

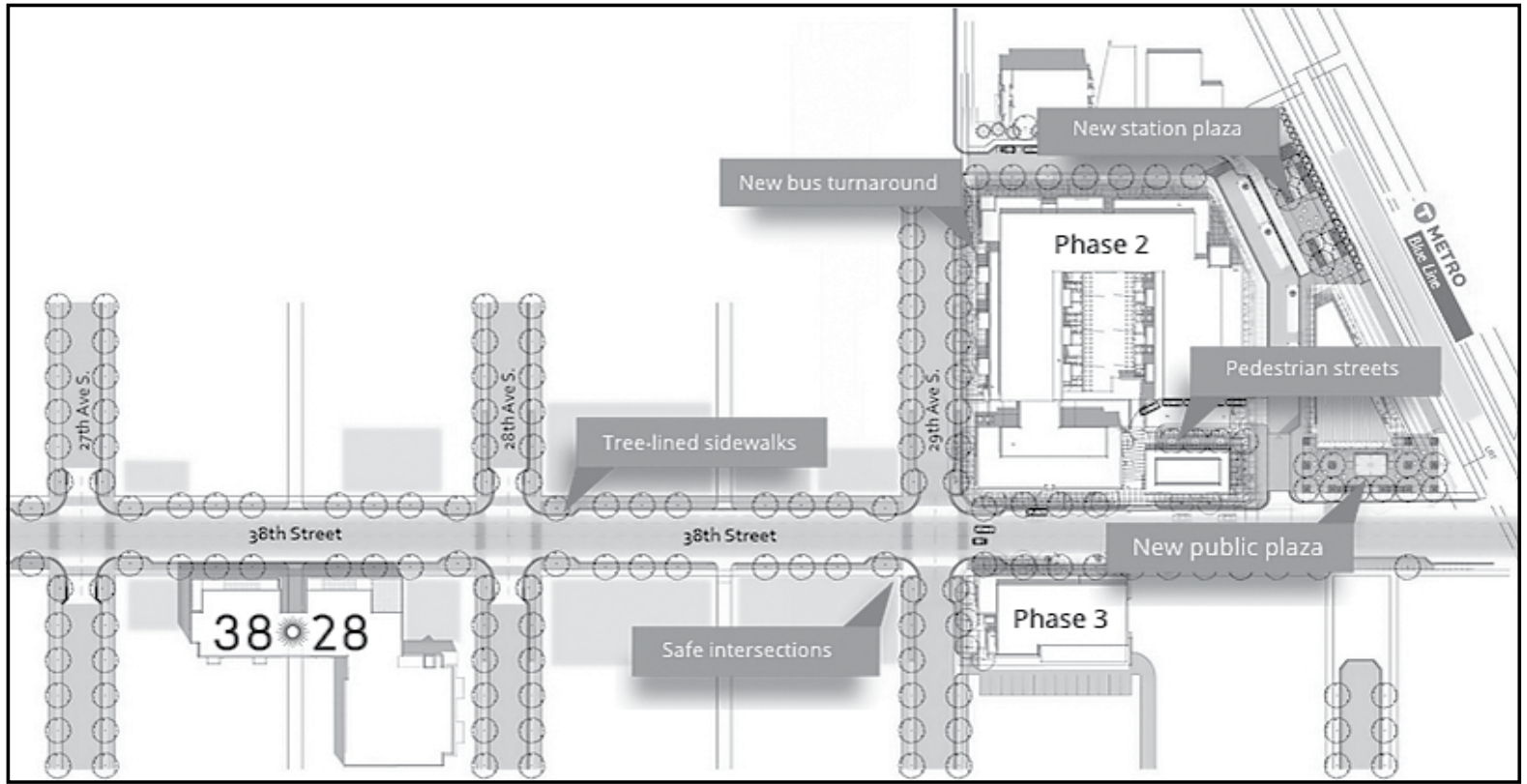
The aim of building two is to welcome visitors to the neighborhood with an upward sweeping roof line and glass atrium. The unique wedge-shaped building will hold office and retail space on three levels, two above grade and one below. A modern design with brick and glass will be used, and the plan calls for a large mural facing the lightrail tracks.

To move the project forward, the planning commission reviewed a rezoning request (to C3A Community Activity Center District), a conditional use permit for a planned unit development, and two variance requests. The variance requests were deemed unnecessary due to varying interpretations, and the others approved by the planning commission.

While the design includes windows on all sides of building two, due to how city staff calculates the window requirement they concluded that the building had only 9% of the required 40% windows. Unless the window began at two feet, it was not counted at all in the calculation.

Lander Group staff argued that the plan calls for windows beginning at three feet as the use on that level will be a restaurant, and they wanted more flexibility in where to position chairs than a two-foot window would allow.

Lander Group staff also



The entire station revitalization project proposed by the Lander Group includes three buildings. One sits next to the lightrail line and offers retail and office space. The largest wraps around the Cardinal restaurant and has housing and retail. A third sits south of 38th at its intersection with 29th and includes affordable housing and retail space. (Illustration submitted)

questioned the city staff desire to have 25% of the seating with backs in the plaza be stationary and argued that non-stationary seating would be better suited for the plaza. Commissioners agreed.

Buses will travel in loop

The new plan for the station brings buses and traffic in at the existing location, which will be the new 30th Ave., west to 29th, and south down 29th. Four bus bays will be created to make boarding more efficient. Parking will be removed entirely on the west side of 29th St. south of its intersection with the new east-west street to accommodate the bus traffic and ensure buses aren't operating next to parked cars. Five parking spots on the east side will also be removed, adding up to

a total loss of 20 parking spaces along 29th.

At its intersection with 38th St., 29th Ave. will be widened to a three-lane section with a southbound through and left turn lane, and a right-turn-only lane. A new stoplight will also be placed there.

Following a traffic study, planners believe that traffic will be better with these changes. Currently, the transit driveway and stoplight is less than 200 feet from the intersection of 38th and Hiawatha. The additional distance should provide longer and more discernible gaps in traffic.

Presently, there are about 4,600 weekday daily trips into and out of the station area. About 2,200 passenger trips arrive to board transit per weekday with about 1,600

of those attributed to the Hiawatha Blue Line and about 600 boardings per day occurring on the three bus routes. About 28% of LRT boardings access the station from buses, so about 75% of bus activity at the station is related to transferring to and from the LRT.

Three new buildings in all

Buildings one and three will come before the planning commission “soon,” according to Lander.

Building one will anchor the development as a mixed-use structure and replace the existing single-family homes on the east side of 29th. Street-level retail space will be divided into three individual bays, totaling 8,000+ sq. feet. Interaction between the new five-story building and the existing Cardinal Bar building will create new pedestrian zones to encourage socializing, rest, and outdoor dining opportunities. Housing units (135 in total) will sit above the retail base and surround a central open courtyard.

There will be 109 underground and 85 at-grade parking spaces for residents,

employees, and longer-term parkers. Access will be from 29th St. and the new bus turnaround street. Besides providing ground level parking, the central courtyard water infiltration system will filter rainwater runoff through a landscaped area before releasing it into the city system.

Solar panels on Building One will offset energy use, and residential areas will include recycling receptacles on each floor.

To the south of 38th St., the new mixed-use building three will have over 2,700 square feet of street-level retail space facing 38th St. The 24 market rate affordable units will provide a mix of studios and two-bedroom floor plans. Fourteen spaces of off-street parking will be available for tenant use.

In documents filed with the city, planners envision 38th Street Station becoming a hub of alternative transportation options, supporting light rail with bicycle storage options, dedicated shared vehicle spaces, and encouraging a walkable neighborhood.

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Millworks Lofts

Continued from page 7

to return to the look of the original raw brick, the contractor realized that the brick was very porous and absorbed a lot of water. A spray-on brick sealant product to keep moisture out was required.

When the roof repair began on the shed, contractors discovered that more repair was needed than initially thought.

As the metal siding was stripped off to showcase the original cedar siding, contractors ran into parts that were not salvageable and had to be replaced instead. They also realized that without the metal sheeting, the structure itself might not be sturdy enough to withstand a strong windstorm, and so steel reinforcements were added to the big tim-

ber beams.

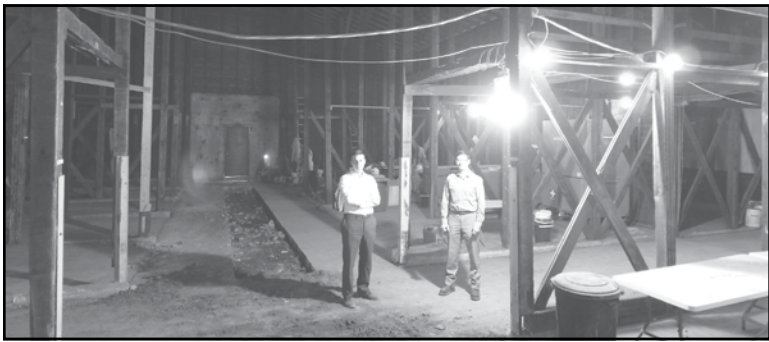
Work on Millworks Lofts was completed in July 2017, about one year after it began.

Renters started moving into Millworks Lofts in August, and by Sept. 1, the complex had reached 100% capacity.

The speed at which the lofts were filled surprised and delighted developers.

Andersen credits it to a pent-up demand for affordable rental housing in Minneapolis.

The residents at Millworks Lofts came from within a few miles of the complex, courtesy of the neighborhood outreach Dominion focused on and word of mouth. To promote the lofts, a sign was put up on the building itself. Dominion also handed out flyers and marketing materials at local businesses and the light rail station a couple blocks north at 38th.



Nick Andersen and Eric Omdahl of Dominion look over the interior posts and beams that feature prominently in this historic project. (Photo submitted)

A win-win for everybody

"I think this project was a win-win for everybody," said Andersen. "We're proud to be associated with it and really proud of the outcome."

The neighborhoods in Ward 12 have historically been affordable and a great place for individuals and families to live—whether they were buying a starter home or renting, pointed out Johnson. However,

the neighborhood is increasingly becoming unaffordable as the market heats up amid strong demand.

"On one hand it's a great thing that so many people want to live here, but on the other, we face the risks of seeing existing residents displaced, those with less income denied the opportunity to move here, and a fundamental characteristic of our community lost. It's a big

challenge faced across the city, the metro, and even the nation: how do we grow in an inclusive way as more and more people move to urban areas?

"Projects like this help. This adds more supply in the face of growing demand, opens the door for a broader range of incomes, and preserves the built history of our community's past."



The interior of Millworks Lofts showcases the timber posts and beams from the old factory along with high ceilings and polished concrete floors. Loft features include private patio/balconies, washers and dryers in every unit, large walk-in closets, kitchen bars/islands, stainless steel appliances and quartz countertops. The southern shed where Lake Street Sash and Door used to store its windows and doors now houses a spacious community room, fitness room, yoga studio, leasing office, 20 indoor parking spaces, a bike storage area, individual storage lockers, and two apartments. (Photo submitted)

Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by October 16 for the October 26 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger Classifieds*, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before Oct. 16 for the Oct. 26 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Messenger's* website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

COMPUTER REPAIR/SERVICE

Harmony PC computer repair, service, instruction. Service in your home. 25 years exp. State Courts, Microsoft. Woman-owned. www.harmonypc.us 651-605-5804. 10-17

EMPLOYMENT

Volunteer & Earn Money! - Seniors Corps is looking for volunteers to assist seniors in your community. Volunteers receive a stipend, mileage reimbursement & other benefits. Contact Kate Lecher 651.310.9447 or kate.lecher@lssmn.org. 12-17

Volunteer and Service Coordinator: 22 hours/week with Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors. Manage volunteer program, provide services and activities to seniors, community relations, data base and social media. Email cover letter, resume by Oct. 4 to Search Committee at: maryalbrecht@lshealthyseniors.org. 10-17

HANDYMAN

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New Longfellow dance company finds its niche with families

By JAN WILLMS

After becoming parents themselves, dancers Matthew and Brittany Keefe have discovered the secret of presenting performances to children and their families.

Keep the production short, 45 minutes to an hour. Keep the prices reasonable, like \$10 per admission. And throw in some tongue-in-cheek nuances that will appeal to adults in the audience.

With their fledgling company, DanceCo, the Longfellow residents are putting on their first performance, "Expectation Station," a story of the railroad told through dance and familiar train-based songs set at a station called Expectation.

The presentation, done in collaboration with the Roe Family Singers and Engineer Paul of the Choo Choo Bob Train Show, will run Oct. 17-22 at the Avalon Theater, 1500 E. Lake St. (home of In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater). To purchase tickets, go to www.danceco-mn.com.

The two professional ballet

dancers have followed a path of performance, teaching, direction, and production to reach this point.

"I have not been performing for a little while," Matthew said. "I have moved on into teaching and directing over the years." He said he got into dance when he was in college, dating a woman who was a dancer. "She dared me to take a modern dance class with her" he recalled. "I should go back and thank her. The relationship didn't last, but my relationship with dance did."

Matthew left college, moved to Chicago, and started training there. He eventually returned to school and completed an MFA in dance from the University of Iowa.

"I started in dance when I was about 4," Brittany said. "I had some eye issues and visual delays. My mom was a therapist, and she thought the ability to dance would improve my balance. So I just fell in love with it."

Brittany said she went to dance school at age 9, and eventually began dancing professionally. I followed wherever my ca-

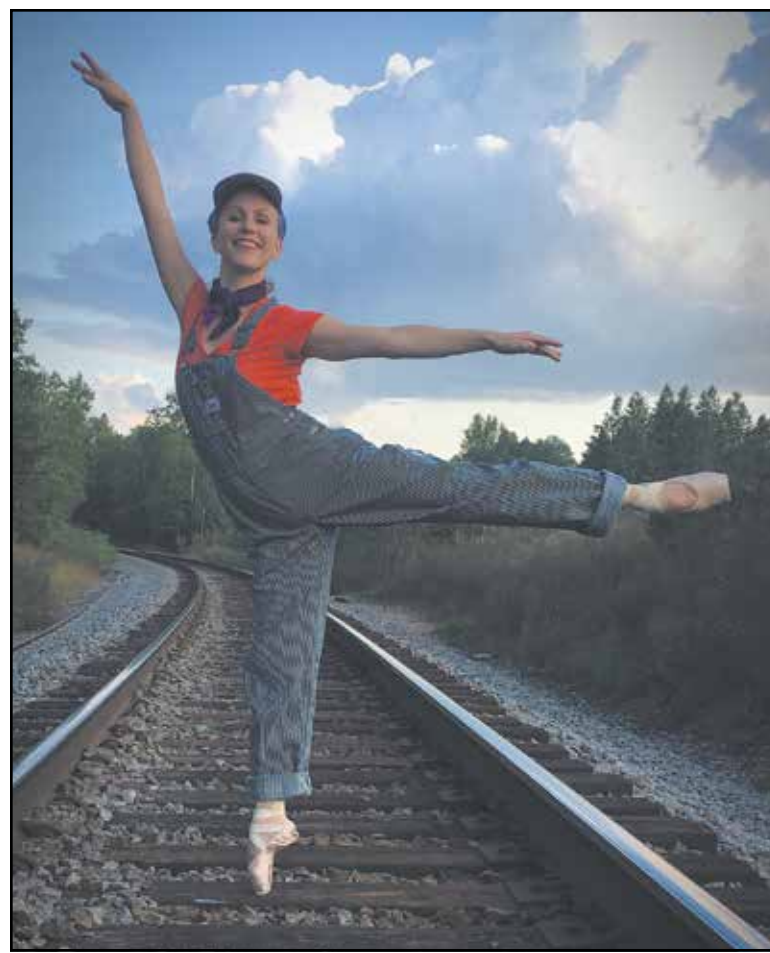
reer took me," she said. She has performed with dance companies across the country, as well as in Italy and Germany. The two met at a dance camp in Vermont. "Both of us were at a place in our lives where we noticed each other," Matthew reminisced. "We had our first courting in Vermont in the summer, which was exquisite. We did the long-distance thing for a year, and here we are. It's a dancer's story."

The Keefes had lived in Minneapolis previously, both dancing for the James Sewell Ballet. They had purchased a home in the Longfellow area. Matthew said he also has family here, which gives him a real area connection. Their careers had taken them many places, and they ended up in New York when the economy turned south.

"Banks were going under, and people were leaving Manhattan," Matthew recalled. An opportunity came for him to direct the Rockford Dance Co. in Rockford, IL. "There was a beautiful, historic theater there," he said, "with a massive stage. We put on professional productions, and I was getting to a place where I wanted to be, in a leadership position. Then our daughter, Olive, came along and upset this nice balance we had, but in an amazing way."

Matthew said his wife was taking on the childcare responsibilities, and he was working 70-hour weeks. "I saw it was not working," he admitted. "I wanted to be part of Olive's growing up. I had friends tell me they had a baby; they went to work, they turned around, and the baby was five years old. Those stories resonated with me."

Matthew said he and Brittany knew they wanted to raise their child in the Longfellow neighborhood, so he left the Rockford



Brittany (above) and Matthew Keefe of DanceCo will perform "Expectation Station," a story of the railroad told through dance and familiar train-based songs set at a station called Expectation. (Photo by Matthew Keefe)

Dance Company a year before his contract was up. The Keefes returned to Minneapolis in 2013.

"We came back here with no super plan of what we were going to do," Matthew said. "We made a deal. The first person to get a job, the second person would work around that. Brittany got a job with James Sewell as a dancer again, and I started teaching, which was more flexible." They did that for a year, but it wasn't easy for two ballet teachers with alternating schedules and a child to raise.

Matthew said he had been very active as a choreographer over the years, doing all kinds of pieces. But if he began again as a choreographer in Minneapolis, he would need something to make him stand out, and that would take a long time.

"I wasn't willing to be that patient, and I started looking for a niche," he said. He had done educational shows in New Jersey, which he had greatly enjoyed. He and Brittany performed for the Fringe, and their idea for a company began to evolve.

"We didn't need to start another school," Matthew explained. "And we didn't want to replace anything that was already here."

He said there are companies that do programs for young audiences, but not consistently. And some of the shows are too expensive for families to afford. "I have a great respect for what these other organizations do, and it is important they are there." But Matthew said DanceCo can fill that niche, offering shorter and less expensive performances that cater to children and families.

They decided to do their first show about trains because, according to Matthew, kids love the mechanics of trains and are curious about them—they love the steam and the rhythm of trains. "There are over a thousand train songs out there, and

trains appeal to both boys and girls."

Matthew said some of the ideas for the show began when he took Olive to the train museum and to see Choo Choo Bob. For the show, they have created their own props, using little train puppets and trains on sticks and creating a train called the Minnesota North.

"I felt like the show was good and strong but needed a hook into dance," Matthew said. He ran into his daughter's preschool teacher, Tony, and he talked about his ten years spent as a gandy dancer on the railroad. "These were the guys who worked on train lines and built the tracks," Tony explained.

"I started doing research, and I watched old vintage films of gandy dancers and the work songs they used. I had my hook," Matthew said.

Pre-shows are planned for the kids to play train games and get to take part in some of the dancing, according to Brittany. "The little ones can be part of a train, and the older ones have a place too," she said.

As for the most challenging part of starting their own dance company and putting on their first show, Brittany said "We're the big kids now. We try to do everything, but it's just us."

Matthew agreed. "We're trying to set a standard and then realizing it's just the two of us trying to maintain that standard." He said the show is blessed with phenomenal and experienced artists—dancers, singers and a storyteller.

He said the important part for them is that they build DanceCo locally and that they base it in the Longfellow, Phillips, and Seward communities. "If we can be successful in what we're doing, and if we eventually end up with a space, we want it to be in this area."

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Bossen Mural Celebration and Open House planned Oct. 3

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

How does a run-down garage in a high-poverty neighborhood become a symbol of community pride?

Bossen is an area within the Winona neighborhood, just east of Bossen Park. It contains 50 apartment buildings and about 1,250 residents. According to current Met Council statistics, the poverty rate for the Twin Cities overall is 22.7%. But Bossen has been designated as a racially concentrated area of poverty where upwards of 40% of the residents are living below the poverty line. Residents of color are heavily represented there, with a high percentage of Latinos, East Africans, and African Americans.

The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) has been doing a lot of work in Bossen in the last couple of years, according to executive director Becky Timm. "In 2016, we worked with Metro Transit to survey residents as part of the Better Bus Stop project. One result was the addition of a new bus shelter built at Sander Dr. and E. 58th St. last summer," Timm said, "and this year we've been working on improving awareness of energy efficiency with tenants and landlords in neighboring apartment buildings.

Most recently, NENA sponsored a community mural project that grew out of a partnership with the Minneapolis Department of Health. Timm said, "We learned there was funding



Residents of the Bossen neighborhood participated in two community painting days in August to help complete the mural. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

available for place-making initiatives, under the parameters of addressing healthy living with an outdoor community project."

NENA put out a call for

artists and received more than two dozen proposals. Victor Yepez, a community teaching artist with a passion for transforming neighborhoods, was

chosen. Originally from Ecuador, Yepez now lives in East Nokomis and has completed 37 community mural projects across Minnesota.

"Victor's proposal stood out among the others," Timm said. "We liked that community voices would be part of the design process, and that community members would be involved in the painting."

NENA reached out to neighborhood property owner Spencer Pope, who was happy to provide the south side of his garage as a background for the mural. His garage had been a target for graffiti off and on and was in poor condition. With the help of Pope, community volunteers, and NENA board members, the old siding was removed, and a new plasterboard surface was put up. The "canvas" for the mural stretched for half a block, and it was ready to go.

Following a Bossen Area Renter's Party last spring,

enough ideas were generated to fill the mural from end to end.

"We decided to show off the beautiful things we have in this neighborhood," Yepez said, "like the water features of Minnehaha Falls, Lake Nokomis, the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, and Cold Water Springs. Residents were excited about the image of the butterfly hatching from its chrysalis because it symbolizes transformation; and the colorful, multi-cultural ribbon that runs across the mural symbolizes that all of us, no matter what color, are connected."

Timm concluded, "We've gotten many emails and calls at the NENA office from people saying how much they appreciate the mural. When Victor was out painting, either by himself or with kids from the neighborhood, people driving by or walking often stop and talk to him about the project. That's why we love using art as a community building tool: there's both the beauty of the mural itself, and also the connections that spring up because it's there."

Nokomis resident and artist Dani Bianchini added mosaic elements to the mural, giving a third dimension to the medicine wheel and monarch butterfly, among other elements.

An official Bossen Mural Celebration and Open House is planned for Tues., Oct. 3 from 6-7:30pm at 5757 Sander Dr. Call the NENA office at 724-5652 with questions.



The full mural as it covers the south side of a garage behind 5757 Sander Drive. The mural is highly visible to residents of the neighborhood, and to motorists entering and exiting the Crosstown Highway on East 58th Street. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



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