



OBMSA affirms that 'Black boys are not broken'

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Create, connect, craft at camps over the summer months

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Johnson slams new neighborhoods plan, calling it "recipe for failure"

By IRIC NATHANSON

At least one Minneapolis City Council Member is sharply critical of a new proposal to tighten up management of the city's neighborhood groups. The Twelfth Ward's Andrew Johnson is calling the plan, known as Neighborhoods 2020, a "recipe for failure."

The proposal was drafted by the Minneapolis Neighborhoods and Community Relations Department. If approved by the City Council, Neighborhoods 2020 could require groups like the Longfellow Community Council and the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association to comply with new city standards or risk losing city funding.

Johnson is particularly concerned about Neighborhoods 2020's diversity provisions that would apply to the composition of each organization's board of directors. The plan would require the city's funded neighborhood groups to submit annual reports describing the make-up of their



Twelfth Ward Council Member Andrew Johnson. (Photo submitted)

boards. If a board's diversity differed significantly from the neighborhood's demographics, the organization would be required to file a "Diversity Action Plan" aimed at encouraging new board members that "reflects the diversity within the neighborhood including race, gender, age, income and homeowners

and renter status." According to Neighborhoods 2020, "organizations that do not complete a plan and meet board diversity standards within 18 months may have their funding reduced or terminated."

Johnson, a former chair of the Longfellow Community Council (LCC), maintains that the draft plan will require neighborhood groups to meet standards that the city, itself, has been unable to meet. "Despite all our efforts and all our action plans, the City has seen at firsthand how difficult a challenge it has been to diversify our workforce and move the needle on this important issue. So when I see the punitive provisions in Neighborhoods 2020, I think about what would happen if those provisions were imposed on the City of Minneapolis by the State of Minnesota. If the State gave the City just 18 months to meet similar diversity standards, we'd lose our state funding and go bankrupt!"



LCC Executive Director Melanie Majors. (Photo submitted)

"This punitive approach is clearly a recipe for failure," Johnson added. "It will only succeed in damaging the very organizations it is intended to help. I would much prefer to see us use a carrot rather than a stick when it comes to neighborhood development."

LCC's Executive Director,

Melanie Majors, shares Johnson's concerns. "This new proposal, coming on the heels of the 2040 plan, is overburdening neighborhood groups, particularly those small organizations with more limited capacity," she notes. "The plan is setting out more directives for groups like ours without providing us with a clear path on how to comply. Neighborhoods 2020 is clearly overreach on the part of City Hall. City Hall hasn't figured out a way of dealing with its own diversity problems so now it is putting the burden on us."

"The approach we are being asked to take is almost like tokenism when it comes to renters and people of color," Major maintains. "It says that because you are a renter or a person of color, you are not able to determine for yourself what is happening in your neighborhood that might affect you. I think that is quite demeaning. That is not

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Nokomis home basement workshop has worldwide clientele

In first six weeks of 2019, parts have shipped to Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, England, France

By JAN WILLMS

Nokomis resident Mark Stonich is a tinkerer. And his curiosity about how things work and how they can work better has led him to a unique semi-retirement profession. He has two worldwide monopolies. He sends shortened cranks and tools all over the world.

"I'm the last source on the planet for a couple of tools for working on vintage bicycles," he said.

Those tools are a crank cotter press, used for installing and removing the tapered pins that were used to mount old steel crank arms, and a tool for removing the crank bearing cup from old English bikes. "And I'm the only person anywhere commercially shortening bicycle cranks," he added.

A crank consists of one or more sprockets attached to the crank arms to which the pedals attach. It is connected to the rider by the pedals, to the bicycle frame by the bottom bracket, and to the rear sprocket, cassette or freewheel via the chain.

People need shortened cranks for a variety of reasons, according to Stonich. "There can be a limited range of motion due to an



Mark Stonich at work in his basement workshop. (Photo by Jan Willms)

accident, congenital disabilities, or knee surgery," he said. Other reasons for needing a shorter crank include short limbs in small adults and children, dwarfism, or unequal leg lengths.

From the basement of his home where he has his busi-

ness, Bike Smith Design, Stonich connects with customers from all over the world, as well as the United States. In just the first six weeks of this year, he has sent parts to Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, England, and France.

One of his customers who has greatly expanded on his cycling is John "The Hammer" Young. "He was the first dwarf triathlete and now is quite a celebrity among the Little People community," Stonich said. Stonich was first contacted by

Young about ten years ago. He just wanted a bike that would fit him so he could go riding with his children. He found a 20-inch wheel REI girls MTB, and Stonich made him up some 100 mm cranks. Young said when he was finally able to ride a bike, he almost broke into tears.

"Six months later, he called me and asked if I could help him gear the bike higher so he could go faster," Stonich recalled. "He said he was pretty fit for a little guy, as he was the swim coach at the school where he also taught math." Six months later Young wrote that he was going to try doing a community triathlon, even though he was sure he would come in dead last. He did not finish last, and eventually a triathlon team noted that he was beating some of their participants in swimming, and they asked him to join their team and help coach swimming. In turn, they helped him with the run, filming him on a treadmill and convincing him to shorten his stride, which saved him 30-40 seconds per mile.

"They also helped him modify his bike until nothing original

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'Black boys are not broken'

OBMSA focuses on changing a broken system while building relationships with Black males

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Five years ago, Michael Walker was tasked with solving a problem affecting the largest demographic group in Minneapolis Public Schools.

Today, he's happy to report that black male students have higher GPAs, are dropping out at lower rates, and are more engaged.

These positive statistics can be directly tied to the district's Office of Black Male Student Achievement (OBMSA) and the B.L.A.C.K. curriculum that Walker helped develop with University of Minnesota Department of African American & African Studies Dr. Keith Mayes.

The B.L.A.C.K. (Building Lives Acquiring Cultural Knowledge) program introduces students to the complexity of the black male experience by exploring the lived reality of black men in the United States. The program is offered at four high schools, including South High, and four middle schools, including Folwell.

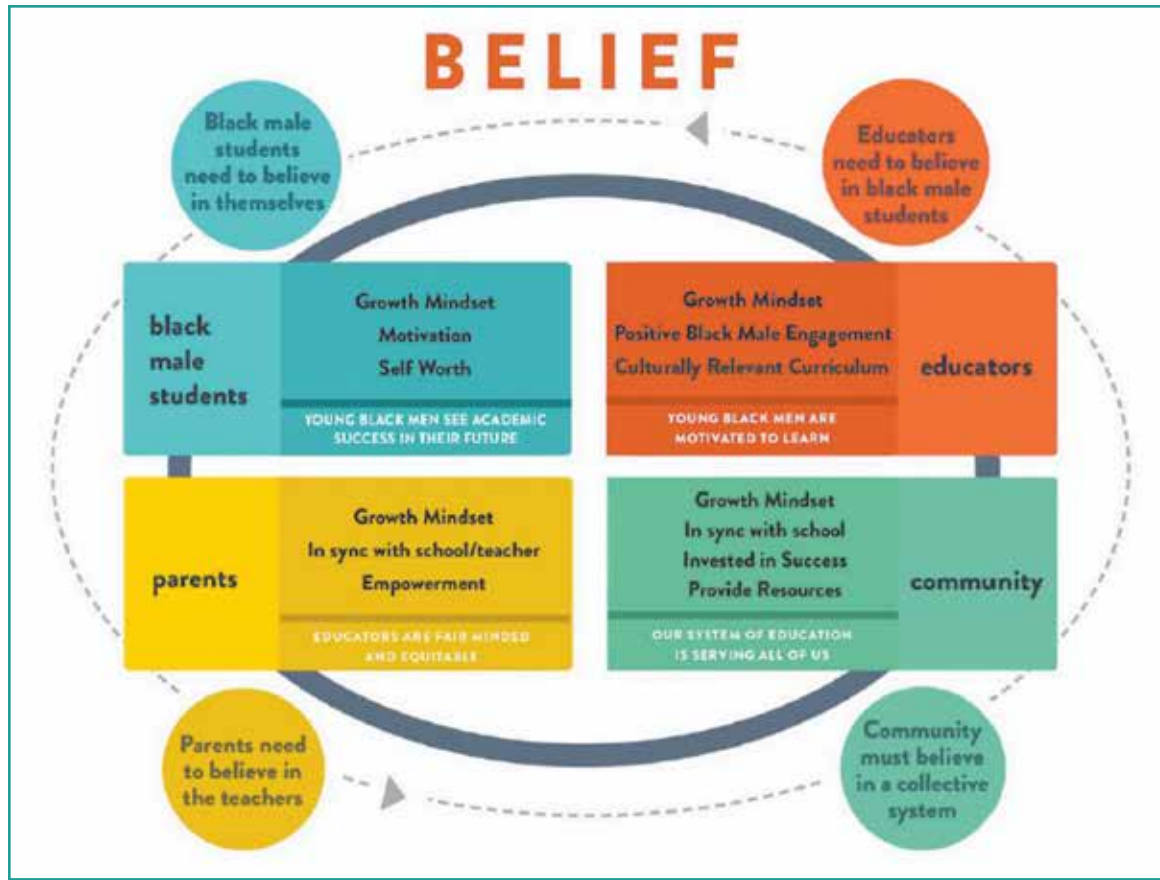
While American history courses typically introduce Blacks in 1619 with slavery, B.L.A.C.K. reaches farther back to the thousands of years before slavery interrupted the history of Africa.

If you only start with slavery, that can lead to low self-worth and low self-esteem, Walker pointed out.

Since its inception, about 554 middle and high school students have participated in a B.L.A.C.K. class, and there have been 31 participants in the new elementary school program. Those who take the class for more than one year show the biggest improvements in their academics. The average GPA at the end of the 2014-2015 school year was 2.21 compared to 2.42 at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Non-participants were at 1.99.

Fifty-four percent of participants graduated in 2018, compared to 47 percent of non-participants. Plus, 100 percent are on track to graduate, and none have dropped out of school. Discipline issues have decreased.

"I think if it weren't for the [B.L.A.C.K.] class, my grades wouldn't be where they're at right now. And I wouldn't be on



track," stated one participant.

Awakening greatness

Established in 2014, OBMSA is the second such office in the nation, following Oakland Unified Schools.

The mission of OBMSA is: to awaken the greatness within Black males in MPS, to have them determined to believe and achieve success, as defined by their own values and dreams.

In the beginning, Walker and team members set out to make sure those impacted were at the forefront of the decision-making process. Knowing that the traditional course of



holding meetings in the school would end up with the same results, Walker used his status as a member of the Black community to gather input at local barbershops and hair salons.

Walker pointed out that generational trauma affects how well today's students do in school, influenced by the experiences their parents had while they were in school. Today's high numbers of Black students who are referred to Special Education classes or suspended is not brand new.

"This has been going on for generations," he pointed out, and leads to parents who don't even want to step foot into school buildings.

The unifying theme that came out of the listening tour was that there was a system

"Our job is not to change or fix Black boys," observed Minneapolis Public Schools office of Black Male Student Achievement Director Michael Walker, "because Black boys are not broken. We need to fix the system that Black boys navigate." (Photo submitted)

A listening tour inspired OBMSA Director Michael Walker to develop a Belief Framework for the work of OBMSA. Four key stakeholders—community, parents and families, educators, and Black male students—form the outer ring of the framework. "They all need to believe in each other, which is why the arrows on the illustration are circular, having no beginning and no end. Their beliefs need to change and reinforce each other rather than work at odds as they currently do," he explained. "Students need to believe in themselves. They also need educators to believe in them. Parents need to believe in educators. As the parents start to come around, as their beliefs change, the community at large will believe the system is working." (Graphic provided)

didn't see academic success in their future."

But one thing became clear to Walker and staff. "What is apparent from OBMSA's work is that there is no such thing as an achievement gap, only a belief gap," they wrote.

Through his work, Walker seeks to engage authentically with students and to create a

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS

The NENA Board is proposing a revision to its bylaws that would allow for early and absentee voting for board candidates starting with the April 2020 election. Learn more about the proposed changes at NENA's website and the General Membership will vote on the revision at NENA's Annual Meeting on Apr. 25.

Interested in serving on the NENA Board?

The Nokomis East neighborhoods will elect community members (maybe you?) to serve on the Board at the NENA Annual Meeting on Apr. 25. NENA is hosting a Board candidate information meeting on Apr. 11, at 7:30pm in the NENA office, 4313 E. 54th St. No previous nonprofit board experience necessary, see if serving on the NENA Board is right for you. Find more information on the NENA Board, including member requirements, go to nokomiseast.org/

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

4313 E. 54th St.

Proposed NENA bylaw revisions: early and absentee voting

Upcoming meetings and events:

- 3/6/19, 6:30pm: NENA Housing, Commercial, and Streetscape Committee, NENA Office, 4313 E. 54th St.
- 3/13/19, 6:30pm: NENA Green Initiatives Committee, NENA Office
- 3/21/19, 6:30pm: Gateway Garden Planning, NENA Office
- 3/28/19, 7pm: NENA Board Meeting, NENA Office

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Twitter: twitter.com/NokomisEast • Email: nenan@nokomiseast.org • Phone: 612-724-5652

serving-on-the-nena-board.

Gateway Garden planning

Do you like to garden? Do you want to do something about the rapidly disappearing habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators? Native plant gardens like the Gateway Garden, near the 50th street LRT station, have a wide variety of

environmental benefits. Join us and make a difference! Although this is a Nokomis East Neighborhood Association project, volunteers from all areas are welcome.

Join us at the NENA Office (4313 E. 54th Street) on Thur., Mar. 21, from 6:30-7:30pm to plan for the 2019 season and dream up future projects.

South Minneapolis Green Fair

You may know that sustainable, energy-efficient practices at home and work help retain the natural beauty of our community, reduces waste, and can even save you some money. However, sometimes the wealth of information available can seem daunting. Join us in April for a one-stop shop for individualized attention and advice.

The South Minneapolis Green Fair will be held Sat., Apr. 13, 12-4pm at Roosevelt High School. This event will feature information booths and demonstrations to assist you in creating a greener lifestyle. Learn how to make your yard more climate change resilient, lower your car's carbon footprint while improving gas mileage, and other useful tips. Special presentations will focus on important topics.

Does your organization or business have a sustainability focus? Contact Program and Communication Manager Lauren Hazenson (lauren.hazenson@nokomiseast.org) to receive an exhibitor application.

NENA Business Matching Grants

NENA offers two grants for

Nokomis Area businesses: the Marketing Matching Grant and the Business Partnerships Grant. The goals of these grant projects are to provide support for Nokomis East business districts, encourage business partnerships, and increase customer traffic to our local businesses.

Marketing Matching Grant
Businesses seeking to update

their branding, website, marketing, or looking to attract more customers can apply for up to \$2,000 for their project. This grant matches \$2 for every \$1 spent by the participant.

Business Partnership Grant
Two or more Nokomis East businesses seeking to engage in a short or long-term marketing or public engagement partnership can apply for up to \$5,000 in matching funds. This grant matches \$2 for every \$1 spent by the participants. Contact Program and Communication Manager Lauren Hazenson at lauren.hazenson@nokomiseast.org for more information.

Sign up for NENA News

Get your neighborhood news delivered to your inbox every other Wednesday. Sign up today at www.nokomiseast.org. Once you sign up, you'll receive updates on news and happenings for your neighborhood.

Block Club Leader Training set for Mar. 18 at Third Precinct

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct is holding a Block Leader Training on Mar. 18 from 6:30-8pm. The meeting will take place in the community room at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. (intersection of Minnehaha and Lake.) Off-street parking is available behind the precinct building.

Third Precinct crime prevention specialist Karen Notsch, said, "This meeting is both training for new block leaders and a refresher for people who are already serving as block leaders. We keep updating our police resources while building community one block at a time." According to Notsch, the Longfellow and East Nokomis neighborhoods are very involved in blocks clubs to reduce crime. "At this time, 90% of the blocks in these neighborhoods are involved," she said.

There will soon be four

crime prevention specialists serving the 3rd Precinct, which is the largest precinct in Minneapolis. Shun Tillman serves the Longfellow neighborhood, and Jennifer Neale serves Nokomis.

Notsch said, "A lot of people don't know they can get information directly from crime prevention specialists. If you witness a police action and want to understand what happened, calling 911 won't help. Call 311 instead, and ask to be directed to the crime prevention specialist responsible for the neighborhood you live in. We can't inform you if it's a date privacy issue (like a domestic assault), but we can let you know any specific public information. Knowing your neighbors is still the best way to reduce crime."

People interested in attending the training should RSVP in advance to Shun Tillman, 612-673-2846, or email Shun.tillman@minneapolisismn.gov.

Messenger

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Learn native plant gardening while you help save the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Come hear about our 2019 season and volunteer opportunities.

Thursday, March 21
6:30 - 7:30 pm
4313 E. 54th Street

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association



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- Durufle's Requiem** - April 7, 6:51 pm with David Mennicke, guest conductor and Paul Stever, organ
- Celtic Contemplative Communion** Sunday, April 14, 6:51 pm
- Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer** Sunday, April 28, 6:51 pm

HOLY WEEK

- Maundy Thursday** - April 18, 7:00 PM "Christ's Welcoming Table for All Ages"
- Good Friday** - April 19, 7:00 PM Contemplative Music & Meditation

EASTER SUNDAY

- Easter Day** - April 21, 8:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Communion, brass, Preaching: Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, CEO, Minnesota Council of Churches

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B.L.A.C.K.

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family. Staff consider themselves "uncles" to participants, who are their "nephews."

Participants themselves are called "Kings," as a positive alternative to the other negative terms that have been used to describe Black males throughout history, and OBMSA staff see themselves in the "King building business."

"We are intentionally using positive terms that bring value and honor to who they are and can be," remarked Walker.

Through the state's Community Expert process, OBMSA brought in Black teachers as studies have shown that Black students matched with a Black teacher have both short- and long-term positive outcomes. The MPS teacher force is only 5 percent Black (and one percent Black male), while Black students make up 38 percent of the student body.

Jordan basketball incident

Walker is intimately acquainted with the Minneapolis School system. He grew up in North Minneapolis and moved to South Minneapolis in high school. He's a graduate of Roosevelt High School (1994), where he later returned to work as a dean and then as assistant principal (2011-2014). As assistant basketball coach at Roosevelt from 1999-2011, he worked with the same man who coached his own team, Dennis Stockmo. He's since returned as head varsity coach.

Walker sees basketball as a way to develop young men, who learn life skills on the court that can help them be successful off the court. The Roosevelt basketball team grades 9-12 is composed of about 70% Black players (Somali, Ethiopian, and African American).

In January 2019, an incident involving a Trump re-election flag during an away game in Jordan had players and community members talking about the issues of race.

Neighborhoods 2020

Continued from page 1

the approach we take in Longfellow. We start with the premise that everyone has a stake in the neighborhood. Neighborhoods 2020 presupposes that we don't reach out to renters and people of color. That's not right. We do reach out."

Becky Timm, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association's Executive Director, notes that diversity and inclusion are important goals for her organization. "NE-NA's board understands that we need to reflect the people who live in our neighborhood. We have done a lot of work—a lot of outreach—to make sure that we truly represent the neighborhood. We have spent the last year recruiting renters and people of low wealth to become part of our association and part of our board. We are working on a leadership development pipeline. We are hiring a second community organizer. Our current organizer speaks Spanish, and our new staff person will speak Somali. All of this is hard work. But we know it is something we need to do."

Steve Gallagher, the policy specialist for the city's Neighborhoods and Community Relations

Together, team members wrote a statement to show their unified intent to not be divisive but to bring people together. The team had stayed in the locker room during the National Anthem because of the Trump flag and did not participate in the pre-game handshaking as they don't do that in their conference.

"This all comes down to people trying to see one another's point of view—and we're coming from a place that recognizes a history of oppression

for people of color in the U.S. As young people, it's our job to bridge the divide and make the world a better place, a safer place, for every person, no matter their color or culture. We mean no harm toward Jordan or its fans, and we hope they will stand with us for change," wrote players.

"The lines of communication are open," stated Walker.

Black boys are not broken

"Our job is not to change or fix Black boys," observed Walker,

"because Black boys are not broken. We need to fix the system that Black boys navigate."

Towards that goal, OBMSA staff provide professional development for educators within the Minneapolis Public School system. Over 1,200 faculty and staff at 14 schools have attended sessions on topics such as unconscious bias, engaging Black males, power and privilege, and involving Black families more in education.

The goal is to help adults

self-reflect on the ways they have been approaching Black students.

"I wish all of our MPS teachers had the opportunity to engage with OBMSA," wrote one participant after a training. "It is clearly one of the best things MPS is doing for our students."

OBMSA staff will also be presenting on Apr. 10 at the U of M Urban Leadership Academy.

"I am so grateful for the team I work with," stated Walker. "I love what we have developed and built together."

Tributary Reading Series meets monthly at Selam Coffee

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The sounding call of the Tributary Reading Series is simple: "Love your neighbor. Drink Coffee. Dig poetry." Created by Minneapolis poet and performer Ted King and hosted by the owners of Selam Coffee, the gathering happens on the first Saturday of each month starting at 1pm.

Saxophonist David Erickson begins playing and improvising on those days at noon. Audience members trickle in by ones and twos; every month, according to King, "It's standing room only. With this kind of reading, it's all about the audience. Everyone should feel welcome." The event is exactly what it's billed as—an enjoyable, politically charged, power-hour in a cozy coffee shop.

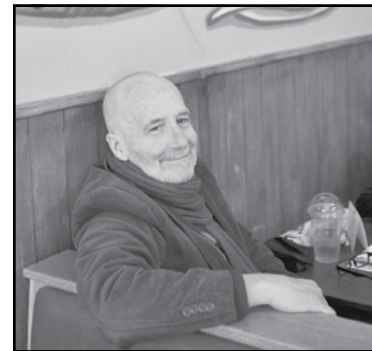
King is the curator of the Tributary Reading Series. "I was recovering from a serious illness a couple of years ago," he said. "I was homebound and bored. I'm a poet and a performer. I couldn't get around much at that time, but I thought I could put together a poetry reading series. If I organized it, I could pick all the ways that would make it easy for me to participate."

"Readings are almost always at night, but I wanted this one to be during the day," King added. "Originally we met at the Lake Coffee House until the owner lost his lease. I ap-



Poet Mari Moore read from recently published work. Her honors include a Bush Artist Fellowship, multiple McKnight Artist Fellowships, The Loft Creative Non-Fiction Award, and numerous residencies. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

proached the owners of Selam Coffee a few months ago, to see if they were willing to host us—and they were. They provide us with a great space, and our series has brought them a lot of new customers. It's a wonderful con-



Audience member Patrick Murphy, said, "I'm a closeted poet. I love coming to these readings, to listen to the poetry and for the sense of community. Ted King? He's an old hipster—his funkiness runs deep." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

nection. The professional poets who participate say that it's their favorite event in the metro, and they can't wait to be invited back to read again."

St. Paul poet Christine Jaspers brought her three young daughters to the February event, and said, "Almost everyone who comes to these readings is a writer." Jasper's ten-year-



Curator Ted King chose to call this gathering the Tributary Reading Series because, he said, "A tributary doesn't start in the main stream!" (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

old daughter, Claire, read "The Summer Day" by American poet Mary Oliver, who recently passed away.

Selam Coffee is located at 3860 Minnehaha Ave., and can be reached at 612-722-2768.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

Bethlehem Covenant Church
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Rev. Matthew Kennedy
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Contemporary Worship – 8:45am
Sunday school – 10:00am
Traditional Worship – 11:00am
Espanol – 1:30pm
Ash Wednesday service on March 6 at 7pm
Wednesday Meal – 5:45pm
Wednesday Kids choirs and bible studies
3:45 – 5:45pm
Youth Activities 6:30 – 8:00pm

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

Pastor Steven Reiser
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
(Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)
Upcoming Events:
Now - March 11 - Epworth Pasty Sale
Orders
Mar 6, 13, 20 - Cabin Fever, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
March 13 - Beer & Bible @ Merlin's Rest
6:30 p.m.
March 16 - 2- 4:30 p.m. - Spring Pasty Sale Pick up
March 24 - Free Community Breakfast at Epworth, 8 - 10 a.m.
April 6 - 32nd Annual Live Auction, 11:30 a.m. Preview, 12 p.m. Auction

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

Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
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12-Step Groups Mon-Thu
3/6, 10:30 am & 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday
Worship
3/13, 6:00 pm Community Meal & Songs of My Life Service
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www.spiritgarage.org
Ash Wednesday: March 6, 7 PM at Squirrel Haus Arts
Lent Theme: Beautiful Lessons (using Mary Oliver) Theology Pub, book discussions, writing workshops
Pastor: Holly Johnson
Music: John Kerns and bands

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
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Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, First Fridays from 9 am to noon (Handicapped accessible)

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10 am Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 am Adult Faith Formation
Ash Wednesday Services with Holy Communion, March 6th at 7 pm
Holden Prayer Services, Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27 at 7 pm
Friday, March 1st, Cod Fish and Meatball dinner, 5:00 & 6:30 seatings, call to RSVP
Saturday March 2nd and 16th, 2:00-4:00 Fiber Arts Group
Monday, March 4th at 7 pm Pub Theology at Parkway Pizza:
Wednesday, March 6 and 20th, 9:30 am, Quilters
Friday, March 15th, All Ages Movie Night
Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.
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Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org

Pastor Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Sunday School/kids & adults 9:15 am
Ash Wednesday 3/6 - 6:45 pm Service
Wed. Lenten Services 6:45 thru Apr. 10
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 pm

PROJECT OF NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES

Minnehaha Food Shelf, Serving People Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm
Call us at 612-721-6231 • Minnehaha United Methodist • 3701 E. 50th St.

Monthly Taize service held at Minnehaha United Methodist Church

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Taize service is an intimate, candle-lit gathering: a time for quiet reflection and prayer. Music, song, and words intermingle, building to a crescendo—called the Great Silence—that lasts for ten minutes or more.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church (MUMC), 3701 E. 50th St., offers an ecumenical Taize service on the second Friday of each month at 7pm (October through May).

Church members Diane Enge and Charlene Johnson have been coordinating the Taize Service at MUMC for 15 years. It's based on a model dating back to WW II that has grown steadily over time. Enge and Johnson invite different musicians to participate each month.

On a frigid, snowy night in February, the service was guided by meditative silence, the sounds of piano, cello, and the voices of cantors Sarah Hruska Olson and Julie Cook. When readings were shared, they were delivered from the back of the church, not the pulpit. Only a few people were in attendance because of the weather,



Diane Enge (left) and Charlene Johnson (right) have been organizing the monthly Taize Service at MUMC for 15 years. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

er, but as Enge was quick to point out, "It's not the numbers that count."

The original Taize Community, which has spawned a worldwide movement, is located about 250 miles southeast of Paris in the province

of Burgundy. Their gatherings emphasize the need for all Christians to come together in peace, love, and reconciliation. The Taize community especially welcomes young people, and their website can be read in 35 different languages.



The Taize cross was made by parishioners Larry Harvey and Robert Wagner. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

The history of the community and their meditative style of worship go back a long way. In 1940, a Swiss monk named Roger Schutz purchased a small house in southern France. He left his native, politically neutral Switzerland and moved to France—where he thought he

could do more to alleviate the suffering of the war. Brother Roger's home quickly became a sanctuary for war refugees both Jewish and Christian, and eventually an ecumenical, monastic order. He served as its prior until his death in 2005. His intuitive response to a world at war was to create a community where kindness of heart and simplicity were at the center of everything.

Schutz believed that human beings implicitly thirst for one thing: a rich inner life. He wrote in the book, "Songs and Prayers from Taize," that nothing is more conducive to communion with the living God than simple, common prayer. When the mystery of God is not smothered by too many words, then common prayer awakens worshippers to heaven's joy on earth. To celebrate in this way, only a few people are needed.

The next Taize Service at Minnehaha United Methodist Church is scheduled for Fri., Mar. 8th at 7pm. Call the church office at 721.6231 with any questions. All are welcome to participate in this non-denominational service.

NENA fundraising party draws neighbors despite the cold weather

By STEPHANIE FOX

Despite six inches of snow on the ground and temperatures heading toward zero, 40 people showed up to hear live music and nibble on appetizers at the first annual Neighborhood Jam Fundraiser. Held at the Off-Leash Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St., on Feb. 9, the event helped raise \$835 for the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association.

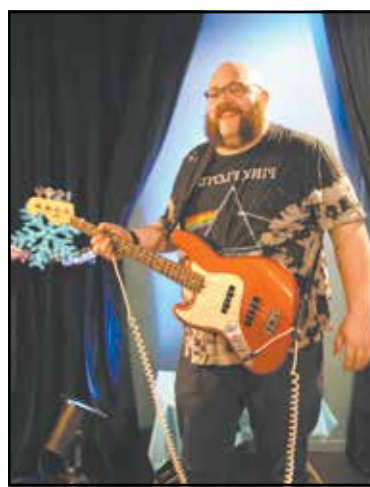
The neighborhood party re-



Charlie and Gilly Olson and Rory and Marian Thompson chat while waiting for the musical entertainment at NENA's Neighborhood Jam. (Photo by Lisa Dahle)

placed the two-year-old Crock Pot Contest and was originally scheduled for the fall. "We had venue scheduling problems, said Becky Timm, NENA's Executive Director. "We couldn't find an appropriate location and didn't want to have it in December where it would compete with so many other events. The Art Box was open in February, so we booked it."

Tickets for the event were \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 7 to 18, with free admission for younger kids. The Neighborhood



Guitarist with My Cousin Dallas, one of the local musical acts to perform at this year's NENA fundraiser. (Photo by Lisa Dahle)

Jam included musical entertainment, a silent auction, hot cocoa, custom mocktails, meatballs, chips and dips and more.

Those attending the afternoon event were entertained by local musicians including award-winning folk-rock performer and com-

poser Greg Herriges, My Cousin Dallas (they describe themselves as a garage rock and Americana band) and the Huge if True jazz combo.

Robin Gast, an exercise and movement specialist at Aero Dance Fitness, led the crowd in 'GROOVE', a dance exercise program new to the Cities. "I am friends with Lisa Dahl who is on the board of NENA," she said. "She asked me to come and do a group demo." Gast teaches around the cities but has recently started a Saturday class at nearby Yoga Quest in Richfield. "I fell in love with the philosophy, left my corporate job of 23 years and am now trying to start up my business."

The event also included a Nokomis East trivia contest with multiple-choice questions such as, 'In terms of population size, Nokomis East is approximately the same size as what city?' (The answer is Bemidji.) "It was fun, but the questions turned out to be harder than I thought they would be," said Timm. "The highest score was 10 out of 15." The team of Kent and Elke Knopp-Schwyn took first place.

Local businesses donated items for a silent auction including two oil changes from Nelson's Auto Repair, a Nokomis East gift basket, an electric guitar from McDonald's Liquor and Wine, items from local artists and gift cards from Oxendale's, Nokomis Shoe Shop and other local businesses.

Timm said that NENA might switch venues next year, perhaps expanding the Jam and holding it at a restaurant. "We'd like to have more things for the kids, so families don't have to worry about getting babysitters. We might have more games, maybe a face painter."

"It was a fun night," she said. "We're planning on doing it next year but haven't yet decided how to move forward. Next year though, we probably won't have it in February."

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Create, connect, craft at camp

SE Minneapolis Soccer, Little Folk Summer Camp, Minnehaha Academy, Blackbird

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Create a cardboard castle, a cigar box guitar, or a Lego robot. Connect with long-time friends and make new ones while learning how to kayak, juggle or sew. Make a puppet, animated cartoon, stationary, or your own song. There are so many summer camp options in the Twin Cities area, your kids will have trouble picking just one!

Browse below for more information on some of the camps offered locally.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

ADVENTURES IN CARDBOARD

Be initiated into an ancient and esteemed House of The Realm, jump into live-action adventure gaming, build your own arms and armor, and more during these five-day, full-day sessions for ages 8-17. Buses available from Flair Fountains Building (4501 Hiawatha Ave.) and some camps held at Minnehaha Park.

612-532-6764
<https://adventuresincardboard.com>

ARTICULTURE

A variety of art disciplines and mediums with themes like puppetry, world cultures, If I had a Hammer, animation, art car, public art and activism, printmaking and more offered for ages 4-18. Five-day, half- and full-day sessions available.

612-729-5151
<https://articulture.org>

BLACKBIRD'S MUSIC STORE

Write your own songs, start your own band, build cigar guitars from the ground up, and learn electric guitar.

612-326-5745
<http://blackbirdsmusicstore.com>

CIRCUS JUVENTAS

Explore international circus arts at Circus Juventas. Five-day, full-day sessions and one-day sampler camps offered for ages 6-15. New this year is Teen High-Flying Adventure Camp for ages 13-18.

651-699-8229
<http://www.circusjuventas.org>

FOREST SCHOOL

Free Forest School of the Twin Cities is a free group, open to young children and their parents or caregivers. This is a welcoming and non-judgmental group where parents and caregivers can practice giving children space and autonomy to explore and create in nature. Free Forest School meets every day of the week throughout the year at wilderness areas around the metro. Share a snack, take a hike, play in the woods, and have circle time. Parents get a chance to unplug and step back... kids and their imaginations take the lead.

Cost: Free
<https://www.freeforestschool.org/free-forest-school-twin-cities-minnesota>



Options at Minnehaha Academy include basketball and other sports.

FORT SNELLING

Experience the outdoors, or the lives of the engineers and grenadiers who called Fort Snelling home. Go back to the past and explore the stories of children who lived in the Fort Snelling at Bdote area. Camps range from one to four days.

612-341-7555
<http://www.mnhs.org/summer-camps>

LITTLE FOLK SUMMER CAMP

Ages 4-8 can participate in a nourishing, creative and relaxing "backyard" summer experience. The morning starts with free play/maker time with loose parts, a mud and wood chip kitchen, supervised use of basic tools, costumes, and art projects. Take picnic lunches to nearby Brackett Park or trails along the Mississippi, where there is after-lunch reading time on blankets and in hammocks. Afternoons are spent at Brackett Park, playing ball, climbing trees, or playing at the playground or wading pool.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/ffMuf5AOypFq3>

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

A variety of athletic, academic and enrichment programs are

offered, including baking basics, woodcarving, viola and cello, Ev3 robots, Hispanic Culture Camp, fencing, stop motion, sewing, painting, rocket science, drumming, and more. Half- and full-day, one- to three-week weekday sessions. Camp Minnehaha, a full day camp for pre-k to grade 8, includes daily devotions, games, indoor and outdoor activities, daily swimming lessons, and weekly off-campus activity.

612-728-7745, ext. 1
<http://www.minnehahaacademy.net>

SE MINNEAPOLIS SOCCER

Southeast Soccer fields a variety of girls and boys teams for ages U9-U18 at beginner, intermediate and advanced competitive levels. Consider the Lil' Dribblers soccer program for ages 4-8, or summer traveling teams.

612-396-9511
<http://www.sesoccer.org>

YMCA

Explore the variety of Y Summer Programs at over 60 metro-area locations. Programs include flexible three-, four-, and five-day options for preschool and up, as well as day camps, overnight camps, Teen Wilderness, family camps and more.

http://www.ymcatwincities.org/child_care_preschool/summer_programs

IN THE TWIN CITIES

ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY

Unleashed summer campers entering grades 3-10 spend a full week immersed in animal learning and fun at one of four AHS locations,

763-489-2220
<http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/camps>

ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE

Solve mysteries of the past in this three-day History Detective Camp for ages 10-13. Or, young ladies ages 9-12 can step back in time in a unique Finishing School for Young Ladies day camp.

612-341-7555
<http://www.mnhs.org/summer-camps>

BLACKHAWKS OF ST. PAUL

Blackhawks offer several exciting half- and full-day soccer camps for players ages 5-18 that encompass a wide variety of activities and skills. Specialty camps focus on specific skills such as ball con-

trol, shooting, and goalkeeping.
 651-894-3527
<http://blackhawksoccer.org>

CAMP COMO

Spend some time "Monkeying Around" with your primate pals, go for the gold in "Animal Olympics," take an "African Adventure" without leaving Como, or try on the hat of a zookeeper or gardener in "Behind-the-Scenes!" Como's camps focus on developing children's appreciation for the natural world through play and exploration, behind-the-scenes experiences, interactions with zookeepers and gardeners, and up-close encounters with plant and animal ambassadors. Five-day, half-day or full-day sessions for preschool to grade eight. Extended care is available.

651-487-8272
<http://www.tinyurl.com/p3u4lqv>

CAMP SUNRISE

Camp and canoe while learning leadership and teamwork skills in a free, seven-day resident camp for youths age 13-18 who live within the city limits of Minneapolis or St. Paul. Held on the St. Croix River in Rush City and organized by YouthCARE.

612-338-1233
<http://www.youthcaremn.org>

CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Experience cultural and language immersion; 15 languages to choose from. Resident camp for ages 6-18 and family camps.

1-800-222-4750
<http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org>

FRIENDS SCHOOL

Want to make a film just like the professionals do? Feel like biking 10 (or 20!) miles a day? Have a secret stash of poems you want to share? Feel a need to express yourself through paint and paper-folding? Maybe you'd rather argue for the defense in a real courtroom? Friends School will be the place to do that—and more—from June

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 1365 Englewood Avenue, St. Paul 55104
 651-917-0636

Camps over the summer months

Music, free Forest School, and others make summer memories they'll never forget

to August for ages 4-14. Weekdays, half- and full-day. Extended daycare in the mornings and afternoons and need-based financial aid available.

651-621-8941
<http://www.fsmn.org>

DODGE NATURE CENTER

Campers have fun while gaining an appreciation for nature by meeting live animals, building forts, and getting their hands dirty during full- and half-day, four-day camps offered for students entering 1-8 grades. Shorter sessions are available for ages 3-6.

651-455-4531
<http://www.dodgenaturecenter.org>

ENGINEERING FOR KIDS

Day camps exploring science, technology, and engineering are offered in partnership with local community education programs. Sessions, length, and price are varied per location and type of camp for ages 4-14.

<https://www.engineeringforkids.com>

FARM TO TABLE

Make butter, ice cream, and bread while learning about science, agriculture, and history at the Bruentrup Heritage Farm in Maplewood. Plus, students will play old-time games like town-ball and do arts and crafts during three four-day sessions.

651-748-8645
<http://www.maplewoodhistorical-society.org>

FIDDLE PAL CAMP

Fiddle Pal Camp Minnesota is four days to discover, learn and play for children, adults, and families at three locations.

<https://americanfiddlemethod.com/fiddle-pal-camps/minnesota>

FOCI MN CENTER FOR GLASS

From fusing to casting to glass blowing, ages 9-18 are introduced to the mesmerizing medium of glass through immersive half-day, five-day experiences.

612-623-3624
<https://www.mnglassart.org/classes/camps-for-kids-and-teens>

GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CAMPS

Speak, hear, sing, and create in German while exploring subjects ranging from history and art to science and music during five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for grades K-13 at the Germanic American Institute.

651-222-2979
<https://gai-mn.org>

GIBBS MUSEUM OF PIONEER AND DAKOTA LIFE CAMPS

Travel back in time and learn about life in the 1800s. Explore seasonal Dakota activities including the maple sugar camp, wild rice village, life in the tipi, hunting games, methods of travel, language, and song. Three-day, half-day camps. One-day Pioneer Peewees camps offered for ages 4-5.

651-646-8629
<http://www.rchs.com>



Ages 4-8 participate in a creative and relaxing "backyard" summer experience at Little Folk Summer Camps. (Photo submitted)

612-722-7000
<https://www.osheairishdance.com>

JUGHEADS JUGGLING CAMP

Half-day, five-day sessions and single day sessions for beginners through experts ages 8-18 enhance hand-eye coordination, boost concentration, and build self-confidence.

612-229-3348
<https://jugheads.com>

KID YOGA

Yoga infused throughout the day via story, dance, and games for campers age 5-12. Located on the Greenway = daily field adventures.

612-202-5164
<http://kidyogamn.com>

INNER CITY TENNIS

Enjoy Summer Tennis in Minneapolis parks for ages 6-17. Free and reduced programs available.

612-825-6844
<http://www.innercitytennis.org>

LEONARDO'S BASEMENT

Girls and boys ages 6 to 17 can design and build their creative ideas, mixing art, science, and technology during partial-day, weekday camps. There are more than 120 classes available over ten weeks, including a Harry Potter Theme Week with giant Hogwarts Castle build.

612-824-4394
<https://leonardosbasement.org>

LOFT LITERARY CENTER

There's something for everyone—from the youngster just learning to put pen to paper to the seasoned high school senior with a novel already under her belt. Sessions run in week-long blocks July and August, full and half-day options available for ages 6-17.

612-215-2575
https://www.loft.org/classes/about_youth_classes_6-17

HAMLIN YOUNG WRITERS

High school students ages 15-18 can explore the craft, prepare for college, and connect with other young writers in the Twin Cities while working closely with Hamline Creative Writing faculty

and published authors.
 651-523-2476
<http://www.hamline.edu/gls/youngwriters>

HEARTFELT

Summer camps allow time for more in-depth projects, such as Wild & Woolly, Fairies, Critters, and Sea Creatures, for kindergarten and up.

<http://heartfeltonline.com>

IRISH DANCE

Professional Irish Dance training by director Cormac O'Se, an original member of Riverdance.

Continued on page 8

HALF-DAY & FULL-DAY CAMP OPTIONS

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www.MinnehahaAcademy.net/Schools/SummerPrograms

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- Parent & Me
- Ballet Fairytales Camp
- Dance, Art, Yoga Camp
- Mary Poppins Camp
- Music & Movement

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- Beginning Ballet

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 651-690-1588

Create, connect, craft this summer

Continued from page 7

LOPET ADVENTURE CAMPS

Roller ski, mountain bike, canoe and more during adventure camps for ages 9-13 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. Equipment provided during the full-day, five-day sessions. 612-604-5330 <https://www.loppet.org>

MINNESOTA WALDORF SCHOOL

Join the Minnesota Waldorf School for good, old-fashioned summer fun with outdoor games, natural crafts, water play, gardening, fairy camp, and much more. For children ages 3.5 to (rising) 6th grade. 651-487-6700 x202 <http://mnwaldorf.org/summer-camp>

MILL CITY MUSEUM

Play music, get creative, bake bread, and construct books while exploring the rich culture along the Minneapolis riverfront district. Campers aged 9-11 will explore a new experience each day at four arts centers.

612-341-7555 <http://www.mnhs.org/summer-camps>

NORTHERN CLAY CENTER

Work with sculpture, tiles, or wheel-thrown pottery in half or full-day sessions for ages 6 and up. 612-339-8007 www.northernclaycenter.org

RAPTOR CENTER

Summer sessions for ages 6-14 are run by the University of Minnesota's Rec & Wellness Camps. Camps also offered in partnership with MIA and Richardson Nature Center. <https://www.raptor.umn.edu>

SNAPOLOGY

With camps happening at the new Discovery Center in Uptown every week of the summer, as well as at various schools and educational partners around the Twin Cities, Snapology has got you covered for kiddos as young as 3 and as old as 14—Robotics, Coding, Science, Technology, Drones, Pre-K, Engineering, Architecture and more. <https://www.snapology.com/locations/minneapolis>

SPIRIT TAE KWON DO

Fun, exciting camps that combine physical fitness and education are offered throughout the summer for school-age kids. Register early for discounts. 651-428-6172 <http://www.istkd.com>

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

Make your own games and design circuits. Paint with pizzazz. Search out connections between visual art and creative writing, and explore the life of a story in journalism. Options at SPA cover a wide range of academic, arts, and enrichment activities for grades 2-12. 651-698-2451 <https://www.spa.edu>

ST. PAUL BALLET

Summer is a great time to try dance. Programs include workshops and camps for ages 3 and up, weekly drop-in classes for teens and adults, and a "mommy and me" baby class. 651-690-1588 <https://spballet.org>

ST. PAUL URBAN TENNIS

Located at 30+ sites, with several locations in the Midway-Como

neighborhoods, St. Paul Urban Tennis offers a summer program for all age groups and skill levels. Tennis lessons combine high-quality instruction with life skills learning. Sampler Camps offer a condensed, 4-day version of the lesson program. Scholarships are available. 612-222-2879 <https://stpaulurbantennis.org/summer>

STEPPING STONE THEATER

Learn about devised theater, music, and other performance art forms during these one- to two-week, half- and full-day sessions for those preK to grade 12. Two theater classes offered in collaboration with the Science Museum and Minnesota Zoo. www.stepsingstone.com

STREETCAR MUSEUM

Learn about track, motors, and controls and how the crew does their jobs at the Minnesota Streetcar Museum in Minneapolis. Each child ages 6-11 will have the chance to climb into the Motorman's seat and run the car down the line. <https://trolleyride.org>

TEXTILE CENTER CAMPS

Sew, knit, felt, dye and more. Take home completed fiber items from three- and five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for ages 6-16. 612-436-0464 <http://textilecentermn.org>

TRAPEZE CENTER CIRCUS CAMP

Students ages 8-17 enrolled in the weeklong, half-day camps will experience a variety of circus disciplines (including Trampoline, Static Trapeze, Acrobatics, Circus Bike, and of course Flying Trapeze). 651-262-9477 <http://twincitiestrapeze.com>

TAMARACK NATURE CENTER

Animal encounters, canoeing, hiking, swimming, pond-dipping, mud-mucking, and gardening adventures await for ages 3-13. 651-407-0597 <http://www.WhiteBearArts.org>

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is not a comprehensive list of every camp in the Twin Cities. If you would like to be included in next year's guide, please send us information on your camp.

Nokomis home workshop

Continued from page 1

remained but the frame, brakes and my cranks," Stonich said. When Young, who is from Massachusetts, had business in Albert Lea, he rented a car and strapped his homemade extenders onto the gas and brake pedals and drove 85 miles each way to take Stonich and his wife, Jane, out to lunch. This kind of connection with his customers is what makes Stonich's craft exciting.

"One morning I woke up to an email that had been sent from Japan, an hour before the Fukushima tsunami," Stonich said. "A bike shop owner asking about a cotter press. I replied that I hoped he was okay, and I said I would understand if he wouldn't need it until things settled down."

"He replied 'Now I need it more than ever. Tens of thousands of cars were destroyed. People will need to get their old bikes running again'...."

Stonich explained that 98 percent of cranks for adults are between 170 mm and 175 mm long. But adults 5'5" and under, or 6'4" and taller, are common. "Most bikes for children are sold with cranks that won't be the right length for the child until he or she has outgrown the bike," he said. "When your cranks are too long, your glutes and quads are stretched too much to be effective in the top half of the pedal circle. This makes cycling much more tiring than it should be, so they take up a different activity or watch Netflix."

It takes Stonich just under an hour to shorten most cranks, but he spends an average of 5-6 hours working for every crank sold. "The hard work is gathering enough information about the customers, their bikes and the riding they do, figuring out what length and front sprocket sizes they need and which cranks will work and what, if any, adapters will be needed to the crank of their bikes," Stonich said.



The crank and crank arm are two of the items that Stonich specializes in. (Photo submitted)

"The actual shortening of the crank, the welding or glazing and joining tubes, that's the fun part and only takes ten percent of your time. But when you have that torch in your hand, that's some sort of nirvana for people like me."

As a child, Stonich said he would have liked to tinker but never really had the chance. "We were dirt poor, about the poor-

est family in a pretty lower-middle-class town. I was born in Duluth, but my parents were living in Grand Rapids at the time on a forestry station."

As a teenager, Stonich had a job and wanted a car, but his dad would not allow him to have one. "Back then, a bike for a teenager was a shameful thing, like riding a toy. So I built up a bike from scrap parts to embarrass my dad into buying me a car, and it worked. He got me a car."

But Stonich's bike riding continued, and a few years later he was at a party in Duluth where he met a girl. "She needed a ride home, but she thought we were all too drunk to drive. However, she was desperate to get home, and we went outside, and I pulled out a bike. I folded my serape and put it on the rear rack for her to ride on. As we rode along, I thought this girl was such a good sport. We rode a mile, and she said to make a left

and it was straight up a hill. We walked the rest of the way to her home. And now we have a great grandson who is a senior in high school. We have worn out three touring motorcycles and are on our seventh tandem bike. We still ride together a lot."

The two shoot a lot of photos while on their bike rides. "Photography is a hobby, but biking is my life," Stonich said.

"The beautiful thing about what I do is that while special needs folks usually need more of my time, they end up with my cheapest cranks. Triathletes and racers will spend anywhere from \$219 to over \$700. So helping upper-middle-class white folks go even faster, subsidizes helping people who otherwise wouldn't be able to ride at all."

Two of the most satisfying things in life, according to Stonich, are problem-solving and making a difference in someone's life. He said one of his rare Min-

nesota customers loved riding her bike, but was hit by a car and her knee was badly damaged, severely restricting her range of motion. The bike was unharmed but put away for 30 years before someone told the woman about Stonich's services.

"I installed a set of 100 mm cranks on her bike, and she rode right off. They say you never forget how to ride a bike, and apparently, that's true. She rode down our street, made a U-turn and returned crying like a baby. She wouldn't stop hugging us."

Stonich said the nice thing about being semi-retired is that he can spend a sunny Wednesday outside on his bike and spend time in his workshop on a Sunday night.

"At 72, I'd love to have more time for travel and photography," Stonich said. "But as long as there is no one else to help those with special needs, I can't quit."

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on the corner of E. 29th St. and 32nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis
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 served by shuttle bus. www.saintalbertthegreat.org

In Our Community

Messenger

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

Codfish / Meatball Dinner set Mar. 1

St. Peder's Lutheran Church, 4600 E. 42nd St., will hold its Annual Codfish and Meatball Dinner on Fri., Mar. 1.

There will be seatings at 5pm and 6:30pm. The dinner also includes boiled potatoes with our famous mustard gravy, peas and carrots, Havarti cheese on pumpernickel, cupcakes and beverages.

The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Call the Church office at 612-722-8000 or email Jeannie at office@stpeders.org for reservations. Please state how many meatball or cod dinners, seating time preference, and phone number if leaving a message.

Transition Longfellow visioning its future

Transition Longfellow continues its transition to new leadership in March. A new team kick-off meeting is being scheduled for the first two weeks of March. See the website for dates and details at www.transitionlongfellow.org.

Movie Night will be held Fri., Mar. 16, with a potluck at 6:30pm, and a movie 7-9pm. The event will be held at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S. Share a potluck meal, then join with neighbors to watch and discuss a few brief TED Talk videos about everyday leaders, activism for introverts, and what leads to a more fulfilled life (happiness is not the goal, it's the byproduct). Please bring a food item to share. Cost is by donation.

Transition Longfellow intends to continue the Chard Your Yard program this spring. Sign-up to get a raised bed begins Apr. 1, and volunteer sign-up begins Mar. 1, both on the website.

Transition Longfellow has partnered with Hennepin County Master Gardeners to once again bring the Veggie Basics class to Gandhi Mahal every Saturday morning in April. Sign-up begins Mar. 1 on the website.

Learn to make Spring Rolls appetizers

Join others on Mar. 17, 1:30-3pm to make the Asian appetizer Spring Rolls at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St. You will learn the techniques for filling and rolling the spring rolls. Eat a few while you work, and take a few home with you. We will also learn how to make two dipping sauces: peanut dipping sauce as well as fish sauce.

All supplies and recipes provided. Suggested donation \$10 and you must RSVP by Mar. 10: events@faithlutheranmpls.org or call 612-729-5463.

NA group meets twice weekly

A Narcotics Anonymous group meets every Wednesday at 7:30pm, and every Friday evening at 7pm at Faith Evangelical Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Clean-up the gorge scheduled Apr. 20

Taking place just off of W. River Pkwy., this family-friendly clean-up is an Earth Day tradition in the Minneapolis River Gorge. By returning to this site year after year has displayed a dramatic improvement to the area thanks to dedicated volunteers!

To participate on Sat., Apr. 20, 9:30am to 12pm, simply show up at either E. 36th St. and W. River Pkwy, or E. 44th St. and W. River Pkwy. to sign-in with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) staff. All supplies are provided, however, if you have your own gloves feel free to bring them along. Sturdy shoes are strongly suggested as well as dressing in layers for the weather.

Learn more at fmr.org/events/2019/04/20/join-us-annual-minneapolis-earth-day-cleanup. Advanced registration for this event is not required. However, if you have a group of 10-20 people, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Amy Kilgore, akilgore@fmr.org or 651-222-2193 x31. For groups of 20+, please contact Erica Chua, echua@minneapolisparcs.org or 612-230-6479 to be assigned a location that will better fit your group size.

Indoor Block Party scheduled Mar. 23

The Nokomis East Business Association's annual Indoor Block Party for Adults and Kids is planned for Sat., Mar. 23, 10am-1pm at Lake Nokomis Community School, Keewaydin Campus (5209 30th Ave. S.) You will be able to check out all of the great offerings local businesses can provide for you. Local food, games, crafts, bounce houses and more! Tons of fun for kids and adults. For more information or to reserve a booth, contact nokomiseastba@gmail.com by Mar. 16.

Summer spots now open at Leonardo's

Summer registration is now open at Leonardo's Basement, 150 W. 60th St.

There are opportunities for kids and teens to design, build and play in a ginormous workshop this summer. Options include ten weeks of full and

half-day workshops on Monday through Friday beginning June 10, as well as Friday-only workshops with am and pm extended day options.

There will be Individual and collaborative project building in engineering, art, design, and technology for ages 6-17, as well as a Harry Potter Theme Week including a giant Hogwarts Castle build. Other workshops include welding, metalworking, art, CAD, Arduino, woodworking, escape room, and community service workshops for teens. Scholarships are available.

For complete information go to leonardosbasement.asapconnected.com/?.

Docu film on Oudolf screened locally

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) is sponsoring screenings of the award-winning documentary film "Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf" at select theaters in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

A local screening will be held at Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Ave. S., on Thur., Mar. 14 at 7pm. The showing will be followed by a discussion led by local horticulturalists.

Tickets are now available for this inspirational, award-winning documentary. Pre-registration is required, and people can register through MSHS at northern-gardener.org/mshs-events. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students. Ticket sales benefit MSHS horticultural programming in greater Minnesota and surrounding states.

Revolutionary Dutch landscape designer Piet Oudolf is known for designing public works like New York City's popular High Line and the Lurie Garden in Chicago's Millennium Park that redefine our conception of gardens as works of art. This gorgeous, meditative documentary immerses viewers in his work, taking us inside Oudolf's creative process. He layers native and non-native perennials with grasses that are beautiful in every season. From his aesthetic theories to his strikingly abstract sketches to the ecological implications of his ideas, the film poetically reveals how Oudolf upends conventional notions of nature, public space and, ultimately, beauty itself.

This film is promoted by the Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program, American Society of Landscape Architects - Minnesota branch, and North Dakota State University Extension Master Gardener Program.

AA and NA meets

Every Monday night there is an AA meeting at 7pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), and every

Tuesday and Wednesday night there is an AA meeting at 7:30pm. On Thursday night, there is an NA meeting at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Talk planned on Ash Borers in Gorge

Invasive, non-native Emerald Ash Borers are killing thousands of ash trees along the Mississippi River as well as in our neighborhoods. What is the status of this ecological threat, what is being done in the wild lands of the river gorge, and what can we do to help?

Three expert presenters will address those questions in a free talk at St. Peder's Church, 4600 E. 42nd St., on Tues., Mar. 12, 7-8pm. Presenters include Jonathan Osthus (MN Dept. of Ag.), Philip Potyondy (Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board) and Mary Hammes (Mississippi Park Connection). Questions, discussion, and social time will follow.

Faith Book Club meets Mar. 2

Faith Lutheran's Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month at 10am at 3430 E. 51st St. "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott is the featured book for Mar. 2. Everyone is welcome.

Epworth plans 32nd annual auction

Epworth UMC, 3207 37th Ave. S., is hosting its annual live auction on Sat., Apr. 6, with a preview at 11:30am and the auction starting at noon. You can come bid on furniture, gift cards and more at this exciting event. Proceeds from this event support church programming, such as Cabin Fever, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School.

Want to donate an item for the auction? Send us an email at epworthumcmplsmn@gmail.com or call 612-722-0232 to set up a time to drop it off, or for Epworth volunteers to pick up your item!

Oxheart presents Off the Cuff Mar. 3

Oxheart will present Off the Cuff: A dream series, Sat., Mar. 3, 6-10pm at Squirrel Haus Arts, 3450 Snelling Ave. The first of four events presented by Oxheart—this first collaborative, spontaneous performance will feature interactive soft sculpture art by New York artist Luiza Kurzyrna, a collective of Twin-Cities dance improvisers, and a gifted Twin-Cities musical ensemble. Dance movement will be performed by Patricia McManus, Robert Borman, Lindsay Forsythe, Angie Clifford, and Alan Tse. Mu-

sical performers are Mike Krenner (guitar), Mark Miller (guitar), Dan Gahres (bass), and Jon Schmig (keyboards).

Doors open and refreshments at 6pm with the performance starting at 7pm and post-performance reception and refreshments at 8pm. There is a \$10 cover, or pay what you can.

Parking is available in the Squirrel Haus back lot on Dight Ave. or on Snelling, but please enter via the front door on Snelling Ave.

For more information visit www.oxheart.net.

City tree lottery open until Mar. 13

Thanks to overwhelming popularity, Minneapolis' low-cost trees program operates by lottery. Minneapolis property owners can enter the lottery any time through Mar. 13. Lottery entrants will hear back Mar. 18. About 800 property owners will each be able to order a 5- to 8-foot tree to plant in their yards. Large species shade trees are \$30 each. Fruit trees and smaller species are \$40 each.

The 14 varieties available this year include large species, flowering trees and several kinds of fruit trees. Any Minneapolis property owner can register in the lottery to order a tree to plant on private Minneapolis property this spring. Comparable trees cost about \$125 at a nursery.

- Property owners can register for the lottery any time now through Mar. 13. The last people to register will have the same chances as the first.

- Low-cost trees are available for Minneapolis residents, businesses and nonprofits.

- Limit one tree per address.

- Trees must be picked up May 18, 19 or 20 at the City of Minneapolis Impound Lot at 51 Colfax Ave. N. Volunteers will be on hand to help load each new tree and a complimentary bag of mulch into vehicles.

- Go to <http://treetrust.org/get-a-tree/mpis-tree-distribution-copy> to register online.

In the past 13 years, the City Trees program has provided approximately 14,000 trees for planting on private property. The City Trees program helps meet Minneapolis' health goal focusing on the well-being of people and the environment. Since 2006, the City of Minneapolis has funded the City Trees program, a low-cost way for folks to help build the city's tree canopy.

Beer & Bible with Epworth set Mar. 13

Whether you're new to the Bible, new to beer, or well-versed in both, you're invited to join the Beer & Bible group once a

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In Our Community

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month at Merlin's Rest, 2601 E. Lake St. The group meets next on Wed., Mar. 13, 6:30-8pm. All walks of life and faith welcome. Come and enjoy great discussion and fellowship—beer is optional. In March, they will begin a discussion about a new book of the Bible.

Can't make it on Wednesdays? Join the Bagel & Bible group, following the same curriculum, on the fourth Sunday of each month (Mar. 24) at 9:15am at Epworth, 3207 37th Ave. S.

Elder Voices slates meeting for Mar. 29

The March gathering of Elder Voices, telling our stories, will take place Fri., Mar. 29, 10-11:30am at Turtle Bread (4205 34th St.). As always there will be an opportunity to tell or update their "elder stories." Also, there will be an update on the Multi-Cultural Elder Dialogues statewide project. Another topic will be Minneapolis for a Lifetime and asking the question "is Minneapolis age-friendly?"

LGBTQ support group meets Saturdays

A support group for LGBTQ adults living with mental illness meets weekly on Saturdays, 1-2:30pm, at Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St. This free support group is sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and led by trained facilitators who are also in recovery. For information call David at 612-920-3925 or call 651-645-2948.

Garden Club plans meeting Mar. 13

Longfellow Garden Club presents "Nature Photography in the City," Mar. 13, 7pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. Travis Bonovsky is a nature enthusiast, bird watcher and native gardener who uses photography to learn about our natural world. He finds the vast majority of his subjects within the city; at local parks and even cemeteries. His writings and photos have been featured in Minnesota Conservation Volunteer Magazine, National Audubon Society, Birds&Blooms Magazine, KARE11 Weatherguide Calendar, Capture Minnesota and more. He will share a photo presentation of his favorite birds, butterflies, plants, insects and mammals from around the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

28th annual Pasty Sale planned

Join Epworth for their 28th year of making and selling pasties to the community! Warm up with the delicious hand-held savory "pocket pies."

There are options for vegetarian, no salt, gluten-free (no crust) or no rutabagas variations as well as the traditional ground beef and vegetable pies.

Order your \$6 pocket pie by Mar. 11 at epworthmpls.org/pastysale or by calling 651-645-9855 (make sure you say the quantity and type you are ordering)—you can pick up your handmade pasties from 2-4:30pm on Sat., Mar. 16.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays from 6-7pm in

the Hope Room at Living Table Church, 3805 E. 40th St. Anyone with a desire to stop gambling is welcome.

Soup Supper set for Ash Wednesday

All are invited to a free Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday, Mar. 6, at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., from 5:30-6:30pm. A Worship service with communion and imposition of ashes will follow the supper.

Upcoming events at LS Healthy Seniors

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a free monthly Senior Social/Health Talk on Tues., Mar. 19 at 10:30am (doors open at 10am) at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. The presentation is on "Hidden Risks of Dehydration." Dehydration can be common in older adults. Learn about the causes, symptoms and prevention of dehydration. Presented by a representative from Recover Health.

A "Coloring Jam" (open coloring session) will be held Wed., Mar. 27 from 1:30-3:30pm at Trinity Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St. Come spend time coloring and relaxing! Healthy Seniors will provide a variety of coloring books, markers, crayons and colored pencils. A class fee of \$4 covers all supplies. Registration is required by calling 612-729-5799.

Join in an Alcohol Ink Painting class using brightly colored, fast-drying alcohol inks. Different effects will create wonderful designs on tiles, synthetic paper, and other media. The classes will be held the first Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30pm on Mar. 6 and Apr. 13 at Trini-

ty Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St. There is a \$5 fee per class, which includes all materials. Class size is limited, so register by calling 612-729-5799 or email info@LShealthyseniors.org.

Tai Chi Easy exercise classes are held on Mondays from 10:30-11:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Classes cost \$5/each, and discounts may be available for lower-income seniors. Tai Chi is a low-impact, slow-motion exercise that's adaptable to individual abilities. Movements vary between sitting and standing and help improve breathing, coordination, flexibility and strength. Registration is not required, so come and try it!

A free monthly Diabetes Support Group for adults will be held on Wed., Mar. 13 from 1-2:30pm at Trinity Apartments. Anyone with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes is invited to attend.

Additionally, Healthy Seniors is looking for "Friendly Visitor" volunteers and volunteer drivers to help seniors live independently. Call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 or email them at info@LShealthyseniors.org for more information on activities, services or volunteer opportunities.

Auditions set for upcoming play

Classics Lost N Found Theater, a south Minneapolis-based community theater, will hold auditions for Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, "A Woman of No Importance," Mar. 5 and 6, 6:30-8:30pm, at Faith Mennonite Church, 2720 E. 22nd St.

Needed are seven men, seven women—ages 18 to 70.

Performances will be at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 E. 46th St.) on May 10, 11, 18, and 19. Call 612-724-4539 for more information.

Free mental health course offered

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., will host a free Older Adult Mental Health First Aid course on Sat., Mar. 23, from 8am-5pm, lunch provided. This public education program introduces risk factors and warning signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders, and reviews support options. The eight-hour course focuses on the unique experiences and needs of adults over the age of 65. This course is designed for people who work with or care for older adults. (Please note, this class may be too basic for those who work in mental health services.)

This free class, valued at \$170, is sponsored by Fairview Community Health and Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church. Please register by Mar. 18 at Fairview.org/mhfa-classes, by calling 651-232-1449, or by emailing ketaylor@health-east.org.

Blind Ministry meets at Faith Mar. 9

The Blind Ministry group will meet at Faith Ev. Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St., on Sat., Mar. 9, from 12-2pm. Lunch is served at noon followed devotion and fellowship.

Lent procession scheduled Mar. 10

Join Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts for a contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent on Sun., Mar. 10, 4pm! Typically associated with Advent and Christmas, this service is designed especially for those caught up in

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Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by March 18 for the March 28 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, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Messenger before Mar. 18 for the Mar. 28 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

APARTMENT WANTED

Seeking one or one-plus bedroom apartment for May. Prefer duplex or 4-plex. Don - donald-kvam@gmail.com OR 612-865-1783. 03-19

Seeking one or one-plus bedroom apartment for March or April. Moving date is flexible. Prefer duplex or 4-plex. Lynn - lynns@bitstream OR 651-489-9053

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In Our Community

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preparations for the coming Easter and spring seasons. It provides an opportunity to withdraw from the busy-ness of life to pray, sing, listen, smell—a chance to fully enter into the season of Lent, a time to renew.

The event takes place at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S., and is free and open to the public.

This is the fourth event in the 2018-2019 Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts season. For further information on this event and on the Music and Fine Arts program, please contact Dr. Cherwien at the church office by phone at 612-827-5919, by email at cantor@mountolivechurch.org, or online at www.mountolivechurch.org.

Historic Fort Snelling to get major reno

The Minnesota Historical Society is proceeding with a revised project and revised budget that allows construction for the Historic Fort Snelling revitalization project to start in Fall 2019.

MNHS received \$15 of the \$30 million requested for the full revitalization project in the 2018 legislative session.

After consulting with project and community partners, MNHS decided that breaking up the original revitalization plan into stand-alone projects made the most sense financially. This al-

lows MNHS to start construction this fall on the most substantial part of the project and minimize the risk of additional construction costs due to further delays. If the legislature passes a bonding bill in 2019, any funds appropriated for Historic Fort Snelling will go towards additions to the revised project and the sustainability of the site.

The revised project incorporates \$19.5 million appropriated by the state so far, plus \$15 million pledged in private dollars. The budget for the revised project is \$34.5 million. Originally, MNHS had planned to spend \$46.5 million on the full revitalization plan.

The site will remain open during construction with work expected to be completed in 2021.

The revised project includes removal of the current, failing visitor center; creating a dynamic new visitor center with a 4,000-square-foot exhibit inside a rehabilitated 1905 cavalry barracks; making updates to the landscape to provide opportunities for outdoor learning and for a place of remembrance; improving parking, wayfinding and access; and rolling out an interpretive plan developed with community partners that expands stories of the military, Dakota, African-Americans, Japanese-Americans, women and more.

The revised project does not include rehabilitating an 1880 ordnance building (building 22) to turn it into an orientation space, and updates

to the landscape and parking will be reduced in scope. If additional state funding is made available in 2019, MNHS will undertake these projects on a separate timeline.

Explore a full season of great programs at Historic Fort Snelling beginning Memorial Day Weekend. Additional hours are available for school groups in the spring and fall. Learn more at www.mnhs.org/fortsnelling.

Record ridership for the Blue Line

Three transit lines are connecting even more regional riders to jobs, school, services, recreation, shopping, and other activities. The Metropolitan Council's Regional Ridership Report shows the METRO Green Line, METRO Blue Line, and A Line have all outdistanced their previous year's ridership.

In 2018, more than 11 million rides were taken on the METRO Blue Line which runs through the *Messenger* delivery area, setting an annual ridership record.

The METRO Green Line between the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul saw a record 13.8 million rides, a 5 percent increase from the previous year. Annual ridership has risen every year since the Green Line opened in 2014.

The A Line (46th St. Station in Longfellow to Rosedale Transit Center) surpassed last year's ridership with a record 1.6 million rides. Since introducing bus rapid transit (BRT) service, ridership throughout the A Line corridor has increased by about one-third.

The Twin Cities region experienced a just over 1 percent dip in overall ridership following the October 2017 fare increase. While ridership in the region overall is showing signs of rebounding, budget constraints have slowed growth. Given the anticipated long-term structural deficit, Metro Transit has been planning more conservatively and has been unable to reinvest in the regular route bus system, which could improve route performance and support ridership growth.

Book launch party scheduled Mar. 9

Courageous heARTS, 2235 E. 38th St., a youth-led nonprofit art studio fueled by the transformative power of art, is releasing its first edition coloring book, "Color Me Courageous: Local to Legendary Twin Cities Landmarks." The coloring book, featuring the work of local youth artists, highlights some of the most beloved Twin Cities landmarks like First Avenue, Guthrie Theater and more.

The "Color Me Courageous" launch party will be held Sat., Mar. 9, 6-9pm at Anahata Collaborative, 2836 Lyndale Ave. S. Tickets, \$30 VIP or \$15 general admission, can be purchased online for a fee at bit.ly/ColorMeCourageous.

Longfellow resident takes dance lead

Collide presents a contemporary version of Oscar Wilde's classic novel "The Picture of Dorian

Perfect weather for sled dog rides!

On Feb. 11, Minnehaha Academy's 3-year-old preschool students were greeted with special visitors at the Lower School—sled dogs! With fresh snow on the ground and temperatures back above zero, this visit from the sled dogs was the perfect addition to a month-long classroom unit on Alaska. The preschoolers spent the past month learning about the state's various animals and fish, modes of transportation and its geography. (Photos provided)



Gray," premiering Mar. 22-Apr. 7 at Park Square Theatre in St. Paul.

Among the cast is Longfellow resident Brittany Keefe, who plays the title role of Dorian Gray. She is a freelance dancer and teacher. Most recently she was a company member for the James Sewell Ballet, and as a teacher she was an adjunct faculty professor at Northern Illinois University and the school coordinator of the Rockford Dance Company. Keefe has danced with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet Memphis, Minnesota Dance Theatre, James Sewell Ballet, American Repertory Ballet, Terpsicorps Dance Theater, Twin Cities Ballet, Terra Firma Dance Company, Chamber Dance Project, St. Paul Ballet, at the National Choreographers' Initiative.

Keefe performed in a solo improvisation show in Germany and Italy, and was selected to be an American ambassador at the international dance festival in Cali, Colombia. Keefe and her husband are building DanceCo—a local dance company creating original dance narratives for young audiences and their families.

Set in modern-day New York City, "The Picture of Dorian Gray" follows a beautiful young Dorian Gray who stumbles into an accidental photo opportunity and shoots to heights of social media fame. Disturbed that her physical beauty will deteriorate with age, Dorian wishes for eternal youth. Her wish is granted, and the photo rather than the woman degrades as she pursues a life of corruption and debauchery, reminding her that though her looks are unscathed, her soul is not. Can she still find salvation? Or is her soul trapped in the photograph?

This production features an all-female cast and music by female singer/songwriters from the 1990s to today. The production is choreographed by Regina Peluso with direction by Michael Hanna.

The performance will take place Mar. 22 through Apr. 7 in the Proscenium Theater Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place, St. Paul. Tickets are available by visiting www.collidetheatrical.org or calling 877-508-7890.

MN Premiere screens at The Trylon

Sound Unseen is proud to present the MN premiere of the Cannes, Fantastic Fest and IFFR selection, "Knife + Heart" by writer/director Yann Gonzalez ("You and the Night" and former member of French electronic band, M83).

In Gonzalez's second feature, a masked serial killer stalks a producer and her film company in this love letter to European giallo, American grindhouse cinema, and '70s gay porn.

The screening will take place on Wed., Mar. 13, with doors opening at 6:30pm and film at 7pm, at The Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St.

Tickets are \$12 both in advance and at the door.

Submit your news

If you are an organization located in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger delivery area, you can submit your event, special program, or noteworthy news to us for consideration. Submit your item by email to editorial@deruyternelson.com. The deadline for the next issue is Mon., Mar. 18 for the Mar. 28 issue.

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Wonderwoman Construction stands out in male-dominated industry

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Wonderwoman Construction is a woman-owned, one-stop design and general contracting business in the Longfellow neighborhood. Owner Lori Reese said, "Our team is dedicated to the concept of using building science to improve not only the look and function of your project but also its impact on the environment."

Sustainability practices are a big deal in the building industry these days. Reese said, "The earth is our home, and we make it a priority to treat it that way. We use tools, materials, and processes that are sustainable and would make Mother Nature proud. We optimize our projects for energy efficiency, which can save both your money and your conscience in the long run."

Reese grew up on a dairy farm in Blooming Prairie, MN. "I learned to work hard on the farm," she said, "shoveling manure, picking rocks, baling hay, carrying buckets of water. Looking back, it was kind of sexist because my three sisters and I didn't get to weld or use any of the heavy machinery—and I wanted to do those things. I majored in business in college and did an internship in construction even though I didn't know much about construction at the time. I liked it so much that I became a Union Carpenter in 1988."

Using her business acumen, Reese soon opened her own business. In 2002, she started hiring employees. She had a female business partner at the time, and using their combined names for a company name didn't suit them. "We went to superheroes for inspiration pretty quickly," Reese said.

Growing up on the farm, Reese had loved watching Wonder Woman on one of the three TV stations that existed back



Wonderwoman Construction owner Lori Reese said, "It's super important to recognize that women can be successful in the construction business, and that we can provide strong role models." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

then. The original DC Comics Wonder Woman had some pretty amazing powers: superhuman strength, speed, reflexes, agility, empathy—and an enhanced sense of smell, vision, and hearing. The name fit the business, and Wonderwoman Construction was born.

The company has grown steadily, and Reese now employs 15+ employees. "We got so busy that I hung up my tool belt in 2006, recognizing that I could either be a good carpenter or a good business manager," she said. "We usually have about ten projects going at a time, each one



Wonderwoman Construction is located at 3715 Minnehaha Ave. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

with a project manager assigned to it. Our workload is roughly 80% residential and 20% commercial projects. We try to work close to home to keep our gas consumption down. We do projects as small as our minimum \$200, up to \$1,000,000."

"I've always asked questions," Reese said, "it's what I'm known for. If I don't understand something, I'll ask. I've encouraged my carpenters to do the same thing because we want to look at the big picture and give our customers all the options. For instance, if a client wants to do a fancy kitchen remodel but it's obvious they have ice dams, we'll encourage them to deal with the structural problems first."

"The construction industry is still male-dominated," according to Reese, "although the judgments are a little less than they used to be." Wonderwoman Construction employs men as well as women, and Reese

refers to her team as superheroes in their own right for their commitment to excellence. She said, "Our team is made of people anyone would be comfortable having in their home. Every one of us is conscientious, hard-working, and very friendly toward kids and pets."

Wonderwoman Construction has a master electrician on staff, a designer, and three master painters (interior and exterior). They install insulation and do custom welding. Reese recently got certified as an electrical contractor herself and, to top it all off, started a snow removal service this year. The flat fee is \$75 for a house (corner lot is \$95) including sidewalk, steps, and garage apron.

Call 612-210-9220 with questions, or stop in at 3715 Minnehaha Ave. M-F between 8am-5pm. Wonderwoman Construction t-shirts and other merchandise are available for purchase.

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