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# Shifting Gears: Two wheeling Minneapolis

By JILL BOOGREN

A funny thing happens when people decide to bike more in Minneapolis: They tend to keep biking more.

Just ask Diana McKeown, who two years ago kickstarted a new riding lifestyle by participating in the city's first "30 Days of Biking" challenge. Designed to promote bikes as a viable option to cars, the 30 Day is a friendly nudge to get people riding every day, even if it's just around the block. Without planning to McKeown ended up biking 99 days in a row.

"It just transformed how I felt about biking," McKeown says. "I used to think really hard about biking. Okay, I'm going to bike, a mile and a half, prep my brain." Now she bikes a lot more often, for work, errands, and fun, and is even training for a triathlon.

From her home in the Longfellow neighborhood, McKeown has biked — often with her husband — to the Seward Co-op, area parks, the library, Franklin

Freeze, Target, the Midtown YWCA, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Farmers Market, Mill City Farmers Market, Vikings football games, and up to Victory 44 off of Victory Memorial Parkway.

"Our favorite is to bike along the River Road and go to Sea Salt at Minnehaha Falls," McKeown says, adding that bike dinners are "a great way to exercise, be next to each other and talk, and save money."

McKeown is part of an upward bicycling trend in the city where, the 2011 City of Minneapolis Bicycling Account reports, ridership has increased by nearly half since 2007.

Being close to the W. River Parkway, Minnehaha Parkway, and the Midtown Greenway helps. But while our off-road trails are tremendous assets, the real shift is in the on-street bike lanes. As stated on the city's website, Minneapolis has doubled the miles of on-street bikeways over the past two years. 37 miles of designated lanes were added in



Street markings on the RiverLake Greenway bicycle boulevard at Nokomis and 40th St. There is an upward bicycling trend in the city where the 2011 City of Minneapolis Bicycling Account reports ridership has increased by nearly half since 2007. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

2011 alone, and more will be added this year.

Adding these lanes is essential to improving the safety and comfort of all riders. When McKeown's work moved from the nearby Green Institute to northeast Minneapolis, she knew that commuting by bike meant riding some streets. For her, having designated lanes has made a big difference.

"I know it's just paint, but I feel so much more comfortable," she says.

edge that they have their own spot on the road."

Markings differ depending on the type of bikeway. The RiverLake Greenway bike boulevard (on 40th St. west of Nokomis Ave. S, 42nd St. to the east) is meant to give bikers a quieter place to ride. Cars are allowed, but the emphasis is on biking not driving.

Designated bike lanes, like the ones on Chicago Ave. south of 49th St. and 26th Ave. south of Franklin Ave., may have solid lines indicating they're for bikes

**"Our favorite (trip) is to bike along the River Road and go to Sea Salt at Minnehaha Falls."**

- Longfellow resident Diana McKeown



Longfellow resident Diana McKeown is ready to roll. McKeown makes regular trips on her bike to the Seward Co-op, Franklin Freeze, Target, the Midtown YWCA, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Farmers Market, Mill City Farmers Market, Vikings football games, and up to Victory 44 off of Victory Memorial Parkway.

That's because the paint, or in some cases a more durable poly preform tape, used to stripe bikeways creates a visual cue that alerts motorists and cyclists along the roadway that both are present.

This provides a buffer and, says City of Minneapolis Bike Walk Ambassador David Peterson, "gives bicyclists the knowl-

or dashed lines where vehicles turn or merge. The city has posted videos on its website [www.minneapolisismn.gov/bicycles](http://www.minneapolisismn.gov/bicycles) to show what the symbols mean.

All of this is designed to get more people out biking.

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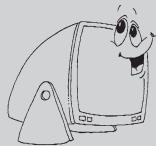
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# Low winds found to be culprit in damage to Sabo Bridge

By JAN WILLMS

It's not the waters that are troubled, but the bridge.

The Martin Olav Sabo Pedestrian Bridge crosses over Hiawatha Avenue, and not a body of water, but an incident in February has led to concerns about its quality.

The bridge, built in 2007, was renamed for Rep. Martin Sabo, a fourteen-term legislator.

It was closed on February 20, 2012, when two of the cables that support the bridge fell due to cracks in their attachment points; additional significant cracks were subsequently found in two other support plates.

The bridge did not reopen to pedestrian traffic until June 1, 2012. Temporary support structures were put in place.

The bridge was designed by California-based engineering company URS, a company that has had dealings with other Minnesota structures, most notably the Interstate 35 W bridge over the Mississippi River before it collapsed in 2007.

This history of URS has caused a pause in additional proposed work by URS in the area. The company is seeking a \$94 million engineering contract for the proposed Southwest Corridor light rail.

A hold has been put on that action by the Metropolitan Council until a full report on the Sabo Bridge is received from Wiss, Janney, Elstner (WJE), the firm hired



The Sabo Bridge was closed on February 20, when two of the cables that support the bridge fell due to cracks in their attachment points; additional significant cracks were subsequently found in two other support plates. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

by the city and Hennepin County to investigate the incident.

"We were hired by the city and county to, among other things, investigate the cause of the incident," explained Mark Chauvin, WJE project engineer. "As part of our work, we performed a peer review of the portion of the bridge/cable that was affected. We requested and were provided with design calculations to perform that task."

Chauvin said fatigue cracking

can be a problem with steel structures. "The fatigue cracks developed significantly enough that it eventually led to the failure of the cable diaphragm plates," he said. "We will continue to work with the city and county to evaluate options to retrofit the bridge."

The analysis of the bridge study showed that low wind speeds of five to ten miles per hour result in cable vibrations that induce damaging stress range cycles at fatigue sensitive details in

the cable diaphragm plates. The stresses generated by these light winds might have been overlooked by the engineers who designed the bridge, according to the report.

The summary report by WJE has caused concern to many city and county officials involved with the bridge repair and planning for other infrastructure under the direction of URS.

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# Longfellow Messenger founder Bill Milbrath passes away

(Editor's note: Bill Milbrath, a community activist who brought neighborhood journalism to Longfellow, passed away June 10 at the age of 83. Bill and his first wife, Maureen, founded the Longfellow Messenger in 1983 and sold the paper, later renamed the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger, to its current publisher, deRuyter Nelson Publications, in 1986. In remembering Bill, we are reprinting this profile of him that first appeared in the Messenger in 2010.)

By IRIC NATHANSON

"A newspaper to serve the people, institutions and business enterprises of the Longfellow Neighborhood begins its circulation today."

With this front page announcement, Bill and Maureen Milbrath launched their Longfellow Messenger in March 1983. For more than three years, the Milbraths would publish the Messenger from their home on 46th Avenue, before selling it to another local newspaper company in the late 1986. Today, the paper, now known as the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger, continues to chronicle life in Longfellow, with an expanded circulation into the adjacent Nokomis East neighborhoods.

Bill had retired from the staff of the University's Extension Service in the summer of 1982 and was ready to start a new post-retirement career. The germ of an idea for the new career took hold when Bill happened to come across a copy of the Whittier Globe, a community newspaper in the Whittier neighborhood. "That got me thinking about our neighborhood in Longfellow and its lack of a community paper," Bill recalled. "It seemed to me that was a need that was waiting to be filled."

With no previous journalistic experience, Bill and his first wife, Maureen, decided they would fill that need. "Today, you would need a business plan and a market study to launch a new business venture, but we didn't do any of that. We just plunged ahead. It was like jumping into a cold lake with both feet," he noted.

After spending about six months planning their new venture at their kitchen table, the Milbraths put together a prototype issue that Bill took around to show community groups and prospective advertisers. "The advertising was critical," Bill recalls. "We needed it to cover our costs and generate a small profit for us. Surprisingly enough, we got a good reaction when we went around to small businesses and community agencies in the neighborhood. Many of them told us that they were looking for an opportunity to get their message out to their neighbors."

Bill and Maureen also needed volunteer writers for their fledgling publication. One-by-one they appeared. Two of them, Carola Bratt and Marilyn Johnson, are both Becketwood residents today.

When Bill had signed up enough advertisers to cover their publication costs, he and Maureen were ready for the Messen-



With this front page announcement, Bill and Maureen Milbrath launched their Longfellow Messenger in March 1983. Today, the paper, now known as the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger, continues to chronicle life in Longfellow, with an expanded circulation into the adjacent Nokomis East neighborhoods.

ger's debut in the spring of 1983. Their lead story reported on plans to create a new neighborhood organization that would later be known as the Longfellow Community Council.

Earlier, in the prototype edition, the Milbraths explained how they had selected the name for the paper. "It seemed quite logical to use 'Longfellow' as part of the name because it has been used informally for many years to describe the place where we live," they noted.

"Longfellow is, of course, the name of the of the nineteenth century poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who was inspired to write his poem, the Song of Hiawatha, when someone sent him an early photograph of Minnehaha Falls.

"Longfellow also is the author of the poem 'Paul Revere's Ride,'" the Milbraths went on to explain. "Revere certainly was a messenger; and a newspaper, bearing news and information is surely performing the role of a messenger. That's it. The creation of a messenger for Longfellow—the Longfellow Messenger."

Each month, when Bill laid out the paper with the help of a local graphic designer, Nance Weston, he knew that the paper's length had to be in multiples of four. "We started with eight pages, and then we could go to 12 or 16," he noted. "It was always a scramble to match up the advertising with the news stories. Sometimes we would have enough ads to do 12 or even 16

pages, but sometimes we had to cut the size back to eight pages. Up to the last minute, we were either cutting back stories or frantically looking for new ones to fill up the space."

Bills said that his biggest problem was putting together a reliable delivery system.

"We used neighborhood kids to deliver papers door-to-door and we paid them 5 cents a copy to make the deliveries, but that didn't always happen. There were times when we discovered stacks of papers that had not gotten delivered. So Maureen and I had to pitch in. And one time we even had Maureen's parents, Gunhild and Hilding Anderson, helping out."

Early on, the Milbraths were in touch with Cal DeRuyter and Tim Nelson at deRuyter Publications in St. Paul, where the Messenger was typeset. When that part of the process was completed, Bill would take the layout pages to a printer in Forest Lake. Three hours later, he would be back home with a trailer filled with 11,000 copies of the Longfellow Messenger.

Eventually, the Milbraths negotiated the sale of their paper to deRuyter Nelson, which continues to publish the Messenger today, under the direction of its editor, Denis Woulfe.

"It feels good to know that something we started more than 25 years ago is still around and contributing to community life here in Longfellow," says Bill, looking back at his second career as a neighborhood journalist.





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# VIEWPOINTS

## Viewpoints

Have you been to any of the concerts at Minnehaha Park this summer? Why not throw together a picnic and head over to the park soon. It's a delightful way to spend a summer evening.

Concerts are scheduled three evenings a week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) at 7 p.m. Many different styles of music are included. Among the upcoming performances: Jazz Cats (July 11), Twin Cities Show Chorus (July 18) and Brio Brass (Aug. 29). And don't forget the Laughing Waters Bluegrass Festival on Labor Day.

Here's a link to a complete list of the Minnehaha concerts: [www.mplsmusicandmovies.com/#!/music/vstc8=minnehaha-falls-bandshell](http://www.mplsmusicandmovies.com/#!/music/vstc8=minnehaha-falls-bandshell). You can also find lists of concerts at other Minneapolis parks at this website.

\* \* \* \* \*

Back in February, I wrote a column about a new book called "Birthday Tributes: To those you love, tell them why, tell them now." It's written by Joy Pritchard O'Donnell and Dawn Pritchard Burrue, two sisters who grew up in the Longfellow/Nokomis neighborhood. You can meet them in person at a book signing on Friday, July 6. It's



## Hiawatha Notebook

By TOM GILSEAN

### Picnic in Minnehaha Park

from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Longfellow Turtle Bread Co., 4205 E. 34th St.

\* \* \* \* \*

Fran McGovern introduced me to the world of newspapering 50 years ago this summer. He was then editor of the Minneapolis Daily Herald, a feisty upstart daily paper which started during a 1962 strike at the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. I was a newspaper carrier and decided to go to downtown Minneapolis to see the newspaper office. McGovern himself showed me around and introduced me to the staff. (I remember that his voice reminded me of Paul Harvey.)

Later, for a short time, I worked at the Daily Herald office. But the paper did not last. Maurice McCaffrey, the paper's financial backer, pulled out when the strike was

over and the Daily Herald stopped publishing.

McGovern tried to several times over the next few years to restart a daily newspaper, but a fire and various other calamities thwarted his efforts. Eventually, his voice reemerged in the Daily American, a newsletter published five days a week until he died in 1990.

I worked for the Daily Herald for just a few months. But it was enough to get me hooked on journalism, a part of my life ever since. Here's a link to a nice reminiscence about McGovern by Darlene Levenson, a longtime writer for the Daily American:

<http://voices.yahoo.com/francis-r-mcgovern-newspaperman-minneapolis-daily-2825669.html>.

Perhaps you, too, have memories of McGovern, the Daily Herald or the Daily American. I'd love to hear these and pass them along to other readers. You can write to me at the address below or in care of the Messenger.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Tom Gilsean has been writing a column for the Messenger since 1997. You can write to him at: [tomgilsean@gmail.com](mailto:tomgilsean@gmail.com). Or in care of the Messenger. You can also reach him by phone at 612-723-0259.)

### Final Public Meeting on Keewaydin Park Master Plan, July 31

Join Minneapolis Park Board planning and recreation staff to discuss revised plans for the park and equipment for the new playgrounds. With excavation work for the school addition already underway, learn about the planning for play areas done in conjunction with input from residents at the previous two public meetings. Tuesday, July 31, 2012, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Keewaydin Park Recreation Center, 3030 53rd St. E. Light refreshments will be served.



Join Minneapolis Park Board planning and recreation staff to discuss revised plans for the park and equipment for the new playgrounds. Above, a photo of the old playground at Keewaydin. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

## NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

By Rita Ulrich and Doug Walter

### Meeting on Keewaydin July 31

be processed on a first come, first serve basis.

As a service to the community, Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 5011 31st Ave S, will be a drop-off site for applications on Friday, June 29, 8 am - 12 pm. Volunteers will be on hand to print applications, answer basic questions. In order to complete

### Morris Park Festival is July 12

Morris Park Community Center will hold its annual summer festival on Thursday, July 12, 6 pm - 8 pm. The festival features the DJs of KidsDance (who also perform at the Night Before New Year's Eve Party), food and games for kids. Admission is free, but there are fees for food and some games. Morris Park is located at 5531 - 39th Ave S.

### Our Business Association Gets to Work

The Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) held its first annual meeting in April, adopting bylaws, electing a Board of Directors, and developing a preliminary set of goals and projects to consider. The board includes four representatives of storefront businesses, two for home-based businesses, two for community organizations, and three at-large representatives.

NEBA has already had two networking events, and will sponsor additional activities over the summer. The first is a breakfast meeting on Friday, July 20, 8:30 am - 10:30 am, at the Nokomis Cafe, 5408 34th Ave S. This is an opportunity to learn about NEBA, upcoming events, and plans for enhancing the Nokomis business community. All storefront, home-based, and professional business people are welcome, as well as representatives of community organizations.

### Riverview Apartments Accepting Applications

Beginning June 29, applications will be available and accepted for Riverview Senior Apartments (currently under construction at 5360 Riverview Road). The apartments are an independent living facility for adults 62 and older. Income limits apply.

Applications are available at [www.commonbond.org](http://www.commonbond.org) or by going to Common Bond's office in St. Paul. They must be dropped off at CommonBond's offices and will

the application, you will need to bring information regarding your monthly income and current assets. Completed applications will be taken over to the CommonBond leasing office at noon.

In August, CommonBond, will contact qualified applicants for additional information and screening. The apartments are expected to be ready for occupancy in November.

### Upcoming NENA Meetings and Events

**Keewaydin Park Public Meeting:** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, Tuesday, July 31, Keewaydin Park Recreation Center, 3030 53rd St. E.

**Livability Working Group:** 6:30 PM, Monday, July 9, at NENA, 3000 East 50th St.

[Morris Park Summer Festival:] 6 PM - 8 PM, Thursday, July 12, 5531 - 39th Ave S.

**Outreach Committee:** 6 PM, Wednesday, July 18, at NENA.

**NENA Board:** 7 PM, Thursday, July 26 at NENA.

Save the Date: **Minneapolis Monarch Festival:** Saturday, September 8, 10 AM - 4 PM at the Lake Nokomis Naturescape Gardens (East Lake Nokomis Pkwy at East 50th St).

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

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, contact the NENA Office at (612) 724-5652 or email [nenan@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nenan@nokomiseast.org).



## Do the Write Thing!

For more information on submitting letters or news announcements to the Messenger call Denis Woulfe at 651-645-7045.





# Ford plant nears decommissioning in July

By JANE MCCLURE

With decommissioning nearing completion in July, Ford Motor Company's closed Twin Cities Assembly Plant will start coming down this summer. That will mean several months of disruption, the Ford Site Planning Task Force was told June 4. Neighborhood residents and business owners will be invited to meetings this summer to learn more about how demolition will affect them.

Representatives of the demolition firms and Ford Land, Ford's real estate arm, explained the upcoming process. Equipment and furnishings have been taken out of the plant since it closed in December 2011.

"We're still pulling equipment out of the plant," said project manager Chris Johnson. That work will wrap up next month. Equipment is being scrapped out, sold or shipped to other Ford facilities.

Removal of the equipment means Ford can start the second phase of its investigation of site environmental conditions this summer. That work is expected to continue into 2013. Remediation of pollution would take place through 2014.

When the assessment is largely completed, Ford would start to market the property. Although company officials had hoped to put the site on the block late this year, officials indicated that is now more likely in the first half of 2013. This is being done so that more information on environmental conditions is available for prospective buyers. Ford officials have indicated that they will only clean the site to industrial redevelopment standards; any further



With decommissioning nearing completion in July, Ford Motor Company's closed Twin Cities Assembly Plant will start coming down this summer. That will mean several months of disruption, the Ford Site Planning Task Force was told June 4.

cleanup for reuse such as residential redevelopment would have to be done by the next owner or owners.

The sale or future use of the Canadian Pacific Railway spur into the plant will be tied to how the Ford land is sold and reused, said David Drach of CP Rail. CP rail owns about 17 acres of property within the plant site. "We're really tied to whatever is decided for Ford," he said.

But before any property is sold, old buildings must come down. Demolition work on the Ford buildings will start this summer. The process will take about

13 months. Work has to take place inside of the buildings before heavy equipment can be used to start knocking walls down. Large wrecking balls and implosions won't be used to take the plant down.

As many as 70 workers will be on-site during demolition. Work will take place Monday-Friday during regular business hours, Johnson said, with no late-night or weekend work. Measures will be implemented to control noise, dust and vibrations. Crews plan to recycle as much metal as they can. Rail cars and trucks will be used to haul out materials. Trucks will fol-

low the routes Ford used in the past to haul out vehicles.

The old paint shop will be the first building to go, followed by the southern half of the main assembly building. Structures on the northern part of the property will be the last taken down. The site will be fenced and screened during and after demolition.

"This is the ugly part of redevelopment, it really is," Johnson said.

Officials from the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) will be closely monitoring the demolition process, to make sure there are controls on noise,

dust and erosion. Steve Ubel, senior city building inspector, said that materials on the site will have to be covered to mitigate dust issues. City officials began working with Ford on demolition plans last year.

But should everything on the site be demolished? Some task force and community members are still pressing Ford Land to find a new use for the Ford-Minnesota State Colleges and Universities-United Auto Workers training center, which is less than 20 years old.

But if that building is to be saved and reused, Ford officials need an answer before year's end. Demolition or preservation of the building would affect the removal of on-site utilities. It would cost about \$700,000 to retain utility service to the structure.

Because state funds were used to help build the structure, Ford must pay the state about \$1.9 million to terminate a site lease and shut the building down.

"By November, I've got to have some kind of a decision, one way or another," said Jay Gardner, director of real estate for Ford Land.

A work group has met to discuss building reuse, said City Planner Merritt Clapp-Smith. But no building buyer or user has been found.

"Everyone who sees the building thinks it should be reused," said Highland resident and task force member Morgan Tamsky. But until the site plan for a new site use or uses are known, it's not clear how a reused education and training center would fit in. MnSCU has indicated it isn't interested in using the facility.

## Sabo Bridge

Continued from page 2

"I am very troubled by the problems that required closing the Sabo Pedestrian and Bike Bridge," said Sandy Colvin Roy, Ward 12 council member. "The structure was still being supported by the other cables and pylons, but having two cables come loose is totally unacceptable."

"I wish the answer to preventing a problem like this was as simple as not working with any single firm but unfortunately, that doesn't offer a guarantee either," Colvin Roy continued. "Whenever the city considers doing business with a company, we take into consideration our past experiences with that company I doubt there is any community in the nation more sensitive to bridge issues, so this situation is very disappointing."

One factor that enters this picture is the few companies that do bid on these projects. According to Meredith Salsbery, director of communications for the Met Council, only two companies bid for the Southwest Light Rail Transit project—URS and AECOM. "There is not a lot of competition," she said.

The Council was set to consider the proposed contract with URS for the light rail June 4, but is delaying consideration until getting the full report from WJE.

"The Council does have seri-

ous concerns on this, based on what we have heard so far," Salsbery said. "But we need to have the full report before we move forward."

Heidi Hamilton, deputy director of Public Works, said they have joined with Hennepin County on hiring WJE to investigate.

"The report tells us what happened and why and it is impor-

tant to get information to know how to fix the bridge," she said. "That's what we are focused on. We will look at that information to determine who should assist in paying for repairs. Additional work and conversations need to be held."

The full report is also what the county is waiting for, according to Debra Brisk, assistant coun-

ty administrator.

"We're getting all the facts together," she said. "WJE helped us understand what happened, and have given us a comprehensive understanding from an engineering standpoint. They did a really good job."

As for URS, the designing company at the heart of the matter, a spokesman for the company said. "We look forward to receiving the completed report and are continuing to work with the City and County on bridge retrofit solutions."

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# Changes in city zoning creates friction between industrial and high-density local housing



Businesses that would not be allowed would include car repair, drive-thru service windows and storage warehouses. Those types of businesses that already exist in the neighborhood would become non-conforming on their rezoned site. Alexander's Import Auto Repair is one of those businesses. (Photo by Jan Willms)

**By JAN WILLMS**

The city's overall plan for high density housing along the 38th street LRT station is not necessarily good for some of the businesses in the area.

Whether a grain elevator, a factory or an automotive center, the proposed zoning changes would limit expansion.

According to Joe Bernard, senior city planner, the plan adopted by the City Council a few years ago has called for recommending zoning changes to fit in more with high-density housing than industrial use along the Hiawatha Corridor.

"Over time, the industrial use would slowly go away, in part because of the proximity to the light rail station," Bernard said.

The most substantial

the neighborhood would become non-conforming on their rezoned site.

Alexander's Import Auto Repair is one of those businesses. Owned by Dan Swenson and Guy Lender, the shop at 2904 35th St. S. first opened at that location in 1985.

"We own the corner," said Swenson, which includes their repair shop and a house they rent out. "It was zoned as light industrial when we started here." They also rent a space at 3708 Snelling, which is used for their repair business. Swenson said that the city's plan to change the Hiawatha Corridor to accommodate high density housing is the polar opposite of the current zoning.

"Cars come in at both our locations," Swenson said. "Be-

cording to Swenson. The property west of the window remains industrial, and the property east of the window is residential.

Swenson said Ward 9 Council Member Gary Schiff amended the current project to allow for appropriate zoning on their lot. But for any expansion or growth east of the building's east-side window, the owners would have to apply for variances.

"The City Council would have to approve those variances, and there is no guarantee they would do it," Swenson said.

Also, Swenson said that if an industrial type of business closed down or put something else on its property and then later decided to go back to its original use, that could not happen and the business could not be grandfathered in.

Other businesses have also expressed their concern about the zoning changes, the difficulties they would face and the loss of jobs that could occur if the industrial segment became overtaken by the residential.

Bernard said the City has presented these proposed zoning changes to the community in public meetings. He said the Zoning and Planning Committee will consider recommendations and may make some more changes. The zoning codes will be fully adopted at a full city council meeting at a future date.

"A lot of people get frustrated by this whole thing," Swenson claimed. "I don't, really. I understand the city has a vision. But I think they have to be looking out for what's already there, because those people were there first."

For now, he said that he and his business partner are not making any current plans.

"We're just recovering from a slow economy ourselves," he said. But he left no doubt that their business is a vital part of the community, and they hope to continue along that path.

**"The City Council would have to approve those variances, and there is no guarantee they would do it."**

**- Alexander's owner Dan Swenson**

changes proposed are between Snelling and Hiawatha Avenues and 32nd and 34th Streets.

The city has envisioned this area along the light rail as a mixed use development with retail and housing for those residents who want to promote a car-free lifestyle.

City Planner Paul Mogush explained to a recent meeting of the Longfellow Business Association that with the additional pedestrian overlay, the expansion or development of car-related businesses will be prevented.

Businesses that would not be allowed would include car repair, drive-thru service windows and storage warehouses. Those types of businesses that already exist in

cause of the nature of our business, we don't fit in."

He said he realizes the city is looking for pedestrian-friendly businesses in the area.

"Businesses are always grandfathered in," Swenson said. He said the industrial types of businesses, such as his and the grain elevators, that have been in the neighborhood since the 1920s, are not being forced out.

"But the city is making the process and ability to modify, grow and expand more difficult," he said. The proposed zoning changes would split the property belonging to Swenson and Lender.

On the property on 35th Street, the dividing line is right at the window of their shop, ac-



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# Love of the creek spawns annual Minnehaha Creek Clean-up

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Chandi McCracken's love of Minnehaha Creek began when she was a young girl visiting her grandma and she would go down to the Creek to see the geese and feed them stale bread. As she grew up, she would go for walks along the Creek with her parents. Two years ago, she canoed half of the Creek, and last summer, she canoed the other half. She also likes to walk along Minnehaha Falls down to the Mississippi River and to go rollerblading on the trails along the Creek.

As an adult, McCracken's fondness for Minnehaha Creek has turned to action for keeping it clean so other people can continue to enjoy it as much as she has. As a past employee of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, she worked at the Minnehaha Creek Clean-up for two years and then participated in the clean-up last year. This year she plans to volunteer for the Sixth Annual Minnehaha Creek Clean-up at Lake Hiawatha, at 46th Street and 28th Avenue South, on Sunday, July 8.

For the first time, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is teaming up with the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company's "Canoes for a Cause" campaign to host the clean-up. This year's goal is to collect two tons of trash.

The schedule of events begins at 9 a.m. with a free bagel breakfast for the first 250 volunteers. At 9:30 a.m., participants will board buses to clean-up locations along the Creek and chain of lakes. From 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., they will return to Lake Hiawatha for a free

barbecue lunch provided by Leinenkugel's. At 11:45 a.m., prizes for kids and adults will be given away, including a Leinenkugel's canoe.

KS95 radio will be on hand to entertain the crowd, and Leinenkugel's beer will be served to those 21 and older with a valid ID (limit two per person). REI Bloomington is providing a bike technician at the on-site bike/canoe check.

McCracken first became involved in the clean-up because she worked for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. For four years, she has rented a room from her cousin, who bought the house her grandparents used to live in.

"I really think it's a great event," she said. "It's my neighborhood. I wanted to keep the neighborhood beautiful, especially the water."

McCracken is volunteering for this year's event because she wants to help keep the Creek clean.

"It's just a fun event," she said. "You get out in the neighborhood and meet new people. They make it fun by giving away prizes like the Leinenkugel's canoe."

As a neighborhood resident, McCracken feels it's vital to protect their water resources.

"It's important to me because it gives me the opportunity to get out and do something for the event and water resources," she said. "It's a good community building event. It shows the value of our water resources. It's important to keep them clean for the health of the habitat as well as for ourselves and future generations."

McCracken hopes lots of peo-



Above, an unidentified woman picks up trash along the shores of Lake Hiawatha. For the first time, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is teaming up with the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company's "Canoes for a Cause" campaign to host the clean-up. This year's goal is to collect two tons of trash.

ple want to be involved in the clean-up.

"I hope we have an increase in participation overall so we know we're creating more awareness," she said. "If we get two tons of trash that's great but if it's less then we'll know people are improving their habits. We want to encourage people in the community to come and help out. Our water resources will not be around

forever if we do not take care of them."

Leinenkugel's "Canoes for a Cause" campaign is one of the new additions to the event. With 670 volunteers last year, the Watershed District is expecting around 800 this year.

"We're expecting even more people than last year," said Telly Mamayek, communications director for Minnehaha Creek Water-

shed District. "Word gets out. It grows each year. 'Canoes for a Cause' campaign allows us to get the word out in more places than before. The bike technician is another new feature."

The Watershed District also has a Save Our Summers campaign, which encourages people to take personal responsibility in preventing the spread of zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species, another threat to water quality in the Twin Cities. At the heart of the campaign are three simple steps boaters can take to protect our lakes, rivers, and streams: Clean, drain, dry.

"Lake Minnetonka feeds Minnehaha Creek," said Mamayek. "It's infested with zebra mussels. They are present in the Creek. Things can be done to prevent further spread of those species. Canoes and kayaks do transport water in the bottom. People should drain the water off and clean off with high pressure hot water, which will kill them. Allow it to dry for at least five days. We hope this is what people will do."

Mamayek hopes more people than ever will come out to enjoy this free, family-friendly event.

"We hope we can engage many people on behalf of water resources," she said. "We hope to collect as much trash as possible. Every year, we collect more and more trash. We want to create an awareness on behalf of citizens to keep pollution out of our waterways."

RSVP's to the Minnehaha Creek Clean-up are required. To sign up, visit [www.KS95.com](http://www.KS95.com) keyword CREEK.

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# Lake Street business past and present honored by Museum in the Streets

By JAN WILLMS

Charles Ingebretsen was born the year his father, a young Norwegian immigrant, opened a meat market at 1601 East Lake St. Over the years, that market has expanded to become a gift shop and evolved from the Model Market to Ingebretsen's Scandinavian Center.

Ingebretsen, nicknamed "Hoot," died recently at age 90, but the store he took over from his father and which is currently managed by his daughter, Julie, is among many businesses on Lake Street, past and present, that will be honored by Museum in the Streets.

Museum in the Streets, a project of the Lake Street Council (LCC), will feature nearly 60 plaques of everyday life, past architecture, places and events that have made up the rich history of the area. Stories are told through each plaque, with a walking tour along Lake Street that can be self-guided and done in an afternoon or completed over several visits.

The idea first came to Joyce Wisdom, executive director of LCC, when she visited Ridgefield, CN, a few years ago.

"When I go to a city, I look for the part of the city that looks like Lake Street," Wisdom explained. "I look for the kind of thing that will bring people to our area." She came across the history walk and museum in the streets in Ridgefield and was struck by how well it would adapt to Lake Street.

Continued on page 9



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society (1946) Caption on plaque: "A 1946 labor conflict between Moline employees and management led to this strike, which closed the factory for two months."

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## Museum

Continued from page 8

The company Wisdom worked with is in Maine, founded by Patrick Cardon, an historian who developed Museum in the Streets. Cardon said that today there are 16 sites in the United States and 18 sites in France.

Wisdom has been working with 50 volunteers over the past three years, as well as a few hired staff. In August, after the Uptown Art Fair, the plaques will start to be installed.

The walking tours, with the plaques describing a business, an event, a community setting or piece of architecture, are being divided into three areas of Lake Street.

"The West End is from one block west of Hennepin to one block east of Lyndale," Wisdom said. "The Midtown tour covers Cedar to Park, and the Longfellow tour goes under Highway 55 and reaches from 31st Avenue to 21st Avenue." She said the tours have been designated as Uptown, Midtown and 27th and Lake.

Wisdom said the Uptown tour promotes the lakes and what that meant to the early development of the area. Midtown focuses on immigration history, and the 27th and Lake tour covers the industrial and retail segment of Lake Street's past.

The project's total cost is \$142,500. Wisdom said she has two small legacy grants of \$7,000 each. She received \$15,000 donations immediately from Wells Fargo and Calhoun Square. The individual plaques can be sponsored for \$1500 apiece.

In each segment along Lake Street a visitor will be greeted by one large panel that gives an historical introduction to the area and marks the location of the other panels. There will be twenty smaller panels (20" x 20") in each segment, each containing one or two photos and approximately 130 words of text, in two languages, describing some historic aspect of that particular site.

The two languages selected are Spanish and English. The colors

of the plaques are sepia, going along with the historical look.

"I was really surprised with a lot of the folks who stepped up to make donations," Wisdom admitted.

She mentioned Dominion Development and Acquisition, which is redeveloping the Buzza building, first built at 1006 West Lake in 1906. "I asked for a meeting to talk to them about sponsoring a plaque, and they told me they didn't need a meeting, just put them down for a plaque," Wisdom said.

She said some sponsors have a direct connection to the plaques, and others do not. Steve Wellington, developer of Hi-Lake Shopping Center, for example, is a poet and wanted to be sure and sponsor the Burma Shave plaque, because he felt connected to the Burma Shave rhyming signs.

She has also received donations from businesses that used to line Lake Street, but are not there any longer, such as Abdallah Chocolates and Toro Snow blowers.

Continued on page 10

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# Museum

Continued from page 9

"Toro started on Snelling off Lake Street in an old Victorian home," Wisdom recalled. It grew to eventually occupy more than 70,000 square feet in various buildings before moving to Bloomington in 1962.

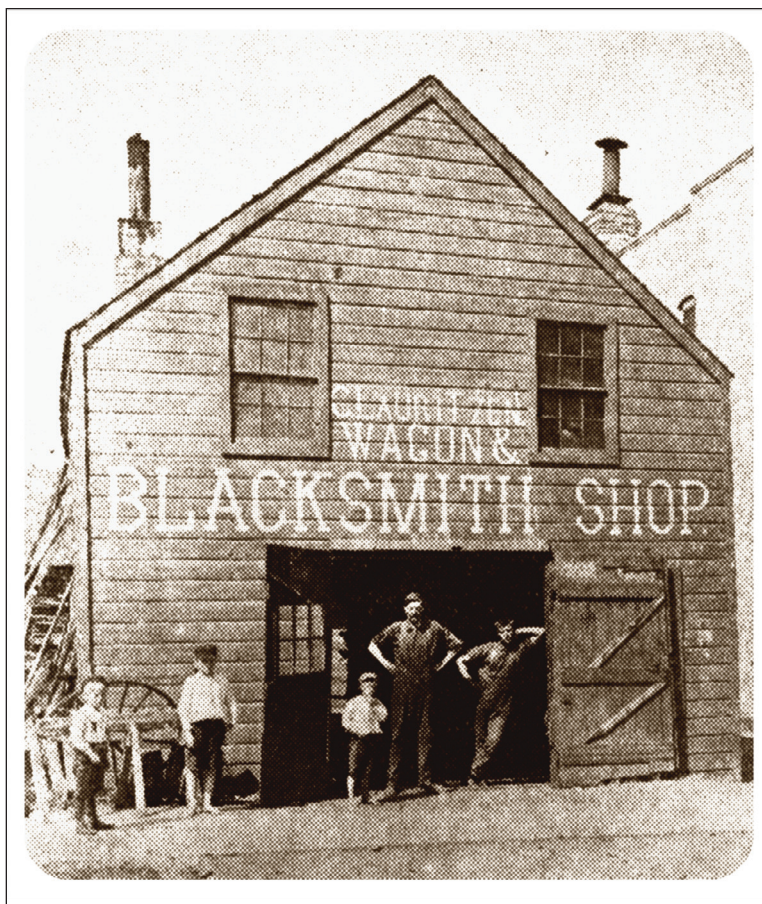
"It was an industrial campus at one time," Wisdom said. "Now a quonset hut on the east side of Snelling is the only thing that is left." She said Toro owners have told her they hope to bring all the Toro retirees to Lake Street for an event.

"Each of the tours will be bordered by a big map that shows the whole tour," Wisdom explained. She said brochures for the tours will be available at local businesses.

"When I first started telling people about this, they asked who would decide what stories and businesses get in. I said it would work itself out through attrition."

Wisdom said that they had to find viable historic photos and a good story. "Some places had one and not the other—we needed both," she stated.

She said information was gathered from reading histories and also from talking to family members, who helped provide photographs and old newspaper



Lauritzen photo: Courtesy of Eric Hart (ca. 1900)

clippings.

"We looked at old permits," she said, "and used the Hennepin County Library and the History Center. The Hennepin County

History Museum was a great resource."

To qualify as historical, the businesses had to be at least 50 years old. However, some more



Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society (1943). Caption on plaque: "Minneapolis-Moline turns out the first 'jeep,' displaying a sign for a war rally during World War II.

recent ones have earned a mention. But all the stories had to be documented history, not just related anecdotes.

After a story on the project in the Pioneer Press three years ago, Wisdom said she started receiving "Guess how old I am," calls. She said people who grew up in the area and were in their nineties started calling, and some narrative histories were done with them and put on YouTube and on the website, visit-lakestreet.com.

Wisdom acknowledged that the three-year-long project has been a tremendous learning experience, as well as a lot of hard work.

Among other things, she learned that the Rapala fishing lure was invented by a man on Lake Street, and that Josie

Wanous was the first female pharmacist in Minnesota. She invented a shampoo bag and also, in 1903, a dandruff shampoo.

"It's hard to believe that we are finally at this point," Wisdom said. The plaques for the Uptown section are in production, and proofing for the last set of plaques is underway. Wisdom has been walking sections of Lake Street with Public Works representatives, who have to approve the locations of the signs.

"I would love to take this project all the way to the river," she said, "and all the way to Lake Calhoun." As well as the historical value, Wisdom is hoping the Museum in the Streets will be an economic boon to Lake Street as well.

"Hopefully people will come to see the exhibit and stop to shop a little as well," she said.

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## Irrigation-Free Landscaping Workshop July 28th

On Saturday, July 28th at 11:00am, landscape design firm PRAIRIEFORM will host a workshop on irrigation-free landscaping. Irrigation-free landscape merges a formal, front-yard-friendly landscape aesthetic with drought-tolerant planting techniques and a subsequent "drought training" for the plants, to create a landscape that ultimately does not require supplemental watering. The irrigation-free landscape is wildlife-friendly but formal enough to fit comfortably within a front-yard setting, an aesthetic middle ground between a full-on prairie restoration and a conventional landscape of turf and a few evergreen shrubs. The workshop will be held in a yard at the corner of 28th St & 42nd Ave, which is the location of an Irrigation-Free Landscaping Pilot Project funded in part by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and LCC's Environment Committee. The workshop will be a fun, low-key opportunity to learn more about irrigation-free landscaping from an expert and too see an example in person. RSVP (appreciated but not required) to Spencer: [spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org) or 612-722-4529 ext. 5.



**Irrigation-Free Landscaping Workshop**  
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## Share the Gorge

**Ice Cream Social & Canoe Rides**  
**Monday, July 30th**  
**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
**Overlook on West River Parkway, just north of 36th St.**

The River Gorge Committee invites all Longfellow residents to come Share the Gorge as part of the 8th annual Ice Cream Social. Enjoy some ice cream, then take a tour of the nearby Oak Savanna or go for a short canoe ride. This year we are relocating a bit to the north of 36th Street near the overlook and small parking lot. New! Wilderness Inquiry and National Park Service will offer family canoe rides in 6 person canoes. Canoe rides will depart from the Sand Flats.

Pick up a free map of the river gorge and learn about the Gorge Stewards, a program of Friends of the Mississippi River. Gorge Stewards will offer tours of the rare oak savanna and prairie at the Giggly Hills. Bike, walk or drive to this favorite annual event -- look for the signs and the tent! Volunteers needed. Contact [Joanna@longfellow.org](mailto:Joanna@longfellow.org) or 722-4529.



Longfellow residents are invited to Share the Gorge on Monday, July 30th, 6-8 pm. Celebrate the Mississippi River with ice cream and free family canoe rides!



## Community Warming Party Follow Up

The annual Longfellow Community Warming party was held on June 7th, bringing together over 200 neighbors and friends from around Longfellow! Longfellow Grill hosted the event and provided fabulous food from their popular menu. The event raised funds to support the work of the Longfellow Community Council (LCC), and gave neighbors an opportunity to meet and learn more about the groups doing great work in our neighborhood. Thank you to all who were able to attend - if you were not able to make it, email Joanna at [joanna@longfellow.org](mailto:joanna@longfellow.org) to be added to the LCC email list and stay up to date with happenings around our neighborhood!

Thanks to these fabulous Longfellow businesses who donated prizes for our raffle:

*Corazon, YWCA, Leviticus Tattoo, Alexander's Import Auto Repair, Mother Earth Gardens, Miller Upholstering, Hymie's Vintage Records, Riverview Theater, Blue Moon Coffee Café, Dunn Bros., Glass Endeavors, Patrick's Cabaret, Soderberg Gift & Floral, Zorongo Flamenco, Riverstone Salon Spa, and the Law Offices of Eric Day.*

## Save the Date - The Longfellow Corn Feed!

**Thursday, August 9th**  
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If you would like to volunteer at this event or have a business or organization and would like to table at the Corn Feed, please contact Joanna at [joanna@longfellow.org](mailto:joanna@longfellow.org)

## Free Community Dinner sponsored by Volunteers of America and LCC

Last April, LCC and Volunteers of America were awarded a

\$10,000 grant from the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs to create opportunities for job training and community participation for residents of Volunteers of America. 7 Residents at Volunteers of America have been out at Minnehaha Community Garden, learning about urban gardening and how to grow local, healthy food. Now we want to make you dinner! Join the Longfellow Community Council and Volunteers of America for a free community dinner to celebrate all of their hard work.

**VOA/LCC Community Dinner**  
**Wednesday, July 11th**  
**6:00 - 7:30 pm**  
**Minnehaha Communion Church**  
**4101 37th Avenue South**  
**FFI: [longfellow.org](http://longfellow.org)**

## LCC's Website is New and Improved!

Six months ago LCC Board member Andrew Johnson began developing a new website for LCC designed to be more user friendly, accessible and provide transparency of the work of LCC.

With the new website, visitors will be able to view planning documents, meeting agendas and minutes, and receive updated information on programs, projects and activities managed by LCC. There are many new features on the website and we hope to hear comments and suggestions for additional ways to improve the website to provide for greater communication.

Check out our new website at [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org).

## Calendar of Meetings and Events

# July 2012

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

### Advancement Committee

Wednesday, July 11  
 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
 Fireroast Mountain Café  
 3800 37th Avenue S  
 FFI: [joanna@longfellow.org](mailto:joanna@longfellow.org)

### Neighborhood Development Caucus

Monday, July 9  
 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
 LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S.  
 FFI [spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org)

### Longfellow Faith Forum

12:00 - 1:30 pm  
 Tuesday, July 10  
 Epworth United Methodist Church  
 3207 37th Avenue South

### Community Connections

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

### Board of Directors

Thursday, July 19  
 6:30 - 8:45 pm  
 Brackett Park, 2728 39th Avenue S  
 FFI: [melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)

### Environment and Transportation Committee

Tuesday, July 24  
 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
 Hiawatha School Park 4305 42nd St. E  
 FFI: [spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org)

## Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55406  
 Phone: 612-722-4529 • Fax: 612-724-1024  
[www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

Melanie Majors  
 Ruth Romano  
 Joanna Solotaroff  
 Spencer Agnew

Executive Director  
 Office Staff  
 Community Organizer  
 Housing and Environment  
 Coordinator

[melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)  
[ruth@longfellow.org](mailto:ruth@longfellow.org)  
[joanna@longfellow.org](mailto:joanna@longfellow.org)  
[spencer@longfellow.org](mailto:spencer@longfellow.org)





# In Our Community

## Musikgarten announces summer classes

Musikgarten of Minnehaha Falls ([www.MusikgartenTwinCities.com](http://www.MusikgartenTwinCities.com)) announces summer classes for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and group piano lessons at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church (5011 31st Ave S.). Babies will move to music from around the world, toddlers and preschoolers love our engaging nature-themed classes, and older children will make music at the piano. Adults love bonding with their children through music. The 4-week summer indoor sessions are June 17-July 14 and July 22-August 18, with special outdoor classes on July 19 and 21 at local parks.



Musikgarten of Minnehaha Falls ([www.MusikgartenTwinCities.com](http://www.MusikgartenTwinCities.com)) announces summer classes for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and group piano lessons at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church (5011 31st Ave S.).

## Bingo-Rama at St. Albert's in July

Enjoy Bingo-Rama at St. Albert the Great in the air conditioned Social Hall Wednesdays, July 11, 18 and 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. Play two cards all night for just \$5. Buy extra cards for \$1 or pay to play special coverall rounds. Hot dogs and other snacks for sale... free popcorn. Enter behind the

statue on E. 29th Street at 32nd Ave. S. or park in the back lot behind the school.

## Longfellow Garden Club holds tour July 11

Green gardens of calm, English-style gardens overflowing with riots of blooms and buds, and amazing garden designs in which art and flowers both complement

## Medalist Band to perform at Becketwood

The Medalist Band will perform an outdoor concert at Becketwood Cooperative, 4300 West River Parkway, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10. Visitors can tour Becketwood's grounds and gardens starting at 6:30 p.m., prior to the concert. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 612-722-4077.



The Medalist Band will perform an outdoor concert at Becketwood Cooperative, 4300 West River Parkway, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10.

and battle—all are represented in this year's garden tour! The tour is 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, July 11.

Please pick up a tour map before 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave South. Find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub> <https://sites.google.com/site/longfellowgardenclubminnesota/>

## What's Your Sign? Free ASL lessons offered

Get connected with Summer ASL Lessons, from July 1 through mid-August. Free American Sign Language lessons will be offered for beginners of all ages as well as those with a little experience who want to refresh their skills. Classes will meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays starting at 12:30 p.m. If interested, please send your name, contact information and session choice to Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55406 or e-mail to [epworthoffice@mplsepworth.com](mailto:epworthoffice@mplsepworth.com) or call 612-722-0232 and leave a message.

## Dancing through the Decades at Epworth

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 27th Avenue South, invites you to "Dancing Through the Decades," Saturday, July 21, from 7-10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and learn a dance from the '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s, etc. If you're old enough or young enough to dance, please come! Child care will not be provided, but children are welcome with adult supervision.

Refreshments provided if you can find time to eat. This is a free event; bring a friend or two. Dress in garb from your favorite era. For more information, call Mary Ellen Reetz-Pegues, 763-560-6196.

## Perspective on the Dakota War of 1862

Join us for Sunday, July 8, 2 p.m. for Massacres & Genocide: Getting a Perspective on the Dakota War of 1862. The Dakota/Lakota War From Minnesota to Wounded Knee 1862 to 1890 as told by noted Indian storyteller, Duke Addicks, who provides an in-depth, nuanced view of these important historical events you will not find anywhere else.

Join us on Sunday, July 15, 2 p.m. for a program on Natural Medicines Used by Early Settlers and Indians. Demonstration by Jerry Foley, Stevens House gardener and expert on the use of plants as medicines by early settlers and Indians. Come and have him show you how to make

medicines from the ordinary plants found in our historic garden.

These events are FREE. Where: Historic John H. Stevens House Museum, 4190 Minnehaha Avenue (in Minnehaha Falls Park) conveniently near the 50th Street LRT station.

For more information, call 612 827-0138.

## Nokomis East Business group meets July 20

A Nokomis East Business Association breakfast meeting will be held Friday, July 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Nokomis Café, at 5408 34th Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55417. Network with other business and community leaders.

## Kids Day Camp - August 6 - 9

Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.) invites all kids from Kindergarten to 6th grade to its Day Camp, Monday - Thursday, August 6 - 9, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. plus a program and ice cream

social for families on Thursday evening. Enjoy music, crafts, games and Bible stories. The theme this year is "Spirit-life!" \$25 includes all materials, snacks and lunch. Scholarships are available. Please register by July 29th by calling 651-556-2108 or 612-729-9376.

## LBA meets July 12

Longfellow Business Association meets Thursday, July 12, at the Gandhi Mahal community room, 3009 27th Avenue S., 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Please join us for a lively discussion about Health Care exchanges and hear about the craft brew and wine store proposed for the old Hiawatha Joe location at 4135 Hiawatha Avenue. FFI Ruth 612-722-4529 x1.

Next deadline: July 16

Next issue: July 26

For more information call  
Denis Woulfe at 651-917-4183

## Scandinavian Quartet in Concert July 22

The Scandinavian Quartet will be in concert Sunday, July 22, at 3 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave S.). Hear these four young saxophonists who met at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm Sweden while they tour the American Midwest. Their varied program ranges from baroque to jazz, with an emphasis on Scandinavian compositions. Listen to a sample of their music at [www.scandinavianquartet.com](http://www.scandinavianquartet.com) Free-will offering.



The Scandinavian Quartet will be in concert Sunday, July 22, at 3 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave S.).



It happens every year. Somehow, my mind is taken over by the prospect of buying plants and growing stuff. It happens to most of us living in the North Country. This year, since I'm not working, money is tight, and buying a lot of plants is out of the question.

It's a funny thing though; I owned several houses and did minimal gardening in all of them. I just threw around mulch by the existing plants. Gradually, my dislike of gardening changed.

It all started with our old white house. It begged for more gardening. We started clearing some dead trees, and dismantling the dog kennel. Our Dalmatians died a few years after moving to the house. The first year of active gardening, Mr. M. planted a few tomato plants. He used a secret weapon; cow manure. They grew all over and yielded at least two hundred tomatoes. We froze them, gave them away, and ended up forcing our relatives and friends to take more.

The next year we put in raised beds, and we were off and running. We grew herbs; basil, dill, oregano, and thyme. Actually, when gardening, there's never enough thyme, or time, for that matter! That year, my friend, Liz scored a bunch of free hostas from a friend who was tearing them up to prepare for a house addition.

She lived on Manitowish Island; a very ritzy part of White Bear Lake. The rich people hostas have done very well in our middle class dirt. Then, a couple of years later, my neighbor Nicole gave us all of her hostas. She dug up them up and brought them over to Mr. M., who planted them along the front



# The Old White House

By SHERRI MOORE

## Gardening on the cheap

sidewalk to the street. They've done well too. I like to think of my yard as multi-cultural. The plants have come from several walks of life, and manage to get along with each other.

My son Sean has been digging up my hostas in the backyard, to plant at our rental house. He does the digging, I do the splitting, and you can hardly tell any have been removed. I even had enough to plant a line of them at the duplex.

We also have a boatload of day lilies back by the garage. I've been digging up a bunch of them too, and Sean has been planting them against his fence in the backyard. Again, I planted what was left in the duplex yard.

This year, I tried to discuss with Mr. M., the possibility of adding some new vegetables to the garden.

Of course, we rarely discuss anything. I talk and he ignores me. That could be the key to our happy marriage. Who needs communication?

When Sean's working, I thought of hiring my nephew, Ben to help me. When I called and asked him if he was interested in earning some money, gardening, he said, "I don't know if I'm old enough to work."

Patrick, my brother and his father yelled in the background, "Yes you are, you're twelve. I'll even take you over there."

Patrick has been complaining about how much it costs to support his family and has informed both boys that they can

work this summer.

Ben helped me for two hours, and really worked hard. I gave him ten dollars and took him to the Dairy Queen for a cool treat. He was pretty happy, and asked when he could help me again.

While we ate our treats on a

park bench by the river, Ben filled me in on all of his concerns. He's been planning on becoming a pilot most of his life, and is now considering botany.

"Oh, does that mean my plans for you to own an airline are now obsolete?"

"No, Kiki, I just want to keep my options open."

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

**"Learning at the Square"**  
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**Wednesday, July 11, 2012 1:30 p.m.**

### Veteran's Benefits You May Not Know About

A speaker from the Veteran's Administration  
will explain benefits available  
for veterans and their spouses

Nokomis Square Cooperative  
5015 35th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55417

For more information call 612-721-5077 or visit our  
web site at [www.nokomissquare.com](http://www.nokomissquare.com)



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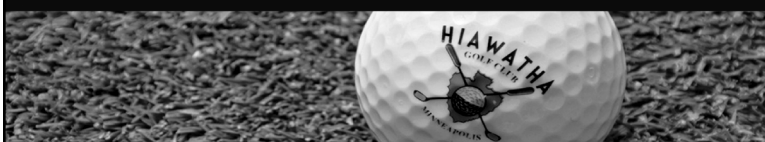
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## Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

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Children especially welcome  
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Worship at 10:00 am  
Pastor Ryan Eikenbary-Barber

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

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
(Childcare Provided)  
(Wheelchair Accessible)  
Rev. Pam Armstrong

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran (LC-MS)**  
3430 E. 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
Worship 9:00 am  
Fellowship Hour 10:00 am  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dan Matasovsky

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

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

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

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

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

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
of Minnehaha Falls**  
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691  
[www.trinityfalls.org](http://www.trinityfalls.org)  
Sunday Worship (7/1-9/2) 10:00 am  
AA Meeting Tuesdays/Sundays 7:00 pm  
Call to sign up for July Youth Camps

### Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:

Minnehaha Food Shelf,  
Serving People Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Call us at 612-721-6231

Minnehaha United Methodist, 3701 E. 50th St.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classifieds

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

### ACCOUNTING & TAXES

Individual and corporate tax returns prepared for small and medium sized companies. Accounting and payroll services performed in addition. Vern Teichroew Accounting, 612-726-1544 or [vteichroew@comcast.net](mailto:vteichroew@comcast.net). 9-12

### BATHROOMS

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### COMPUTER REPAIR/SERVICE

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### EMPLOYMENT

The Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger is looking for local reporters to write news and feature stories on a free-lance 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.

### FOR SALE

For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. 10-12

### HALL FOR RENT

Spacious, clean and refurbished hall for rent. Parties, Birthdays, Weddings, Anniversaries, etc. call the Post @ 612-724-9909 or Gary @ 612-987-8857. B-12

### HANDYMAN

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Dr. House does it all: From a leaky faucet to a new addition. I can save you money on electrical and plumbing. Call John at 651-231-5652. B-12

### HOUSE CLEANING

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### KITCHENS, DESIGN

[www.KitchenComfort.net](http://www.KitchenComfort.net) 1399 St. Clair, St. Paul. 651-698-4949. 12-12

### LAWN CARE

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### PAINTING

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### PIANO TUNING

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Registered Piano Technician, [charlesfruhstuck@mac.com](mailto:charlesfruhstuck@mac.com), 651-489-3181. B-12

### REAL ESTATE

Flourish Realty LLC. Full Service Real Estate/Property Management Services. Local Realtor(R), Ecobroker(R), & Resident, Daniel Schultz: 612-408-0233, [dan@flourishrealty.net](mailto:dan@flourishrealty.net) 7-12

### RENTALS

Office or therapy space for rent: On bus route. Easy access to light rail. Located at Minnehaha Ave S. and 42nd St. Open to build out. 2nd floor office space available. Call Jim between 8 a.m. 2 p.m. 612-729-2316 or email: [KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM](mailto:KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM). 7-12

### SERVICES

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Continued on page 16

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# Some bus routes slated for changes due to light rail

By JANE MCCLURE

Some area bus routes are proposed for changes as part of a study of bus service changes tied to Central Corridor light rail. The changes, tied to the 2014 start of light rail service, are the focus of a comment period that ends July 9.

Public hearings are planned, including public hearings which are on [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org)

For the most part, the changes are meeting a favorable response.

"We have a good network of service now," said Scott Thompson, senior transit planner for Metro Transit. "But we do have some gaps in the area, and some gaps in terms of times and days of service."

Proposed changes were made after gathering input over the past few months. Metro Transit held open houses, met with community groups and collected comments online. While transit users indicated that they are generally satisfied with the existing bus network, they would like to see increased service. More off-peak service, earlier morning and later nighttime service were among the requests riders made. The service changes have to be made without adding to the current budget, meaning cuts have to be made to balance any increased service.



Some area bus routes are proposed for changes as part of a study of bus service changes tied to Central Corridor light rail. The changes, tied to the 2014 start of light rail service, are the focus of a comment period that ends July 9.

The proposed plan reduces service on routes that will be served by light rail, Thompson said. That would allow Metro Transit to shift resources to improve route coverage and frequency to bus routes that provide connections to light rail. That in turn would improve frequency and re-

liability of service.

Changes affect those who travel between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Route 84 service on Snelling Avenue would be increased to operate every 10 minutes between Rosedale Mall and Ford Parkway. South of Ford Parkway, the two local routes 84D and

H would be combined into one route. Service to the 46th Street station in Minneapolis on Ford Parkway would continue to operate every 30 minutes.

St. Paul's Snelling Avenue is viewed as the city's first site for rapid bus transit, with a line there opening in 2014. This would provide high-frequency, limited stop service on Snelling and Ford Parkway every 1/2 to 1/4 mile, between Rosedale and 46th Street Station.

Routes 8 and 67 would be combined, to extend from the Hiawatha light rail line and Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis to University and Raymond, then to Fairview Avenue Station, then to Minnehaha Avenue and downtown St. Paul. Changes in frequency of service would also be made on different parts of the route.

North-south express bus service would also change in St. Paul. Metro Transit currently offers peak-period only commuter service on Cleveland and Snelling avenues. Route 134 on Cleveland, from Highland Village to Interstate 94. This route would see some rush hour reductions but those wouldn't affect peak times of ridership. This bus would be rerouted to Marshall between Cleveland and Cretin to

link with Route 87. Route 144 on Snelling would be eliminated. Its connections to the University of Minnesota and downtown Minneapolis could be made on Route 84 and the light rail line.

Some east-west lines would also change. University Avenue's express Route 50 would be eliminated and Route 16 would be reduced when light rail begins operations, and would no longer connect to downtown Minneapolis most of the time. The Minneapolis connection would only run between 1-5 a.m., when light rail is not in service. Otherwise it would terminate at Stadium Village in Minneapolis.

The I-94 bus would also operate less frequently, only during peak periods. It would operate nonstop between the two downtowns and wouldn't stop at Snelling or Marion Street.

The biggest changes in St. Paul would be the addition of a Lexington Parkway bus. The new line would extend from the Como-Snelling intersection, to Energy Park Drive, and then travel Lexington to Albion and West Seventh streets. This would fill a significant gap in the transit system, which currently has no north-south service between Snelling Avenue and Dale Street.

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# Shifting gears

Continued from page 1

"The direction we'd like to go is to make it a normal choice, an easy choice," says Peterson. "Your presence makes it more likely that drivers will be aware of bicyclists, more drivers will be bicyclists, and that just makes the whole environment safer."

Joshua Houdek, Sierra Club's land use and transportation program manager and member of the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee, acknowledges that bicycling in south Minneapolis continues to improve and expand, which is good for the environment.

"It helps clean the air we breathe and reduces our dependence on dirty oil," he says.

It's also great for physical and mental health.

"I feel like it's easier for me to just let go, especially when I'm leaving work," says McKeown. "When I'm in my car I'm confined, but when I'm on my bike, it's enjoyable, it's like a peaceful break."

Houdek encourages people



According to the League of American Bicyclists, 44 percent of urban trips are 2 miles or less, yet the majority of these short trips are driven. Longfellow resident Diana McKeown suggests that sometimes running errands by bike is easier.

to bike for shorter trips when possible. According to the League of American Bicyclists, 44 percent of urban trips are 2 miles or less, yet the majority of these short trips are driven. McKeown suggests that sometimes running errands by bike is easier.

To new riders McKeown says it's okay to take it slow.

"[Bike] a little bit at a time," she says. "You'll find you just

want to do it more."

Look for these upcoming family bike opportunities, hosted by the Minneapolis Bike Walk Ambassador Program.

## July 14th Bike Maintenance & Safety Clinic

Longfellow Park Recreation Cen-

ter, 3435 36th Ave S., 9:30-11:30 a.m.

This clinic will teach you and your child how to identify possible mechanical problems and make simple repairs. Followed by a short ride. Bring your bikes and helmets!

## July 21st Kidical Mass: Southeast Parks and Gardens

Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave. S., 9-11:30 a.m.

Create awareness of kids and families on bikes. Riders will head south, stop for a short tour of the Dowling gardens and finish at Minnehaha Park. Helmets are required for all riders.

For videos about bike symbols, maps, rides and clinics, upcoming projects and other info:

[www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles)

Great, free, pocket sized Minneapolis Trails Map:

[www.minnehahamedia.com](http://www.minnehahamedia.com)

Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition

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

[www.northstar.sierraclub.org](http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org)

[www.30daysofbiking.com](http://www.30daysofbiking.com)

Nearest bike share stations are at Lake St. & 39th Ave. S and Midtown YWCA

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

[www.everydayhealth.com/Calories-Burned-Biking.htm](http://www.everydayhealth.com/Calories-Burned-Biking.htm)

## Classifieds

Continued from page 14

Trust a neighbor to do the job right! Need a handyman?? Any job, big or small. Plumbing? Electrical? Remodeling? Decks? Etc. Call Dynamo Dave. 612-701-2272. Free estimates! 12-12

Sheetrock, tape, texture, paint, free estimates. Dick Evans, 612-889-9228, 952-888-0600. 8-12

Home remodeling/repair. Kitchens, basement, bathroom remodeling and design to include all handyman services. All calls returned same day. Always on time. Licensed and insured. Member BBB. Jeff 612-388-2258. [www.grosscupremodeling.com](http://www.grosscupremodeling.com) B-12

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\*\*WANTED\*\* - Old Stereo Equipment, Hi-fis & Hams. Andy 651-329-0515. 12-12

## Southside Adult Education offers free classes

Southside Adult Education Center is a hub of adult learning opportunities. As part of Minneapolis Community Education, Southside offers free classes to the community in various skill areas ranging from English language, college prep to career training. Southside has served just under 2,000 students so far this school year. In addition to free classes, we are also home to the only GED testing center in Minneapolis. Each year, over 600 people test and obtain their GED or High School Diploma by means of the South-

side Adult Education Center.

Southside offers classes in the morning from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; in the afternoon from 12:30-3:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday; in the evening from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. It is located at 2225 East Lake St, at the corner of Hiawatha and Lake St. For more information or to register for classes call 612-668-3800 or visit our website at <http://abe.mpls.k12.mn.us>.

The GED test is changing! Are you ready? If you or someone

you know wants to get their GED, now is the time to do it. The new test will no longer be paper and pencil; instead, it will all be on the computer. It is very important to finish up any tests that you have not passed because once the changes are in place, any partial passes or scores are no longer valid. Please come in and finish up the process! Be sure to register before you come to test. Please call 612-668-3800 with questions or for more information or check out our website at <http://abe.mpls.k12.mn.us/>.

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