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Grey Duck Chai brewed by two Nokomis friends

While many chais are sweet like cookies, Grey Duck Chai makers pride themselves on balancing bitter, spice, sweetness and milk

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

When she couldn't find a cup of chai in Minnesota as good as what she'd found while living in Seattle, Katey Niebur of Nokomis started brewing her own.

A friend gave her the push she needed, and together they started Grey Duck Chai. The duo sold their first bottle of small batch, traditionally crafted chai in June 2012. They can now be found in over 30 businesses in the Twin Cities and Seattle.

"We pride ourselves on being an authentic, lightly sweetened chai where the spice is foremost on the pallet," observed Niebur's business partner, Jon Alden, also of Nokomis. "Somehow over the years chai has turned into some kind of overly sweetened, viscous, desert drink—kind of like drinking a cookie."

"We think, and many others

agree, that chai is a balance of bitter (tea), spice, sweetness (sugar) and fat (milk). It's only when those four components come together proportionately that a cup of chai is as delicious as it can be," said Alden.

Grey Duck Chai can be purchased at all the co-ops in the Twin Cities, as well as many independent grocers and boutique stores, including Oxendale's Market and most Kowalski's Markets. It's also at many coffee shops and restaurants.

Grey Duck uses organic, responsibly sourced teas and whole spices. "We don't grind the spices until right before they get steeped to help keep as much of their qualities as possible," said Alden. "For our coffee shops we brew the chai and have it to them within a couple days, sometimes the next day, ensuring that the flavor of the spices is still robust."

Reducing waste is important



Monarch Festival 2014 soars!

Story / Photos By **MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN**

This year's Monarch Festival was a record buster, with attendance estimated at about 10,000, according to MaryLynn Pulscher of the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. The day was perfect with blue skies framing the tagged and released monarchs that began their journey south to Mexico from the shores of Lake Nokomis. Many Festival-goers decided to add monarch-friendly plants to their own yards and gardens. Some purchased milkweed and flowering native plants from The Vagary, Mother Earth Gardens and Cedar Hill Natives, while others created milkweed-seed mud bombs or received milkweed seeds from the Pollination Education Station. In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre debuted their new puppet show, "The Way of the Monarch," and also created monarch banners, which were part of two mini-parades led by stilts wearing monarch wings. Dancers of all ages and abilities jammed the dance floor to show off their moves as they listened to Salsa del Sol, and then Chico Chavez and the Guayaba Tropical Band. More than 80 volunteers contributed time, talent, and muscles to make the day a great success.

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to Niebur and Alden, and so they have a returnable system for their coffee shops using the ever popular growler.

HISTORY IN FOOD INDUSTRY

Both Alden and Niebur have been in the culinary industry for their entire careers. Alden, who grew up in Minnetonka/Hopkins, has always been part of the front of the house, focusing on wine. "I went to college in San Francisco and was fortunate enough to work with some of the city's best sommeliers," he remarked.

Niebur, who is originally from Miesville, MN, attended the Culinary Institute of America in New York, and received a bachelor's in culinary arts and business management. She was a chef in New York for five years before moving to Seattle for five more years to continue her passion for cooking. It was there that she gained her love for chai.

Minnesota drew both Alden and Niebur home, and they both ended up working at Meritage in St. Paul. "We quickly became friends, and one day she made me my first cup of chai," recalled Alden. "I instantly fell in love, and knew she had something special.

"We became partners, and Grey Duck Chai was born."

WHY 'GREY DUCK'?

"Grey Duck is a name intended to pay Minnesota a little homage," explained Alden. "It turns out that Minnesota is the only state that plays the game 'duck, duck, gray duck.'" Every other state plays "duck, duck, goose." We knew we wanted an animal and an adjective but were having a hard time figuring something out. Our friend Jenn Geisheker actually shouted it out the first time and we really liked it."

Today, Niebur is a full-time Grey Duck employee while Alden continues working a few nights a week at Meritage.

They work out of a commercial kitchen in St. Paul called the Food Crafters Kitchen. "We share the space with a few other companies that make wonderful products. We chose to go this route because all of the equipment we need is already there instead of dropping tens of thousands of

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Partners Katey Niebur and Jon Alden of Nokomis pride themselves on making an authentic, lightly sweetened chai where the spice is foremost on the palate. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

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Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Calvin deRuyter

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe - 651-917-4183

Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Tesha M. Christensen, Jan Willms,
Jill Boogren, Matthew Davis,
Margie O'Loughlin, Lindsay Grome,
Hailey Colwell

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Grey Duck Chai

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dollars on new pieces," stated Alden. "Also, it is nice working alongside other professionals that we can discuss common issues with."

RECIPE TESTING IS THE BEST PART

Their original flavor, Nine Spice Blend, is made from organic, fair

trade tea from the Assam region of India where chai originates.

"There is no shortage of great flavors coming from India and the surrounding parts of Asia," stated Alden.

They begin by brainstorming various flavor combinations they think would work great together. Next, they steep a few mainstay ingredients that make chai what it is. Then they add whatever combination of ingredients sounds wonderful at the time, and continue tweaking the recipe for a few months.



A barista at Parka makes up a cup of Grey Duck Chai for Jon Alden and Katey Neibur. Parka is one of over 30 locations that carries Grey Duck Chai. Alden likes it best served hot. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

"I used to think that entrepreneurs were people that just knew how to do everything well. After doing this for some time now I've discovered that they instead know how to learn everything quickly."

– Jon Alden

ENTREPRENEURS ARE PEOPLE WHO LEARN EVERYTHING QUICKLY

"The two hardest parts of recipe development are scaling a small batch to a larger full brew, and consistency from brew to brew," said Alden. "Brewing tea and spices can be radically different when changing even the smallest variable."

Earlier this year, the duo added a second flavor, Burnt Sugar and Ginger.

"We knew we wanted to do a second blend of chai and recipe testing is our favorite part of the job," observed Alden. "Caramelizing the sugar seemed like a good way to add richness without adding more sugar and making it a whole lot sweeter. We decided that when we get the sugar nice and dark brown, not actually burnt, that it adds a really cool smoky element (think crême brûlée) to the back of the tongue that we both really liked."

Alden confesses that he used to think that entrepreneurs were people that just knew how to do everything well. "After doing this for some time now I've discovered that they instead know how to learn everything quickly," he said. "The biggest challenge for me personally is being out of my comfort zone repeatedly."

His select talents were helpful for getting the business started and work well for making chai, "but so many things that we do on a daily basis are things I was never prepared to do and had little to no experience with," Alden said.

"Now we have to learn something new and work on projects that are things we have never done before on a constant basis. It is both challenging and rewarding to work on these things."

TRY IT HOT, MIXED WITH LEMONADE, OR IN GELATO

Grey Duck Chai owner Jon Alden loves the chai best served hot on a cloudy, rainy day. "I love it 'dirty' with a shot of espresso in it. It is great with lemonade, a Gray Duck Arnold Palmer if you will. I also really like to make cocktails with it. We recently did a riff on a dark and stormy using our burnt sugar and ginger blend," he said.

Others have experimented with the chai in a variety of recipes. Jackson's Coffee and Gelato made a rice milk gelato. A couple of bars have used it on their cocktail menu. Meritage Brasserie, where Alden and Neibur met, has made chai macarons, as well as a pheasant dish with a chai glaze. People have made vinaigrettes, snickerdoodles, candles, chicken brines, and more.

"There are endless possibilities," stated Alden. "Katey once even made fried chicken and waffles with chai that was delicious. There are always recipe ideas on the website." More at www.grayduckchai.com.

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Parents of Sha-kym Adams, 15, found a different spot to watch their late son's high school football team on a warm Fri., Sept. 19 afternoon for homecoming.

"It's emotional," Kimberly Adams, Sha-kym's mother, said. "Sometimes I have to walk away, take a break. You're so used to seeing your son out there and now he's not out there," Kimberly added.

Kimberly and Sha-kym's father, Sharrod Rowe, normally sit in the bleachers at Minneapolis South's home games. In order to be in more of the background, the couple opted for a spot along the track facing the east end zone. Nonetheless, Sha-kym was still on the hearts and minds of the South students a month and 14 days after his tragic drowning in Lake Nokomis on Aug. 6. A few girls who knew Adams came over to visit with his parents at homecoming.

"It seems like almost if not every game [or] every other game, we meet new friends of his that he had been associated with," Rowe said. "That's beautiful, that's really beautiful."

Adams hasn't been forgotten



In The Zone

By MATTHEW DAVIS

South Tigers top Edison 47-6 in homecoming game

either by the football team. Before the game, senior lineman Wyatt Peterson had been asked by a

teacher in the halls how the team's morale was.

"Wyatt said the morale's

good," Tigers football coach Lenny Sedlock said. "Wyatt would have never known I heard that, but I brought it up [to the team] tonight because that's good. That's what they're telling other people, and you know it's true."

As far as playing football goes, the morale has also improved. South delivered a homecoming game for the community to remember, a 47-6 rout of Minneapolis Edison.

Payton Bowdry rushed for 54 yards and two touchdowns on ten carries for the Tigers. Kevin Brooks also scored a rushing TD in addition to 30 yards on four carries.

Anthony Hockett threw for 248 yards on 10-15 passing. Kyle Helmstetter and Elerson Smith each caught a TD pass. Smith had a team-high 105 receiving yards



South linemen Austin Burnett (no. 75) and Areal Crawford (no. 66) give backup quarterback Josh Patterson time to throw on a 64-yard completion on Fri., Sept. 19. The Tigers routed Minneapolis Edison 46-7 for homecoming. (Photo by Matthew Davis)

on three catches.

Jawan Childs, Desmond Williams, Connor Leech and Steven Thell all picked off pass on defense for South in a dominating performance. The Tommies didn't score until late in the fourth quarter.

Winning that game kept the Tigers in position to make a run for the Minneapolis City Conference title, something that hasn't been on the radar in recent losing seasons. "I like where we're going," Sedlock said. "I'm proud of our guys because our last two losses, we could have won. We could easily be 3-1."

For Adams' family, they've enjoyed seeing the progress of the team. They and the team have progressed together from the day of the tragedy to a somber football opener with Eden Prairie where the score hardly mattered. Weeks later, the journey has brought more healing for the family while the Tigers snatched their first win on homecoming.

"We like to show the support still," Rowe said. "We're football fans. Even though our son has passed, we still want to show support."

Perfect weather...a record crowd...cool art activities...exceptional exhibitors...mouth-watering food and the best lemonade in town...guests eager to discuss monarch conservation...96 dedicated volunteers...a popular new location...225 kids in the Fun Run...monarchs raised by the Monarch Lab and volunteers...supportive sponsors...debut performances of "The Way of the Monarch" by The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre...milkweed and other butterfly plants for sale... steamroller printing with ArtOrg...the high energy of Kapulli Ketzal-Coatlque's traditional Aztec dance...salsa and a packed dance floor. And so much more.

The Sept. 6 Minneapolis Monarch Festival drew a crowd of 10,000 plus to Lake Nokomis Park. They came for music, dance, games and art, plants, costume contest and Kids Fun Run, and the monarchs of course. They also came to have a chance to talk with experts about monarchs and pollinators and because the Festival creates a relaxed bi-lingual atmosphere that embodies people's love for the monarch butterfly and the cultural connections created by its migration from Canada to Mexico.

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An amazing day at the Minneapolis Monarch Festival

An outstanding partnership

NENA is proud to partner with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in producing the Festival. And we are honored to work with the University of Minnesota Monarch Lab, not only for the butterflies, but for educational outreach, and their research that keeps the Festival grounded in science.

We are indebted to Univision Minnesota, Vida y Sabor, and *La Matraca Magazine* for 5 years of support that has made the Festival well known in the Spanish-speaking community. We are fortunate to have assistance from Council Member Quincy's office in securing Tap Minneapolis water for the festival, and handling logistical glitches that inevitably come up - like making sure that Minnehaha Parkway was re-opened in time for the Festival.

This year we are especially

grateful for the sponsorship of the Science Museum of Minnesota. Their support allowed us to continue growing and improving the festival in a year when we did not receive Legacy funding. More importantly, it gave us the opportunity to promote its upcoming exhibit on monarchs. From Oct. 3 to Jan. 4, the Science Museum of Minnesota will host the "Flight of the Butterflies" Omnitheater Film and a Live Butterflies House—a combination that gives you an unprecedented look at the astounding monarch butterfly.

"Flight of the Butterflies" is a giant screen film about the iconic monarch butterfly, a true marvel of nature. It follows the journey of the monarchs to a remote mountain peak in Mexico, telling the story of Fred and Norah Urquhart's 40-year search to find the monarch's hideaway, with the help of citizen scientists.

Awesome People

Ninety-six volunteers kept the Festival on track and running smoothly. They came from Nokomis East, surrounding neighborhoods, St Paul, numerous suburbs, small towns and Wisconsin. They are an amazingly dedicated group of monarch lovers. Many of them participated in the Monarch Lab's workshop on raising monarchs and brought the butterflies they raised to the Festival.

Thank-yous would not be complete without recognizing the energy, creativity, and many hours of work put in by NENA staffers Doug Walter and Maria Alcaraz and other members of the Festival Planning Team: MaryLynn Pulscher, Park Board staff and master problem solver; Vicki Bonk, NENA volunteer, habitat expert and Naturescape project manager; Katie-Lyn Bunney and Sarah

Weaver of the Monarch Lab, monarch raisers and research consultants to the team.

We would know much less about monarchs, the migration, and the factors contributing to the decline of the Midwest monarch population without the work Dr. Karen Oberhauser at the U of M. Her research, citizen science initiatives, and conservation work provide the foundation for creating new monarch habitat that will be essential to preserving the monarch migration.

Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

Housing Committee: TBD, call 612-724-5652.

NENA Board: 7pm, Thur., Oct. 23, at NENA, 3000 E. 50th St.

Halloween: Fri., Oct. 31. Official NENA holiday, office will be closed.

Last-minute schedule changes are posted on our Calendar page at www.nokomiseast.org or you may call 612-724-5652.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, contact the NENA Office at 612-724-5652 or email mena@nokomiseast.org.

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Two vie for open District 5 school board seat

Voters will also pick two of the four candidates for at-large Minneapolis school board seats

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

You will be able to get out and vote for three new Minneapolis Public School (MPS) board members this fall. Two people, Nelson Inz and Jay Larson, are vying for the District 5 seat formerly held by Alberto Monserrate. Also, there are four people running for two at-large seats: Iris Altamirano, Rebecca Gagnon (incumbent), Ira Jourdain and Don Samuels.

Learn more about each candidate and their views below.

★ **DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE** ★
NELSON INZ



Inz resides in Regina and has been a high school social studies teacher for the past six years at Great River Montessori Charter School in St Paul.

Past applicable experience: Volunteering at Washburn High School; substitute teacher in Minneapolis and other districts; Minnesota Secondary Social Studies license at Hamline; Great River Montessori Charter School in St Paul, school board chairman of the personnel committee; International Baccalaureate training in three different disciplines

and adolescent Montessori certified; active in DFL Senate District 62 for the last 8 years, serving on the central committee and as a precinct chair, and volunteering on the campaigns of many DFL candidates; named change maker of the year in 2006 by *The Minnesota Women's Press* for work in planning and implementing a successful strategy to raise the state minimum wage; created "Minnesota Service Industry Workers Against Tom Emmer for Governor" in 2010, a group which boasted over 3000 members, and helped turn the tide of the Governor's race; master's degree in Theater from Long Island University, and a bachelor's from Johns Hopkins University; endorsed by the DFL, Congressman Keith Ellison, City Council Members Elizabeth Glidden, John Quincy, Andrew Johnson, Alondra Cano, State Senator Jeff Hayden, State Representatives Jim Davnie and Susan Allen, Park Board Commissioner Steffanie Musich, and others.

How are you connected to Minneapolis Schools?

In addition to my work as a coach, volunteer and sub in MPS, I have twin boys who are two and a half years old that will attend Hale/Field, where my two nieces, who currently attend Washburn, went to grade school. My sister and brother in law, Julia and Tom Arneson, have served on the site councils and PTA at Hale, Field, and currently Washburn. I have many friends, neighbors and colleagues who teach in, and have children that attend MPS.

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

I'm running because I believe in public schools. I believe in their ability to be an instrument of social change, and to make a difference for our families, children, and communities. The current school board has balanced the budget and passed an enrollment plan, but now we need to take the next step. We have to reduce the achievement gap and keep families in Minneapolis Public schools.

What do you think are the strengths of MPS? What are the areas for growth?

MPS has a wealth of diversity, both in terms of students, faculty, and programs available. Like all public schools, it is our duty to provide the best education humanly possible to each and every student that walks through the door of one of our schools, no matter who they are or where they come from. In addition to being a strength, this is, of course, a tremendous challenge.

What do you propose be done to close the achievement gap?

We must better deal with the level of diversity in our students. This means not only hiring a more diverse work force, but also making sure our current faculty has the cultural competencies to teach our student population. This includes sufficient bilingual educators for students to learn in their first language, for example. In addition we must have sufficient supports in place to make sure we not only attract, but retain, great faculty.

★ **DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE** ★
JAY LARSON



Larson has been a Keewaydin resident since 2001. He works in Funeral Service at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels.

Past applicable experience: I have been an active parent-leader for the better part of a decade, or since my 6th grade daughter started Kindergarten at Lake Nokomis Community School. One of my proudest accomplishments to date for our community was leading a group of parents, teachers and community leaders in the successful expansion and remodel of the Keewaydin campus of Lake Nokomis Community School.

How are you connected to Minneapolis Schools?

I am a parent of three children that attend Minneapolis Community Schools at Lake Nokomis Community School. My daughter Rose is in the 6th grade, second daughter, Lily, is in the 4th grade and my son Toby is in the 1st grade. I currently serve as Chair of the Site Council for Lake Nokomis Community School and represent all of Southeast

Minneapolis schools on the District Parent Advisory Committee.

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

I believe it is important that experienced parents, with children currently attending Minneapolis Public Schools, to serve on the Board of Education. As a parent on the School Board, my children, their fellow students, their teachers, and my community, have to live with the policies that I vote/approve. In other words, "I have skin in the game." In addition to being a parent, I have years of experience serving at the school district level and have been involved in Minneapolis Public Schools outside of my kids' school.

What do you think are the strengths of MPS? What are the areas for growth?

It is an exciting time for Minneapolis Public Schools in Southeast Minneapolis. The good news is that enrollment is up...way up. The bad news is, is that we need more facilities to handle the increase in enrollment. Communities are reinvesting in their community schools, and like me, recognize that community schools are the backbones of great communities. I want to advocate for that on the Board of Education.

What do you propose be done to close the achievement gap?

One of my goals as a School Board Director, and suggestions in helping to close the achievement gap, is to see that community schools thrive in areas all over Minneapolis. I strongly believe that if we can get parents and communities to trust and believe in their community schools again, there will be a return of students to those schools. We are seeing this reality in South Minneapolis and it needs to become a reality in North Minneapolis. Families, teachers, schools and communities want to trust in the Minneapolis Board of Education.

★ **AT-LARGE CANDIDATE** ★
IRIS ALTAMIRANO



Altamirano resides in the Logan Park neighborhood of Northeast Minneapolis. She is a full-time mom.

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Monarch Fest Volunteers Rock!

NENA would like to **thank** everyone who helped make the 2014 Minneapolis Monarch Festival a success, especially the volunteers and Minneapolis Parks and Recreation staff who went above and beyond:

- **The 96 Volunteers**, including many bilingual volunteers, who came from all over the Metro area and who gave up their Friday and Saturday to help make this a spectacular event for an estimated 10,000+ guests--our largest attendance ever!

- **The Planning Team** that organized and produced the festival: MaryLynn Pulscher (MPRB), Katie-Lyn Bunny and Sarah Weaver (Monarch Lab/U of M), Vicki Bonk (Naturescape Project Manager), and NENA staff Rita Ulrich, Doug Walter and Maria Alcaraz.

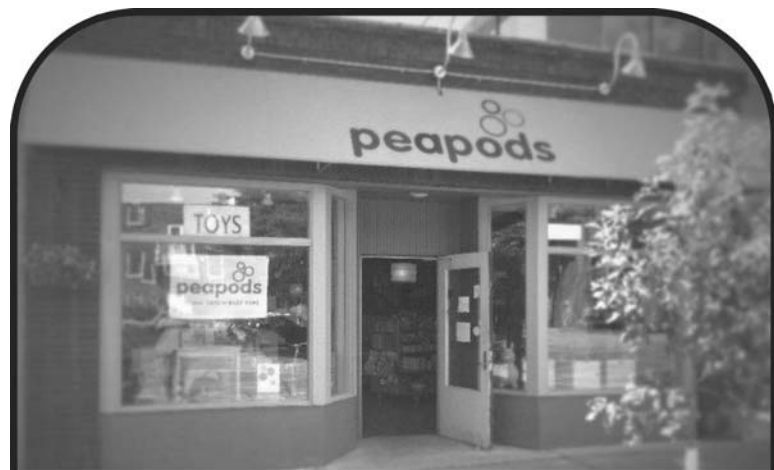
You all have our continuing gratitude, awe, and respect.

Event photos are on the Minneapolis Monarch Festival's Facebook page. Watch for information on the 9/12/15 Festival at www.monarchfestival.org



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School board

Continued from page 4

Past applicable experience: SEIU Local 26 Political Director; Immigrant and Community Organizer; Wellstone Fellow; Trilingual in English, Spanish, and Italian; city of Minneapolis Commissioner of Civil Rights; and BS in City and Regional Planning, Cornell University.

How are you connected to Minneapolis Schools?

My son Carlos (3) and daughter Sophia (1) will soon be students in Minneapolis Public Schools. As a mother and a community organizer, I know we need to improve our public schools for all Minneapolis kids. I am also deeply connected to the immigrant community and I know that the success of students from these communities depends on having access to strong, public schools.

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

I am a janitor's daughter who attended Cornell University. I know the transformative power of education because I have lived it. I believe that adversity doesn't equate to victimization, rather resilience. My personal experience, combined with my professional organizing background, makes me uniquely qualified to address the disparities within our public schools. I am running for the School Board to close the opportunity gap and to ensure that all Minneapolis kids have opportunities to succeed.

What do you think are the strengths of MPS? What are the areas for growth?

Minneapolis Public Schools boasts an incredibly diverse population. Students of color comprise 68 percent of our student body and English Language Learners comprise 25 percent of our student body. Teachers, staff, and leadership within our schools are passionately committed to the progressive values of our community. Our diversity and commitment to progressive values often times is not reflected in policy outcomes, in part, due to poor implementation and not including all stakeholders in our conversations.

What do you propose be done to close the achievement gap?

We must acknowledge that the polarized debate of union versus reformer is silencing the families we speak of when we refer to the "achievement gap." For me, these "gaps" are not abstract concepts—these are our kids. We must act collaboratively, thoughtfully and expediently. I propose that we invest in early childhood education and fully fund the High Five Program. We must also expand global and multilingual opportunities for all kids.

★ AT-LARGE CANDIDATE ★ REBECCA GAGNON



Gagnon resides in Fulton. She is currently on the School Board and is a full-time mom.

Past applicable experience: incumbent at-large MPS school board member, Board Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Member of Teaching & Learning, Policy, Audit, and Community Engagement Committees; Assoc. of Metropolitan School Districts Executive Board Member; National Assessment Governing Board Member; and City Planning Commissioner.

How are you connected to Minneapolis Schools?

Current At-Large school board member, Mother of 3 (5th grader at Whittier, junior at SWHS, sophomore at Loyola University).

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

Equity is at the center of my work on the board to achieve academic outcomes not determined by race, socioeconomics, zip code, etc. I am running for re-election to continue my policy and financial work that supports equitable academic outcomes for all students. I also want to hold the district accountable for quality implementation of work I've strongly advocated for, like our behavior standards policy, equity policy, balanced budget, and shifting more resources to schools.

What do you think are the strengths of MPS? What are the areas for growth?

We have seen gradual increases in achievement for most students but accelerating growth is critical. MPS plans to refocus our resources and decision-making around schools as the units of change. We must engage and include all stakeholders in the success of our schools, building partnerships and sharing resources to meet the diverse needs (both academic and social/emotional) of our student population. Strong schools need support and flexibility to address the unique needs of our diverse neighborhoods.

What do you propose be done to close the achievement gap?

Relationships are at the heart of my work and at the core of achieving college/career ready academic outcomes for all students. From the classroom to the boardroom, building trust from our broad stakeholder group requires authentic engagement, in-

formed decision-making, and quality implementation. Our educators must build relationships with students to individualize instruction and meet their diverse learning needs. Overcrowding makes this difficult and our district is growing. Capital planning and fiscal stability are crucial to addressing this issue.

★ AT-LARGE CANDIDATE ★ IRA JOURDAIN



Jourdain resides in East Phillips. He is employed by Human Services - Father Project worker at Division of Indian Work.

Past applicable experience: Parent of students in MPS since 2003. Served on the Title VII Parent Committee that developed the first Memo of Agreement for Native American Students in the district. Has been an active volunteer since children first entered MPS.

How are you connected to Minneapolis Schools?

Current parent of 4 MPS students, 2 high school and 2 elementary.

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

I am concerned that our district is moving towards a more test-data driven system and is not focused on the well-being of the "whole" child, and not taking into account the needs of our children outside the classroom that affect them inside the classroom. As a parent of elementary students, I would like to see our children be children at that age, but also given the tools to learn effectively. As a parent of high school students, to be sure that they are given the tools to be college and career ready.

What do you think are the strengths of MPS? What are the areas for growth?

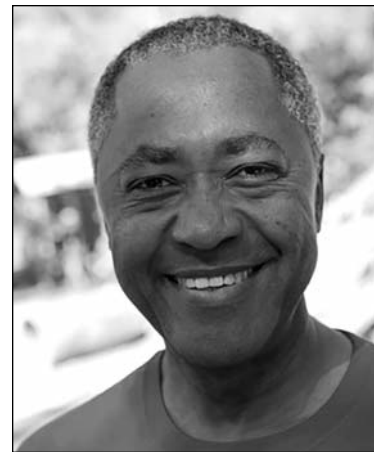
The cultural diversity of our students, their families, and staff, is strong. District's budget is balanced and we can move forward and be more transparent as to how we spend our dollars effectively and efficiently. The attendance campaign is a critical component that has had success and can continue to be built on. Of course our graduation rate for all students needs to be improved. Our Special Ed services need better support, as well as our teachers in the classroom and educational support, freedom and flexibility.

What do you propose be done to close the achievement gap?

Improve our wrap-around-civic engagement services for our students and their families across

the district. As we have moved towards becoming a more test-data driven district, we need to realize that many students and families face issues outside of the classroom that directly affect what happens inside the classroom and directly impacts attendance, behavior, grades, test scores, etc. I work in human services with families across the district and I have seen firsthand, that with help outside the classroom, our families can succeed.

★ AT-LARGE CANDIDATE ★ DON SAMUELS



Samuels resides in Jordan, and is retired.

Past applicable experience: I am the proud parent of four and have acted as tutor, mentor, and volunteer educator to public school students for decades. From 1991-1993, I was a Board Member of The Saturday Academy, a tutoring and education academy for African American 9th grade boys in St. Paul Public Schools. From 1992-94, I

was Chair of the Curriculum Committee to the St. Paul School Board. From 2003-2014, I served as a Minneapolis City Council Member, and as part of my work passed several resolutions celebrating high achieving Minneapolis schools. In 2007, I co-founded the Hope Collaborative, an initiative that brought the leaders of top 10 performing inner city and low income schools from across the country to Minneapolis to present their winning strategies. As candidate for Mayor, I made education the centerpiece of my campaign.

How are you connected to Minneapolis Schools?

My daughter attends Anthony Middle School. I have tutored and mentored many MPS students, and have worked for years with MPS and its families to improve our educational outcomes, and have developed good relationships with the Superintendent

Continued on page 15

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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.

Garden club talks green helpers Oct. 8

Julia Vanatta and Marilyn Jones will speak about taking care of the tiny and subtle garden helpers that make our gardens prosper and produce good harvests. The next meeting of the Longfellow Garden Club is 7-9pm on Wed., Oct. 8 at the Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S.

Vanatta and Jones will present pollinator-friendly practices that welcome pollinators, ranging from limited or non-use of pesticides to putting the garden to sleep in ways that help bees to safely overwinter and emerge next spring.

Vanatta and Jones are co-founders of Pollinator Revival, a grassroots movement to protect pollinators from further decline by educating sellers and consumers to stop the sale and use of chemicals known to be harmful to bees and other beneficial insects. They are also co-presidents of the Twin Cities Chapter of Wild Ones, a national organization promoting the use and preservation of native plant communities, beginning in yards and gardens.

For more information about the club go to LongfellowGardenClubMail@gmail.com, or to www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub.

Public hearing set for two local issues

The City Planning Commission will meet Mon., Sept. 29, at 4:30pm, to address two public hearing issues affecting the *Messenger* area. The hearings will take place in Room 17, of City Hall, 350 S. 5th St. The meeting site is wheelchair accessible.

Jeffrey Zeitler has submitted an application to allow for the establishment of a wine and cider production use within the existing building at 3016 E. Lake St. He is seeking a conditional use permit for limited production and processing in the district as well as a variance to reduce the minimum vehicle parking requirement from four spaces to zero.

Semper Development has submitted a site plan review application for a new 15,780 square foot Walgreens retail store with a drive-through pharmacy at the following properties: 3101, 3101.5, 3117, 3121, 3123, and 3127 E. Lake St. A site plan review is a process where the City Planning Commission reviews the physical design of a property for compliance with applicable standards of the zoning code, Comprehensive Plan, or other plans in affect for the area.

Epworth Harvest Dinner set Oct. 9

The annual Harvest Dinner served by Epworth United Methodist Church will be Thur., Oct. 9, from 5-7pm. The menu is turkey with all the fixings; you can dine in the Fellowship Hall or carry your meal home. Adult tickets are \$10, children 5-12, \$6 and for those under 5, free. Dine-in only family rate is \$27.50. You can begin holiday shopping early by browsing in the Mini-Boutique before or after dinner. Epworth is located at 3207 37th Ave. S.

Create harmony with feng shui

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a feng shui presentation on Tues., Oct. 21 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St.

Learn the basics of feng shui, an ancient Chinese art. By integrating into your living space, you create an environment that supports your physical and emotional well-being. Presented by Judith Kroening, feng shui practitioner. For questions, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

Kahn to speak at Faith Evangelical

Cynthia Kahn from POBLO International Ministries, will speak at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., on Sun., Oct. 19. During the 9am worship she will speak on "Cultural Awareness and Orientation." A door offering will be taken. Following a fellowship time after worship, Cynthia will do a Bible study on "Starting Muslim Ministry at Your Local Church." POBLO is a People of the Book international ministry. Cynthia is the Director of Women and Youth Ministries. She was

born and raised in Pakistan and has lived in four countries and has dealt with Muslims and people with other Eastern religions backgrounds in a variety of settings and cultures

LBA meets on Minnehaha project

The Longfellow Business Association (LBA) will host Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis staff on Thur., Oct. 9, 1:30-2:30pm, to present overview, staging and scheduling plans, property tax assessment, and streetscaping information for the Minnehaha Ave. reconstruction project slated to begin in the spring of 2015.

Hennepin County project manager Kristy Morter will provide a brief overview and project update then business owners are invited to visit the individual stations for information on project staging, assessments, landscaping options, and more.

The meeting will be held at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S. For further information email ruth@longfellow.org or call 612-722-4529 x10.

St. Albert plans their Fall Festival

St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, E. 29th Street at 32nd Ave. S. is planning their Fall Festival and Roast Beef Dinner on Oct. 19. A full roast beef dinner will be served from 11am to 4pm, and take out and vegetarian option are available. Cost of the dinner is \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+) and \$5 for those age 6-12. Kids 5 and under eat free. Bingo will be held in the gym from noon to 4pm and there will be classic festival booths and raffles. Visit www.saintalbertthegreat.org or call 612-724-3643 for more information.

Student Study Center to open in October

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran will sponsor a Student Study Center on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30pm beginning Oct. 1. High school and college students can come to the church, 4101-37th Ave. S., for an optimal study atmosphere with quiet space and light snacks. Walk-ins welcome! The study center will be supervised. Any questions you can call 612-722-9527.

Got books? Sale scheduled Oct. 10-11

Need space on your bookshelves? Kids outgrown those early books? Moving or decluttering? Check those dusty shelves for

books (especially for children), CDs and DVDs. The children's books always sell out—they are some of our best customers!

You can drop off books to the Library until Oct. 10. The Library is open every day at 2727 E. Lake St. We can arrange to pick up reasonable amounts of books if you email us at eastlake@supportclub.org. Sorry, please NO magazines, textbooks, VHS or encyclopedias since no one buys them.

Challenge set Oct. 5 at Faith Evangelical

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge will be held at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., and will present musical selections and give testimonials during the 9am worship service on Sun., Oct. 5. The event is free, but there will be a door offering taken after worship. Any checks should be made out to Faith. There will be a potluck following the worship service. You are asked to bring a food item for the pot luck if you plan to stay for lunch.

NAMIWalks planned at Minnehaha Park

Nearly 4,000 people from around the state are expected to join in NAMIWalks Minnesota, a 5K walk to raise awareness about mental illnesses and celebrate hope on Sept. 27, 1pm, at Minnehaha Park. There will be live music, picnics, speakers, a kid's tent, resource tables, a tree of hope, a t-shirt contest and more. KSTP TV's Ken Barlow will emcee the event. The walk supports the efforts of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota, to provide education, support and advocacy for children and adults with mental illnesses and their families. For registration, including forming or joining a walk team, call 651-645-2948 or go to nami-helps.org and click on the NAMIWalks logo.

Weekly play date planned at Epworth

Beginning Wed., Oct. 15, Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., will open its Fellowship Hall to neighborhood families Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am for Cabin Fever, a weekly play date. Epworth will provide snacks and activities; parents and caregivers will supervise their children (and enjoy conversation with other adults). The program is free. Call 612-722-0232 with any questions.

Buckthorn Bust & Haul on Oct. 4



Just off the main path along our local riverfront lies a surprisingly beautiful and rare oak savanna and woodlands. Working with a local ecologist, volunteers have been tending this urban gem for years. Join your neighbors Oct. 4 at this annual Fall River Gorge Stewards volunteer event as they pull and haul invasive brush to protect the rare savanna and woodlands.

Tools and gloves will be provided. However, be prepared to work on steep slopes and uneven terrain. Due to the tools and terrain, this event is not suitable for small children. Capacity is limited and early registration is encouraged. Learn more via the Friends of the Mississippi River calendar listing at FMR.org, http://www.fmr.org/participate/ongoing/oak_savanna_restoration_2014-10-04, or contact FMR Registrar Amy Kilgore, akilgore@fmr.org, 651-222-2193 x31 to sign up and receive details and directions to the meeting spot.

Continued on page 7

In our community

Continued from page 6

Faith hosts annual baked potato dinner

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., will host its annual Baked Potato Dinner on Reformation Sun., Oct. 26, at 11:30am. The menu includes a large baked potato, a variety of toppings, a salad bar, pie and beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12, or \$24 for a family ticket. Call 729-5463 to reserve your tickets or buy your tickets at the door. Proceeds will go to Faith's Education Fund.

No suspensions for young students

Dr. Bernadeia H. Johnson, superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), announced that the school district is placing a moratorium on suspensions for students in prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade for nonviolent behavioral issues. The moratorium went into effect at the beginning of the school year.

Reducing suspensions will take a combined effort from schools, the district and families. As district data is reviewed and analyzed, the elimination of suspension for nonviolent behavior could expand to other levels.

The moratorium is part of MPS' broader effort to close the achievement gap. Other efforts include the school district's strategic plan, a new behavior standards policy and the introduction of the Office of Black Male Student Achievement. All of these efforts have been developed after extensive conversations with stakeholders and community members. MPS leaders would like

to acknowledge the contributions of the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP), a multicultural organization focused on kindergarten through postsecondary education, for their dedicated work and support in developing the behavior standards policy, and ISIAAH, who is partnering with MPS on racial equity for students of color.

Simmons Manor adds solar array

Local renewable energy firm Applied Energy Innovations (AEI), Minneapolis City Council Member Andrew Johnson and business owner Andy Jewell recently cut the ribbon for a 43 kilowatt solar array installed on the roof of Simmons Manor – a multi-unit residential building at the corner of 38th St. and Minnehaha.

"The local jobs and economic impact a project of this scale can greatly impact our city. They're not just installing solar panels, they're building the energy future of the world, right here in Minneapolis," remarked Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson. "We should all take note, be proud of their work, and do everything we can to encourage more property owners and entrepreneurs to follow the examples of leadership we're seeing here today."

After the ceremonial cutting, and a "flip of the solar switch," Simmons Manor fundamentally changed the environmental impact of the building by powering common spaces such as hallway lights, exterior lights, and the laundry room. The modules composing the 43,312 kilowatt array are manufactured by tenKsolar of Bloomington. The array itself was designed and installed by AEI Solar. AEI employed local electricians, operating engineers, laborers and accessed local materials and suppliers in the installation of the array.

Projects of this type and scale are the result of significant solar legislation passed in 2013 Minnesota legislation.

Local Rainbow to close down

The Rainbow at 2919 26th Ave. S. will be closing according to new owner, Jerry's Enterprises, who purchased the stores as part of a sell-off of the Rainbow chain back in May. The workers have been given notice of the closing, scheduled for early November. Employees and the union expressed surprise that Jerry's was making the decision to close only 60 days after they purchased them. It is hardly a surprise, however, given that Jerry's also owns the Cub Foods only about three blocks away.

Purchase tickets for Julbord dinner

Holy Trinity will be serving lutfisk, lefse, Swedish meatballs, Swedish sausage, pickled herring, fruit soup, rice pudding, and homemade cookies at their Julbord dinner on Sat., Dec. 6, from 2-6pm. Tickets are \$18 and must be purchased in advance. For more information contact the church office, 612-729-9277, htooffice@htlcmpls.org.

Animal Blessing set at St. Albert's

All faiths and species are welcome at St. Albert the Great's annual Animal Blessing, on Sat., Oct. 4, at 4pm. The service is free, rain or shine. at E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. Call 612-724-3643 or visit www.saintalbertthegreat.org.

Continued on page 11

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Longtime Nokomis Letter Carrier Carries On

By JILL BOOGREN

Vince Wyckoff is easily recognizable in his uniform blues, satchels slung over his shoulders, a bundle of letters in hand, sporting the mustache he's worn since his army days in the seventies. If you're lucky enough to be on his mail route in the Nokomis neighborhood, chances are you've been treated to a friendly conversation and his warm smile.

After 25 years of carrying letters and cards between friends and lovers, packages from grandparents, and no small amount of junk mail, Wyckoff is retiring on Oct. 31. There's no masking that it's bittersweet.

"I've so enjoyed interacting with people on the route in the neighborhood,"

he said. "It's been a highlight, getting to know everybody and be part of so many lives."

When you deliver mail to 500 households a day, 5 days a week, year in and year out — easily 2.5 million deliveries over his career — you get to know some people.

Like the gentleman, who parked his motorcycle in his living room, who came home to an installation in his front yard of a whiskey-barrel-shaped sauna he had forgotten he ordered at the State Fair. Or the retired gal on his route who sent an X-rated postcard to the woman who lived next door, also retired, as a prank: tucked within the text on the message side were the words "HI VINCE!"

"Just to get my attention," he said.

He's been privy to a lot of happenings, both every day and extraordinary, hopeful and sad, funny and frightening.

Wyckoff told of an incident involving a toddler who had gone missing at the coffee shop. The boy had just been with his mom then suddenly was gone, causing a frantic search under cars, inside bushes.

"I heard this 'Mommy,' " Wyckoff said, "and sure enough he was in one of those newspaper boxes. He had crawled in... you could see him in there."

In 2007 Wyckoff

Vince Wyckoff is easily recognizable in his uniform blues, satchels slung over his shoulders, a bundle of letters in hand, sporting the mustache he's worn since his army days in the seventies. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



"This neighborhood is awesome," said Vince Wyckoff. He rides his bike, shops at the local grocery store, uses the library, frequents the coffee shop. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

captured some of his adventures in his book, "Beware of Cat and Other Encounters of a Letter Carrier" (Borealis Books, Minnesota Historical Society Press). He felt it was important to celebrate the neighborhood in some way.

"There are some really inspirational stories in this particular neighborhood," he said—one he's watched transform from predominantly white, blue-collar retirees to a more diverse range of younger people choosing to live and work here.

"It's almost a complete turnover," he said. A shift that is as obvious in the homes as the people moving in and out of them. Houses where families once raised three or four kids sharing one bathroom are now being bought by younger families who are adding bathrooms and remodeling kitchens.

"I love to see these old homes being taken care of and given new life," he said.

Wyckoff also wanted to archive a job he knew was changing.

"I really don't think we'll be delivering the mail like this in 100 years," he said. "I can't imagine we'll be walking door to door."

The internet may mean far fewer first class letters are sent. But just as correspondence and billing have moved online, so has shopping. And with it, comes way more parcels.

"In my experience, I get as many packages every day now as we used to do at Christmas time," said Wyckoff. "The job has just gotten a lot harder. We're carrying a lot more bulk, a lot of weight."

And they're not all your brown-box variety parcels, either. Wyckoff has delivered stamped coconuts from Hawaii, messages in bottles, even baby chickens — all of which add to the load.

The work is grueling on a good day. Shoes seldom last the year; the soles wear down. The job is also tightly wound to the clock. Every delivery has to be completed every day, ideally at the same time of day, come rain, shine, sleet, snow, or ice. After last year's fiercely cold and snowy winter, it's a wonder anyone can keep their chin up.

"The winters are just getting

so hard," said Wyckoff. "When I was young I'd charge out into those drifts." Ice is a huge problem, but so is the dark (Wyckoff wrote in "Beware of Cat" that "in letter carrier nightmares it's always getting dark out"). In winter it gets dark at 4:30pm, which means fumbling with freezing fingers to find the right mail for each house. Wyckoff said he often skips lunch to lessen the amount of time he has to deliver in the dark. Sometimes, though, he's asked to cover part of someone else's route, which puts him well past quitting time.

Slugging through ice and snow, hefting ever-heavier loads, negotiating sidewalks and steps, and dodging the occasional gnashing dog or threatening person (or a certain vicious cat) isn't for everybody. But Wyckoff has kept his spirits up, buoyed no doubt by the countless people he's met and come to know. But though he may grin (smile, even) and bear it, he's ready for a new chapter in his life.

Wyckoff is writing another book, a whodunnit, and is also interested in historical fiction. He's excited to have time to go to the Historical Society to do research, especially that which relates to the immigration of his family from Norway to Minnesota's prairie.

He also wants to take some art classes and try his hand at painting with watercolors.

"I think it's the most impossible thing to do, so I want to spend some time with it."

If these are quieter, gentler pursuits, they seem right up his alley; Wyckoff also collects stamps, which, he said "is pretty nerdy for a mail deliverer."

But while Wyckoff is ready to carry on, he's not moving on. He enjoys being in what to him feels like a small town "right smack in the big city."

"This neighborhood is awesome. I feel like I live in a small town, because I know everybody," said Wyckoff. He rides his bike, shops at the local grocery store, uses the library, frequents the coffee shop. He and his wife, Sybil, enjoy going to Minnehaha Falls and Coldwater Spring as well as the requisite bakeries and neighborhood watering holes. "You have everything right here."

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Community open house for Wyckoff

There will be an open house sendoff party for Wyckoff with cake and coffee at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy on Sat., Nov. 1, 2-5pm. All are welcome.

Monarch Festival

Continued from page 1

(All photos by Margie O'Loughlin)



A father and son taking in the festival sights and sounds.



The stage area was filled to capacity on a beautiful Saturday morning.



ArtOrg helped kids make nature prints from their own cutouts, and then used a steam roller as their printing press.



Tending the corn roaster at Burrito Mercado.



Kalpulli Ketzal Coatlicue Aztec Dance group in full swing.



Monarch Fun Run, this group was ages three and younger.



Contestants wait to hear who has won the monarch costume contest.

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LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Block Club Leaders Neighborhood Event

**Tuesday, October 28th from
6:30-8:00 pm at Living Table UCC
(4001 38th Ave S)**

Co-sponsored by LCC and the 3rd Precinct, this event will provide interested residents with an overview of the Block Club program, tips and resources for community involvement and small steps that residents can take to improve community safety and livability. Everyone is invited! If you have any questions, please contact JoAnna Lund at 612-722-4529 ext. 11 or via email at Joannalund@longfellow.org.

Best Meeting Ever on Tuesday October 21st

Join us for the Best Meeting Ever on Tuesday October 21st at Minnehaha Academy—North Campus (3100 W River Parkway) for an evening of community fun and planning! The Annual Best Resource Fair Ever will run longer this year (5-6pm), and the meeting itself will run from 6-8pm. Join your neighbors in a free community meal and updates on what the Longfellow Community Council is doing and how you can be involved in more projects! Bring non-perishable food items for the Minnehaha Food Shelf and be entered to win a fabulous prize! To learn more visit www.longfellow.org/news-events.

Attention Longfellow Bicyclists!

Longfellow Community Council's Environment and Transportation Committee needs your input. We know how frustrating it can be to find parking, whether it is in a car or on your bike. We invite you to share your opinions on where you would like to see more bicycle racks in the Greater Longfellow Neighborhood (businesses and public spaces). Fill out our short survey at www.longfellow.org/bikerack or Contact Joe at joe@longfellow.org or 612.722.4529 ext. 13.



Give to the Max

Save the Date for Give to the Max! On Thursday November 13th Minnesota participates in a huge day of giving. Help the LCC keep improving the neighborhood and making Longfellow the best neighborhood in Minneapolis by giving on Give to the Max Day. You can even schedule your giving in advance at givemn.org/organization/Longfellow/

Annual Chili Cook Off

The Annual Chili Cook Off Fundraiser is Saturday November 15 at Gandhi Mahal! We are currently seeking Chili Cooks. If you or some-

one you know makes a mean pot of chili and should be in the competition this year, sign them up! Check for updates and rules at www.longfellow.org/news-events.

Longfellow Loses Chili Champ

Mike Linzbach, current Treasurer of the LCC Board of Directors has accepted a new position with Delta Airlines and is moving to Atlanta in mid-October. Mike has been a dedicated volunteer with LCC since he first joined the Board of Directors in 2010.

Among Mike's many skills, he is a strong analyst and detailed manager of LCC's organizational assets. He has consistently assisted in the development of the annual organizational budget and has served as both the Board Treasurer and Secretary.

With Mike leaving the neighborhood, LCC not only loses a great volunteer and Board member but



Mike Linzbach and Candy Matzke

the only 3-time winner of our annual Chili Cook-off. There is always disappointment connected to losing people who make such a strong effort to maintain this phenomenal community but the staff, Board and residents of LCC wish Mike all the best. Atlanta's gain is Longfellow's (and chili lovers) loss.

Open Board Seat – Get It While Its Hot!

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) has an open neighborhood Board seat for any interested

resident residing in the **Hiawatha** neighborhood.

Joining the LCC Board of Directors is an excellent opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making and leadership of the community.

LCC welcomes diversity and encourages people from all walks of life to join our board. Anyone interested in more information about this open Board seat should contact Melanie Majors either by phone at (612) 722-4529 or via email at melanie@longfellow.org

Calendar of Meetings and Events

OCTOBER 2014

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

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 1
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Firoast Café, 3800 37th Ave
FFI: jessica@longfellow.org

RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

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

LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, October 14
12:00 - 1:30 pm
Hiawatha Church, 4155 41st Avenue S
FFI: joannalund@longfellow.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, October 14
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S
FFI: joannalund@longfellow.org

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, October 15
6:30 - 8:00 pm
check website for location
FFI: joe@longfellow.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, October 16
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S
FFI: melanie@longfellow.org

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, October 28
6:30 - 8:00 pm
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S
FFI: joe@longfellow.org



President's Message

**Eric Day,
President of the Board**

This time of year always reminds me of why I love living in Longfellow; seeing the changing leaves along the Mississippi, breathing in the crisp fall air on walks in the neighborhood, and enjoying the last of the summer harvest from my plot at the Dowling Community Garden.

There's been a lot of great things

happening in our neighborhood indoors as well. Last month was LCC's fourth monthly Longfellow Community Happy Hour, held at Mosaic Café. This monthly event has been a great and popular way for residents to get out and meet each other and support the organization. We're so grateful to our local restaurants as well for supporting this new initiative and for donating 10% of proceeds during the events to LCC. Also in September, Longfellow 365 had an art installation on display at East Lake Library, showing off the great work of local volunteer photographers who capture our great neighborhood every day of the year. If you haven't seen their work yet, check it out at longfellow365.com or by liking the page on Facebook.

This month the LCC will host one of our two annual membership meetings. We affectionately call it "The Best Meeting Ever!" and we work hard to have the meeting live up to the name. The meeting, which is held at Minnehaha Academy's North Campus on October 21st from 5-8pm, will feature an expanded resource fair, a free community dinner provided by local restaurants, babysitting for kids, and a program. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the LCC and the various committees, as well as get to know and connect with Longfellow neighbors.

As always, we appreciate volunteers and invite folks to get involved. Contact the LCC Office for more information. See you around the neighborhood!

COOPER

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LONGFELLOW



HIAWATHA

Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406

612.722.4529 • www.longfellow.org

Melanie Majors, Executive Director
Ruth Romano, Office Staff
JoAnna Lund, Community Engagement Coordinator
Jessica Buchberger, Communication & Event Manager
Joe Sturm, Housing & Environment Coordinator

melanie@longfellow.org
ruth@longfellow.org
joannalund@longfellow.org
jessica@longfellow.org
joe@longfellow.org

Now everyone can opt into affordable solar power

The cost of solar panels has dropped 99% since 1977 (from \$76.67/kW to \$0.74/kW in 2013). In Minnesota, the long-term electricity cost from solar has decreased below the rising cost of utility bills. Now, local residents are making solar accessible for everyone through a member-owned cooperative, Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF).

Homeowners can join the coop and apply for the Made in Minnesota solar incentive to lease solar panels with no money down through the Gopher Solar program. The lease saves money beginning the first month. After 15 years, residents have full ownership of their array, which is warranted for another 10 years of free power.

As Holly & Dan, Minneapolis participants in the 2014 leasing program, said: "CEF and its partners have made it possible for us to produce renewable energy! We

are so grateful for this opportunity and can attest to how understandable and easy the process was."

There are also loan options if residents prefer to own the system upfront.

Because applications for the Minnesota solar incentive are due February 28, 2015, interested residents should contact bruce@cooperativeenergyfutures.com or 612-568-2334 before Jan. 15, 2015.

But what about renters or families without good solar access? CEF is also helping Twin Cities communities organize solar gardens, large solar arrays that give renters and residents whose homes won't work for solar the opportunity to subscribe. Just like buying a farm share, subscribing to community solar secures utility bill credits for 25 years of power.

While most Minnesota homes spend \$900/year on electricity bills, community solar can



Homeowners can join a coop and apply for the Made in Minnesota solar incentive to lease solar panels with no money down through the Gopher Solar program. The lease saves money beginning the first month. After 15 years, residents have full ownership of their array, which is warranted for another 10 years of free power.

provide 25 years of power for only around 12 years worth of cost. As a cooperative, CEF gives

community solar subscribers ownership and control over a community energy business. In-

terested residents can learn more at <http://cooperativeenergyfutures.com/communitysolar/>.

In our community

Continued from page 7

Fall yard clean-up volunteers sought

Leaves do fall. Improve your health while helping a senior citizen in Minneapolis remain independent in their home! You choose the date and time to rake and clean up the yard. Perfect for individuals, groups, and families. Seasonal: starting mid-October (depending upon the weather) until the snow falls. This is a one-time unpaid fun, flexible activity on weekdays or weekends. Feel free to sign up multiple times!

Exact location in Minneapolis depends upon where the senior citizen lives. Ongoing unpaid volunteer opportunities are also available. Please contact Jeanne the NIP Seniors Program, Volunteer Coordinator at srvolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org or call 612-746-8549 for more information.

Minneapolis senior citizens who seek assistance should call 612-374-3322 or email seniors@neighborhoodinvolve.org.

Annual sale planned Oct. 4 at Minnehaha

Come to Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., on Sat., Oct. 4 for their Annual Estate and Rummage Sale. The sale runs from 9am-1pm with bag time starting at noon. Lunch is served (sloppy joes) and homemade bars will be available for purchase.

Rally for Rakhma planned for Oct. 4

A "Rally for Rakhma" and stroll for those with memory loss will be held on Sat., Oct. 4 from 9:30am-12:30pm. Fun run, walk or bike ride around Lake Nokomis to show your support for those living with memory loss. You can register individually or make it more exciting by forming a team. They are hoping

everyone will set a \$100 minimum fundraising goal and encourage your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to join you or support you in making a difference for those with memory loss. (Fundraising is not mandatory to attend the event but it is encouraged). There will be awards to the individuals and teams who have raised the largest funds.

Rakhma Homes provides housing for individuals with memory loss (Alzheimer's disease or various forms of dementia). As a missions driven organization, they lose around half of their operations costs because they have no restrictions on admittance to those individuals on Medicare or elderly waiver. They fundraise in order to make up these costs.

A commitment to participate, recruit and fundraise for "Rally for Rakhma" will make a huge impact on residents with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. All proceeds raised will go towards the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible bus.

Every registered individual and team, regardless of size or dollar amount raised is important to the success of this event. Registration fee is \$25 and includes a T-shirt, snacks and water along the walk/run/bike. You can register at

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/840224>. If you can't make the event but wish to donate: <https://givemn.org/project/Rally-for-Rakhma-Stroll-for-those-Living-with-memory-loss53f23ce074e8f>.

To learn more about Rakhma or event details visit the website at <http://www.rakhma.org>.

Patrick's Cabaret plans special program Sept. 26

"run...towards a mythology of power" will be held at Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., on Sept. 26, 7:30pm. "run..." is an interrogation of the ways enslaved Africans remapped the idea of themselves in relationship to the slaveocracy—that the project of disturbing the fixed images of themselves, whether by sign or story or object, was a necessary precursor to their flight. Furthermore this series is the prism through which we examine old signifiers and develop new speak, new myths, of origin and possibility. That Harriet's last act was to place herself in the cham-

ber of her own pistol to cross the mason Dixie through time to release political prisoners. That Nat Turner wrote escape routes for his ancestors in Ferguson and those assaulted at the border. To tell ourselves new stories is no escapism, just as running away was no coward's act. These poems then serve as maps for a new geography of knowledge and are a way of negotiation. Tickets are \$10 at the door (cash or check only). The event is curated by Chaun Webster and will feature Webster and Lisa Brimmer.

Fair Trade Market planned Oct. 18-19

Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Community is hosting its 2014 Sustainable Fair Trade Market Sat., Oct. 18, 1-6pm and Sun., Oct. 19, 10am-2pm at 4537 Third Ave. S. This event is open to everyone.

The Market provides guests an opportunity to purchase handicrafts and foods that are made and grown with integrity. Guests receive information that explains how each exhibitor's work aligns with social justice and sustainability.

Reserve by Oct. 24 for lutefisk dinner

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., is having its Annual Lutefisk Dinner on Sat., Nov. 1. Individual sittings will take place at 3pm, 4:15pm and 5:30pm. The menu will be lutefisk with white sauce and butter, homemade meatballs/gravy, potatoes, coleslaw, cranberries, lefse and angel food cake with lemon topping. The dinner is served family style. The cost is \$16 and reservations are necessary. Please call the church office at 612-722-9527 by Oct. 24 to reserve your spot.

Annual Trunk and Treat slated Oct. 31

Trunk and Treat on Fri., Oct. 31, from 5:30-7:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, in the parking lot on 37th Ave. and 39th St. Kids are invited to come in costume for treats in a safe environment. Families are welcome to the celebration.

Continued on page 15

DON'S

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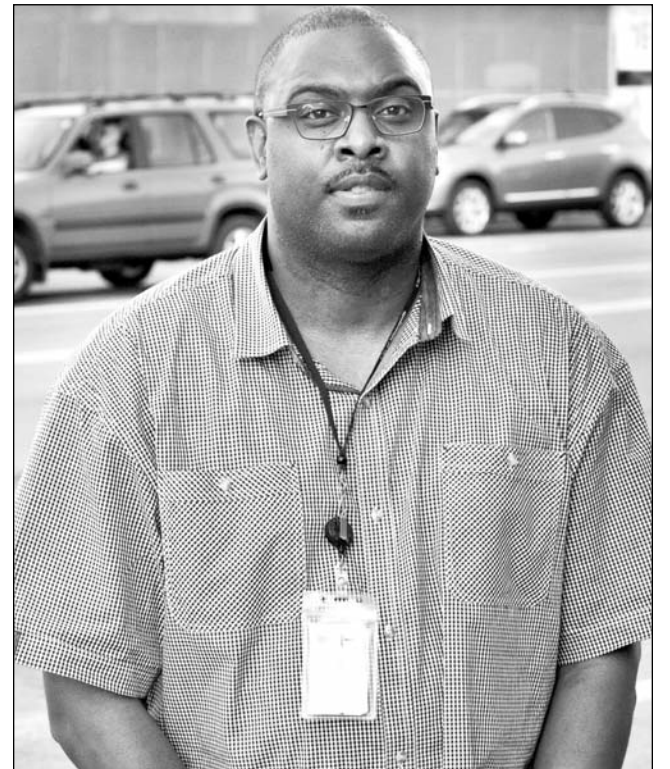
Building Community - One Block at a Time



JoAnna Lund, community engagement coordinator with Longfellow Community Council (LCC), commuting to a community meeting. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Aaron Flanders, Recreation Director at Hiawatha School Park. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Shun Tillman, crime prevention specialist, helps keep Minneapolis Police Department 3rd precinct streets safe. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Creating safe, live-able communities can be approached from at least two ways. What can residents do, and what can police do? We'll look at the first question, highlighting resources in our neighborhoods for strengthening the community by becoming more involved.

Minneapolis has five police precincts. The 3rd Precinct, to which Longfellow and Nokomis belongs, is the largest - stretching from Highway 62 to Interstate 94 and River Road to Interstate 35. It represents well over 75,000 households. The precinct station sits at the SW corner of Minnehaha Ave. and E. Lake St.

Shun Tillman is the point-person at the precinct to go to with questions or concerns (he can be reached at 612-673-2846). Tillman has been at his job for 19 years. He came to it as a civilian, not as a police officer. He was employed by the Whittier Alliance as a youth outreach worker when asked to apply for the position of crime prevention specialist.

Tillman serves as a liaison between the community and the

police force. His focus is on improving livability of residents in the 3rd Precinct. To do this, he needs to hear from people. "Citizens are the eyes, ears and mouth of the community," he says. He encourages residents to report anything suspicious, using these guidelines:

- Call 311 for a non-emergency such as abandoned cars, barking dogs, unkempt homes or lawns, and unshoveled walkways; and
- Call 911 for anything requiring immediate police, ambulance or fire response. If you call 911 and think the person(s) in question may be using a scanner to intercept police dispatches, tell the dispatcher. A scanner can be purchased for less than \$5 at any electronics store, and makes it easy for persons to leave a crime scene before the police can arrive.

So, what can each person do to help build stronger, safer neighborhoods?:

- Join your block club. If you don't know how, contact Tillman for the name and # of your block club leader;
- Read your neighborhood newspaper and block club news;

- Subscribe to E-Democracy postings for your neighborhood;
- Concerned about trash in the local parks or along the Mississippi River? Contact Parks Commissioner Scott Vreeland at 612-721-7892;

- Concerned about the safety or presence of homeless people or panhandlers? Contact St. Stephen's Street Outreach Team at 612-879-7624; and
- Want to connect with other neighbors around issues of mutual concern? Contact the Longfellow Community Council at 612-722-4529 or the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) at 612-724-5652.

Tillman concludes, "Don't be shy to reach out to the police: trust your gut, be proactive, make the call. We're here to help."

Aaron Flanders is the Recreation Director at Hiawatha School Park. Previously a youth outreach mentor for kids ages 12-17 at Longfellow and Matthews Parks, Flanders always thought he would be a high school teacher—but things turned out differently. Now a 15 year Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board employee, he says, "It feels really good to be

perceived as a constant in the lives of young people. I'm teaching kids, but not in a classroom kind of way." Every time he sees kids in the neighborhood, whether he's working or not, he asks them, "How's school going? How are your grades this year? How do you feel about school lately?" Flanders wants to show kids how important it is to be accountable for their actions, that adults care and are paying attention.

Hiawatha School Park has a K-6th grade latch-key program and offers a place for 12-15 middle school aged kids to hang out with their friends after school. What does Flanders think people can do to create a safer community? "Engage with young people whenever you can. Be noticeable, be caring, be conspicuous. Family structure within the home is where it all starts, but interactions with people in the neighborhood can really make a difference too," Flanders asserts.

Although frustrated by what he calls, "the never-ending struggle" of kids getting involved in crime, Flanders is still "way more encouraged than discouraged."

"Crime happens in the city. Let's be mindful of it. Let's be real with the kids, showing them both high expectations and compassion. Take a good look at your own biases and stereotypes. We have kids in this neighborhood from many different countries, and we've all got to learn to get along," Flanders said.

JoAnna Lund is the community engagement coordinator for the Longfellow Community Council (LCC). "LCC exists to strengthen the message that together we can make our neighborhood safer," Lund says. LCC is Longfellow's neighborhood civic participation organization. Anyone is welcome to attend meetings, events or committees, and anyone who lives and/or works in Longfellow can cast a vote on community issues.

There are five committees within LCC: Environment and Transportation, Neighborhood Development, River Gorge Issues, Community Connections and Advancement (fundraising/promotion). "Though the work of each committee varies, the underlying questions are the same," Lund says. "How is this project or proposal strengthening our community? How is this helping to better connect people?"

Ultimately a neighborhood is defined not by its physical boundaries but by the character of its residents. Lund believes Longfellow is an exceptional place to live and work. She adds, "The people here are passionate, they are forward thinking, they are robust gardeners, they support the more than 450 local businesses that call this place home."

To learn more about ways to connect with other Longfellow residents, visit the LCC website at www.longfellow.org. Their monthly happy hours at various Longfellow restaurants are a great way to get started.

NENA uses a Task Forces Model for their organizational structure. To get more involved in the East Nokomis Neighborhood Association, call 612-724-5652 or visit their website at <http://www.nokomiseast.org>.

Harvest Dinner

Thursday, October 9, 5-7 p.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church
3207 37th Avenue South
612-722-0232

Turkey Dinner with all the fixin's
Adults: \$10.00 Children: \$6 (ages 5-12; under 5, free)
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For Online Registration Visit
cityofrichfield.org

Events planned at Nokomis Library

Nokomis Library, 5100 S 34th Ave., has the following events planned in the coming month:

—Opera Viva! Opera 101 will be held Thur., Oct. 16, 6:30pm. Registration required. Register online or call 612-543-6800. No experience necessary! Minnesota Opera teaching artists will present a brief history of opera and a special 2015-16 season preview, with live musical examples.

—Register (required) now for a Wed., Oct. 1 (10am) presentation of "World War I: Life on the Home Front." Registration required and can be done online or call 612-543-6800. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. Local historian Iric Nathanson will talk about life in Minnesota as the war raged on in Europe. Nathanson is the author of "Modern Times in the Big City - Minneapolis in 1914," Hennepin History Magazine.

—Homework Help on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-7:30pm, and continues through Nov. 20 (not available Oct. 13 or Oct. 16). Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students. No advance sign-up needed.

—Friends of the Nokomis Library Adult Book Club will meet on Thur., Oct. 23, 6:30pm. —55+ Book Club: On Wed., Oct. 1, 3pm, they will discuss "The House I Loved" by Tatiana de Rosnay.

—Game On for Kids will take place on Thur., Oct. 2, 4:30-6pm. This event is for families; collectible card-playing! There will be Pokemon and Magic the Gathering cards, and you can bring your own, too.

—Crafty Minnesota: Needle Felting is planned for Sat., Oct. 11, 3-5pm. Registration required, and register online or call 612-543-6800. For adults. Plant hangers, owl art and knotty jewelry are all back and better than ever. Learn a simple collection of knots used to make unique jewelry and funky accessories. Materials provided.

—Diabetes Support Group meets Friday, Oct. 3, 1-3pm. Are you a person with diabetes or pre-diabetes? Share experiences with others living with diabetes and get tips and advice from a health care professional on blood sugar management, diet and exercise. Please call Nokomis Healthy Seniors, 612-729-5499, to make arrangements for free transportation to the program.

—Fearless and Friendly Knitting Group will meet Wed., Oct. 8 and Oct. 22 from 10am-noon. This meeting is for men and women at all skill levels. Make new friends while creating your own handmade masterpieces! Drop in, or stay the whole time. Learn how to knit or practice new techniques. Bring your own needles and yarn, please. Other needlecrafts welcome!

—The Nokomis Library Writing Group will meet Mon., Oct. 6, 6:30pm. Join fellow writers for encouragement, feedback, and to help each other take writing to the next level. Bring works in progress, paper and pen. You will explore different ways to think about writing.

—Mystery/Thriller Adult Book Club meets Mon., Oct. 13, 6:30pm. In October they will discuss "Arne Dahl" by Misterioso.

Local library schedule of events

There are a lot more events at the local libraries than we could list here. For a more complete list go to the online calendar at www.longfellownokomismessenger.com/events.

—"Paws to Read With an Animal" meets Sat., Oct. 18, 2:30-4:30pm. This event is for families.

—"Game On! Gaming Thurs." takes place on every Thursday through Nov. 20, 4:30-6pm. This event is for teens. Play PlayStation 4 or Xbox 360 at the library!

—The Graphic Novel Adult Book Club meets Thur., Oct. 9, 6:30pm. In October they will discuss "Preacher: Book One and Two" by Garth Ennis.

—The Sci-Fi Adult Book Club meets the first Thursday of each month (Oct. 2) at 6:30pm. On Oct. 2 they will discuss "Cat's Cradle" by Kurt Vonnegut.

—Family Storytime for children of all ages, and their parents, meets Fri., Sept. 26, and Oct. 3, 10 and 17, at 10:30am and is for children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

—Baby Storytime, for children from birth to 24 months (and their parent or caregiver) meets every Saturday through Nov. 22 (except Oct. 21) at 9:30am.

—LEGO Lab meets Sat., Oct. 4, from 2-4pm. This event is for families. We've got the bricks, but we need you to bring your imagination. No experience necessary. We'll have LEGOS and DUPLOS®, so all ages are welcome.

—Mark your calendars for the Used Book Sale, Sat., Oct. 25, 9am-3pm. Bargain hunters and book lovers take note: the Friends of the Library will hold a sale of hundreds of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books in hardcover and paperback.

Events scheduled at East Lake Library

East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St., has numerous scheduled events in the next month:

—"First Pages for Adults: Writing for Magazine Publications" is scheduled for Sun., Oct. 19, 3-4:30pm. Register (required) online or by calling 612-543-8425. Have you always had a secret desire to see your name in a magazine? Do you have a knack for writing, but just don't know how to get published? Learn tips that will get you on your way to writing for magazines.

—A Used Book Sale is planned for Sat., Oct. 11, 9am-4pm and Sun., Oct. 12, noon-3pm. The Library will hold a sale of hundreds of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books in hardcover and paperback. Most books are withdrawn from the Hennepin County Library system or donated by the public. Funds raised will benefit the library. Book donations are being accepted at the library. Adult, teen and children's books, CDs and DVDs in good condition.

—Local author Alison McGhee will give a talk on Mon., Oct. 13, 6:30-8pm. Register (required) online or by calling 612-543-8425. McGhee writes for all ages and in all forms, including poet-

ry, stories, novels, picture books and essays.

—"Art for Life: Silk Scarf, Banner or Hoop Painting" is planned for Fri., Oct. 17, 10:30am-noon. For adults 55+. Registration (required) online or by calling 612-543-8425. Learn a variety of methods for painting on silk. Experiment with a new tie-dye technique and batik-painting. Materials provided.

—Homework Help is available every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3:30-7:30pm, and continues through Nov. 20. Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students.

—Senior Surf Day is planned on Fri., Oct. 24, 9:30-11:30am. Registration is required. Register online or call 612-543-8425. Learn about computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line.®

—The Adult Book Club will meet Fri., Oct. 10, 10:30-11:30am. They will discuss "Mornings on Horseback" by David McCullough.

—Family Storytime is held on Fridays through Nov. 21, 10:15-11:15am. This event is for children of all ages.

—Baby Storytime is scheduled on Fridays through Nov. 21, at 11:15am. This event is for children from birth to 24 months and their parent or caregiver.

—Conversation Circles will Sundays through Nov. 30, 1-3pm. Non-native English speakers can practice their English and make new friends in an informal, volunteer-led setting, and learn

about the library, too. Call 612-543-5669 for more information in English or, in Hmong, 612-543-8845; in Somali, 612-543-8756; in Spanish, 612-543-8510. —Job Search Assistance is planned for every Tuesday from 3-5pm.

—Childcare Group Storytime, Wed., Oct. 1, 10:30am. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for the children in your care.

—Teen Anime Club (for teens) meets Thur., Oct. 2, at 6-7:30pm. Watch anime, discuss manga and share artwork. Something different every time!

—"Make This: Nontraditional Comic Arts" is planned for Thur., Oct. 2, 6-8pm. Register (required) online or call 612-543-8425. For grades 7-12. Think comics are only created with pens and India ink? Think again. Explore the range of media used to create contemporary comics including scratchboard, photocopies, collage and printmaking, and more traditional materials. No previous comic arts experience necessary.

Events slated at Roosevelt Library

Roosevelt Library, 4026 28th Ave. S., will sponsor a number of events in the coming month: —There will be a Used Book Sale on Sat., Oct. 18, 10am-3pm. The

Friends of the Library will hold a sale of hundreds of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books in hardcover and paperback. Most books are withdrawn from the Hennepin County Library system or donated by the public. Funds raised will benefit the library.

—K-12 Homework help will be available every Tuesday through October, from 3:30-7:30pm. Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students. No advance sign-up needed.

—Baby Storytime will be on Saturdays through Oct. 11, at 9:30am. For children from birth to 24 months and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format designed especially for babies. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

—There will be a "Library Lab for Kids: Art" on Sat., Oct. 4, 2-4pm. This event is form families and will focus on an art project (materials provided).

—The Mystery/Thriller Adult Book Club meets on Sat., Oct. 4, 1pm.

—"Paws to Read with an Animal" will take place Sat., Oct. 11, 3-5pm. This event is for families. Volunteers will help put young readers at ease so they can cuddle up with a certified therapy animal and practice reading aloud. Most libraries host dogs and you can call ahead to see if other animals will be visiting.

—Family Storytime meets Tuesdays through October at 6:30pm. For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

For library activities see the online calendar at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

Bethany Lutheran
3901 36th Ave. S. • 612-729-9376
www.bethanyon36th.com

Pastor Jo Bauman
Sundays Worship
Education: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesdays Bible Study: 9:30 am
Saturdays Oct. 4 & 18: Soul+Food Dinner Church at 5 pm
Tuesday Oct. 7: Power Down Community Lunch at Noon
Friday Oct. 31: Trunk & Treat Event: 5:30-7:30 pm
All are Welcome!

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

Pastor Ryan Eikenbary-Barber
Children especially welcome (Handicapped accessible)
Sunday Oct. 5: Worship 10:30 am
Sundays, Oct. 12, 19, 26
Contemporary Worship: 8:45 am
Sunday School for all: 10 am
Classic Worship: Sundays: 11 am
Wednesdays: 5:45 pm
Meal and activities—everyone.

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

Rev. Pam Armstrong
Adult Classes: 9:45 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School (children): 10:45 am (Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)

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

Pastors Dan Ankerfelt & Sally Ankerfelt
Sunday Worship: 9:45 am
Sunday School: 9:45 am
(Handicapped accessible)

Minnehaha United Methodist
3701 E. 50th St. • 612-721-6231
www.minnehaha.org

Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Worship: 11 am
(Sept.-May) 10:30 am (June-Aug.)
Education for all ages: 10:15 (Sept.-May)
(Childcare; fully accessible)

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

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.net

Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
Worship: 9 and 10:30 am,
Summer: 9 am only
Education for all: 9 am
(Childcare; Wheelchair Acc., Braille)
Coffee 10 am

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

Pastors Derek Johnson & Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10:30 am
Children's Church: 10:30 am
Oct. 5 & Oct. 26 - One service 10:30 am
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays: 7 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.

Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be in the *Messenger* before October 20 for the October 30 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, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before October 20 for the October 30 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Messenger's* website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

BATHROOMS

Bathroom/kitchen!! Basement finishing. Bad water pressure? Sinks, Toilets and tub/surrounds. etc. Ceramic tile. Basement bathrooms installed Call 612-275-9815. 12-14

CARPET INSTALLING

Very experienced carpet and vinyl installer. Will work weekends. Haul away old and pick up new if needed. My rates are reasonable. Call 612-998-5236. 10-14

DOG WALKING

Dog Walking, pet sitting in your home or mine. Sheri 612-867-7857. 10-14

EMPLOYMENT

Animal Lovers: Looking for part-time people to care for pets in your home while owners travel. All pets are pre-screened and placement is based upon needs

and habits of each pet. Call 952-837-1877. 10-14

The *Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger* is looking for local reporters to write news and feature stories on a freelance basis. Pay is based on small stipend per story. Journalism students or graduates are preferred, but not required. Prior newspaper experience a must. Send resume, cover letter and clips to: *Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger*, 1885 University Av. S., St. Paul, MN 55104.

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RENTALS

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SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

Reimbursed Senior Volunteer Position: The Lutheran Social Service Senior Companion & Foster Grandparent Programs are seeking volunteers 55+ years willing to help seniors as friendly visitors in their home & outings in the community OR help children in school settings as mentors and tutors. Tax-free stipend, mileage reimbursement & other benefits. Contact Sara Koch 651-310-9448 sara.koch@lssmn.org www.mnseniorcorps.org. 10-14

SERVICES

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WINDOWS

Basement Window Guy.com. Replacement windows, glass block windows. Free estimates. 651-208-8210. Lic.# BC 646746. B-14

YARD SALE

Big Yard Sale - Fri/Sat. Sept. 26 & 27, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, 5205 - 44th Avenue South, Mpls., MN 55417. Furniture, Electronics, Small Appliances, Books, Home Decor & More! 10-14

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In our community

Continued from page 11

Soul+Food planned at Bethany in Oct.

Soul+Food is planned for Saturdays, Oct. 4 and 18, 5-7:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.). Feed your body and soul; prepare the meal together in community and worship while we share food at the table. Special Kids' Time while adults get the meal together! Reservations appreciated by emailing office@bethanyon36th.com.

WAMM auction scheduled Oct. 5

The Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) Silent Auction has been called "the best Silent Auction in town" and features over 250 items such as restaurant gift certificates, gourmet dinners, vacation homes, health and wellness services, theater tickets, books, artwork, expanded raffle and much more. The event is planned at St. Joan of Arc, 4537 Third Ave. S. on Sun., Oct. 5. A complimentary buffet will be held from 5-6:30pm with auction open till 8pm and includes supervised children's activities, live auction, and live fun!

Suggested donation of \$10-\$30 is requested (but no one will be turned away).

Johnson meets with constituents

Join Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson meets at various local locations to discuss issues with constituents. Upcoming events include:
—Sat., Sept. 27, 9:30am at Firoast Mountain Café, 3800 37th Ave. S.;
—Sat., Oct. 4, 9:30am at Keen Eye Coffee, 2803 E. 38th St.;
—Sat., Oct. 11, 9:30am, Mel-O-Glaze Bakery, 4800 28th Ave. S.;
—Mon., Oct. 13, 7pm, SENA Board meeting; and
—Thur., Oct. 16, 6:30pm, LCC Board meeting.

Our Lady of Peace plans block party

The Our Lady of Peace Fall Festival and Block Party is a Nokomis Community tradition for 20+ years! Neighbors from Hale, Page, Diamond Lake and Nokomis area neighborhoods will join in on Fri., Sept. 26, 5-11:55pm at the church, 5426 12th Ave. S. Among the planned activities are carnival rides, spaghetti dinner, a bag toss tournament, climbing wall and black light dodge ball. Join in at the beer garden or at bingo, or just dance! There will be games for all ages, with a kids' parade, vendor

Cinema in the Cemetery returns with alien invasion at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery

Friends of the Cemetery in partnership with The Trylon microcinema and All-Star Productions will show The "Thing From Another World" Oct. 8 to benefit Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, 2925 Cedar Ave. The proceeds from the event will support the Friends of the Cemetery's efforts to restore the limestone pier fence that serves as the border of the cemetery along Lake St. and Cedar Ave.

Gates will open at 5:30pm and the film will start at dusk (approximately 7pm). Moviegoers arriving early will have the opportunity to experience the historic cemetery and partake in a smart phone history hunt. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs, but pets will not be allowed during the event. Coolers and alcoholic beverages will also be prohibited during the event, but food will be available for purchase from the Taco Taxi food truck.

Tickets are \$8; kids under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.filmsfromanotherplanet.brownpapertickets.com or at the door (cash only).

On-street parking is available; no vehicle parking allowed in the cemetery. Using public transportation or biking to the event is encouraged as the Lake Street light rail stop is a short walk from the cemetery and it is also easily accessible from multiple bike routes. Bike parking will be provided within the cemetery.

Alternative dates for inclement weather Oct. 15.

If you are unable to attend this event, but would still like to support the fence restoration project, you can go online to the Friends of the Cemetery site and learn how to Adopt-A-Picket for \$30 or make any size donation.

fair, and a fire truck visit. There will also be a sweetshop and coffee, as well as a food court... and of course, raffles!

Estate/rummage sale scheduled Oct. 4

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran

Church will have their Annual Estate and Rummage Sale on Sat., Oct. 4. The sale runs from 9am-1pm with bag time starting at noon. Lunch is served with sloppy joes and homemade bars available for purchase. The annual sale takes place at the church, 4101 37th Ave. S.

Junket announces expanded hours

Recognizing that creative inspiration strikes more often than just two weekends a month, Minnehaha Avenue's rapidly-growing creativity-meets-reuse retailer, Junket: Tossed & Found, announced that they are now open Wed.-Sun. from 10am-8pm.

In tandem with Junket's retail expansion, Junket also launched arts programming facilitated by Longfellow neighborhood artist and educator Meg Erke. Erke's credentials include a BA in Visual Art from Luther College and a Masters in Education in Creative Arts from Boston's Lesley University. Her work has been featured and sold at Junket since the store's opening in Nov., 2012.

Kearns' goal for this collaboration (in which Erke will facilitate free and casual, drop-in creative sessions at the shop every Thur. evening from 6:30-8pm) is to inspire customers of all ages to engage more actively with their own creativity and to promote and encourage individual, incremental redirection of materials away from the waste stream and toward productive use (whether for expressive, commercial, gift-giving, or other intentional purposes).

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School board

Continued from page 5

and many others in the district. As a community activist and long-time resident of North Minneapolis, I have witnessed the struggles of students and parents in finding high-quality educational options and have witnessed the impact academic fail-

ure has on individuals and communities. This is why I made education a centerpiece of my work on the City Council and my campaign for mayor.

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

While some great things are happening in MPS, much can be improved. Only half of our students graduate in four years. Most students aren't being prepared for today's jobs, let alone tomorrow's. We have one of the na-

tion's worst achievement gaps. These are moral issues and they are also a threat to our economic future. There hasn't been a sense of urgency on the board about them. I will bring that sense of urgency.

What do you think are the strengths of MPS? What are the areas for growth?

Our strength is in our people—we have a rich diversity of backgrounds, many outstanding educators, and many dedicated students and families. As Min-

nesotans, we care about education! However, we've tolerated our achievement gap for too long. As adults, we ALL need to work together with urgency—on the School Board, at the District, in schools, and at home—and hold ourselves and each other accountable for achieving equity and excellence in educating our children.

What do you propose be done to close the achievement gap?

Teachers are the most important

in-school factor in student achievement—we must invest in and adequately support them. Parents must be informed and empowered to take ownership of student success. Schools must have flexibility to institute measures that best suit their communities' needs. Funding must be allocated transparently and equitably. The School Board and MPS must clearly communicate goals, use real-time data to track progress and improve performance, and be held accountable for outcomes.

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In our community

Continued from page 15

Power lunch planned Oct. 7 at Bethany

"Power Down: Lunch Unplugged on 36th Ave." will be held Tues., Oct. 7, at noon at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.). Share a light lunch with your Longfellow neighbors while having a chance to connect and network. A \$5 donation towards lunch is appreciated but not required. For more information email office@bethany-on36th.com.

St. Albert focuses on faith Sept. 29

"Refreshing Catholicism" is scheduled at St. Albert the Great on Mon., Sept. 29 at 7pm. The program is for those looking to refresh the faith they were born into or who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P., leads the talk and discussion. All are welcome at St. Albert the Great, on the corner of E. 29th St. and 32nd Ave. Call 612-724-3643 or email www.saintalbertthegreat.org with questions.

Big River Yoga celebrates Sept. 27

Big River Yoga is celebrating its one year anniversary in the Se-

ward Neighborhood with an Open House on Sat., Sept. 27 from 9am-1pm located at 3336 East 25th St. (across from the Birchwood) in Minneapolis. Everyone is invited to participate in free yoga classes, a Thai massage demonstration, and savings on all our offerings, plus enjoy treats and refreshments from the Birchwood Café.

Big River Yoga offers a variety of yoga classes for beginners, continuing and advanced students. Bodywork compliments their offerings including Thai Massage, Swedish and Deep-Tissue Massage.

To learn more about Big River Yoga's Open House, yoga classes and upcoming events, visit www.biriveriyoga.com.

Opera performance slated at library

Minnesota Opera artists are presenting a free Opera Viva! performance and educational event at Nokomis Library, Thur., Oct. 16, 6:30pm. The event will teach about opera through song, performance and conversation.

"Minnesota Opera is thrilled to bring our artists into Hennepin County libraries this season to share the joy, humor and drama of the operatic art form," said Minnesota Opera Teaching Artist Angie Keeton. "It will be a great opportunity for community members to engage directly with our talented artists and artistic staff. You can register online at www.hclib.org or call the library.

Seward Co-Op customers donate \$18,000

Seward Co-Op, a 42-year-old grocery co-op with a strong history of supporting the local community, donated \$18,065 to Nawayee Center School as a part of its SEED donation program. Nawayee Center School is an alternative urban high school focusing on American Indian youth in grades seven through grade 12.

SEED is an initiative that was created by Seward Co-op in 2011 as a way for its customers to deliver on the company's commitment to giving back to the surrounding community. A new organization is selected as a SEED recipient each month and is featured throughout the Seward Co-op store. Customers during that month can round up their purchases to the nearest dollar, or donate as much as they would like to the receiving organization.

"The SEED program was developed to bring together and celebrate the local community in which our customers shop and live," says Tom Vogel, Seward Co-op's marketing manager. "Since we created the program in 2011, we have donated more than \$250,000 to local organizations and have seen strong continued support from those that share our core values."

Recipient organizations are considered and accepted based upon how closely their mission aligns with that of Seward Co-op. One month each quarter is reserved for a food shelf organization.

Twin Cities organizations interested in becoming a SEED program recipient can submit an application online.

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