

SAVE
HIAWATHA
GOLF COURSE

Golfers push back
and rally to save
Hiawatha Golf Course

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Nokomis Playground is
imaginative fun
for youngsters

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Belle's Tool Box,
creative play space,
opening soon

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By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Minnehaha Academy is working to rise together following a devastating gas explosion at the Upper School (3100 W. River Pkwy.) on Aug. 2 that killed two staff members and destroyed the oldest section of the school facility built in 1913.

Nearly 1,000 people wearing the Minnehaha school color red attended a Unity Walk on Aug. 15. The walk started at the Upper School and ended at the Lower School with a ceremonial raising of the flag back to full mast.

"Two weeks ago we were dealt a blow," remarked Minnehaha Academy Board Chair David Anderson. "Together we will rise."

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Sara Jacobson noted, "It's important for current students and alums to come together to comfort each other, but also to celebrate the community that we have. The Unity Walk enabled us to thank the first responders, demonstrate our commitment to each other in this tragedy, and most importantly, begin to look forward to what God has for Minnehaha Academy in the future."

#TogetherWeRise

The school has begun tagging its own social media posts with the hashtag #TogetherWeRise and encouraging others to use

Minnehaha Academy: #TogetherWeRise

An explosion destroyed a section of the school and killed two, but school proves its community is strong and resilient



it, as well.

"We chose #TogetherWeRise as a hashtag for this experience because we are a caring community, and we know that together we will become stronger, we will grow, we will rise up to be a greater school and to show the community what we can do together," explained Jacobson.

Minnehaha Academy President Donna Harris observed, "Together is the pivotal and transformative word. I am confident we will rise from the devastating blow we have sustained as a community because our shared experience of pain and loss has drawn us closer together. So with God's help, I believe

we will rise in unity, with a renewed sense of purpose, hope, and commitment to our mission."

While the start of the school year will be different, Upper Campus Principal Jason Wenschlag has been assuring students, "We're going to be ok."

"It's going to be a great year. It's going to bring us together," said Wenschlag. "We're going to be sure to carry on the same traditions and experiences our kids expect."

On Wed., Aug. 23, the school announced that classes for its high school students

school announced that classes for its high school students would be held at 1345 Mendota Heights Rd. in Mendota Heights in the former Sanford-Brown College building. The school has signed a two-year lease at the site which is eight miles south of the Minnehaha campus, and hopes to be back in a permanent location as soon as possible. "The process for assessing the structural soundness of our Upper School and conducting rebuilding analyses with a partially destroyed structure is complex, so it is prudent and beneficial for Minnehaha to have a longer time window at the Mendota Heights site if

Minnehaha Academy President Donna Harris greeted each person who walked from the Upper Campus down to the Lower Campus during the Unity Walk on Aug. 15. Over 1,000 people wore the school's color red and attended the Unity Walk. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

needed," stated Harris.

Moving forward

Wenschlag was out of town in Chicago when he received the news of the explosion. He hopped on the next flight and was back at Minnehaha Academy by 2pm, but found there was little he could do except pray for those unaccounted for as the authorities were managing the scene of the blast.

Master Mechanical workers had been moving a gas main at the campus, and those inside were given just a few minutes notice before the structure exploded.

The explosion rocked and set ablaze the center of the upper school at 10:23am, causing a partial collapse of two floors over a sub-basement. After the fire was extinguished, an intensive operation began to find the missing. By the end of the first day, Minnehaha knew it had lost 17-year receptionist Ruth Berg, as well as alum and staff member John Carlson. Nine were injured and transported to the hospital with fractures, cuts and head wounds, including assistant boy's soccer coach Bryan Duffey.

Since that first day, Principal Wenschlag has been very busy, working long days and moving forward on short nights of sleep.

"We have kids and teachers, but we're basically starting a school," observed Wenschlag.

Continued on page 15



After two weeks with the flag at half-mast, it was brought back to full-mast during a special ceremony on Tues., Aug. 15 at the Lower Campus as the Minnehaha Academy sought to move forward together from a devastating gas explosion. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



The Unity Walk gave Minnehaha Academy the opportunity to come together and thank first responders who arrived within minutes of the explosion that rocked the campus, destroyed the center section of the school and killed two staff members on Aug. 2. Here President Donna Harris thanks members of the Minneapolis Police Department. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Members of the Minnehaha Academy pep band, old and new, played during the Unity Walk on Aug. 15, just two weeks after an explosion damaged the Upper Campus and killed two staff members. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Well-known Minnesota chef plans to open restaurant in The Capp

Development near 46th and Hiawatha will also include grocery store, other retail, and 150 apartments

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

James Beard Award nominee chef Erick Harcey plans to open a new restaurant next year in The CAPP building, a mixed-use project near 46th and Hiawatha that will include a grocery store.

The restaurant at 3939 46th St. E. will be part of a five-story mixed-use development proposed by Excelsior-based Oppidan Investment Company. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2018.

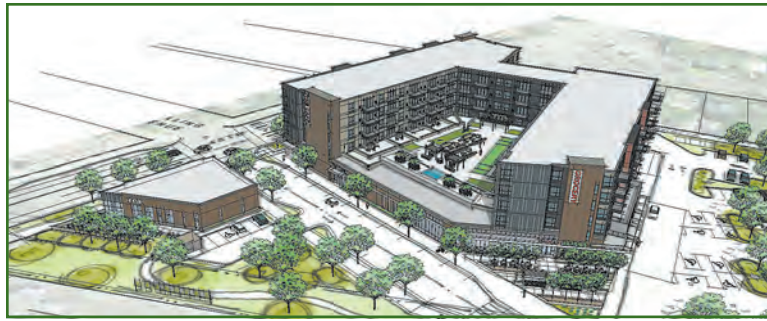
"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to develop a restaurant in the Longfellow neighborhood," Harcey said in a press release. "My team and I are looking forward to bringing an approachable space to the area and a destination for all."

Name, concept still unknown

The new 4,000-foot, one-story restaurant building with outdoor seating will be located on the northwest slice of the property, between the extension of Snelling Ave. and the railroad tracks. The five-story building with the grocery store will be to the east, replacing the current structure that houses Creative Kidstuff's corporate offices.

Harcey has not yet picked a name for his new restaurant, and other details, including concept and menu, are still in the works.

The new restaurant in Longfellow near Minnehaha Park comes at a time of flux for Harcey, who has recently stopped serving the "Perfect Burger" at his Victory 44 restaurant in North Minneapolis and shuttered the Upton 43 and Dirty Bird take-out in Linden Hills. The Upton 43, known for its modern spin on Nordic food, will be reopening at a smaller location in the North Loop.



The new restaurant with outdoor seating will be in a 4,000-foot, one-story building (on left) near the railroad tracks and future Min Hi Line trail. (Illustrations courtesy of Oppidan)

Harcey's deep Swedish roots are at the source of his cooking, according to his website. "He has never quite recreated, in later life, the joy of coming home from school in Cambridge, MN, and smell, before he even opened the door, that his mother was baking potato dill bread. And it was several long talks near the end of his Swedish grandfather's life that gave him the ultimate vision for Upton 43. But Chef Harcey is just as influenced by Marco Pierre White's White Heat, and the insatiable inventiveness of Ferran Adrià."

When he's not in the kitchen or planning a new restaurant, Harcey might be found coaching one of his four son's baseball teams or trying to get a fat wall-eye to bite the end of his line.

No grocery store named yet

Both the restaurant building and the five-story structure with a grocery store, 150 apartments and pedestrian-friendly town center were reviewed by the city's planning commission on July 17.

"We received project approvals from the Minneapolis planning commission about a month ago and are very excited, but still have some big challenges," said Drew

Johnson of Oppidan.

A grocer has not yet been selected.

"Now that we are approved, we're going to the market to see who can best meet/achieve the specific land-use requirements of Minneapolis," said Johnson.

Challenge ahead for the project include funding for the public improvements, including the new city street, Min Hi Line trail project, and relocating the Xcel power poles.

The city approved a variance to increase the maximum allowed gross floor area for commercial use from 20,000 square feet to 47,280 square feet, subject to a few conditions. Staff recommended that a principal entrance, accessible to the public during the open hours of operation, be prominently located at the corner of 46th St and Snelling Ave., and at least one commercial tenant space in addition to the grocery store face 46th St.

The city also requires that architectural elements, such as windows, shall be incorporated on the north, east and west building elevations to prevent blank, uninterrupted walls exceeding 25 feet in width as required by section 530.120 of the zoning code. On the west elevation of the elevator/stair tower and



James Beard Award nominee chef Erick Harcey plans to open a new restaurant next year in The CAPP building near Hiawatha and 46th, part of a multi-use development that will include 150 apartments and a grocery store. (Illustrations courtesy of Oppidan)

at the upper floors of the corner of the building facing 46th St and Snelling Ave, additional consideration shall be given to ensure the corner of the building is an attractive focal point with visual interest. Also, to be consistent with the zoning code, the exterior appearance of the face brick and thin brick cladding on the insulated precast wall panels will match, and the types of metal panel used will be limited to two, one of which will be an accent material.

At least 32 bicycle parking spaces must be provided for the

nonresidential uses. Bicycle parking facilities provided between the building and 46th St. will be oriented parallel to the building. Oppidan was directed to explore relocating the bike parking to a location that is not between the building and a street, as well as options for installing discontinuous curbing to allow the on-site retention and infiltration of stormwater in landscaped areas.

The planning commission also gave a deadline for the project: all site improvements shall be completed by July 17, 2019.

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Golfers rally to save the Hiawatha Golf Course

Following Park Board decision to close course, supporters come together to push back

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

"We don't want a beautiful recreational asset turned into a stormwater pond," Jerry Mullin told a group of about 100 Hiawatha Golf Course supporters on Tues., Aug. 15.

Mullin, an environmental consultant who used to work for Baar Engineering, has lived across the street from the golf course for 20 years. He and other speakers at a rally in support of Hiawatha Golf Course charged that the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board process hasn't been fair since the beginning, and they want to have more of a say in what happens at the course.

Following a flood in 2014, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) learned that the course is pumping far more water off the property than allowed by a Department of Natural Resources permit. The park board began holding meetings in 2015 to update residents on what was happening at the course and to begin envisioning what else the land could be used for if it wasn't a golf course.

On Aug. 9, the park board approved reducing the pumping from 242 million gallons to 94 million gallons by a 6-3 vote. The course is expected to remain open through the 2019 season.

Supporters push for advocacy

Kathryn Kelly grew up near the golf course, and her mom still resides in the neighborhood. "I be-



A group of about 100 Hiawatha Golf Course supporters gathered on Tues., Aug. 15, in response to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board decision on Aug. 9 to shut down the course. They encourage residents to browse their site, SaveHiawatha18.com for more information and to get involved in saving the course. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

lieve if they flood this golf course all the houses down there are at risk for flooding," said Kelly, who was at home during the 1987 flood when the water came up to Longfellow Ave.

Kelly also played golf at Hiawatha as a teenager when she was a member of the Roosevelt High School team. "I think it should stay," she stated. Kelly doesn't support the park board idea of putting in parking lots and a pavilion. "I don't understand

how you can build a pavilion on a swamp," Kelly commented.

Mayoral candidate Nekima Levy-Pound told the crowd she believes this situation is another example of the Park Board not listening to the people. "Unfortunately, they have too much unchecked power," Levy-Pound said. "The November elections are coming up, and they're very important because we have the chance to change park board leaders."



Jerry Mullin, an environmental consultant who used to work for Baar Engineering, has lived across the street from the golf course for 20 years. He and other speakers at a rally in support of Hiawatha Golf Course charged that the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board process hasn't been fair since the beginning, and they want to have more of a say in what happens at the course. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



"There are 6,800 acres of park land in Minneapolis," said Bobby Warfield. "What are we going to get by having another restaurant in Minneapolis? But this is the only golf course in south Minneapolis." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Levy-Pound said that she didn't understand how the park board is moving ahead with closing the course before it has a solid plan for redevelopment or the funds to pay for it.

Levy-Pound questioned, "How can golf be a dying sport at Hiawatha Golf Course if this course is used by so many?" She pointed to the youth that use the course, as well as all the people who showed up for the rally.

"I believe that because of the power of your advocacy, it will remain open," Levy-Pound said.

Several other candidates for office within the city spoke to the crowd, including Charlie Casserly, at-large park board candidate; Bob Fine, who is running for the District 6 Park Board seat in the southwest section of the city; Bill Shroyer, District 5 Park Board candidate; and Andrea Fahrenkrug, District 5 Park Board candidate.

Shroyer is a 17-year Park Board employee in the forestry and maintenance department. "They're going to dredge the Mississippi, and they can't dredge this lake?" he asked. Shroyer thinks the user numbers generated for the site if it were redeveloped are fake. "I know the food forest isn't



going to bring half a million people here," said Shroyer. "This is a success, and we're not going to give it up."

Andrea Fahrenkrug's husband grew up playing the course at Hiawatha. She understands that some people don't like to play golf and don't use the course. "That's fine," she said. "You don't have to want a golf course. We want a golf course." She believes that diversity in the activities offered within the park system is important.

Bobbie Warfield agreed. "There are 6,800 acres of park land in Minneapolis," he pointed out. "What are we going to get by having another restaurant in Minneapolis? But this is the only golf course in south Minneapolis."

Course supporters encouraged people to browse SaveHiawatha18.com for more information on how to get involved in saving the golf course.

MPRB'S next steps

Earlier in August, the MPRB directed staff to organize a process of amending the Nokomis Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan to accommodate changes to the Hiawatha Golf Course property following the decision to reduce pumping there.

MPRB will be forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to determine if some form of traditional golf can remain on the property.

The process to determine the future usage of the course is estimated to take between nine and 12 months, according to a press release. The process to prepare plans and obtain permits will take another 12 months or more. During that time, MPRB will work with the DNR to continue current pumping levels so that Hiawatha Golf Course will remain open as an 18-hole golf course until at least the end of 2019.



Mayoral candidate Nekima Levy-Pound told the crowd she believes this situation is another example of the Park Board not listening to the people. "Unfortunately, they have too much unchecked power," Levy-Pound said. "The November elections are coming up, and they're very important because we have the chance to change park board leaders." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

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This year's Monarch Festival will occur on Sat., Sept. 9 from 10am to 4pm. The Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly's amazing 2300 mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico with music, food, dance, hands-on art, native plant sales, and plenty of opportunities to get up-close with monarch butterflies—learn about their habitats, and what you can do to make a difference.

Festival participants can listen to music from Salsa Del Soul and other acts, try out the new Animation Station, make their own art print, get up-close with monarch caterpillars, tag and release a monarch butterfly, play games and much more.

Visit the Minneapolis Monarch Festival website at www.monarchfestival.org for the full line-up of up Monarch Festival music, food, art, activities, and native plant sale information. These activities are all free and open to the public. No registration is required.

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

4313 54th St. E.

Monarch Festival - Festival de la Monarca 2017

NENA upcoming meetings and events:

09/06/17: NENA Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee, NENA Office, 6:30pm
09/08/17: NENA Board Meeting, NENA Office, 7pm
09/09/17: Minneapolis Monarch Festival, 49th St. and Woodlawn Blvd., 10am
09/13/17: NENA Green Initiatives Committee, NENA Office, 6:30pm

• Web: www.nokomiseast.org • Facebook: www.facebook.com/Nokomiseast
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The Festival will be held just east of the Lake Nokomis Community Center in the area surrounded by E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Woodlawn Blvd., and E. Nokomis Pkwy. The festival is cohosted by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recre-

ation Board.

Monarch Mile installed

The Monarch Mile, NENA's new pollinator pathway connecting the Nokomis Naturescape and Gateway Garden, was planted on August 1 by local volun-

teers, Minnesota Conservation Corps, Master Water Stewards, and project partners Metro Blooms. This popular cost-share program will be expanded next year. Interested residents who live on E. 50th St. in Nokomis East can contact Program and Communication Manager Lauren Hazenson to be added to the 2018 Monarch Mile garden list.

If this project or similar environmental programs interest you, and you would like to be part of leading similar efforts, come to the next Green Initiatives Committee meeting on Wed., Sept. 13, 6:30-8pm at the NENA Office, 4313 E. 54th St.

Accepting applicants for Morris Park NENA Board Seat

NENA is seeking applicants for the vacant Board seat from the Morris Park neighborhood. The Morris Park neighborhood is bordered by 54th St. on the north, Highway 55 on the east, 34th Ave. on the west, and the southern boundary of the City of Minneapolis.

If you live (homeowner and renters) in the Morris Park neighborhood, you can nominate yourself (most common); or any NENA member can nominate a Morris Park neighborhood resident as an applicant

for the Board. Completed nomination forms are due on Sept. 13.

The NENA Board of Directors will review all applications and appoint a new Board member at its Sept. 28 meeting. This is a replacement appointment serving from Sept. 2017 to Apr. 2018. The appointed Board member may run to be elected to the seat at the April Annual Meeting and serve a full two-year term.

Visit www.nokomiseast.org for more information and an application.

City Academy

The City Academy educational series, offered through the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, is being offered again this year to residents interested in knowing more about how the city government works.

The five-week series includes topics on general government, public safety, public works, planning and development, and fire operations. Participants will learn the latest in firefighting techniques, the latest technology from 311, police procedures how future developments are planned and constructed, how taxes are levied and budgets approved and about City Boards and Commissions. The City Academy is free to the public.

The City Academy will be held every Wednesday from Sept. 20 until Oct. 18.

Registration is open until Sept. 7. To register, please visit the Minneapolis City Academy webpage.

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.



The 2017 Monarch Festival will be held on Sat. Sept. 9, 10am-4pm, just east of the Lake Nokomis Community Center in the area surrounded by E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Woodlawn Blvd., and E. Nokomis Pkwy. (File photo)

Transition Longfellow is an all-volunteer group of Longfellow/South Minneapolis neighbors who create opportunities for neighbors to get to know one another while also learning how they can reduce their energy use and waste, grow their own food, and prepare for extreme weather ahead. Visit www.transitionlongfellow.org to learn more.

Preparedness Book Group meets Wed., Sept. 6, 6:30pm, at Moon Palace Books, 3260 Minnehaha Ave., and Wed., Sept. 20, 6:30pm, at Lake Coffee House, 3223 E. Lake St. The group is reading "Making Home: Adapting Our Homes and Lives to Settle in Place" by Sharon Astyk, chapters 11 and 12 on preparing for greater resilience in the face of a changing climate. Astyk suggests that the future will look less like the Mad Max fantasies of film and more like friends and family members losing their homes and coming to live with us (think Katrina). How do we prepare and welcome them? No need to read the chapter in advance; the group reads out loud.

When Climate Change Comes Home Speaker Series continues on Thurs., Sept. 21, 6:30-8:30pm, at Longfellow Park Building, 3435 36th Ave. S. This is the last informational workshop in the speaker series

Transition Longfellow

By LESLIE MACKENZIE

Are you prepared if a natural disaster strikes your home?

that examines the real-life impacts of a changing climate here in the Twin Cities. The topic is "Protecting Yourself from Insect and Water-borne Diseases." Speakers Jenna Bjork, Trisha Robinson, and Lisa Strong, all from the Minnesota Health Department, will provide information about new tick (including Borrelia miyamotoi, discovered first in Minnesota) and mosquito-borne (West Nile Virus, Jamestown Canyon virus and Powassan virus), and water-related illnesses (like Naegleria fowleri).

A wrap-up session is planned for Sat., Oct. 14, in which information and ideas gathered at all of the informational workshops will be reviewed by community members to begin creating a community preparedness plan.

See the Transition Longfellow website (www.transition-longfellow.org) as information becomes available on **Ready Camp**, a 4.5-hour training that

teaches residents how to be prepared for emergencies, natural disasters and weather extremes, staying safe until emergency services can arrive.

Movie Night is scheduled for Fri., Sept. 15, 6:30pm potluck, 7:15pm movie, at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran, 4101 37th Ave. S. Meet new friends

and neighbors and share a meal together. This month's movie is "Real Value," a documentary on how business can be used to create value beyond profit, with professor of psychology and behavioral economics Dan Ariely, explaining the science behind our perception of value. The film offers inspiration for business owners, entrepreneurs, and customers who want to better understand what happens when a business puts people, planet, and profit on equal footing.



'Tales of Block E' is a subject dear to local author's heart

By JAN WILLMS

Characters come to life in Longfellow author William E. Burleson's recently published book "Tales of Block E: Stories from 1979 on the Most Notorious Block in Minneapolis."

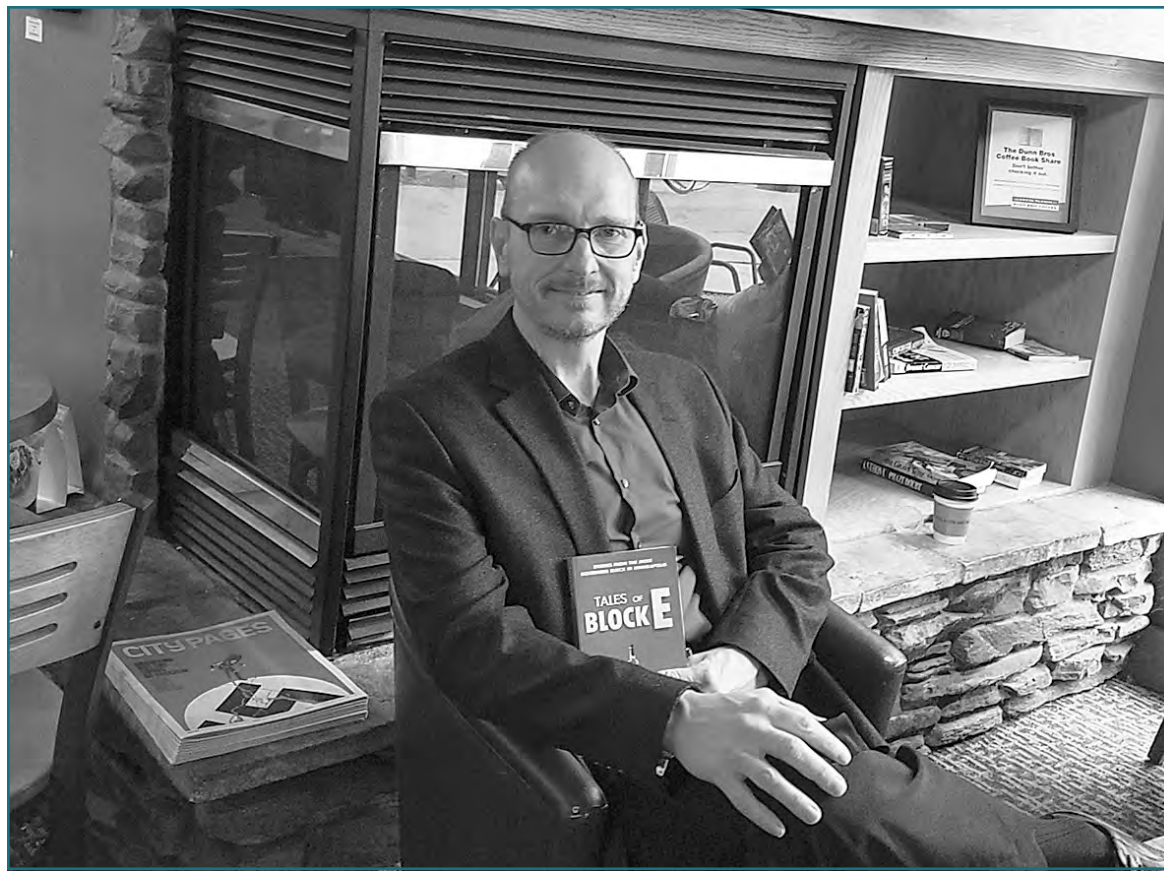
Burleson has put three short stories into the book, and what results is a rich and insightful description of the area in Minneapolis that Burleson said was called "The Hennepin Stretch." Block E was between 7th and 6th streets, and Hennepin and First avenues. He describes various businesses that were prominent in that neighborhood, such as Moby Dick's, Shinders and the Venice Café. And the characters who inhabit that section of Minneapolis, although fictional, are drawn from people who were familiar to Burleson as he grew up around Block E.

Burleson, who wrote quite a bit while studying architecture at the University of Minnesota, left writing behind as he pursued a career. But 15 years ago, he returned to writing and will soon publish his 18th short story. He has written a book about the unique struggles of the bi-sexual community, and he has two novel manuscripts, one called "Avenue," also about Block E, and "Ahnwee Days," about a small town that has seen better days and a mayor who tries to save it.

He has written numerous fiction and non-fiction pieces for literary journals and magazines.

But his youth spent on Block E has been a special subject for him. "I liked writing about Block E; I had so much intersection with it when I was younger," Burleson said. He grew up on 24th and 3rd Ave., where his family served as caretakers of a small museum that still exists by the Minneapolis Art Institute. "We lived on the grounds, and I played in the parking lot," he noted. Then his family moved to a farm for five years until they returned to Minneapolis, on 18th and LaSalle.

"I was an extremely poor kid," Burleson said. "I had a single mother who worked in a nursing home kitchen." When Burleson got a job working at the World Theater for minimum wage, he was proud to have it. "Most of the people I knew never had jobs, and nobody went to



Longfellow resident and author William E. Burleson holds his recently published book "Tales of Block E: Stories from 1979 on the Most Notorious Block in Minneapolis." (Photo by Jan Willms)

Book event scheduled for Sept. 15

A book event for William E. Burleson, author of "Tales of Block E: Stories from 1979 on the Most Notorious Block in Minneapolis" and Peter Koeleman, author of "Eagles of Longfellow," will be held Sept. 15 from 4-7pm at Dunn Brothers Coffee, 4648 E. Lake St., and Corazon Gifts, 4646 E. Lake.

Both local authors will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their books. Coffee will be served at Dunn Brothers along with some snacks, and wine will be available at Corazon. Reading and questions will start at 5:30pm. Books will be available for purchase, and there will be an opportunity to interact with the authors.

college," he recalled.

"I belonged on Block E at that time. I don't want to romanticize it because that is easy to do. It wasn't a good place, but it had a lot of flavor."

"It is a community. That's what I saw when I lived there," he said.

After writing several successful nonfiction pieces, Burleson said he thought fiction would be easy. "I was having so much fun writing nonfiction, I thought surely everyone would want to read my fiction," he explained. "No, they didn't. So it took me a while to get going on that."

"Fiction and nonfiction are completely different," he continued. "For both, I still need to

rattle my fingers on a keyboard, and I still have to be able to form a sentence. But with nonfiction, the interest is in the topic. For fiction, I have nothing more than the words. It has to live or die on the words."

"I had no idea. I love it, but it is so much more challenging. Every sentence needs to be polished to the finest buff I can get it. Every twist of a phrase is important."

Burleson said that being a writer makes one a god of his own universe. However, the characters in a story have free will. "You may create a character, but you are surprised at the direction that character takes you in. It happens all the time. They say

things and do things that surprise you and become their own beings. You have to honor it. They are living, breathing people; if they are not, something is wrong, and they are flat. They have complex motives and desires; they succeed sometimes, and sometimes not—just like us. That's the goal," he continued, "to get the reader to care about the characters and all the sub-stories, little ambitions and quirks they have. All have to be present, or they are not rounded human beings."

According to Burleson, non-fiction is easier to sell. "There is a glut of fiction out there, and the world is full of writers. It's a difficult marketplace," he said. With that in mind, he said that today can be a most difficult time and also a most wonderful time to be a writer.

"It is so much easier to write with computers and structurally easier to do. But there is a lot more out there, which makes it a lot harder to get published. And big publishers don't work with new writers much anymore."

He said being a writer comes through blood, sweat, and tears. "You just keep trying," he stated. "You try your luck with contests, online magazines, and online fiction websites through some of

the colleges. Writing is fingers on the keyboard, a physical activity, and everything else is secondary."

Burleson said that if anyone at a writing conference tells how to write a book, you should not listen to them. "There is no one way," he claimed. "There are people called pantsers, who write by the seat of their pants. They sit down and just start writing, and they write to the end. Then there are plotters, who lay it all out. One of my favorite authors, Richard Russo, spends six to ten months writing an outline, ends up with the outline being 80 pages long. Then he fleshes it out and has his story."

"When I write short stories, I often pants it out. I have a situation in mind, but the ending is the hard part."

Burleson works for the state in communications and does his personal writing on weekends and evenings at favorite coffee shops. He said he loves his day job, which also involves writing. "They have to pay me, but if I could write all day long, I would be doing it. I would spend my day drinking coffee and sitting at the Fire Roast, Riverview Café or Lake Coffee House. I have to be out, and have to have chaos and music."

He said Minneapolis is an incredible place for writers, with the Loft offering workshops and bringing in well-known authors and different groups of writers forming a community. He is currently working with other writers on an anthology of Lake St.

"I have two writing groups now, and we read each other's work and see the blind spots and talk. Writing can be a community project."

Reflecting back on Tales of Block E, Burleson said that what he hopes readers get from his book is that this was a desperate block, a poor block, and a lot of unattractive things happened there. "But," he said, "people were trying to get ahead. They were trying to get a better life for themselves."

Off-Leash Area to open new performance space in east Nokomis

The SAGE and Ivey Award-winning Off-Leash Area is launching an exciting new adventure as they announced the opening of a brand new performance venue in South Minneapolis: The Off-Leash Art Box.

Construction is underway at 4200 54th St. E., and plans for the Art Box grand opening are set for the weekend of Oct. 28-29.

The Art Box will be Off-Leash Area's home base for its productions, classes, workshops, and other programming, and will serve the broader community by providing an affordable and professionally equipped small venue for the many independent dance and theater makers in the Twin Cities.

Having experienced their own challenges in finding affordable spaces, Jennifer Ilse and Paul Herwig, Off-Leash Area Artistic Directors, decided to take matters into their own hands and purchased a property.

Small performance venues in Minneapolis have rapidly disappeared due to gentrification. In the past year alone four small venues closed as the owners sold these properties for commercial development. This inspired the decision to purchase the Art Box rather than lease a building.

"By owning our own building we own our destiny, and we wish to share the power of that self-sufficiency with our community," stated the Artistic Directors.

The Off-Leash Art Box will fill a gap in the Minneapolis community as an affordable 75-seat flexible performance venue with professional technical support. It is an intimate space where local audiences can see the most vital work by the area's most exciting contemporary and independent performance makers, as well as a sorely needed affordable space for rehearsals, workshops, and classes.

Off-Leash Area was founded in Minneapolis in 1999 and creates original interdisciplinary performance work. Named after the public parks where dogs run untethered, OLA's creative approach is likewise playful, crosses boundaries, and takes risks.

In its 18 years, OLA has created 25 original evening-length performance works, many short-form works, taught classes in Inverted Dance, workshops in Performance & Scenic Design, been commissioned by the Walker Art Center, the O'Shaughnessy, and collaborated with an ever growing community of the Twin Cities' most exciting performance makers.

OLA has four performance programs: presenting its Mainstage Productions in Minneapolis venues, Micro-stage Productions in their own home/studio Our Garage, the Neighborhood Garage Tour which brings performance work directly into neighborhoods, and The Right Here

Showcase, an annual mini-festival of independent mid-career Minnesota-based performance makers.

Off-Leash Area believes this new space will be a peak achievement after 18 years of commitment and contributions. The Art Box also represents a major opportunity for raising the profile of the organization, and for the Artistic Directors to take on a significant new leadership role in the community by giving back, mentoring, and paying it forward.

For more information or to support and participate in Off-Leash Art Box rehab activities, visit their website at www.offleasharea.org.

Solar panels supplying 10.9% of energy used at Nokomis Beach

Installation funded by Xcel Energy, part of public/private partnership to add solar projects to five Minneapolis parks

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The new solar power installation at Nokomis Beach is up and running, and will soon supply an estimated 10.9% of total annual energy consumed at the beach. Plus, it created more shade.

An 18-panel array was mounted atop a large shade structure near Sandcastle restaurant. Sandcastle remained open during the construction, which began this spring and ended in August. The panels were connected to Xcel's equipment and began generating electricity for Lake Nokomis Park on Aug. 17.

First solar installation paid for by Xcel grant

The 7.4kW solar installation is estimated to provide 9,578-10,321 kWh per year.

The Titan 410W Mono PV Modules with reflectors were manufactured by TenKsolar in Bloomington. Installation was done by Sundial Solar and Merit Electric under the direction of Graybar Electric.

The construction cost (not including design and other related design and administration costs) was approximately \$180,000.

"The project is the result of a great partnership."

— Benjamin Johnson of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)

"The project is the result of a great partnership," said Benjamin Johnson of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). "It was primarily funded by Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund, but the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has also provided \$150,000 in funding as a match to the RDF grant."

MPRB applied for an Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund grant in 2013, and learned in 2014 that it was among 20 out of 67 applicants to receive funding.

The \$969,741 grant helped fund five projects. The largest, at Parade Ice Garden, has 374 solar panels in 21 sections, which generates roughly 15% of the building's annual electrical consumption. Each solar panel is paired with a reflector panel to maximize energy density.

"It's great to partner with the Minneapolis Park Board on their energy efficiency work and their first-ever solar installation at Parade Ice Garden," said Lee Gabler, Xcel Energy Senior Director of Customer Strategy and Solutions. "This solar array is another example of public and private partners, working together, to promote



An 18-panel array was mounted atop a large shade structure near Sandcastle restaurant. The panels were connected to Xcel's equipment and began generating electricity for Lake Nokomis Park on Aug. 17. The construction cost—not including design and other related design and administration costs—was approximately \$180,000. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

renewable energy use."

"Renewable energy infrastructure helps to reduce the parks' carbon footprint, and with the significant costs associated with implementation, I am thankful that we received such a generous grant from Xcel Energy to build out some sites within the system," stated District 5 Parks Commissioner Steffanie Musich.

Nokomis site one of five

Solar panels have also been installed at Webber Natural Swimming Pool (on pump house roof); East Phillips Community and Cultural Center (roof); and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (roof of the multipurpose room).

Project locations were selected based on solar orientation (to maximize sunlight exposure), public visibility and distribution across the Minneapolis park system, according to Johnson. Roof capacity and roof longevity were major factors in determining the location for the major installation at Parade Ice Garden.

The original plan to install solar panels at the Lake Calhoun Refectory (Tin Fish) was scrapped because the building needed extensive structural modifications to support a solar system. The new Northeast Athletic Field Recreation Center is expected to receive a

small roof-mounted solar system in 2018, but it will not be funded by Xcel RDF grant due to timing and funding constraints.

Annually, the combined projects produce roughly 280,000 kilowatt hours, offset 400,000 pounds of carbon, and reduce MPRB electricity bills by roughly \$28,000.

The projects also include interpretive and educational programming opportunities about sustainable solar energy for both children and adults in Minneapolis parks.

A mounted educational sign will be installed onsite at Lake Nokomis this fall. The sign will provide information about solar energy and specifics about the Nokomis solar installation. Also, small signs containing a QR code that can be scanned to view a video about the projects will be installed on nearby picnic tables.

"Providing demonstration projects using solar energy makes solar production visible to the community. This supports a culture around promoting renewable energy and sustainability," remarked Johnson.

Solar benefits

These solar projects not only benefit park users but city residents in general.

"Each solar installation reduces our carbon foot-

print. Our carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse-gas emissions from fossil fuel," pointed out Johnson. "When we reduce our carbon footprint, it reduces the amount of natural resources we consume."

Solar power reduces the need to expand the electrical grid, which saves everyone costs on utility bills, as well as natural resources needed for expanding the electrical grid for increased demand.

Solar energy is a 'clean' energy source in comparison to other types of energy generation. Photovoltaic solar

power makes no noise, creates no emissions, has no moving parts, uses no water or other fuels and requires very little maintenance.

Using solar energy not only saves on electrical costs in the short term but may also be a good long-term investment. Energy prices are rising while the cost of a solar installation is dropping.

This project supports local solar production.

All of the solar installations used solar modules that were reviewed by the Department of Commerce and designated as Made In Minnesota.



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Share the River Gorge paddle and social draws a nice crowd

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) served up their annual Share the River Gorge Canoe Paddle and Ice Cream Social on July 26 at W. River Pkwy. and 35th St. This year's event was a gift to the neighborhood, as it is every year. Free Dilly Bars were provided by the East Lake Dairy Queen.

Gorge Stewards from the Friends of the Mississippi River led hikers on interpretive tours of the nearby Prairie Oak Savanna. This area is under continual restoration by FMR volunteers to keep invasive species at bay.

Ned Phillips of the LCC River Gorge Committee said, "We're glad so many people came out tonight." The River Gorge Committee, open to anyone interested in protecting and advancing the cause of the River Gorge, always welcomes new members. The committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 6-7:30pm at Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center, 2701 E. 44th St.

A sign that stretched out along the parkway said, "Want to find your summer bliss? Take a ride upon the Miss."

On the sand flats below the



Wilderness Inquiry brought four of their historical Voyageur canoes to the Share the River Gorge event. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

34th St. steps, Wilderness Inquiry offered free rides all night in their 24-foot-long, 10-person Voyageur canoes. Canoeists of all ages could enjoy the amaz-

ing natural features of the River Gorge, which are part of what makes the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area so special.

National Park Service rangers were down on the sand flats

to talk about invasive carp, mussels, and river water quality.

The annual Share the Gorge Canoe Paddle and Ice Cream Social was hosted by the River Gorge Committee of the Longfellow Community Council.

For more information on the Mississippi River National Park and Recreation Area, visit the National Park Service rangers at the St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center.



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Volunteer Ann Beane (right) explained to a Longfellow family that more than 40 species of mussels inhabit the Mississippi River. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



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Ninth annual LoLa Art Crawl

The League of Longfellow Artists (LoLa) invites the public to visit with and buy directly from artists and makers in this South Minneapolis neighborhood by the river known for its classic bungalows and natural beauty, during the 9th annual LoLa Art Crawl on the weekend of Sept. 16–17, 10am to 5pm both days.

In this year's crawl, 103 artists will be showcasing their work at 63 sites, including artists' own homes, unique independent shops, cafés, and bistros. Directories with maps are available at LoLaArtCrawl.com/media, at businesses throughout the Longfellow neighborhood in September, and from participating artists.



Presley Martin, Site 13—3129 31st Ave. S. Presley Martin's "The Foam Project" takes a close look at foam from the Mississippi River. Through sculpture, ceramics, and photography this common material is presented in new, unexpected ways.



Rebecca Wicklund, Site 24—3347 42nd Ave. S. I'm a jewelry artist, and I've participated in the LOLA Art Crawl since its inception. It's been so wonderful to have the perennial support of the Longfellow neighborhood—and a fun way to get to know more people in the community. I'll be located at Flourish Pilates again this year with my sister, Beth Wicklund, who creates letterpress cards.



Jean Bushey, Site 60—4524 35th Ave. S. Beadwork is my medium of choice. I learned to do fine bead knotting while working at Hedstrom Jewelers on 27th and Lake almost forty years ago. I still have beads I bought from dealers at that time. My love of the tiniest of beads and sewing skills drew me to bead weaving. Being part of LoLa and being able to welcome neighbors into my home where I can display my work is a wonderful opportunity for me.



Jinjer Markley, Site 13—3129 31st Ave. S. In 2016, Jinjer Markley decided to weave the creative thread that has run through her life into an illustration career. She is starting out with a bang—the LOLA art crawl follows two solo shows, one at River-view Cafe, and one at ArtPlayce in St. Paul. The drawings and paintings from her recent Instagram project: 100 Days of Colorful Flowers will be in her studio for the LOLA art crawl. Besides drawing, Jinjer loves the magic of making things by hand and will have a selection of her handmade felt chickens at the crawl. www.jinjermarkley.com



Lisa Arnold, Site 47—Fireroast Cafe, 3800 37th Ave. S. I'm Lisa Arnold, xola arts. I'm a mosaicist and teaching artist, specializing in stained glass and glass beads. I've lived in Longfellow for 20 years. I've been a LOLA artist from the beginning. The best part of LOLA is talking to new people, seeing old friends, and getting the chance to make connections with both artists and art lovers.



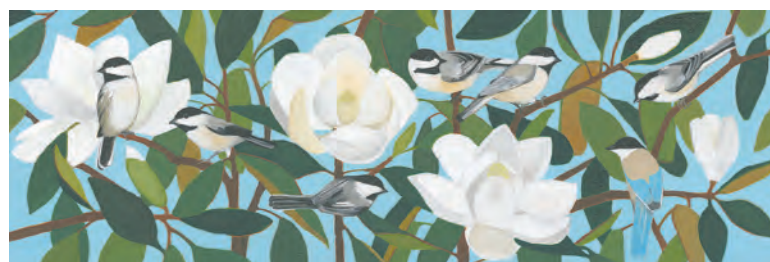
Karen Grimm, Site 51—3845 36th Ave. S. Karen's ReKreations specializes in creating beautiful and practical treasures out of found and commonly discarded items. This year focusing on home decor, gifts, foraged preserves, and garden art!



Julie Meyer, Site 20—3212 43rd Ave. S. With a desire for quality functional items and a passion for creating, Julie Meyer Handbags offer you an everyday bag showing off your individuality. Locally sourced cowhide and leather bags made in Longfellow and sold worldwide.



Mary Ila Duntemann, Site 17—3231 36th Ave. S. Handmade glass beads! www.maryiladuntemann.com



Megan Moore, Site 8—3712 E. 29th St. Original oil and watercolor paintings, giclée prints, cards, calendars, books. Megan has been showing her work in the LoLa Art Crawl since 2010. You may have seen her work as public art along the Midtown Greenway on electrical boxes.

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crawl scheduled Sept. 16-17

during the crawl.

The self-guided tour is free and spread out over two days to allow visitors to enjoy and shop for locally created fine art and crafts at their own pace, with opportunities for food and refreshment at our independent cafés and bistros, many of which have

pitched in to support LoLa with their sponsorships.

Part of the fun of the LoLa Art Crawl is meeting artists in a low-key setting and talking with them about their work.

More information about the LoLa art crawl and artists is available at LoLaArtCrawl.com.



Cherie Rinehart-Burke, Site 38—4729 Isabel Ave. I've worked to hone my painting with a focus on oil, acrylic and watercolor pencils. Making jewelry is incredibly satisfying and fun too. I love scouring thrift stores and garage sales which enable me to create wonderful mosaic bird baths, birdhouses, mirrors and picture frames.



Gwen Partin, Site 14—3154 33rd Ave. S. My drawings, prints, and paintings are explorations of pattern, texture, color and the juxtaposition of these in shape and space. The work is mainly abstract but references textile design and things seen in nature. In my daily drawing practice I call My Daily Papers, I complete at least one drawing or painting a day. My prints are monotypes, a painterly way of printmaking where I use an etching press. I use rollers and brushes to apply ink to a plexiglass plate and often make hand cut paper stencils that become part of the finished work.



Kathy Jensen, Site 45—Riverview Café, 3753 42nd Ave. S. Crayzikat Jewelry works to stand out in the sea of jewelry artists by offering interesting, unique, affordable pieces. Examples include eye-catching necklaces and earrings made from hardware store parts and sterling silver earrings in a variety of shapes that allow you to change the beads for a different look. This is the fourth year Jensen's jewelry has been featured in LoLa.



Blake Nellis, Site 9—Forage Modern Workshop, 4023 E. Lake St. I am a fine art photographer specializing in portraits and weddings (and taking photos of my new baby girl!) I love candid moments and working with the human form.



Ann Opatz, Site 38—4729 Isabel Ave. Mittens and slippers made from recycled wool and fabric napkins and pillowcases.



Bob Schmitt, Site 62—Laughing Waters Studio, 3718 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. Chinese calligraphy and painting. Zen one-stroke paintings. Originals, prints, cards, scrolls. A Chinese brush with a Minnesota spirit. Daily drawing for \$50 gift card. Walk the meditation garden.

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Newly designed Nokomis Playground is imaginative fun for kids

By STEPHANIE FOX

After a year and a half of public hearings, planning and construction, the children's playground next to the Lake Nokomis Community Center had its official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony July 28. Kids, from toddlers and up, came with their parents to try out the newly designed playground equipment. The party included free snacks and glitter tattoos from Kristine Thesing from Funtime Funktions.

Park Board Commissioner Stephanie Musich and Minneapolis Park Board project manager Beth Pfeifer were there to officially cut the ribbon and open the new area, handing out pieces of the official ribbon for the kids to take home as souvenirs.

The original playground was designed and opened to the public in 1935. During the next 82 years, the area has seen many changes and had been updated several times.

The Park Board had surveyed about 250 residents, mostly in the Nokomis and Hiawatha neighborhoods, both online and at events like September's Monarch Festival and at preschools and PTA meetings, to see what was needed. The results showed that neighbors were looking for new and imaginative modern style playground pieces, but wanted to keep some of the more popular (and classic) pieces.

So, along with the new 21st-century playground design, members of the public insisted that some of the oldest and most popular pieces be reincorporated and remain at the park.

The old-style metal slides,



One-year-old Calvin Hawthorne of St. Paul, part of the Free Forest School group, bangs a tree stump like a drum, one of the many kids enjoying the nature play area that was originally planned as a temporary pop-up area. The natural play area wasn't included in the Nokomis master plan, but since it was so well-loved, planners didn't want to remove it, according to project manager Beth Pfeifer. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

the chin-up bars, and sand diggers are still there, with a few rehabilitated pieces that no longer conformed to current safety standards. But now, new and imaginative pieces and newly built areas have been created for kids of different age-groups, from babies to pre-teens. Some of the pieces are accessible to children with disabilities.

There are two baby swings and a set of smaller swings and slides for the younger children.



Slides, climbing poles, and other play equipment were built on a topography inspired by the natural world. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

Older kids can take advantage of the new full-sized swings and a high slide, with concrete pillars (suitable for climbing) surrounding the area.

Workers had finished the installation only the day before, with the new wood chips and newly sewn grass protected, for the time being, by temporary fences. But, fences didn't stop kids from climbing on the rocket ship or the abstract tree. Even before the official opening, kids were already swinging on the swings or balancing on the balance boards.

Musich said that playgrounds like this one are a vital part of the park community. "So many kids in the urban environment don't have the opportunities to interact with nature on a tactile basis. That's why so many people shared the

excitement," she said.

Luke Schmidt and his daughter Maddie came to try out the turtle swing, an original from before the restoration and one of Maggie's favorites. They



"The park board has made significant investments in our neighborhood, and we couldn't be more thrilled," said Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Board President Mike Ferrin. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

had been surveyed last autumn at the Monarch Festival and had made their preferences for what they wanted to see in the new park, known.

"I voted for the turtle,"

Continued on page 13



Parks Commissioner Steffanie Musich is most excited by the natural play area to the south of the new playground equipment. It is the first like it in Minneapolis and will provide an example of how to do this elsewhere. "So many kids in an urban environment don't have the opportunity to get comfortable with nature in a tactile way." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Four-year-old Faye Saybolt goes down the big slide at the Nokomis Community Center playground, a feature that residents recall having been there in the past and asked for again, according to project manager Beth Pfeifer. "It's amazing," said Faye's mother, Jennifer Saybolt, who lives near the lake. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



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Lake Hiawatha clean up great success

It was a great day to be out cleaning Lake Hiawatha and the surrounding neighborhood Aug. 19. 160 people collected 1,233 pounds of trash from the lake, shoreline and nearby streets—that's more than one-half ton of trash!

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District thanks everyone who participated and invites them to attend their next 50th anniversary events: The Prairie Seed Collection in Minnetrista on Sat., Sept. 23 and the Coldwater Spring Nature Hike on Sat., Sept. 30.

Epworth rummage sale set Sept. 29-30

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

Special outreach event set Sept. 10

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101-37th Ave. S.) invites the community to a special outreach event on Sun., Sept. 10, 11am. The group will make items to help reduce anxiety: weighted neck "snakes" and silent fabric "fidgets." Participants can make one item for themselves and one for MCLC's new Healing Hub sensory library. Enjoy an ice cream sundae while you create these fun items which will make a big difference in the lives of others. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome!

September Events at LS Healthy Seniors

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors' monthly Senior Social/Health Talk will be held on Tues., Sept. 19 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. The presentation is entitled "What Does the Future Hold for Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act?"

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

A monthly Diabetes Support Group for adults will be held Wed., Sept. 13 from 6:30-8pm at Hiawatha School Park Recreation Center, 4305 E. 42nd St.

A Low Vision Support Group will be held Tues., Sept. 12 at 1:30pm at Trinity Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St. You do not need

to be a resident of the apartments to attend.

Longfellow/Seward 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 info@lshealthyseniors.org for more information on activities, services, or volunteer opportunities.

NA group meets every Friday night

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

Red Cross Blood Drive set Sept. 10

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., will host an American Red Cross Blood Bank on Sun., Sept. 10, from 9:30am-2:30pm, in the lower level of the church in conjunction with the 8th Annual NEBA Block Party. If you would like to donate blood, you can sign up on the American Red Cross website at www.redcrossblood.org and enter the Sponsor Code: "Faith Ev" or call the church office at 612-729-5463. Or, if you haven't registered, you can drop in on the day of the blood drive.

Monarch Festival scheduled Sept. 9

This year's Monarch Festival will occur on Sat., Sept. 9, from 10am to 4pm. The Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly's amazing 2,300 mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico with music, food, dance, hands-on art, native plant sales and plenty of opportunities to get up close with monarch butterflies. You can learn about monarch habitats, and what you can do to make a difference.

The Festival will be held just east of the Lake Nokomis Community Center in the area bounded by E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Woodlawn Blvd., and E. Nokomis Pkwy.

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.

Major construction projects update

Council Member Andrew Johnson announced recently that

Monarch Mile installed on E. 50th St.



Annika Johnson (left) helped grandmother Patricia Lyall (right) install native plants in Lyall's boulevard garden. Theirs was one of 17 new pollinator gardens funded by grants from Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, creating the newly designated "Monarch Mile" along East 50th St. For more information or to apply for a grant for next year, contact lauren.hazenson@nokomiseast.org. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

there are several development projects that were recently acted upon:

- 46th and Snelling: The mixed-use development proposal (which includes 146 market rate apartments, a grocery store, and restaurant) was approved by the Planning Commission. The developers are now working on financing and selecting a grocery tenant. (See more detailed story on page 2.)
- 44th and Snelling: The City Council granted exclusive development rights for the Snelling Yards site, where 203 units of affordable senior and workforce housing are being proposed. A joint venture between Lupe Development Partners, Ecumen and The Wall Cos. wants to build two buildings—one with 100 workforce apartments and another with 103 senior units.
- 41st and Hiawatha: 78 units of affordable workforce housing, as part of a historic renovation, are effectively complete, and tenants are moving into the Millworks Lofts.
- 38th and Hiawatha: The proposed multiple mixed-use buildings, public plaza, and additional public parking surrounding the light rail station hit a delay heading to Planning Commission. Most likely the first phase of the project will be in front of the Commission on Sept. 18.

Hiawatha-Howe plans rummage sale

The 2017 Hiawatha-Howe Community School Rummage Sale is planned for Fri., Sept. 15, 4-5:30pm and Sat., Sept. 16,

9am-3pm. The sale will be located in the Hiawatha Community School Gym at 4201 42nd Ave. S. This school and community event raises funds to support the fifth-grade student trip to Camp Audubon next spring. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for some fun days of bargain hunting.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

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

Annual Rummage Sale slated Sept. 30

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

Adoption support group meets Sept. 12

The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), for parents with adopted teens. Next meeting will be held on Tues., Sept. 12, 6:30pm.

Adoptive parents are pro-

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

Danish Center plans seasonal breakfasts

The Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy., has announced the dates for their 2017-2018 Aebleskiver Breakfasts.

Mark your calendars for Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 (with Art Fair), Jan. 21, Feb. 11 (Valentine's Day Brunch), Mar. 18, Apr. 15, and May 13 (Mother's Day Brunch).

Cost for regular "all you can eat and drink" breakfasts is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu includes aebleskiver, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee. (Brunches have a different cost and menu). Every breakfast runs from 9:30am-12:30pm and no reservations are required. For more information, call 612-729-3800.

Trylon schedules new grand opening

After a one-time construction delay in July, the Trylon work is moving ahead. August screenings were postponed to September and scheduled on a week-by-week basis. They will soon release their fall program guide for the Oct./Nov. months.

The new Trylon Cinema re-opens the weekend of Fri., Sept. 22 with Charlie Chaplin's masterwork, "The Great Dictator" (1940) on 35mm, preceded by the short film "The Immigrant" (1917), accompanied by The Poor Nobodys. The music is orchestrated with cello, accordion, acoustic and electric guitars, piano, upright bass, mandolin, banjo, and vocals.

NAMIWalks is slated in Minnehaha Park

More than 4,500 people from around the state are expected to join in NAMIWalks Minnesota on Sat., Sept. 23 at 1pm, at Minnehaha Park. NAMIWalks is a 5K walk to raise awareness about mental illnesses and celebrate hope. There will be live music, picnics, speakers, resource tables, a kid's tent, a tree of hope, a t-shirt contest and more.

The walk supports the efforts of NAMI Minnesota (National

Continued on page 12

In Our Community

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Alliance on Mental Illness) to provide education, support, and advocacy for children and adults with mental illnesses and their families.

Over 100,000 individual walkers and supporters participated in NAMIWalks in more than 80 cities across America last year. For registration, including forming or joining a walk team, call 651-645-2948 or go to namihelps.org and click on the NAMIWalks logo.

Greenway Glow raises \$18,000

The Midtown Greenway Coalition would like to thank all the riders, runners, artists, sponsors, volunteers and festival goers who helped raise more than \$18,000 for the Midtown Greenway at their July 29 Greenway Glow.

In addition to the 1,000+ people enjoying the arts festival, over 150 VIP riders and runners joined! Folks got the chance to enjoy poetry readings, glowing gateways, flamenco dancers, a ukulele army, a Bronze Age furnace, mobile music, ghost photography, and more.

Home Store converts to Castle showroom

Three years after acquiring The Natural Built Home Store (4020 Minnehaha Ave.), Castle Building & Remodeling has completed the integration of the store's eco-friendly products and processes into its project standards and has therefore decided to convert the store into a fourth Castle showroom. The transition in signage and hours will take place on Sept. 1 and will allow Castle to focus on its wider goals and allow Castle to serve the South Minneapolis and Longfellow neighborhood with better proximity.

Castle Building & Remodeling will continue to offer eco-friendly remodeling, inclusive of all the products from The Natural Built Home Store, in remodeling projects. However, Castle will no longer offer material-only sales, flooring install-only services, or countertop-only replacements. This change will allow Castle to focus on the continued growth of design/build remodeling services, which centers on kitchen and bath remodeling. The widespread availability of eco-friendly building materials at most retailers has made it tough to compete on this specialization alone.

Coffee and Crafts group meets Sept. 16

A Coffee and Crafts group will meet at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., on Sat., Sept. 16, from 9-11am. This is open to everyone. Crafts for this first session will be BooBoo Bunnies, A Ring Pincushion, Beaded Serving Utensils, and Sugar Scrubs. A \$5 donation is suggested but not required. If you would be interested in attending or would like more information call 612-729-5463 and let us know how many will be attending.

Exhibit by Gordon Coons opens Sept. 9

An exhibit of works by Native American artist Gordon Coons of Ojibwe and Ottawa Heritage will take place Sept. 9-30 at the Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. The opening reception is planned for Sat., Sept. 9, 5-9pm, where Gordon will talk about his works with a guided tour. The exhibit includes paintings, hand-pulled prints plus creations utilizing Duck Tape.

Gordon will be exhibiting the Ojibwe Woodland Art Style, created from the combination of Ojibwe petroglyphs (drawings or carvings on rocks) and images from birch bark scrolls. The images can also be identified as X-ray Vision. The inspiration for these images relies on Ojibwe clans and stories. The artist usually paints images with a heavy black outline and paints what is felt or perceived inside animals (or people). What is painted inside the animal or person represents a kind of spirit, a source of powers.

Living Table plans Big Basement Sale

Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St., will hold their Big Basement Sale on Sat., Oct. 7, 8am-3pm. Church members say they have been saving up the good stuff for a whole year just for this event! Refreshments will also be available for sale, and there will be a \$2 Bag Sale the last hour, 2-3pm.

Christ Church gets \$130,000 grant

Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., has been awarded a \$130,000 grant towards the restoration of the church's courtyard. Christ Church Lutheran's main structures date back to 1949 and 1962 and were designed separately by renowned father-and-son architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen.

The award comes as part of an unprecedented \$14 million National Fund for Sacred Places announced by Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist aging churches across the country that are in need of repair and restoration.

The National Fund for Sacred Places is a collaboration that builds on Partners for Sacred Places' decades of work helping churches use best stewardship practices with their historic facilities to strengthen, serve and celebrate their communities for the common good. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is the nation's leading preservation organization with 60 years of advocacy and grant-making to preserve America's diverse history. The Fund was launched with two grants totaling nearly \$14 million from the Indiana-based Lilly Endowment Inc.

Garden Club Fall Potluck set Sept. 13

The Longfellow Garden Club Fall Potluck will be held Wed., Sept. 13, 6:30pm. It's a time to spend a late summer evening outdoors talking—and eating—all things

NEBA Block Party planned Sept. 10



The 8th Annual Block Party will be held on Sun., Sept. 10, from 11am-3pm at 34th Ave. S. and E. 51st St. in McDonald's Liquor and Oxendale's Market' parking lots and on the front lawn of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church. There will be many vendors with a variety of wares to sell and give away. Also at the Block Party will be two bounce houses, a dunk tank, games for children, an antique car show, and blood drive. Food for sale will also be a part of the festivities. Come for fellowship, food, and fun for the whole family. (File provided)

garden, and sharing pictures and stories you bring of pesky Japanese beetles and sluggish tomatoes. The location will be a member's beautiful garden!

Bring a folding chair (if you care to), and something to share—a dish using your own or locally grown produce is the theme. Ice water and tea will be provided. Please bring a plate/utensils as they are trying to achieve a close to zero waste event without making a lot of trash.

Directions/map to the potluck will be available at 6pm at the front door of the Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. See them at LongfellowGardenClubMail@gmail.com or go to www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub.

Lake St. Council sends Call For Artists

The Lake Street Council and Visit Lake Street, with the support of the McKnight Foundation and Twin Cities LISC and working

with Minneapolis-based GoodSpace Murals, are seeking 10-13 artists to propose art projects for a coordinated Lake St. public artwork series. The artists chosen will engage residents, visitors, and businesses on Lake St. from Dec. 2017 through Aug. 2018.

Artists of all genres, including new/emerging artists, are invited to apply to be a part of this project. Download the instructions at www.lakestreetcouncil.org/assets/uploads/Programs/Lake_Street_Public_Artwork_RFP_-_English_Spanish.pdf.

Books needed for Fall Book Sale

Got books? The Friends of East Lake Library (2727 E. Lake St.) are working on this Fall's sale and are looking for donations.

This means you have an easy place to drop off a few stacks now gathering dust in the hallway, stairway, and porch.

Wondering what to bring? Fiction, biography, and history are popular, as are current

non-fiction and do-it-yourself books. And, we never have enough picture books—kids (and their parents) are avid customers! No one reads text books, so please keep them at home.

Beginning Sept. 15, please put donations on the red cart located near the parking lot doors.

The Friends appreciate everyone who helps us support Library programs; you make East Lake the wonderful community resource it is! The Fall Sale will be held Fri., Oct. 13, 12-5pm, and 9am-5pm on Sat., Oct. 14.

Faith Book Club meets Sept. 2

The Faith Ev. Lutheran Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month from 10-11am at the church, 3430 E. 51st St. The book being discussed Sept. 2 will be "The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy" by Rachel Joyce.

Author scheduled to speak Sept. 28

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 5011 31st Ave. S., welcomes the community to a Thur., Sept. 28, 7pm, discussion of Minneapolis author Kao Kalia Yang's latest book, "Song Poet." In addition, Yang will talk about her Hmong family and the struggles they experienced when immigrating to the United States.

Yang (www.kaokaliayang.com) is a Hmong American writer, activist, teacher and public speaker. She was born in Thailand's Ban Vinai Refugee Camp and now is an American citizen. She is a graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University's School of the Arts.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

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

Pastor Matt Kennedy
Children especially welcome
Handicapped Accessible
Contemporary Worship – 9:00am
Traditional Worship – 10:30am
Espanol – 1:30pm
Sept. 10 - Gathering Sunday
Worship 10:30am
Block party to follow: 11:30-1
Fall worship schedule starting Sept. 17
Contemporary Worship – 8:45am
Traditional Worship – 11:00am
Espanol – 1:30pm

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

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

Jesus In The City Fellowship
3249-30th Av. S. • 612-730-3390
www.JesusInTheCityFellowship.org

Pastor Michael Pilla
Sunday 10 am Coffee and Fellowship
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Monday, 6:30 pm Bible Study - Book of John
Sept. 3 picnic at church. All are welcome.
Handicapped Accessible

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

Pastor Rachael Keefe
Sunday Worship 10:00 am on Sept. 3
(NOTE: worship times change to 10:30 am beginning Sept. 10)
Open and Affirming
Wheelchair accessible
We also invite you to join us for:
Big Basement Sale
October 7, 8AM to 3PM
(We have been saving the good stuff all year for this event)

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

Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
Sunday Worship – 9:45 am
(Wheelchair Accessible)
September 10: Sunday school registration/
special music/congregation-wide service
project/ice cream social following
worship.
September 17: 1st day of Sunday school
classes pre-K – high school.
Adoption Support Group meeting date:
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12th

Spirit Garage
3010 Minnehaha Ave. • 612-827-1074
www.spiritgarage.org
Worship: Sundays, 10:30am
The Hook & Ladder Theater & Lounge

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

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

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

Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
Sundays: 9 am Worship (childcare available)
10 am Coffee & Fellowship
Faith Formation begins again Sept 24:
9 am Children/Youth Faith Formation
10:30 am Adult Faith Formation
(Handicap acc., Braille)
Join us for a day of service on Sept. 10!

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

Pastor Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship 10 am (thru 9/3)
Fall Schedule (beg 9/10) 10:30 am
Sunday School/kids & adults 9:15 am
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 pm

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

Family-owned barbershop continues a 52-year tradition

By STEPHANIE FOX

In early August 1965, barber Ed Martin Sr. first opened the doors on his brand new barbershop. His sign announced that 'Mug and Brush Hair,' located near the corner of 34th Ave. and 50th St. in the East Nokomis neighborhood, was opened for business. The shop is still there.

It was a different time. The President, LBJ, had just announced a program called Medicare. There was no Big Mac (you'd have to wait two years). Gasoline cost 33¢ a gallon and the Dow Jones was going gangbusters, with 39 record closes, ending the year at 969.26.

As far as the barber business was concerned, buzz cuts and flattops were still popular, and sales of Brylcreem were strong. But, there was a popular new look, influenced by the Beatles and the British Invasion. Some fashionable men were starting to grow their hair longer, even over their ears. Sideburns were becoming the rage.

Martin had just gotten out of the military. He'd been called up during the 1961 Berlin Crisis and was sent to a base in Georgia to prepare to be deployed. But, the crisis ended quickly, and he never had to go to war with the Russians. Instead, he started cutting his fellow soldier's hair, finding that he was good at it. When he got back to civilian life, he took a job at Honeywell. But, he started thinking about barbering as a profession. After a stint at barber school, the Mug and Brush Hair was born.

While many of the shop's customers came from the neighborhood and the local military base, celebrities showed up, too. Martin would get calls from the White House when Vice President Hubert Humphrey was expected in town. Humphrey's kids would also come for haircuts.

Part of the shop's early success came because of changing hairstyles and Martin Sr.'s business acumen. "There was a turning point in hairstyle," said his son and now-owner Ed Martin Jr. "A lot of old-time barbers refused to cut long hair. At the time, it



Mug and Brush Hair Design owner Ed Martin Jr. cuts the hair of longtime customer Tom Theis. Mug and Brush has been serving customers for 52 years. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

was illegal for barbers to cut hair on Mondays, but you could if you were a beauty shop. So, dad brought in hairdressers and opened six days a week."

"Then in the 1980s, tanning was big, so we opened on Sundays for tanning," he said.

Somewhere along the line the word Design was added to

the business name, although Martin Jr. is not sure when that actually happened.

Today, the shop is one of the few family-owned barbershops left in the Twin Cities. Ed Martin, Jr. runs it now that his father is retired. Craig Martin, Ed Jr.'s uncle, works there too. It is one of a group of family-owned businesses near that corner, but it's part of a dying tradition.

Ed Jr. predicts that there will soon be fewer barber shops and more beauty shops—they have different licenses and different rules—and in 15 or so years, the licenses will combine. "Barber shops are falling out of favor, and fewer people are going into that business," he said.

The barber life was a natural for the son. "I remember coming into the shop when I was a kid to visit my dad. I never thought of doing anything else," he said. In 1989, at age 19, Ed Jr. attended Moler Barber School and then joined his father at Mug and Brush. Ed Sr., now 77-years old, retired in 2010. He still comes in



Mug and Brush second generation owner Ed Martin Jr. of Mug and Brush Hair Design runs the front desk in addition to cutting hair. Mug and Brush celebrated its 52nd anniversary in August. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

Nokomis playground

Continued from page 10

said Maddie. "I voted for shady seats," said her dad.

"People like the way the old playground was spread out," said Pfeifer. "They also loved the nature play area, which was originally meant to be temporary. We worked with the forestry department for that, and all the materials for that are from the park."

Nokomis Playground is also the new home of the Willow Thicket, a natural dome structure, moved from the Lake Harriet Rose Garden and installed at the center of the playground.

The money for the project, \$300,000, had been approved by the city in 2015, paid for with net debt bonds. The Park Board hired designer Chris DesRoches, who specializes in children's playgrounds. He said that when he designs equipment, he tries to see the playground through kid's eyes. He wants

to visit, but he doesn't cut hair, preferring the leisure life.

Most important to Ed Jr. is his connection to the community. "You get to know your customer base. We've been cutting hair for generations of customers. We watch people grow up. We get invited to graduations and weddings. This is like family."

The crew—three men, including Ed, and four women—tend to stay. One of younger hair cutters is in her 40s, and another has been there 40 years, longer than Ed Jr. has been managing the place.

But the landscape is changing, he said. "When my dad opened up Mug and Brush, there were 7,000 independently owned barber shops in Minnesota. Now, it's down to a couple of thousand. Back then, every corner had a barbershop. "Now, it's hard to find ones that aren't corporate cut-rate places. With the economy, small shops are going by the wayside."

Mug and Brush Hair Design, however, is thriving. Enter the front door, and the place seems like a tiny one-room operation. But head up the stairs or into the back of the shop, and you'll find five rooms on three floors, with barber chairs for cuts and bonnet hair dryers for women who have weekly wash and set appointments. The customer base is 50 percent male and 50 percent female. "During a regular day, we can get from 25 to 75 customers," Martin said. "I can put in 11 hours a day. Everyone is always booked up."

As far as family-owned businesses, the neighborhood around Mug and Brush may be different than many in the Twin Cities. There are two other longtime family-owned stores on the corner with Mug and Brush. McDonald's Liquor and Wine has been around for about 70 years, and the Nokomis Shoe Shop has been part of the neighborhood for 86 years.

As the youngest business at 52 years, Martin said, "We're going to be here a long time, too."

them to say, 'Hey, this is cool,' he said.

Much of the park is what DesRoches calls 'abstract nature.' "We're replicating themes from nature, with natural concepts and forms, hills and topography," he said.

One section features real sticks and logs, with natural topography and grading. "It's a key part of the play area," DesRoches said and hopes it will spark imaginative play.

"I like to offer kids opportunities for free play," he said. "Kids can play tag or play on the rocket ship. This playground represents what the community wanted. People wanted a big slide, and people wanted it to be inspired by nature. So, we built that. The kids seem to like it."

SEND US YOUR STORY IDEAS!

Call (651) 917-4182 or email editorial@deruyternelson.com



Past customers of Mug and Brush Hair Design include Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, as well as his kids. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

Agriculture area and athletic fields design added to Nokomis-Hiawatha master plan

On July 19, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners approved two amendments to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan.

One amendment creates a designated Urban Agriculture Area on the east side of Lake Hiawatha. Another amendment approved a design concept for the Nokomis Athletic Fields, located on the northwest side of Lake Nokomis.

The Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan was approved by MPRB Commissioners on March 4, 2015. The Master Plan is a written and graphic document that sets a 25-year vision for Lake Hiawatha, Lake Nokomis, and the surrounding parkland. Both the Urban Agriculture Area and Nokomis Athletic Field design concept were not included in the Master Plan, so amendments are required to move forward with

those projects. Currently, there are no funds allocated toward the Urban Agriculture Area or new Nokomis Athletic Field concept, but now that the plans are in place the projects will happen as soon as funding becomes available.

Lake Hiawatha Park Urban Agriculture Area

In the Master Plan, the eastern portion of Lake Hiawatha was shown as a mix of open lawn area and naturalized habitat areas. Recently, the community has expressed interest in having the ability to harvest from fruit trees in this area.

Any harvesting in parks will require an ordinance change, which MPRB Commissioners will consider at an upcoming Board meeting. The Urban Agriculture Activity Plan, adopted in 2014, calls

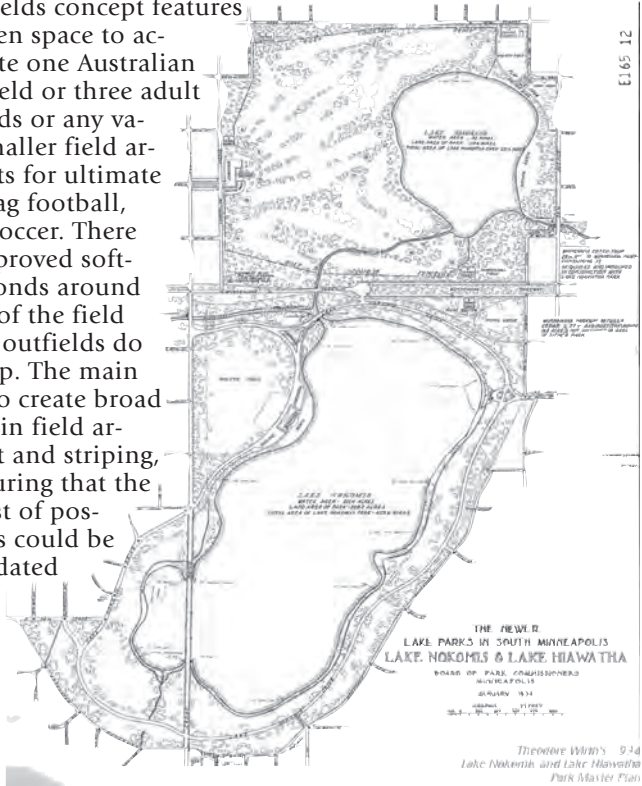
for the official designation of any areas where harvesting may take place, so this amendment designates that area along the east side of Lake Hiawatha.

Nokomis Athletic Fields concept design

No final decision was made on the Nokomis Athletic Fields during the master planning process in 2014-15 to allow time for a final determination regarding a renovation of nearby Bossen Field Park. Now Bossen's renovation is nearly complete, primarily as a softball complex with associated community amenities, so MPRB staff moved forward with a concept for Nokomis that provides increased open space for a variety of field sports and fewer softball diamonds.

The approved Nokomis

Athletic Fields concept features a large open space to accommodate one Australian football field or three adult soccer fields or any variety of smaller field arrangements for ultimate Frisbee, flag football, or youth soccer. There are six improved softball diamonds around the edges of the field where the outfields do not overlap. The main idea was to create broad flexibility in field arrangement and striping, while ensuring that the very largest of possible fields could be accommodated without overlapping softball infields.



Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by September 18 for the September 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*, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before **Sept. 18 for the Sept. 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

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EMPLOYMENT

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

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PETS

John's Dog Walking - Daily dog walks, boarding and in home pet visits. 15 years experience, Insured and Bonded. 612-825-9019. www.facebook.com/johnpetservice. 9-17

RENTALS

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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. B-1

SERVICES

Concrete work: Steps, sidewalks, patios, driveways. Licensed, bonded, insured. Call Tom Seemon, 612-721-2530. 11-17

Housecleaning - Reasonable rates. Call for an estimate. Evie 612-558-1967. 9-17

STORAGE

MPLS Storage located in the Longfellow neighborhood has units for rent at low rates. Locally owned and family operated. 1/2 block from Lake and Hiawatha. 612-333-7525. B-17

NEXT DEADLINE
September 18
NEXT ISSUE
September 28



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Lake + Minnehaha Open Streets was a beautiful day

Photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN



This year's Lake + Minnehaha Open Streets event appeared to go off without a hitch. A pleasant day without heat warnings; good crowds in attendance; and a welcome return of the newly upgraded and repurposed Minnehaha Ave. to the event route. Open Streets Minneapolis brings together community groups and local businesses to temporarily close major thoroughfares to car traffic, and opens them up for people walking, biking, skating, and playing. This community event is in its sixth year and is co-sponsored by the City of Minneapolis.



The Minnehaha Scoop did a brisk day of business in their newly opened store front at 3352 Minnehaha Ave.

SEE MORE OPEN STREETS PHOTOS AT:
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Minnehaha Academy

Continued from page 1

They have to find a building to hold classes in, set up food service, arrange for furniture and more.

Classes at the Upper Academy will start two weeks late on Tues., Sept. 5. With some juggling of the schedule, including the removal of the week-long Cultural Field Experience, the 360 upper-class students at Minnehaha will end their school year at the same time as the Lower and Middle students in June.

Meanwhile, the school has continued to move forward as it can. Athletic teams started practicing on Aug. 14 as scheduled.

Administrative staff who were housed at the Upper School will be located in temporary offices outside the Lower/Middle School. All faculty were welcomed back to work on Aug. 15.

How to help

The school has received many offers of support from Minneapolis and St. Paul, where 79% of their students come from. To some the school is saying, "We don't know how you can help now, but we'll know later," said Wenschlag.

A letter from President Donna Harris outlined three ways to help Minnehaha:

"1. Pray. Continue to pray for everyone who was involved in the incident, for the families of John Carlson and Ruth Berg, for our leadership team as we make decisions, for our staff, faculty, and students, and for the future rebuilding of the Upper School.

"2. Help. Let us know your expertise. Sign up to let us know how you can be of service during this time. <https://goo.gl/forms/PY-D7EE4uE9yOKvmf2>.

"3. Give. In the rebuilding process, we will make an even better Minnehaha. Your gifts will support the school in this transition and cover expenses beyond our insurance coverage. www.minnehahaacademy.net/giving/givenow."

Neighbors have offered their help and their support, and several local businesses donated food and coffee. "We are grateful to be in a caring Minnehaha community, but also in a caring Longfellow community," said Jacobson.

Strong and resilient community

Before the Aug. 15 Unity Walk, Richard Bauer didn't truly understand what it was about Minnehaha Academy that connected its past and present students, parents, and teachers. But after the walk, Bauer realized how tightly knit the Minnehaha Academy family is. His wife's maternal grandfather served on the school board, and the following generations have attended school there, including Bauer's two children. One is currently a senior



A fence surrounding Minnehaha's Upper Campus keeps people out of the property as the investigation is underway. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

at Minnehaha.

"It is one of those jewels in plain sight," said the Bryn Mawr resident.

As he looked around at the crowd gathered for the Unity Walk, Bauer commented, "This is a reflection of Minnehaha—Minnehaha before and Minnehaha today."

Bauer added, "I'm incredibly hopeful for what the future looks like as they continue to unravel what happened—but also as they continue to move forward as a community of faith—that all the pieces will come together."

"We are fortunate to have a strong, resilient community and a faithful God," said Jacobson.

"We believe that the school will become even greater through this experience, and we move forward knowing that our school is so much more than a building—it's a community. Students and families come to Minnehaha because of the tremendous academic experience delivered by our amazing faculty. That doesn't change."



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Belle's Tool Box, creative play space, opening soon

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

There has been a steady hum of construction on the southwest corner of 42nd Ave. and 34th St. for several months now. The bright blue concrete block building, an automobile garage since 1955, has been completely repurposed. Local sign painter Forrest Wozniak recently painted the new business name on the exterior: Belle's Tool Box, but passers-by might still be wondering what it means?

Belle's Tool Box co-owner Lucy Elliot said. "I've dreamed of creating a 'children's project space' for young children and their grown-ups for decades. I recently retired from my job as a history educator, and I'm aware that time is ticking. This play, build, and fix-it enterprise is a nod to my Mom and other fine women; my Mom's name was Bonnie, but her nickname was Bonnie Belle."

Elliot said that Belle's Tool Box will be opening in mid-September. "We hope to grow organically and, as of now, we don't have a website. If you want to find out the exact days and times that we'll be here, just give a holler over the fence. We plan to have staggered hours like a library. Parents can choose a time that's convenient, and drop in for an hour or so to play with their child or children. The 25' x 25' interior space is too small to stay much longer than that."

"We want to start small," Elliot added, "and just see how things develop. We'll be asking for a donation of \$3-5 per visit."



Lucy Elliot, co-owner of Belle's Tool Box, on the southwest corner of 42nd Ave. and 34th St. Elliot is stepping into a phase of her life that she dreamed of for decades: opening a creative play, build and fix-it space for young children and their grown-ups. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

We're not a non-profit, and we're not trying to get rich either. Our hope is that the donations will cover utilities and taxes. Everyone is welcome—just not all at the same time. We have seven coat hooks for children in the entry way, and five for adults. If a family comes for a visit and the main area is too busy, the gazebo and the learning gardens will be fun to play in too."

Elliot and her husband Mark lived in Elgin, Illinois for more

than thirty years. They moved to Longfellow 3-1/2 years ago to be close to their daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Daughter Jenni Cantine is Elliot's partner in creating and operating Belle's Tool Box.

"Our relocation made starting a new business more challenging," Elliot said. If we'd still been in Elgin, we would have been able to draw on the interests and experience of our longtime friends and neighbors.

But here, we were starting from scratch. I read the neighborhood newspapers, and I chose contractors who advertised in them. I ended up having great experiences with all of the people I hired, in particular builder David Grafunder, who was able to translate my ideas into reality."

Elliot said, "I pretty much designed everything on site. Much of the wood that's visible has been reclaimed. I see planned obsolescence as some-

thing we really need to get away from. There's so much joy in giving new life to used products. The accent tiles in the bathroom came from Junket; the sink and other mechanicals came from the Habitat for Humanity ReStore and Better Futures. The plantings mostly came from Mother Earth Gardens and Minnehaha Nursery, who provided valuable advice."

With a lifetime of experience in the fields of early childhood education, teen parent education, and regional history, Elliot dreamed of finding a way to pull all of her interests together. "In each of those capacities," Elliot said, "I found myself always lugging boxes of stuff around. I love process-oriented stuff, 3-D stuff, re-purposed stuff. Part of my dream was to have a space where all of this learning stuff could stay put and be used."

It appears that Elliot's dream has come true.

"We have this wonderful spot on the corner, a tiny square of the universe where we can do so much good," she said. "People in the neighborhood have really been supportive, dropping off peony plants, and building materials for the kids; a woman handed a box of quilting and sewing materials over the fence the other day. Our neighbors, and the neighborhood businesses too, have been patient during our long construction. This has been a labor of love for us, and we will continue to welcome help and ideas along the way."



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