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Longfellow  
Nokomis

# Messenger



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January 2015 • Vol. 30 No. 11

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21,000 Circulation

## NENA Board appoints 8 new board members following community input

*Board was down to under half-strength after members resign in wake of staff terminations*

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Eight new board members have joined the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) two months after five board members resigned, most of them in protest following the termination of NENA's two full-time staff members.

NENA Executive Director Rita Ulrich and Associate Director Doug Walters were fired Oct. 23, on a 6-3 vote when an item was added to the agenda right before the close of the board meeting by board member George Jelatis. The motion to terminate had not been advertised, and board members who were unable to attend the board meeting did not know it was going to be discussed.

On Thursday night, Dec. 11, residents who were interested in filling vacant seats introduced themselves to about 100 people at a community meeting. Residents voted on their top candidates. The NENA board then held a brief board meeting to ap-

point the individuals to the board who had been selected by the community. There was no discussion during the board meeting.

Laura Johansson of Johansson Consulting was the evening's independent facilitator, and members of Neighborhood Community Engagement and the city's Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department helped run the voting process.

### "It's a one-item agenda"

The meeting was originally called as a "Membership/Town Hall Meeting," and some members came expecting to be able to add an item to the agenda. But when resident Elizabeth Anders asked to add an item to the agenda, she was told she could not as the meeting was an informal selection process. When she asked if she could add an agenda item to the board meeting later in the evening, NENA Chair Kent Knopp-Schwyn responded that

she could not.

"It's a one-item agenda," Knopp-Schwyn said.

Another resident asked for a synopsis of what has been going on with NENA in the last few months. Knopp-Schwyn pointed out that the board had posted a public statement regarding the termination of staff to the NENA web site and could not comment further on the issue because of employee-employer privacy.

"Since then we've been preparing for the Night Before New Year's Eve Party and this meeting," said Knopp-Schwyn.

### Residents discuss NENA priorities

Prior to meeting candidates for the board, residents gathered in groups of three and discussed opportunities and challenges for NENA, and suggested priorities for the board moving forward.

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NENA volunteer and new board member Chris Becker (left) mans a table at the NENA meeting at Keewaydin School on Dec. 11, 2014. Signing in is NENA resident and former NENA employee Doug Walters. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)



NENA board member Vanessa Haight (right) helps residents sign in to vote at the NENA meeting on Dec. 11, 2014. Community members selected their top eight new board members, and then the board convened a special meeting to appoint those people to board positions. Three expire in April 2015 and the rest in April 2016. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)



Steve Frias and his daughter Marie will be opening their new restaurant, Peppers and Fries Burger and Burrito Grill, on Lake St. in mid-January. The building had been a 7-11, and more recently, a Super America. (Photo by Jan Willms)

## Peppers and Fries to open in January

*Owners want a comfortable place where people will visit regularly*

By **JAN WILLMS**

What could be better than taking the passions in your life and turning them into a career?

This is what Steve Frias has done, as he combines his love of food and sports to opening Peppers and Fries Burger and Burrito Grill at 3900 E. Lake St.

The grill will be opening the second or third week in January, as Steve is joined by his daughter Marie, who shares his love of sports and a good burger.

Both Steve and Marie have the restaurant business in their roots. Steve's parents, Guillermo and Gloria Frias, opened Boca Chica Restaurante in St. Paul 50 years ago. Steve, and later Marie, learned their craft in the family restaurant.

"My mom is still the CEO there," Steve said. "She is the face of Boca Chica." He said his sib-

lings currently operate the restaurant, but his mom is there on a daily basis.

Steve left Boca Chica after getting lots of experience there and opened a restaurant in Burnsville. "It was too slow," he noted, and he then worked a route at Fed Ex Ground.

It was on this job he developed an affection for the COLT burger, a burger with cheese, onion, lettuce and tomato on it. "I needed a burger that I could eat on the run without having to put ketchup or mustard on it, and risk spilling on my shirt," Steve explained.

This burger and Marie's favorite, a peanut butter burger, will be on the menu at Peppers and Fries, along with onion rings and fries made from scratch. Also available will be burritos, tacos and nachos. Customers will have

an opportunity to order a craft beer or cocktail with their meal.

Steve's love of the restaurant business drew him back, and he purchased the location on Lake St. last August.

"We kept looking for the right place," he said. "Some places were too big; others were gone by the time we looked at them. My wife and I drove around one Saturday for seven hours looking, and then we found this location."

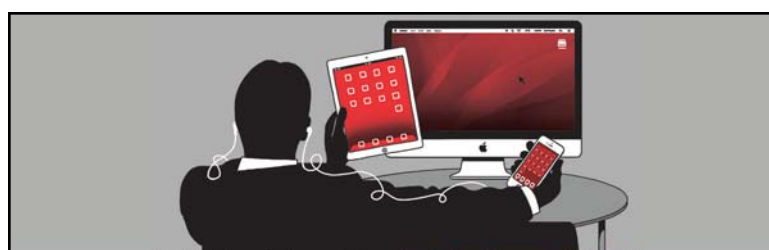
He said they did some research and found that the Longfellow area was a great neighborhood. The building was a 7-11 and more recently, a Super America.

Although the interior has been entirely redone, the Frias are keeping the big garage doors,

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**Next deadline:**  
**Jan. 19**  
**Next issue:**  
**Jan. 29**

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# Look up for literacy

Local Open Door is ready to teach if President Obama's new immigration policy means more ESL students

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

On Nov. 20, President Obama announced a series of executive actions to grant up to five million undocumented immigrants protection from deportation. His Comprehensive Reform Act will also strengthen border security, crack down on employees hiring undocumented work-

ers and streamline the process of legal immigration.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, there are currently 11.4 million immigrants "living in the shadows" in the United States. The centerpiece of Obama's plan will be to create a new temporary legal status for approximately four million un-

documented parents of children born in this country, who have been here for at least five years. This conditional legal status, called DAPA (Deferred Action for Parental Accountability) will be granted for three years at a time. Recipients will be authorized to work and receive a social security card. It's expected that applications will start to be taken on or around May 20, 2015.

One of the major requirements for immigrants to earn this temporary legal status is that they learn English.

The Open Door Learning Center, a program of the Minnesota Literacy Center, offers life changing literary services for kids, youth and adults. It's easy to miss The Open Door, which is located on the second floor of the Coliseum Building at 2700 E. Lake St. Next time you find yourself at that corner, look up two stories to see their signage or better yet, arrange to make a visit by calling 612-483-1763. The Open Door offers classes in English language, GED, civics, work-readiness, math and computers. There are also many ways to vol-



ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher Nikki Carson-Padilla prepares a lesson for her medical careers class. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Students get ready to make a presentation in their ESL (English as a Second Language) class. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

unteer - call to learn about becoming a classroom tutor with children or adults, or to help with office work or intake assistance.

The mission of The Open Door is to share the power of learning through education,

community building and advocacy. According to Patrick Smith, evening program coordinator, "Our student numbers are growing, with waiting lists for some morning classes."

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# Senator Patricia Torres Ray - connect, learn, understand

One path of immigration leads to a life-long path of service

Interview by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

I came to Minneapolis when I was 22 years old, in 1987. I was born and raised in Pasto, Columbia, a city of half a million people near the southern border with Ecuador. Pasto sits at about 9,000' elevation and is surrounded by lots of small villages. It's a beautiful place. I left for one good reason. I fell in love with my husband, whom I met when he was studying anthropology at the University in Pasto.

We were married and settled in Prospect Park, just across the river from here. It was November when we arrived, and I remember thinking I had never seen such a deserted city. I didn't know that people would come out of their houses again in the spring, that everybody was just hibernating the way they do here when winter comes.

I spoke no English - not one word - and the language barrier was painful. I had to learn how to connect with people in this very different culture. Lucky for me, we lived close to Pratt School which was a major ESL center back then. I went to English classes every day, and those people quickly became my community. I could walk to school and I didn't have children

yet, so it was fairly easy for me. With transportation issues and a family, I don't think it would have been so easy to learn English. Interestingly, in that big school there were only a couple of other Latinos at the time. I made lots of Vietnamese, Hmong and Laotian friends because that's who was immigrating to Minnesota in large numbers in the late 80's.

I got a job right away working in a factory where we printed labels on plastic bottles. It was a really good-paying job. I made \$10/hour plus benefits, and I was proud of what I earned. I wanted a job where speaking English wasn't a requirement. I went to school all day, and worked the shift from 3pm until midnight.


After a year, I transferred to

the University of Minnesota and my options became clearer. I learned rather quickly how to connect with people there, and this learned ability has been central to my work and to my life ever since. Three words that really matter to me are *connect, learn and understand*.

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Patricia Torres Ray, State Senator for District 63. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)




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NATURAL TOYS AND BABY CARE

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By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

On Nov. 24, Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson issued a compliance report questioning the relationship between Savers retail stores and the local non-profits they partner with. These include Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled Veterans of America, Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, Lupus Foundation of Minnesota, Courage Kenney Foundation and True Friends.

The allegations are that the Seattle-based thrift store conglomerate Savers LLC, with 330 stores world-wide and annual revenues in excess of 1 billion dollars, improperly manages and accounts for the donations it solicits. The for-profit company operates 15 stores in Minnesota under the various names of Savers, Unique Thrift and Value Thrift.

According to a statement released by Savers, they employ more than 650 people state-wide and 19,000 people in the United States, Canada and Australia.

The Attorney General alleges that "Savers mixes its identity with those of its non-profit partners and fails to disclose the amount of donations that actually go to charity, versus the amount Savers keeps. A donor can claim a tax deduction for the full price of a donated clothing item, presumably what the item would sell for at Savers, but the charity receives only a small portion of that."

Swanson's office further states that, "Savers gives tax receipts for household goods such



Storefront of the E. Lake St. Savers, one of 330 stores owned by conglomerate Savers LLC. Their operations in Minnesota are under scrutiny by the Minnesota Attorney General. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

as furniture and electronics but pays the charities *nothing* for these items, misrepresenting Minnesota tax laws in the process."

If you live in Longfellow or Nokomis area, chances are good you've either made a donation to or shopped at Savers, located at 2124 E. Lake St. Their sprawling sales floor is full of donated items that have either been brought in to the store by individuals, or picked up curbside on behalf of one of the charities listed above.

The Savers website states, "Our nonprofit alliances contact people in the community to ask for donations of reusable clothing and household items. We pay our nonprofit alliances based on the number of boxes and bags they collect from you and deliver to us. We also pay our nonprofit alliances every time you donate gently-used goods to our stores. Your donation becomes funding for a local non-profit. Feels good, right? We know!"

It remains to be seen, just how much Savers knows. "The problem is," Attorney General Swanson says, "that the charities are often getting only pennies on the dollar. Payment is made at a specific rate for used clothing, sometimes as little as 40 cents per cubic foot, a space that

roughly would contain four dresses. On average, Savers would sell each dress for \$6.99, keeping about 98% of the profit."

"Three bedrock principles of charities law are to respect the intent of the donor, to protect charitable assets and to be

transparent. This compliance report identifies deficiencies in all three areas," says Attorney General Swanson.

Not surprisingly, Savers claims to be very disappointed in the Attorney General's recent report. On Nov. 26, they issued a

press release stating that, "We believe the report's findings are based on incorrect assumptions and a misunderstanding of our working relationship with our non-profit partners. As a result, the findings inaccurately depict the valuable work that Savers and our non-profit partners perform throughout the state of Minnesota."

Savers and its non-profit partners are mid-way thru a 45 day period of formulating a response to the Attorney General. At the end of that time, each will have to detail specific steps they are taking to address the alleged deficiencies. For the non-profits, this would include developing a plan to monitor Savers as a professional fundraiser acting on their behalf. The compliance report is being shared with the Internal Revenue Service and with other Attorney General offices in the states where Savers operates its stores. The IRS will decide if Savers and its non-profit partners are violating tax code by encouraging donors to take deductions that may not be legitimate. While a lawsuit has not been filed against any of the parties, Swanson says, "Everything is on the table."

*Editor's Note: This article contains information and quotes used with permission by John Howe, Office of the MN Attorney General.*



Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson (Photo provided by the Office of the Attorney General)

## Tips on charitable giving

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Minnesota ranks 21st in population, 16th in total giving - but 13th in giving per capita. Minnesotans are generous by nature, and this is the season of giving. Understanding the following facts can ensure that your charitable donation is actually going where you think it is. These days, many non-profits use professional fund-raisers to raise money on their behalf. A professional fund-raiser is any person or organization that is compensated to solicit money on behalf of a charity.

The following questions may help you determine if you want to make a charitable contribution when you are contacted:

- Get the exact name and location of the charity and the professional fund-raiser calling on its behalf.
- Ask if the caller is being paid by a fund-raising company.
- Find out where and how your donation will be used.
- Ask if your donation is tax deductible.
- Determine if the charity and the fund-raiser are registered with the Attorney General's Office. You

can look up charities and professional fund-raisers on the Attorney General's website at [www.ag.state.mn.us/Charity/CharitySearch.asp](http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Charity/CharitySearch.asp).

- Be careful of scams - they are abundant:
  - "Sounds-Like" organizations: scammers may try to lure donors with a name similar to that of a well-known charity. They rely on donations from people who respond to unsolicited phone calls, mailings or emails. Remember, you are giving a stranger access to your credit card or checking account information. Determine if the charity is valid before you volunteer any personal information.
  - Loans and investments: If you are asked to make a loan to or invest in a charity, hang up. Because of their nonprofit, tax-exempt status, charities can't be formed to give private benefits to individuals. If the caller describes how you can profit while helping a charity and it sounds too good to be true, it's because it is.

*Editor's Note: Contains information used with permission by John Howe, Office of the MN Attorney General.*

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CHAIR'S NOTE: NENA would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended the successful Dec. 11, Town Hall meeting. Your energy and positive action enabled us to return the NENA Board of Directors to the full complement of 15 volunteer members. On the subject of volunteering, even if you are not presently serving on the Board, there are always opportunities for everyone to keep NENA successful going forward; there are volunteer needs at all NENA sponsored events such as the upcoming free Night Before New Year's Eve party and there are openings on committees that will assist NENA to remain focused on the grassroots requests of the community. Stay active, stay involved with the organization and keep our community a great place to live, work and play. - Kent Knopp-Schwyn

## NENA Welcomes New Board Members

Approximately 100 residents attended the General Membership/ Town Hall Meeting, held at Keewaydin School on Thur., Dec. 11. Laura Johansson, an independent, professional facilitator, led the group through a selection process. The meeting included time for the community to talk in small groups about the strengths and challenges of NENA, and to share those thoughts in writing with the Board of Directors. Both new and long-time residents spoke passionately about the neighborhood, their homes and businesses, expressing the desire to involve residents of all ages and displaying a tremendous amount of civic pride.

Moving forward, the specific themes and interests from the written feedback and discussions will be used to guide neighborhood programs and initiatives. (Community members who were unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to participate in the online survey version.) After the discussion period, twelve individuals stepped forward as candidates for the eight vacant board positions, each with an impressive skill set and a unique story of their interest in the neighborhood and potential contributions to the board. The membership then split into the four respective neighborhoods, in which the two candidates were selected to represent their neighbors, in a ballot process tallied by NCEC Commissioners and the independent Facilitator team.

Upholding its promise for a transparent and fair process, five members of the NENA Board (Knopp-Schwyn, Jelatis, Pikus-Li, Haight, Koncak) immediately convened to formally appoint the community-selected candidates to the NENA Board of Directors.

Thank you to all who contributed and participated in this very important meeting; Special thanks to Laura Johannson, Councilman Andrew Johnson, Commissioner Steffanie Musich, Stacy Sorenson, Christina Kendrick, Mariano Espinoza, Robert Miller, Richard Mammon, and NCEC Volunteers.

Congratulations and welcome to the newly appointed NENA Board Members!

# NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

By HELENA PIKUS LI & VANESSA HAIGHT

## Town Hall Meeting and Night Before New Year's Eve



Back Row (L to R): George Jelatis, Kent Knopp-Schwyn, Roger Kittelson, Mike Guild, Vanessa Haight, Bill Koncak, Chris Becker, Joe Henry. Front Row (L to R): Maribel Osorio, Helena Pikus Li, Molly Donovan, Emily Antin, and Matt Musich. Not pictured: Andrea Jauli, Mark Preston.

- Morris Park:**  
—Roger Kittelson (2016)  
—Emily Antin (2016)
- Minnehaha:**  
—Molly Donovan (2015)  
—Joe Henry (2016)
- Keewaydin:**  
—Mike Guild (2016)  
—Chris Becker (2015)
- Wenonah:**  
—Maribel Osorio (2015)  
—Matt Musich (2016)

A meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thur., Dec. 18, at the NENA Office, 3000 50th St., to welcome new Board Members. In January, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will occur on Thur., Jan. 22, at 7pm.

### Moving Forward

The NENA Board of Directors has made some hard decisions in the last few months. We strive to learn from our past and move forward, invigorated by the support of the community we serve and the newly appointed board members. In 2015, the Board will reset organizational goals and develop strategies and tactics to achieve these goals. Key issues that the Board will address in the near-term include: hiring an interim executive director, analyzing current systems and capacity issues, reviewing and updating our bylaws, ensuring an adequate system exists for retention of minutes and easy distribution to the public, increasing transparen-

cy, and exploring technology options and solutions.

To that end, the newly formed Technology Committee is working to provide technological solutions, consultation, and support to NENA members, volunteers, staff, and the NENA Board of Directors. The Committee is currently working to: improve NENA's email system and response time, facilitate social media outreach, propose a new website design or template, and leverage graphic design and technical experts in the neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer for or contact the technology committee, you can email [technology@nokomiseast.org](mailto:technology@nokomiseast.org).

We welcome comments, suggestions and ideas from our neighbors. There are many ways to get involved. If you have an idea for an improvement or would like to donate your skills to NENA, please let us know: [NENA@nokomiseast.org](mailto:NENA@nokomiseast.org), 612-24-5652.

NENA looks forward to a new year full of hard work, tough decisions, and movement forward.

### 15th Annual Night Before New Year's Eve

The 15th Annual Night Before New Year's Eve (NBNYE) Party will take place on Tues., Dec. 30, 2014, from 5-8pm, at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. As a well-attended NENA tradition, we want to ensure it continues for residents of all ages to enjoy.

This year, due to limitations on NENA's funding (funding cannot be used for entertainment or food/beverage), we are relying heavily on our partnership with

### Upcoming Meetings:

12/18: Board Meeting, NENA Office, 7pm  
1/8: Board Meeting, TBD  
1/22: Board Meeting, Keewaydin School Cafeteria, 7pm  
Meeting times subject to change. Please visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) for an updated agenda.

### Upcoming Events:

12/30: NENA Night Before New Year's Eve party, Nokomis Community Center, 5-8pm

### Web:

<http://www.nokomiseast.org>  
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Phone: 612-724-5652

the Minneapolis Parks & Rec Board. The event will continue with minimal changes, but we need volunteers to help run it!

Volunteers are needed for delivery and set-up (Dec. 29 & 30), decorating (Dec. 30 in the afternoon), greeting, games in the gym, food prep and service, crafts, outside activities, transportation and cleanup. Sign-up today via VolunteerSpot at <http://vols.pt/hVMj4B>, email [volunteer@nokomiseast.org](mailto:volunteer@nokomiseast.org), or call the NENA office at 612-724-5652.



Next issue deadline: Jan. 19

## Volunteer! Hennepin County 2015 Citizen Advisory Boards

- Vacancies available on:**
- Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC)
  - Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
  - Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin Board (CAPSH) (Local elected officials only)
  - County Extension Committee (Minnesota Extension Service)
  - Human Resource Board
  - Library Board
  - Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board
  - Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners

Application deadline: Wednesday, December 31, 2014

For more information and to apply online:  
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**15TH ANNUAL NIGHT BEFORE NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
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# In Our Community

## Messenger

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

### Beat the winter blahs Jan. 17

You are invited to a "retreat in the city" Sat., Jan. 17, at Epworth UMC, 3207 37th Ave. S. Eat breakfast, lunch and/or dinner at Epworth. Other all-ages activities include puzzles, sledding and nature walks (weather permitting), games, movies, crafts and music making. Check out [www.epworthumc-mpls.org](http://www.epworthumc-mpls.org) for details. Breakfast will be served about 9am.

### Two South High music presentations

The South High Music Department and the South High Foundation will present the "Annual Singer Showcase and Pizza" featuring the South Jazz Ensemble and Pop Singers on Thur., Jan. 15. Steve Faison will be the special guest artist. The "Annual Pops Concert and Pizza" will take place on Thur., Jan. 29. Both concerts will be held at South High School, 3131 19th Ave. S.

For both performances pizza will be served 6-7pm. Two slices of Carbone's pizza (choice of cheese, pepperoni, all meat or all veggie) and a soda will cost \$6. The performances will take place from 7-9pm and concert tickets will sold at the door: adults \$10, students \$5 (age 5 and over), free for staff with ID.

### City declares the "Minnehaha Mile"

Mayor Betsy Hodges and the Minneapolis City Council approved a resolution Dec. 12 declaring Minnehaha Ave., from Lake St. to Minnehaha Falls, as the "Minnehaha Mile." This street contains nine antique, vintage, retro, and secondhand shops, more than any other commercial corridor in the state of Minnesota.

The declaration was made in recognition of the important role Minnehaha Ave. plays in making the city more livable, attractive, resilient, and healthy while adding charm and character to the community.

"Minnehaha Ave. is a great place to spend a weekend afternoon, hopping from store to store where you can find things like they used to make them," said Council Member Andrew Johnson. "Each shop has a warm and inviting atmosphere which conjures up memories from the past, while the owners themselves are as charming and full of character as the items that fill their stores, exuding a sense of neighborliness that seems cut out of those same decades past."

The Mayor and City Council are encouraging residents and visitors alike to visit and experience the shops located along the Minnehaha Mile. Entrepreneurs

and business owners—particularly those specializing in antique, vintage, and reuse shops—are also encouraged to consider locating along this special corridor in Minneapolis.

### Study Center open every Wednesday

"Student Study Center" is held every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S. High school and college students can come to the church for an optimal study atmosphere with quiet space and light snacks. Walk-ins welcome! This study center will be supervised. If you have questions call 612-722-9527.

### Plan a health care directive

Epworth United Methodist Church will offer "Graceful Journey: Planning your Health Care Directive," Wed., Jan. 14, from 5:30-8:30pm. A light supper will be offered. This free program will help people discuss and plan for their wishes for end-of-life care. Epworth is at 3207 37th Ave. S.; please call 612-722-0232 if you have questions.

### MCLC schedules 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.

### Programs planned at East Lake Library

East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St., will hold "Senior Surf" sessions on Fridays, Jan. 16 and Feb. 20, 9:30-11:30am. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet, and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line®.

Learn eBook Basics on Tues., Jan. 20, 6-7:30pm. Learn how to search for, select, download and use eBooks from the HCL website on your personal eReader device or computer.

An Author Talk with local author William Kent Krueger will take place on Thur., Jan. 15, 6:30-8pm. Krueger is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author. His new book "Windigo Island" continues the story of Cork O'Connor as he battles vicious villains, both

mythical and modern, to rescue a young girl. Krueger will discuss this book and others. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Join the Adult NonFiction Book Club on Tue., Feb. 3 from 6-7pm, when they will discuss "Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell. Join the discussion of new and interesting nonfiction titles. Bring along your recommendations for future meetings.

The annual meeting of Friends of East Lake Library will meet Sat., Feb. 7, 1-3pm. Open to new members! Join fellow library enthusiasts to hear what's happening at Hennepin County Library. Help support your local library by planning and volunteering at book sales, programs, and special events.

Register now for "Act Out for Adults: History of Theater," scheduled at the library Sat., Feb. 21, 1-2:30pm. Explore some major theater movements in a fun, interactive and inspiring way. An experienced Guthrie teaching artist will provide a peek at how theater from the past connects to the theater today. For both avid theater-goers and people who just have an interest!

For any of these programs, register online or call 612-543-8425.

### "Cabin Fever" meet-ups scheduled

Join your neighbors at "Cabin Fever" for a weekly play date for kids and their caregivers on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am, at Epworth United Methodist Church (corner of 32nd St. and 37th Ave. S.) from Jan. 7 through Mar. 25. Epworth will provide toys and snacks and a safe place for community, asking only that caregivers supervise their children.

### Patrick's Cabaret receives grant

Patrick's Cabaret received \$7,250 from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) under its 2015 Capital Grants Program. The funding will go toward the purchase of new technical equipment for the theater and computers for the office. The grant was announced last month when the MRAC awarded \$423,359 in grants for fiscal year 2015.

### Soul+Food planned at Bethany

"Soul+Food: Dinner Church on 36th Ave." is planned for Saturdays, Jan. 3 and 17, 5-7:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.). Feed your body and soul; prepare the meal together in community and worship while sharing food at the table. Special Kids' Time while

adults get the meal together. Reservations appreciated by emailing the office at [office@bethanyon36th.com](mailto:office@bethanyon36th.com).

### Is a gluten free diet for me?

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a presentation on gluten free diets on Tue., Jan. 20 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. What is all the fuss about not eating gluten? What foods contain gluten, and how much is too much to consume? Join Patrick Somsen, exercise and wellness manager with Common Bond Communities, to explore this topic and help sort out whether you need to be concerned about gluten in your diet. For questions, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

### Garden Club meets Jan. 8, Jan. 14

"Garden Chat and Supper" is back again and planned for 6:30pm on Thur., Jan. 8, at El Norteno, 4000 E. Lake St. Folks have such a great time talking gardens and eating wonderful food, Longfellow Garden Club wants to offer it again. The "agenda" for this non-meeting is always set by those who come! Best guesses for what this partly El Nino winter forecasts for Spring 2015 are welcome!

Longfellow Garden Club meeting is planned for 7pm, Wed., Jan. 14, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. Meetings are free and open to everyone. There is a lot Urban Farming going on in, and around, Longfellow and throughout Minneapolis. Koby Jeschkeit-Hagen, Farm Manager at Tiny Diner Farm (3957 42nd Ave.) will explain urban farming and how the Farm started, what it is doing (and growing) in the community, and future plans.

### Tutors, ESL support available

Beginning Jan. 6, there will be reading tutors and ESL (English as a Second Language) support on Tuesdays from 5-6pm at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St. (kitty-corner from the Nokomis Library). The church and community volunteers provide assistance each Tuesday in reading for elementary-aged children, and also ESL support and instruction for teens and adults. Materials are provided, and you are welcome to bring your own. There is no charge, and all are welcome. If you would like to be a reader or a tutor for this program please contact Faith Lutheran Church at 612-729-5463.

### Vickerman to perform Jan. 25

Vocal Essence member Jen Vickerman and friends will perform Sun., Jan. 25 at 3pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.). Jen has a classically trained voice and will be singing some of her favorite music. Reception following. A free-will offering will be taken.

### Pancake breakfast planned Feb. 1

Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 38 will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sun., Feb. 1, from 8am to 12pm. The breakfast will be held in Rowan Hall, St. Helena Catholic Church (3204 E. 43rd St.). The meal comes complete with pancakes, sausages, milk, juice, and coffee. Suggested donation is \$6 per individual, \$17 per family. Come and help support the local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts!

Continued on page 14

## Messenger

1885 University Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-645-7045

#### Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

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The Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger is a monthly community publication in the Longfellow and Nokomis areas of Minneapolis, owned and operated by deRuyter-Nelson Publications, Inc. All correspondence should be sent to the Messenger, 1885 University Ave., #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Editorial and advertising offices can be reached at 651-645-7045. Our fax number is 651-645-4780.

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# Standish woman pens novel about midwives

'Hannah, Delivered' is the fourth book for memoir teacher at The Loft

By **TESHA M CHRISTENSEN**

It took 12 years for Standish resident Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew to write her first novel, "Hannah, Delivered," which was released in 2014.

It's not because she's a new writer.

Andrew has written three memoirs and numerous essays, and teaches writing classes at The Loft Literary Center. She is a recipient of a Minnesota State Arts Board artists' fellowship, the Loft Career Initiative Grant, and a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award.

"I've studied and taught memoir writing for my whole adult life; I'm conscious of how creative nonfiction functions," said Andrew, who lived near the Riverview Theater from 1998 to 2004. "With fiction I'm riding my instincts."

She has been surprised by how much more exposed she feels with this novel. "My memoir ['Swinging on the Garden Gate'] is about coming out bisexual and

reconciling my sexual identity with my Christian faith—you'd think that would be the hard book to put into the world, and not a novel about a made-up character in a profession that's completely different from mine," remarked Andrew. "But if you peel back the surface of Hannah's story—the midwifery, the births, the small towns, Hannah's professional challenges—underneath is my bare psyche. It's like I'm dreaming in public. It's terrifying!"

## Inspired by her sister

"Hannah, Delivered" (available locally at Moon Palace Books, 2820 E. 33rd St.) tells the story of a Minnesota woman who gives up her safe job at a hospital and heads to New Mexico to become a midwife. She then returns home to practice during a murky time in Minnesota's history. Up until the late 1990s, it was legal to attend a home birth but only with a license, but the Board of Medical Practice refused to issue

licenses and would have midwives arrested for delivering babies.

It was her sister Marcy Andrew, a midwife herself at Taos Homebirth and Midwifery in New Mexico, who suggested that Andrew write a novel about midwives. "I wasn't especially inspired until she invited me to the birth of one of her clients. I stood in the corner holding the warming blankets, scared out of my wits. The mother lay on her side on the bed with her legs pushing against my sister's body, and my sister said, 'Push through your pain. Your baby is on the other side of that pain.'"

"I suddenly knew I needed to write this book," recalled Andrew.

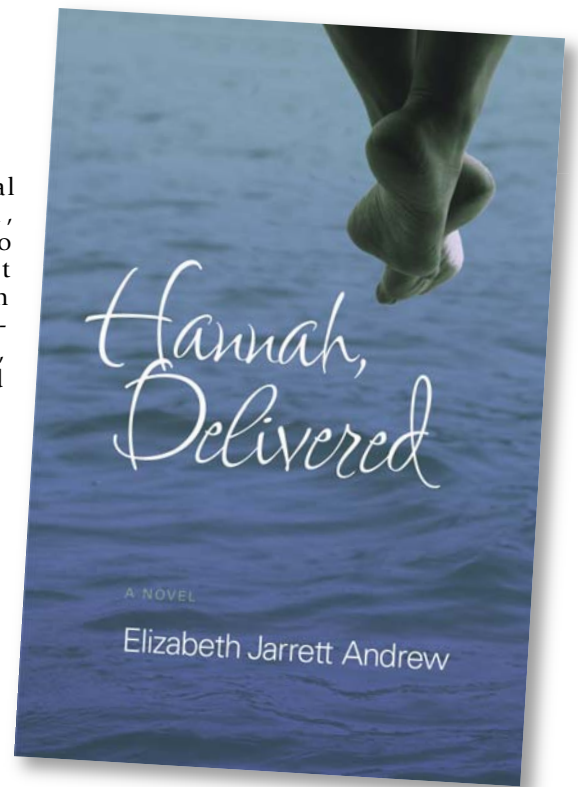
She added, "It seems to me that much of what we cherish about life—creativity, growth, babies—comes on the other side of pain. But in our culture, we do our best to avoid pain with denial and medication. I was curious to know what normal birth,

without medical intervention, might have to teach us about coming alive in other arenas, especially spiritually, emotionally, and relationally."

## Birth is feminism's final frontier

Andrew set the book in Minnesota and New Mexico because they were the two places she had connections to midwives. "This

turned out to be fortuitous, because they're very different states with very different attitudes toward birth," Andrew noted. While Minnesota is the home of big medical systems, big insurers, the Mayo Clinic and a Board of Medical



Practices that sought to arrest midwives, home birth has always been legal in New Mexico with Medicaid reimbursing the bill.

Continued on page 13

High school and college basketball fans in the area will likely hear the name Javonni Bickham.

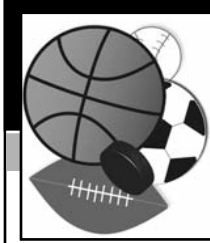
Minnehaha Academy's 6-6 center has appeared on Division I college programs' recruiting radar despite being a freshman. Bickham already had one varsity season under his belt entering this season.

As an eighth-grader, Bickham scored 7.2 points per game for the Redhawks. He was the team's fourth-leading scorer and helped Minnehaha go 15-14 that season.

This winter, Bickham has helped the Redhawks to a 3-2 start and has a team-best 17.2 points per game through Dec. 12. He scored a season-high 26 points in a 69-50 win over Henry Sibley on Nov. 25.

While the Redhawks have Bickham as a force in the post, they came into the season with a young and inexperienced squad.

"We are inexperienced across



## In The Zone

By **MATTHEW DAVIS**

### Area teams off to a good season start

three spots at least," Redhawks coach Lance Johnson said early in the season.

Seventh-grader Jalen Suggs has the second-highest scoring average on the team with ten points per game. He hit a season-high of 16 points in a 74-54 win at Jordan on Dec. 5.

Senior guard Trenton McCarthy gives the Redhawks some additional offensive punch with nine points per game. Jake Richardson, a junior forward also has chipped in with 8.8 points per game, including his 14-point performance at Henry Sibley.

Minnehaha will have a challenging stretch of games in mid-to-late January. The Redhawks played two state tournament qualifiers from last season, St. Paul Central on Jan. 13 and St. Paul Academy on Jan. 20.

On the girls' side of things for Minnehaha hoops, early 2015 will bring eager anticipation for the Redhawks. While the Minnehaha

girls started 2-1 through Dec. 13, they have been without star sophomore guard Sarah Kaminski.

She tore her ACL during AAU basketball in the summer months. Her return should give the Redhawks a huge boost. Kaminski led the Redhawks to the state tournament last spring and averaged 17.3 points and 9.9 rebounds per game.

Besides Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis Roosevelt has been successful on the hardwood this winter. The Teddies boys hoops team has a 4-2 start through Dec. 13 and a No. 8 ranking in Class AA.

The Minneapolis boys hockey co-op has also started the season strong with a 4-2 mark through Dec. 13. Connor Fulco has a team-high 12 points, and Will Graves has an .800 save percentage in goal.

Minnehaha Academy's boys hockey team has big skates to fill this winter with 6-4 goalie Justin Ball graduated. Justin Evenson has made due with a .935 save percentage in goal. The Redhawks had a 3-2 start through Dec. 13.



Javonni Bickham of Minnehaha Academy gives the Redhawks boys basketball a big, go-to player who has attracted Division I teams already as a freshman. (Photo by Matthew Davis)

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# Made in MN Solar Rebate Program to open on Jan. 1

*Nokomis True Value Hardware took advantage of the program in 2014 using All Energy Solar*

The 2nd year of the Minnesota Department of Commerce's 10-year, \$15-million-a-year Made in Minnesota (MiM) Solar Incentive Program will officially launch on Jan. 1, 2015.

The MiM program is an incentive program available to residential, commercial, and non-profit

customers of investor owned utilities such as Xcel Energy. The availability of these rebates means the cost to install a solar electric system will be much more affordable, boosting Minnesota's solar energy generation. Last year, the first year for the program, MiM attracted more than 500 entities to reserve

rebates for the equivalent of 5.22 megawatts of distributed solar electric systems.

Many residents and businesses throughout the state are already reaping the benefits of the program, including local Nokomis True Value Hardware. Owner Carolyn Faacks is dedicated to main-

taining a socially and environmentally conscious business and saw the rebates as an opportunity to finally make the change affordable. "I've always been interested in ways to reduce my consumption of resources. Renewable energy is the end game and the sooner we get there the better the outcome is for everyone," said Faacks.

Installing solar was an easy decision for Faacks because the environmental benefits aligned with Nokomis Hardware's vision and because the economic savings were immediate – especially after taking advantage of the Made in Minnesota program.

After looking into several companies, Faacks decided upon All Energy Solar because they worked to come up with a financing option that was in reach of her budget. Using both the main business rooftop as well as the storage building rooftop, All Energy Solar was able to design a system that generated as much electricity as possible. The array generates up to 17,000 kWh of electricity per year for the store. "All Energy Solar was fantastic. It is only because of their incredible effort that I was able to

take advantage of this year's program." Faacks is now seeing her electric savings continue to pile up, and she has a sustainable source of energy for her business that will benefit the environment and community for generations to come.

"Through the use of these incentives, we were able to help a small business achieve something that normally would not be possible," commented Brian Allen, Vice President of All Energy Solar. "We worked hand-in-hand with Nokomis True Value to design a package that met all of their expectations and, with the use of financing, ultimately allowed them to save money on day one."

To learn more about how to qualify for this year's Made in MN incentive program, visit All Energy Solar's website at [www.allenergysolar.com](http://www.allenergysolar.com) or call 800-620-3370 to talk to a Solar Specialist. Applications for the 2015 program are due by Feb. 28.

All Energy Solar is a family owned company that provides solar installations, and community outreach and education to teach the importance of, and immediate need for, energy alternatives.

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The solar panel array on top of Nokomis True Value Hardware. These panels, along with some panels on top of their storage building, generate up to 17,000 kWh per year.

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## Energy Fair planned for Feb. 7

On Sat., Feb. 7, 2015, the Environment & Transportation Committee of the Longfellow Community Council will host a day-long Energy Fair at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. (behind the Lake St. Library).

The event will feature more than a dozen speakers in workshops for homeowners, business owners, and congregations on topics related to energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy. Many speakers live or work in the Longfellow/Seward community.

- Topics will include:
- Energy transitions past and future (or, we haven't always lived this way)
  - Solar energy options for homes, businesses and congregations
  - How churches can save on their monthly energy bills
  - How business can increase profits with energy efficiency, and how home owners can make their home both energy efficient and healthy
  - True stories of how several area businesses made – and funded – energy improvements
  - Wise energy investments for home owners and how home-

owners can avoid falling for energy saving myths

- Improving the efficiency of the traditional south Minneapolis fire-place
- Natural home cooling techniques
- Rethinking transit options to save money and carbon
- Weatherization work groups, insulation bulk buying and other actions communities can take together to reduce heating bills
- Personal Power Down: Once the easy work is done, how behavior changes can reduce energy use
- Minneapolis's energy future

The Energy Fair begins at 8:30am and ends at 3pm. The \$10 cost covers entry fee, a bagel breakfast, and a lunch. Child care will be available for a small fee for children 10 and under (note childcare needs when registering).

Any monies raised by the Energy Fair will be used to bring additional energy-related programs and services to the Longfellow community.

For more details, visit the Longfellow Energy Fair website at [www.longfellow.org/energy](http://www.longfellow.org/energy) and watch for more info in the next issue of the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*.





When the Messenger visited the site of Peppers and Fries in December, Jim Culpepper was one of the craftsmen working to redo the entire interior before the mid-January opening. (Photo by Jan Willms)

## Peppers and Fries

Continued from page 1

which will look out on a large patio.

"The restaurant will have room to seat 80 people, and there is seating for 20 more on the patio," Steve said.

He encouraged his daughter to join him in operating the restaurant. "Besides Boca Chica, she has worked at Burger Moe's and lots of other restaurants," Steve said. "I always told her she was a service type of person."

Marie said she had started school for interior design, but she soon discovered that was not the field for her. So she joined her dad in his enterprise.

"The planning process for a

restaurant is overwhelming," Steve admitted. "There is one change after another, and so many agencies and the bank are involved. But they all came through for us. The Longfellow Business Association and the City of Minneapolis really helped us."

He said that things are coming together quickly now, with tile needing to be put down, the floors done and everything painted. Then the Health Department and inspectors need to check everything out. "That process takes about a month," Steve said.

He is excited that he will soon get to serve customers, flip burgers, pour beer and watch sports. "And that's my job!" he exclaimed.

Plans are for 25-30 employees to be hired, a process that is currently going on.

"The most challenging part of running a restaurant is keep-

ing the support of your customers," Steve said. "You want to sell a good product at a good price, and you constantly want to please people."

He said that he feels like the neighborhood he has selected for his business is like a small town in a big city. His roots are deep on the West Side of Saint Paul, but he feels good about the Longfellow area.

"We want to become friends with everybody," he noted. "We want our customers to like our restaurant and come back with their friends."

He said his goal is to make Peppers and Fries the kind of place that people come to on a regular basis, whether they are families or college kids.

"We want it to be that place that you come to often, not just once a year or for a special occasion," he noted.

### Trylon microcinema screens microseries

For one month each calendar, the Trylon brings together movies that deserve their very own weekend, and January is the month!

Starting the first weekend in January, Trylon microcinema, 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S., will present *Straight-Jacket* (1964, 35mm, 93m). Lucy Harbin (Joan Crawford) has spent 20 years in an institution for decapitating her two-timing husband. Now living with her daughter, Lucy's the prime suspect for a series of gruesome ax killings. Screenings are Fri., Jan. 2 and Sat., Jan. 3, 7 and 9pm and Sun., Jan 4 at 5 and 7pm.

*Endurance (aka, South)* (1920, 35mm, 88m) will screen Fri., Jan 9 and Sat., Jan. 10 at 7 and 9 pm, and Sun., Jan. 11 at 5 and 7 pm. Don't miss this rare screening of the original Ernest Shackleton documentary, a silent film with live accompaniment by Dreamland Faces. To capture the intensity of the situation, the Trylon will not be heated during shows). \$10.

On Fri. and Sat., Jan. 16-17, at 7 and 9:15pm, and Sun., Jan 18, 5 and 7:15pm view *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (1975, HD, 115m). This mysterious film about the disappearance of schoolgirls at the eponymous rock offers no easy answers. Special 10am Saturday screening for the Trylon Book Club.

*The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T.* (1953, 35mm, 89m) will screen Fri. and Sat., Jan. 23-24, at 7 and 9pm, and on Sun., Jan 25, 5 and 7 pm. When Dr. Seuss was asked to write a movie, he unleashed his imagination—and his dark side—with this insane tale of a piano-lesson-hating boy trapped on a piano so large it takes 500 boys to play it!

The series ends Fri. and Sat., Jan 30-31 (7 and 8:45pm) and Sun., Feb. 1 (5 and 6:45pm) with a screening of *Burroughs: The Movie* (1983, HD, 86m). This newly restored documentary remains the only film about Burroughs made with his cooperation. Brookner followed the man, forged an intense friendship, and revealed more about the writer than ever before.



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Welcome Home!

## Katy's Cottage brings Memory Care to Iris Park Commons Assisted Living!



Many people who need Memory Care do not need a nursing home. That is why we created **Katy's Cottage**, the new Memory Care community within our Assisted Living community. It offers 16 beautiful, secure, one-bedroom apartments and shared suites in its own private wing (with great third-floor views). Residents of Katy's Cottage are served by their own specialized 24/7 staff. They're enjoying tasty meals, stimulating activity programs, and an inviting fireplace lounge for relaxing with their neighbors, family, and friends. To learn more about this new addition to our "Community of Heart," call **Deb Veit** at **651-632-8800**.

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CAAM Chinese Dance Theater Presents

## Dancing in Chinese Opera

2015 Production

Saturday, Jan. 31, 7pm

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2pm

2015 School Show

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 9:45am; 11:45am

The O'Shaughnessy

St. Catherine University

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戏魂舞韵



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and heritage fund.

This activity is funded, in part, by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund and its arts and cultural heritage fund that was created by a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



# LONGFELLOW

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Babies on Board!!!

Fall of 2014 was a very "productive" time for the LCC Board of Directors. Three of LCC's Board members welcomed new babies into the neighborhood. If you are involved with the LCC you will be seeing these adorable little faces all over the place.

### Introducing:

#### Stella Lynn Marlo-Triemstra.



Stella was born on September 23rd to Board member Christine Marlo-Triemstra and her wife Jennifer "Trie" Marlo-Triemstra and weighed in at 6lbs, 13.4 oz.

#### David Finnegan Ghere-Vitrella.



David was born on October 17th to Board Secretary Alex Vitrella and her husband Chris Ghere and weighed in at 4lbs, 15 oz. David was born a little earlier than expected but is very happy and healthy.

#### Katherine Zane Day.



Katherine was born on November 13th to Board President Eric Day and his wife Patty. Katherine weighed in at exactly 7lbs. While Eric is

Board President, his wife Patty is the Chair of LCC's Advancement Committee and has worked tirelessly in the community holding events and raising funding for LCC.

Amazingly, with all of these little ones appearing on the scene, our expectant Board members barely missed any meetings. With all of the work that has been accomplished in 2014 by the LCC, resident volunteers, businesses, the LCC Board of Directors and these fantastic new babies, we really have a lot to celebrate at the close of the year. Happy Holidays!!!!!!



## LCC ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE Thursday, January 29

Join LCC Staff and Board members for the Annual Winter Open House on Thursday, January 29th from 5:30-7:30pm. This is a chance to celebrate the great things that LCC's staff and volunteers will accomplish in 2015! Come enjoy hot drinks and cool neighbors with us at the LCC Office, located in the Western Roofing Building at 2727 26th Avenue South. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Calendar of Meetings and Events

## JANUARY 2015

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

#### ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 7  
7:00 - 8:30 pm  
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S  
FFI: [jessica@longfellow.org](mailto:jessica@longfellow.org)

#### LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, January 13  
12:00 - 1:30 pm  
check website for location

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, January 13  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S  
FFI: [joannalund@longfellow.org](mailto:joannalund@longfellow.org)

#### RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 14  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Hiawatha School Park, 4305 42nd St. E  
FFI: [joannalund@longfellow.org](mailto:joannalund@longfellow.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, January 15  
6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S  
FFI: [melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)

#### NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, January 21  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Lake Coffee House, 3223 E Lake St  
FFI: [joe@longfellow.org](mailto:joe@longfellow.org)

#### ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, January 27  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Lake Coffee House, 3223 E Lake St  
FFI: [joe@longfellow.org](mailto:joe@longfellow.org)

## President's Message

### Eric Day, President of the Board



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a nice holiday season. Personally, I'm excited for the start of a new year, because it allows me to reflect on my goals and aspirations. A new year is also a great opportunity for a fresh start and recommitment to important priorities, such as community.

With that, I want to make a challenge to my Longfellow neighbors for 2015: Get involved.

There are a lot of ways to get involved with Longfellow Community Council this year. For anybody that is not familiar with the organization, this month will have a great opportunity to get to know the LCC. The annual Winter Warming Party will take place Thursday, January 29th,

from 5:30-7:30pm at the LCC Offices. At this event, you can meet LCC staff and board members and find out about upcoming events and programs.

A couple of other specific opportunities for people to get involved with LCC include joining the Neighborhood Development Committee (NDC), which works to advance and guide economic development and redevelopment in the greater Longfellow community, and the Advancement Committee, which focuses on fundraising, events

and promotion of LCC. Both of these committees are actively looking for new members and are great ways to meet neighbors and make a difference in the neighborhood. Additionally, LCC is looking for volunteers to be part of a Public Art & Streetscaping Planning Group, in partnership with Hennepin County, for the upcoming reconstruction of Minnehaha Avenue.

These are just a few ways to get involved with LCC. There are dozens of other opportunities to share your talents and make a difference. Check the website for meeting times, call or stop by the office, or follow LCC on Facebook to find out more.

As always, we are so grateful for our volunteers and we look forward to another great year in Greater Longfellow. Thanks again for your continued support and I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Saturday, Feb. 7,

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church

2730 E. 31st St.

Registration: \$10

Includes lunch



### Workshops to help homeowners, business owners & congregations

Lower your energy bills • Reduce your carbon footprint • Save on heating and cooling • Avoid wasting money on efficiency gimmicks • Keep your home healthy • Affordable solar options • Actions you can take today!

Register at [www.longfellow.org/energy](http://www.longfellow.org/energy)

Presented by Longfellow Community Council Environment and Transportation Committee. Cosponsors include Transition Longfellow, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Green Team and the Alliance for Sustainability.

## Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue S.,

Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612.722.4529

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

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# Hennepin County sets aside \$54 million for redevelopment at 2225 E. Lake St.

Construction on new county service center and first phase of housing units to begin in early 2015

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Hennepin County's plan to purchase the school district's 6.4-acre parcel at 2225 E. Lake St. for the first mixed-use transit village along the light rail Blue Line is receiving mixed reviews from residents. There is both excitement and concern for the plan that includes a new county services hub, as well as retail, high-density and single-family homes.

Some people, like longtime community volunteer Billy Weber, Jr., are thrilled that there will finally be more than a parking lot at the property, acting as a barrier into Corcoran.

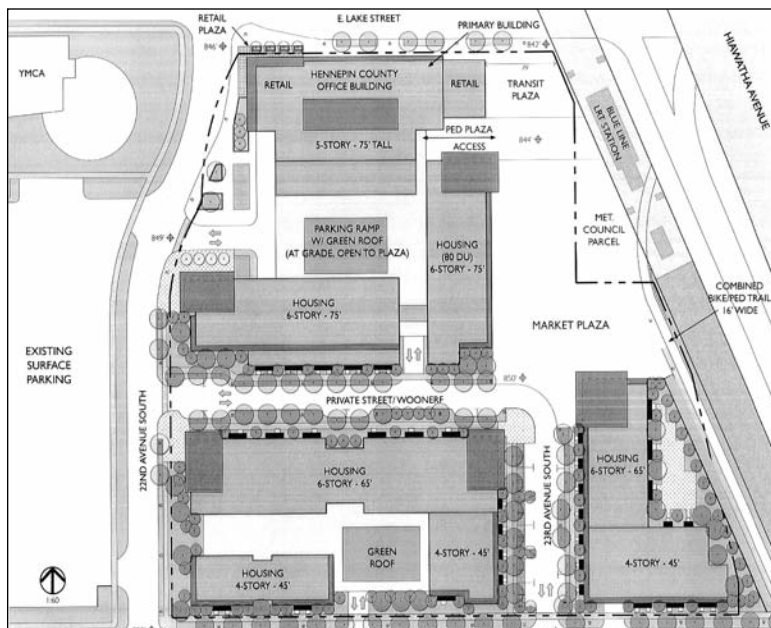
"I really do think the project is a good project, and it's going to make a big difference for the neighborhood," said Weber.

Others, such as Sam Newberg of Joe Urban, Inc., don't feel that the design goes far enough. "The county facility is a suburban building in an urban location," said Newberg. "Visitors and county staff will be able to drive in to the parking garage and take an elevator into the building, never setting foot on a sidewalk. This may sound great to some, but great urban spaces are where all people mix and mingle in public spaces."

"As an overall idea, the development project is very exciting," stated artist and actress Laura Wilhelm of Mad Munchkin Productions. "However the key will be in its upkeep and the continued programming for its use. The potential is so wonderful, and yet its prosperity hinges on the right retailers being present, the right draw for flow of people, and the right group or people to oversee activities in the plaza outside of the farmer's market."

## County sets aside \$54 million

Residents have been dreaming about redevelopment of the parcel at 2225 E. Lake St. for over 15 years, dating back to when the Met Council began envisioning how areas along the light rail line could be transformed. The site is the former home of the Brown Institute,



Development at the 2225 E. Lake St. site will occur in three to four phases, requiring the move of the farmer's market several times, in order to give the school district time to find a new home for its programs.

Anishinabe Academy, and most recently the Minneapolis School District's Adult Basic Education program. An earlier proposal for the site had included a new school district building rather than a county building, but that plan fell through because the school district didn't want to pay for a new building there.

In November 2014, the Hennepin County Board approved, on a split vote, shifting around \$54 million to fund this project, with local Commissioner Peter McLaughlin among those in support. Of that, \$8 million will go to the school district to pay for the property, \$30 million for the service center, and \$16 million for parking.

The plan includes selling off a chunk of the property to L&H Station Development to build 125 housing units in the project's first phase and to share the cost of the underground parking ramp. L&H is expected to pay the county \$1 million in early 2015 when the deal closes.

Construction on the new county service center will begin in early 2015.

The county already has opened four service hubs as it prepares to close Century Plaza downtown. There are new centers in Brooklyn Center, north Minneapolis, Bloomington and Hopkins, and a center in northeast Minneapolis is under construction. These hubs are part of the county's plan to place services closer to where residents live so they can avoid the drive downtown.

Development at the site will occur in three to four phases, requiring the move of the farmer's market several times, in order to give the school district time to find a new home for its programs. The county will charge the district an escalating rental rate as an incentive to move out earlier than the seven-year deadline.

## Resident opinion varies

The development plan created by L&H Station Development, in collaboration with the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization and residents, closely follows the Midtown Revival Plan adopted in 2002.

Weber helped fashion that

plan. He observed that the height of proposed buildings and the density of the property fit in well with the Midtown Revival Plan goals, and he's pleased to see how the size and density step back as you move from busy Lake St. to the residential 31st St. He appreciates how 23rd Ave. is extended in the plan, connecting one of the neighborhood's busiest streets with the new development.

Weber, who has lived in Corcoran since 1997, attended two recent county-organized community meetings regarding sustainability within the development. The county agreed to build its service center according to the Sustainable Building 2030 goals, a level that the state adheres to in new construction projects. Energy consumption will be 70% better than code. It will be solar-ready, awaiting the funds needed to install solar panels on the roof.

Another signature attribute is the green roof, which Weber is excited to view from the train station nearby when it is complete.

Russ Henry of Giving Tree Gardens also attended the sustainability meetings, but left feeling that more could be done. "Grey water recycling and food production space were both rejected out of hand by the county and the green roofs and solar energy production planned for the site are minimal," remarked Henry. "Storm water retention seems to be in the plan, but the county appears ready to drop any and all sustainability measures at any time that they might become economically challenging."

Henry is also disappointed about the timing of low-income housing. "This project will provide some much needed low-income housing, but unfortunately the low-income housing portion of the development is slated as the last part to be built with market rate housing coming first," Henry observed. "There is a pressing need for low-income housing in the neighborhoods adjacent to the site, low-income housing

should be a higher priority."

Henry is among those excited to see a permanent home being set aside for the Midtown Farmer's Market, and he believes it will likely spur growth in sales. There is concern about the location of the market and whether it will be hidden there or visible.

Tami Traeger of Nice Ride Minnesota would prefer to see that new road area be a pedestrian walkway instead, and wishes that the county not subsidize car use by providing free parking to county employees but instead charging for parking in order to encourage other modes of transportation to and from this transit hub. During the community engagement meetings she attended, people brought up the need for improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists at the intersection at Lake and Hennepin.

"The county representative did not wish to discuss this intersection in regard to this project, but it is critical to the success of the residential portion of the plan as residents will need to cross over to the Target and Cub," said Traeger. "The current design of the Lake and Hennepin intersection is not welcoming to pedestrians or bicyclists and many feel it is dangerous." She doesn't think that the county, as a developer, seemed interested in continuing to work with the neighborhood to meet the goals of the community. Traeger views the current plan as a good start, but doesn't see it as a final plan.

"Hennepin County wants this project done fast," said Newberg, a Standish resident. "We need to demand it be done right."

"I look forward to green space, and art space, and people living and playing together at 2225 E. Lake, but I would ask all my neighbors to pay attention and keep using their voice to keep the development on track to be a success," encouraged Wilhelm. "We don't want another huge paved barren triangle of land gathering dust and trouble."

Our community is growing in its commitment to engage students, their families and the neighborhood in arts education.

In October we hosted our first Annual Arts Crawl welcoming over 300 visitors to celebrate learning through the arts. We hosted multiple events for Latino and Native American families to support student success and family engagement, and we are currently in the process of creating a beautiful mural for our arts wing. This winter the auditorium will undergo a major renovation which will allow us to grow a vibrant theatre program in the future.

These are just a few of the exciting things happening at your community school.

Save the date for these upcoming events:

Mon., Feb. 9 — African American Family Involvement Day. Contact [denise.anderson-dieffenbach@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:denise.anderson-dieffenbach@mpls.k12.mn.us) for more information.

Thur., Feb. 12 — Financial Aid Night and Teacher Conferences. This is an event for seniors

## Greetings from Roosevelt High School!

By **DENISE DIEFFENBACH**, Community Liaison

and their parents to receive help completing the FAFSA and the MN Dream Act. It is important to bring your tax statements. Contact

[tiffany.enriquez@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:tiffany.enriquez@mpls.k12.mn.us) for more information.

Fri., Feb. 27 — RHS Arts Crawl and Black History Month

Cultural Awareness Concert

Thur., Mar. 19 — Junior Launch Family Night. This evening is a planning event for

RHS juniors and their parents to prepare for senior year and college. Contact [mark.heyman@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:mark.heyman@mpls.k12.mn.us) for more information.

For more information about RHS, go to the quick links on the website at [Roosevelt.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://Roosevelt.mpls.k12.mn.us) and sign up for the RHS Standard eNewsletter.

Open 7 days a Week  
Lunch 11:30-3pm  
Daily Lunch Buffet  
Dinner 5-10pm  
Live Acoustic Music  
(Fri, Sat, and Sun evenings)  
Ask about our family friendly New Year's Eve Party!  
Join us for an International New Year's Eve Party!  
10% of proceeds going to support local non-profit Green Card Voices.  
Buy tickets online at [www.AroundtheWorldNYE.eventbrite.com](http://www.AroundtheWorldNYE.eventbrite.com)

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# NENA board

Continued from page 1

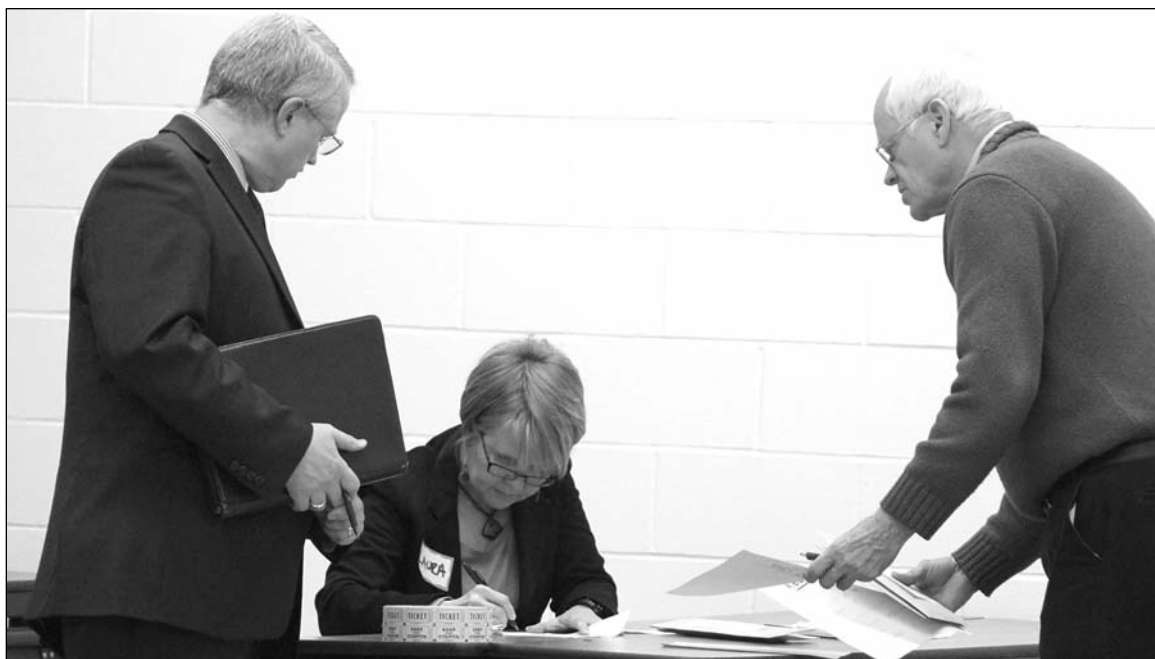
Tav Buechler stated, "I don't feel like this room reflects the neighborhood as a whole. I don't feel like it reflects the diversity." He added that Keewaydin School is much more ethnically diverse.

Among the priorities suggested were:

- Set term limits
- Update bylaws
- Grow and encourage small businesses in neighborhood
- Educate neighborhood on what NENA is
- Attract more members
- Involve more kids and teenagers, as well as those with young children
- Set a strategic plan, let the community know the details, and report back on progress
- Rebuild relationships
- Offer classes for the Latino population

## 12 candidates ran for 8 seats

The process of voting in new board members was complicated



Meeting facilitator Laura Johansson (seated) assists with the vote count. There were about 100 people voting at the NENA meeting on Dec. 11, 2014. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

due to how the bylaws are written. Residents typically vote in new board members at the annual meeting in April. When board members resign, the board may appoint new board members to the vacancies, but does not hold

a special election in the middle of the year.

Three of the new seats will expire in just five months, while the others will expire in April 2016.

There were 12 community

members running for 8 vacant seats. (See sidebar for voting results.)

The new board met as a whole on Thursday, Dec. 18, and will meet again on the fourth Thursday of January.

## Walters urges board to remove mistruths from NENA website

In a statement released to the *Messenger*, former NENA Associate Director Doug Walters stated, "It's time for the board to either remove the official statement or at least revise it to show the truth. The same mistruth has been spun since the end of October, and with every retelling, their dug-in position becomes grander. Yet, the facts show otherwise. I think the residents and businesses of Nokomis East deserve better."

Walters addressed what he considers several "myths" from the NENA board's official statement (see *Walter's full statement on the Messenger website*).

**Myth #1- "Arguably, administration was not the problem; NENA was in good financial condition, had strengthened community partnerships and was poised to grow when the firings occurred,"** said Walters. "This wasn't just a change in day-to-day management, no matter how they spin it. In one fell swoop, they eliminated all of the company's operations, from human resources, to fundraising, communications, program management, accounting and much more."

**Myth #2 - "The Board made significant effort to repair the declining relationship with staff."** Walters responded, "Contrary to the implications in Director Jelatis' original motion and the board's later official statement, absolutely no effort was made by any of the currently seated directors to rebuild a positive relationship between the board and staff. We challenge the board to list a single real example of where that effort

was made."

However, according to Walters, by February 2014, part of the board was trying to punish staff after the Executive Director had completed an internal audit and wrote to the board listing several ways in which the board was operating out of compliance with the bylaws and state statutes, risking both financial and legal problems. To this day, the board has never discussed that letter's content or the issues it highlighted with the Executive Director.

"In March, Rita [Ulrich] received a hand-delivered memorandum of reprimand, chiding her for writing the January letter on company time, placing her on probation and adding an incredible amount of additional and petty administrative work," said Walters.

**Myth #3 - "That memorandum of reprimand was an official board approved action. It was not, no matter how they spin it,"** remarked Walters. He

maintains the memo was never officially approved by the board during a regular session.

**Myth #4: "Where there is smoke, there is fire.** Contrary to the implied reasons, the firings were not about performance, or lack thereof," said Walters. "The truth is, in spite of a hostile work environment, we were looking forward to wrapping up a good year. We had new programs in the works, new technology for mass emails was ready and a new mobile-friendly website was being developed." He added, "NENA's future funding was stable and the books were in good shape."

**Myth #5: "Staff knew it was coming.** While there was history to predict the eventual outcome, the poison pill that Director Jelatis introduced at the very end of the October 23 meeting was not expected," said Walters.

"The question that the membership should be asking is not about staff, but about what NENA has become."

## What is NENA?

In part, from the NENA website:

NENA is a 33 year-old nonprofit volunteer organization whose goals are to promote neighborhood improvement and revitalization, and to encourage citizen participation in civic affairs. Since 1996, NENA has been the designated group to receive Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds for the four south Minneapolis neighborhoods of Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park and Wenonah. The independent NRP has since been replaced by a City department, Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR).

Through the years, NENA volunteers and staff have developed over 20 programs in the areas of Housing, Environment, Neighborhood Development & Planning and People Services & Safety. The programs are part of NENA's Neighborhood Action Plan (NRP Full Plan), funded by NRP.

At any given time, a number of programs are in various stages of planning and implementation. Volunteers often work with partner agencies to implement projects...

As a neighborhood organization, NENA also tracks and responds to community issues and concerns. Besides their website, which is updated several times per week, NENA also produces a newsletter that is mailed to all Nokomis East addresses. We regularly write a column in the *Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger* which highlights events and issues important to the neighborhood.

## NENA's new board members

The new board members include:

### KEEWAYDIN - 39 voters



• **Chris Becker** - 24 votes, seat expires April 2015. Becker recently helped formed the NENA technology committee. His background includes human resources, organizational development and training.



• **Mike Guild** - 29 votes, seat expires April 2016. Guild has lived in the neighborhood since 2001 with his wife and children. He has served on the American Diabetes Association Board since 2007 and is just wrapping up his term.

- Other candidate: Ed Hugener

### WENONAH - 18 voters



• **Maribel Osorio** - 11 votes, seat expires April 2015. Osorio has lived in the neighborhood for 9 years. "I have a lot of plans and would like everybody to be included," Osorio said, particularly the Latino community

of which she is a part.



• **Matt Musich** - 10 votes, seat expires April 2016. Musich is currently the head of Friends of Lake Nokomis. He has lived in the neighborhood for five years. His focus will be to increase community involvement in NENA.

- Other candidate: John Oakgrove

### MORRIS PARK - 13 voters



• **Emily Antin** - 6 votes, seat expires in April 2016. Antin earned back the seat she had resigned from on Oct. 23, 2014 because she "wants to give the board another shot." She has helped set up several nonprofit organizations, including the Women's Drum Center and Converging Visions.



• **Roger Kittelson** - 7 votes, seat expires April 2016. Roger Kittelson returned to Minneapolis three years ago. He is a member of the Lions Club and Our Lady of Peace. His background is agriculture.

### MINNEHAHA - 30 voters



• **Molly Donovan** - 13 votes, seat expires April 2015. Donovan grew up in Keewaydin and now lives in Minnehaha. She served on a board at the University of Minnesota - Morris for three years.



• **Joe Henry** - 11 votes, seat expires April 2016. Henry has lived in the neighborhood for seven years and is a math teacher at South High School. He'd like to work on partnerships between NENA and the

schools.

- Other candidates: Tracy Appelbaum and Kate Stower

# Author

Continued from page 7

There are still states in the United States where it's a felony to deliver a baby at home, Andrew pointed out. "I wanted to show how culturally shaped our attitudes toward birth and safety are, and that similar dynamics might be inhibiting our ability to live fully manifested lives."

Her research included lots of reading, interviews, observations at hospitals and birth centers, as well as attending a Midwives Alliance of North America conference. Early on, a midwife remarked that birth is feminism's final frontier. "If we really loved women, we'd trust their bodies," she told Andrew.

"I was very curious about what she meant, and this question spurred a lot of my writing," said Andrew.

Andrew was deeply inspired by the stuff she talked about on the phone late into the night with her sister: her daily professional conundrums, her moral questions, her struggles with the insurance industry and Medicaid reimbursements, her undying passion for birth, and the way birth brings her into every corner of her community.

## Midwives at the cusp of life

"I have tremendous respect for almost all the licensed midwives I've met," said Andrew. "They know



how to listen very carefully to others and how to pay close attention to women's bodies. They're living right at the cusp of life and they're aware of death all the time."

Two characters in the book, Hannah's New Mexico mentors Sunny and Maria, are based on her sister's mentor, Elizabeth Gilmore. "She was a real pioneer and visionary for midwifery," noted Andrew.

Midwives have been the first readers of "Hannah, Delivered," and they've loved it. "It's been very gratifying," said Andrew. "A few have thanked me for writing their story—a real surprise and honor. I worked very hard to get the medical information and the emotional work accurate, and midwives have told me I succeeded."

## Fixing a broken system

Through the character of Stuart, a

*"Early on in my research, a midwife said to me that birth is feminism's final frontier. If we really loved women, we'd trust their bodies. I was very curious about what she meant, and this question spurred a lot of my writing."*

— Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

## Story of a writer

Andrew won two gift certificates to McDonalds for a short story she wrote in fourth grade (called "Oh, Sister!") and had an ecstatic experience during a writing assessment in fifth grade. But it wasn't until sixth grade, when she discovered poetry, that she decided she wanted to be a writer. "I memorized 'The Jabberwocky' and formed romantic notions about writers that year," recalled Andrew.

Her writing process doesn't begin with an outline or even a specific character. "I like to muck around in my journal, asking questions and listening for themes that are rising up through my days," said Andrew. "Then I begin gathering thoughts in a project notebook. This is usually a mess of ideas, quotations from readings, snip-

pets of scenes or memories — nothing you'd recognize as writing." Eventually she goes to the computer and opens a file.

With "Hannah, Delivered," Andrew wrote random scenes from New Mexico and Minnesota without really knowing where she was going. Only once she had a bulk of material written did she begin to play with structure and character development.

Her writing group read draft after draft, and gave her straightforward, useful feedback. "My partner is also a smart reader, so I rely heavily on her," said Andrew.

She did countless revisions of "Hannah, Delivered," including four major overhauls after she signed on with her agent. "Writing a first draft is great fun, but the real work of writing a book (finding its heartbeat, helping it to grow) happens in revision," observed Andrew. "That's where the important discoveries take place—the deep joy of writing."

Her next book is a book for writers that she's currently calling "New Vision/Revision: Opening the Writer's Heart and Art." "It's about how writers need to open themselves to the possibility of personal growth through their writing if they want their work to develop," explained Andrew.

Connect with Andrew at [www.spiritualmemoir.com](http://www.spiritualmemoir.com) and [www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com](http://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com)

# Literacy

Continued from page 3

His colleague, Nikki Carson-Padilla, has been teaching at the East Lake site for ten years. "Over

the years, the nature of ESL classes has changed," she said. "We still offer basic introductory classes, but more often people are coming to this country able to speak some English. The focus is changing from teaching life skills to getting students started

on a career path."

When asked how they thought President Obama's executive action might impact their work at The Open Door, both Smith and Carson-Padilla said it was hard to guess.

If greater numbers of immigrants come forward and need more classes, they can expect to be well-received at The Open Door. All classes are offered free of charge, and are available during day time and evening hours. Parking is available in the clinic parking lot on 27th St., and there is easy access from the 21A bus on Lake St. or the near-by LRT.

Winter session begins Jan. 5, though a student can start a class at any time if there's room. Ring in the New Year by looking up for literacy, either as a student or a volunteer, and learn what the Open Door Learning Center has to offer.

Mohamed Mohamed, an immigrant from Somalia, is a student at St. Paul College in computer programming. He often helps out at The Open Door as a classroom assistant. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



# Senator Torres

Continued from page 3

In Columbia, where students go right from high school into professional career training, I was just one year short of finishing my law degree. I ended up graduating from the U of M with an undergraduate degree in urban studies, fascinated by thinking that focused on city planning and urban development. At about the same time, I started working as a Guardian ad Litum for Hennepin County. I loved being with the kids and advocating for them in court. Advocacy for children of color in the child welfare system became a passion that has stayed with me to this day.

Eventually I took a job with the state, where I worked on the Chicano/Latino Affairs Council for 14 years. I was lucky to have for my colleagues several American Indian women who were really smart, savvy, long-time social workers. They took me under their wing and taught me a lot. Our interactions, especially around work we did on the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, shaped my future as a policy maker and a thinker.

I applied to the Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs and completed my master's degree there while working

¾ time for the state and raising my two sons. I have been very fortunate to have a fantastic partner in my husband. This time in our lives was more stressful than when I first arrived in Minnesota. I felt pulled in so many different directions, but I was willing to sacrifice so that I could make a difference in my community.

I first ran for senate in this district in 2006. I'll be starting my third term soon, and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve my constituents in District 63. I had to overcome a lot to get where I am but I think, from an immigration standpoint, that it's much harder now. For me in 1987, it was enough to be married to an American citizen. I was granted temporary residence for the first three years and then my residency status was made permanent. That's not the way it works anymore.

I'm encouraged by President Obama's executive action on immigration. Immigration law is unbelievably complicated, but I believe we're starting to go in the right direction. I know there is hesitation in the immigrant community to come forward because the legal status that will be given to parents under DAPA will be temporary, but I would encourage people to apply anyhow. It's the only way to start the process and begin the path to a better life.

# Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

**Bethany Lutheran**  
3901 36th Ave. S. • 612-729-9376  
[www.bethanyon36th.com](http://www.bethanyon36th.com)

Pastor Jo Bauman  
Sundays - 9:30 am Generations in Faith Together  
10:30 am Worship  
Saturdays Jan 3 & 17:  
5 pm Soul+Food Dinner Church  
Sunday Jan 25:  
3 pm Jen Vickerman Concert  
All are Welcome!

**Bethlehem Covenant**  
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768  
[www.bethlehemcov.org](http://www.bethlehemcov.org)

Pastor Ryan Eikenbary-Barber  
(Handicapped accessible)  
Children especially welcome  
One service January 4 at 10:30 am.  
All other Sundays:  
Contemporary Worship - 8:45 am  
Sunday School for all ages - 10:00 am  
Traditional Worship - 11:00 am;  
Wednesdays at 5:45 pm  
Meal and activities for the family

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
[www.epworthumcpls.org](http://www.epworthumcpls.org)

Rev. Pam Armstrong  
Adult Classes: 9:45 am  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am  
Sunday School (children): 10:45 am  
Christmas Eve Worship, 7 pm  
(Childcare Provided)  
(Wheelchair Accessible)

**Minnehaha Communion Lutheran**  
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527  
[www.minnehahacommunion.com](http://www.minnehahacommunion.com)

Pastors Dan Ankerfelt & Sally Ankerfelt  
December 24: 4 pm Christmas Eve service  
(Handicapped accessible)

**St. Albert the Great Catholic**  
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. • 612-724-3643  
[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)

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

**St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran**  
4600 E. 42nd St. • 612-722-8000  
[www.stpeders.net](http://www.stpeders.net)

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

**Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls**  
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691  
[www.trinityfalls.org](http://www.trinityfalls.org)

Pastors Derek Johnson & Matt Oxendale  
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 am  
Christmas Eve Services 4:00 & 11:00 pm  
AA Meetings Tuesdays/Sundays 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.

## In Our Community

Continued from page 6

### Torres Ray named committee chair

Starting on the first day of session, Jan. 6, Sen. Patricia Torres Ray (DFL-Minneapolis) will be chairing the Senate's State and Local Government Committee. Torres Ray says she is eager to put her 14 years of experience in state government administration to use in crafting innovative policies to better serve all forms of government across the state.

The Senate State and Local Government Committee is comprised of a bi-partisan panel of 12 members. The committee has jurisdiction over all bills that create a new state agency, substantially change the organization of a current state agency, or transfer duties from one agency to another. The committee also works on bills relating to state administra-

tive services, state employee compensation, public employee labor relations, pensions and retirement, gambling, lotteries, veterans and military affairs, and the structure of the Legislature. The committee will also oversee bills that relate to the powers of local and metropolitan governmental units.

### Senior yoga classes continue weekly

Twice weekly yoga classes for seniors, for only \$3/class, is being sponsored by the Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors! Friday classes focus on gentle yoga where you'll learn breathing techniques, balance poses and relaxation methods. Monday classes focus on healthy, strong bones and you will learn safe movements to sustain and improve skeletal health. Classes are held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. from 10-11am. No registration is required

— just show up. For questions, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

### Fundraiser for food shelf scheduled Jan. 14

This year's Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for the Minnehaha Food Shelf will be held Wed., Jan. 14, 5-7pm at Minnehaha Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St. There will be Fat Lorenzo's pasta along with festive entertainment and great door prizes. Treat yourself to dinner out and help your neighbors at the same time. This event helps Minnehaha Food Shelf continue to provide food to those in need in our area - more than 800 plus people each month. Cost for the dinner is \$8 for adults (18 and over), \$6 for ages 13-17, and free for children under 12 with an adult. Food donations also accepted that night.

### Winter fun at Coldwater Spring

Start the New Year with some outdoor fun at Coldwater Spring on Sat., Jan. 3, 10am-noon. Bundle up friends and family and come try entertaining activities good for all ages. We'll look for animal tracks and explore what's happening at Coldwater. The groundwater spring never freezes, so winter is a great time to see ducks in the reservoir. No reservations needed. Just show up, ready to be outdoors. Coldwater Spring is at 5601 Minnehaha Park Dr. S., between Minnehaha Falls Park and Fort Snelling State Park. For details, visit [missriverfund.org](http://missriverfund.org).

### Free class in Somali cuisine

Seward Community Co-op is offering a free class exploring Somali cuisine on Wed., Jan. 14, 6:30-8pm, led by Nasra Noor.

Hooyo means mother in Somali—and everyone loves “mother’s cooking!” Participants will make sambusas and talk about traditional Somali cuisine and culture. What a great way to meet more of your neighbors! Register at the Seward Co-op front desk.

### Diabetes support group meets

The Longfellow Diabetes Support Group meets monthly for adults of all ages, Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. The group is facilitated by an R.N. and Certified Diabetes Educator, and meets on the second Wednesday from 6:30-8pm at Hiawatha School Park Recreation Center, 4305 E. 42nd St. Meetings include education, support, discussion and occasional guest speakers. Upcoming dates include Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and Mar. 11. For more information, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

Continued on page 15

# Classifieds

## Messenger

Want ads must be in the *Messenger* before Jan. 19 for the Jan. 29 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](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

*Messenger* Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger* Classifieds, 1885 University Ave., Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before Jan. 19 for the Jan. 29 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruytelson.com](mailto:denis@deruytelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Messenger's* website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

### EMPLOYMENT

Like Pets? Pet lodging service is seeking good people to transport pets to homes. Van provided. Must have good driving record and like pets. This is part time and somewhat flexible. Includes weekends. Call 952-837-1877 for more info. 1-15

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### FOR SALE

For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. B-15

### HANDYMAN

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### PAINTING

Painter Jim. 25 years experience. Small jobs wanted. 651-698-0840. 3-15

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### PETS

John's Pet Services - Daily dog walks, boarding and in home pet visits. 15 years experience, Insured and Bonded. 612-825-9019. 1-15

### RENTALS

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-15

Next deadline: Jan. 19

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Office or therapy space for rent: On bus route. Easy access to light rail. Located at Minnehaha Ave S. and 42nd St. Open to build out. 2nd floor office space available. Call Jim between 8 a.m. 2 p.m. 612-729-2316 or email: [KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM](mailto:KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM). B-1

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### WINDOWS

Basement Window Guy.com. Replacement windows, glass block windows. Free estimates. 651-208-8210. Lic.# BC 646746. B-15

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# Chinese Dance Theater performs

Chinese Dance Theater (CDT) presents "Dances in Chinese Opera" on Sat., Jan. 31 at 7pm, and Sun., Feb. 1, at 2pm. Performances will be held at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, on the campus of St. Catherine University, 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul.

Vibrant costumes, energetic agile movement and professional staging are hallmarks of CAAM Chinese Dance Theater's Annual Production and School Show. Intended to celebrate the Chinese New Year season CAAM CDT's 2015 show features dances that are inspired by Chinese legends, bazi gong and classical Chinese dance still en-

thusiastically performed today. Looking behind the curtain of the multifaceted world of Chinese opera, CAAM CDT will explore its underlying origins in movement and stories with a dazzling display of sleeves, swords, spears and daggers interwoven into a fantastical presentation CDT is known for.

Chinese Dance Theater has built a reputation based on professional choreography and well executed programs. CDT is also recognized for its inclusive work in the broader community with an extensive outreach in schools and in the community.

Tickets of \$15 (preshow) are available online at

www.caamcdt.org, or 615-774-0806, or \$20 at the door. A special shorter 45-minute matinee performance—ideal for school and group field trips—is available on Tue., Feb. 3 at 9:45am and 11:45 am. Tickets for the shorter performance are \$7.

This production is supported by Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Grant, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Artistic Activity Grant a grant from the Asian Pacific Endowment of the St. Paul Foundation and generous donations and countless hours of volunteers from the CAAM Chinese Dance Theater community.



## In Our Community

Continued from page 14

### MPRB extends period on No-Hi Master Plan

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has extended the public review and comment period for the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan to Jan. 12, 2015. The MPRB Commissioners approved this extension to allow the public more time during the busy holiday season.

The draft plan is the result of a seven month process that included open meetings of a Community Advisory Committee, community open houses, an on-line survey, and one-on-one conversations with residents. Based on comments received from the public, the draft plan will be revised and presented to the Board of Commissioners for a public hearing and approval in early 2015.

The Draft Master Plan is available for review online at the Nokomis Hiawatha project webpage or go to [www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects) and select "Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan and Improvements."

The plan is also available at the following locations:

- MPRB Headquarters, 2117 W. River Rd. N.;
- Nokomis Community Center;
- Lake Hiawatha Community Center; or
- Nokomis Library.

Submit a comment online, by mail (Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; 2117 W. River Rd. N., Minneapolis, MN 55411 ATTN: Adam Arvidson, Project Manager), by phone (Adam Arvidson, at 612-230-6470) or by email to [aarvidson@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:aarvidson@minneapolisparcs.org).

Stay on top of local events by visiting the *Messenger* Events Calendar at [www.LongfellowNokomis-Messenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomis-Messenger.com)



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# Transition Longfellow celebrates its fourth anniversary

Transition Longfellow, the neighborhood sustainability group, will celebrate its fourth year of community building, food growing, and energy saving activities with a Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction on Sat., Jan. 17, 9-11am, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3901 36th Ave. S. Everyone in the community is invited to attend. The cost is \$6 for a hearty, all-organic meal, which includes gluten-free and vegetarian options. Children are welcome.

Run by neighbors in the Greater Longfellow community and surrounding neighborhoods, Transition Longfellow formed in January 2011 after Richard Heinberg of the Post-Carbon Institute spoke at South High School. Heinberg connected the dots between climate change, fossil fuels, and economic instability but rather than presenting the challenges as insurmountable, he talked about Transition Towns.

Transition Towns are a growing global movement that engages people in all walks of life to envision a positive future, working together to build communities that are more resilient and sustainable. There are more than 400 Transition Towns in 35+ countries. Transition Longfellow is one of 130 "official" initiatives in the U.S.

You'll see many of the group's most visible achievements in yards across the neighborhood. Transition Longfellow created a hands-on workshop where neighbors built 20 Little Free Libraries. And their Chard Your Yard program installed 42 raised-bed food gardens—at cost—with the help of

volunteer "garden mobs."

Ongoing monthly Transition Longfellow activities include: a 3rd Friday movie night and potluck; a 1st Saturday gardening discussion group, which will highlight a different plant family each month; and a sustainable finance group for people interested in living more frugally, consciously and sustainably. All Transition Longfellow's activities are open to the public. Most activities are free.

One of the core principles of the Transition movement is learning and relearning useful skills. Transition Longfellow does this with ongoing groups and one-time events. Presenters are community members who have volunteered to share their knowledge. There are currently two skill share groups: The Longfellow Home Brew Club and a learn-to-knit group.

Past skill share activities have included: building a solar cooker, building a biochar stove, canning and jam making, pickling foods, making kefir and nutmilks, compost and vermiculture, emergency preparedness, tree pruning, and edible weed identification.

You can learn more about the group's activities on their website - <https://sites.google.com/site/transitionlongfellow/> where you can sign up to receive monthly e-newsletter alerts. The group also has an active Facebook page (Longfellow Transition Group), which provides a forum for sharing information and getting answers to questions.

The Pancake Breakfast and

Silent Auction is the only fundraising event the group does in a year. It's also an opportunity to learn about activities for the coming year, and a time when community

members can weigh in on programs they'd like to see and offer their skills and knowledge for new skill-share events.

If you would like to donate

an item or service to the silent auction, please contact Annette Rondano, 612-221-013. To volunteer to help with the breakfast, contact Leslie MacKenzie, 612-724-4265.



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## ADMISSION PROGRAMS

**Jan. 22, 6:45 p.m.**

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**Jan. 26, 6:45 p.m.**

Grades 9-12  
3100 West River Pkwy, Mpls.



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