

Longfellow resident finds challenge and fulfillment in puppets

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Research continues into Lake Hiawatha water levels

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Santa Erik makes a day-long stop in Longfellow

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Nokomis

Messenger



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Soup for You! is building community one bowl of soup at a time



Story and photos
by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Chef Judah Nataf creates two different and tantalizing vegetarian soups five days a week, all year long, at the Soup for You! Café. The café is located in the basement of Bethany Lutheran Church at 2511 E. Franklin Ave. A modest wooden sign marks access to the café on the west side of the church building.

Nataf is a masterful soup maker who once spent a year living under the Franklin Ave. Bridge. He and his team of volunteers are clear that they aren't running a soup kitchen—they're offering a community meal. The two-hour lunch is served from 11am-1pm, Monday through Friday. It operates café-style with servers taking orders and deliv-



Former server Sarah Matanah (pictured right) said, "I liked working in the kitchen, but my job kind of got in the way. Now I just come back when I can. I feel happy when I'm here; I think it's the combination of being in a community space and eating good food. There's little money involved in anything that happens at Soup for You! and somehow that makes everyone feel happier too, more generous. It's like zucchinis in the summer. The more you have, the more you want to give away." Friend Pam Burrows is pictured left.

ering meals to each table with a smile.

The made-from-scratch

soups feature organic ingredients and real cooking wizardry, the kind of food typically not avail-



John Harkness put finishing touches on the day's lentil-cranberry soup and said, "We serve about 70 bowls a day, around 1,000 bowls each month. We also sell quarts of soup at \$9 per quart, or \$7.50 with a punch card. The actual cost of making a bowl of organic soup is about \$1.

able to people in search of a free meal. The recipes are determined by what ingredients there are to work with. In warm months, much of the produce is donated by local gardeners. Chef Judah

usually arrives at 6:30am to start preparing the day's meal.

The soups are so tasty that people that work or live in the

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East Lake Street White Castle restaurant closes after 60+ years

Story and photos
by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The White Castle outlet at 36th Ave. and East Lake St. served its last slider at 6am on Sun., Dec. 10. The store has anchored the northeast corner there for more than six decades.

According to district supervisor Marjorie Derolf, "Many of our team members and customers knew each other by name, but this was a corporate decision." Though the property has been sold, Derolf declined to comment on who the new owners are.

White Castle has long been known for its signature small, square hamburgers called sliders. The restaurant chain was founded in Wichita, Kansas in the 1920's. At the time, a slider cost only five cents. In 2014, Time Magazine named the slider, "the most influential hamburger of all time."

White Castle developed its prefabricated architecture of white porcelain over steel exteriors, stainless steel interiors, and employees in bright, white uniforms to convey a sense of cleanliness. The chain of restaurants



The lights burned bright for the last time at the East Lake White Castle.



Garrett Humphrey and Anna Loweth visited the familiar White Castle one last time.

was America's first foray into fast food.

According to their website, there are currently about over 420 White Castle outlets across the country. By comparison, there are more than 14,000 McDonalds restaurants in the US

and thousands more around the world. The next closest White Castle outlet is at 100 W. Lake St.

Garrett Humphrey stopped in for one last meal on Saturday night with his wife, Anna Loweth. "To tell you the truth," Humphrey said, "I wouldn't be

here if it weren't for White Castle. My Dad managed another outlet in South Minneapolis when he was a young man. My Mom turned up one day and applied for a job; he hired her, and they ended up getting married. I grew up on this food."

Customers talked across tables on the last night, speculating on the future of the corner location. The unsubstantiated rumor was that a Canadian donut and coffee franchise called Tim Hortons would soon start construction.

Soup for You!

Continued from page 1

neighborhood regularly come for lunch, generating revenue that can be used to cover the cost of meals for those who can't afford to pay.

Diners pay whatever they feel is a fair price, whatever they're able to, or nothing at all. The program's goal is not to draw new members to the church, but to build community across ethnic, racial, educational, and economic lines. A hand printed sign outside the kitchen proudly states, "Over 20,000 bowls of soup served since Feb. 2, 2015," which was opening day.

Long-time Bethany church member Brad Laudert said, "I've been part of this congregation since I was three years old. We've got the whole spectrum of customers down here sharing soup together—everyone from people experiencing homelessness to Augsburg College professors. There's no separation."

"This congregation has a long history of partnering with the community," Laudert continued. "Soup for You! Is an extension of that. Our next project, building a shower and laundry facility for people experiencing homelessness, will be another extension. Thanks to a generous donor, the construction costs for that have already been paid. We'll need volunteers to help build and paint, as well as donations of sweats for people to wear while their clothes are being laundered, towels, soap, and shampoo. In addition, we always accept donations for our clothing exchange. Cold weather items for men are especially needed."



Dannie Drinkwine Jr. said, "This place is about relationships. If you're on the receiving end of services like having to stay in a shelter or receiving economic assistance, you can feel dehumanized. What Judah and all the others have created here is a beautiful food program where everybody is welcome."

Laudert noted that "you don't enter into a project thinking, 'I'm going to help the whole world.' You enter into a project thinking, 'I'm going to help someone.' Then that person helps another, and that person helps another, and before you know it, you've got something good going."

Chef Judah said that "The Soup for You! Cafe would

never have happened without Bethany Pastor Mike Matson's help, enthusiasm and support. In many churches, establishing a cafe like this would have taken months of committee meetings and miles of red tape."

To make a donation of money, clothing or time to the cafe contact Judah Nataf at 612-978-7974.

Bossen Field Park year-end construction update

Work at Bossen Field Park basically wrapped up in early December due to winter weather.

But, Spring 2017 will be a busy time at the park.

Construction on six new softball fields is well underway. The new fields are being raised an average of three feet in order to improve drainage. Pathways and fencing around these fields will be installed in the spring. The four fields at the northern end of the park still require more soil, which will be brought in next year, followed by the installation of irrigation and fencing.


Paving work will be scheduled after all the new soil is hauled in the spring. Paving projects include parking lot modifications, better pathways throughout the park and a new full-size

basketball court.

New play equipment will be installed at the playground in the spring. The playground will be located closer to the center of the park and include a container with equipment designed for 2-5 year-olds, a container with equipment designed for 5-12

year-olds and a small area with adult exercise equipment.

In the spring new turf will need time to grow in and establish strong roots, so park users are asked to please respect areas that are fenced off to ensure the long-term health of these new spaces.



Celebrate the joy of the season at St. Peder's!

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The Night Before New Year's Eve party, on Fri., Dec. 30, 5:30-7:30pm, is a family-oriented, free event. It offers parents and kids a chance to celebrate the coming New Year a night early. The party is held at Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

The celebration includes food, carnival games, music and dancing, marshmallow roasting over a bonfire, a photo board, the famous Nokomis Fish Pond, a "midnight" (7:15pm) countdown complete with noisemakers and much more!

If you are looking to forego New Year's Eve altogether but still want to celebrate the arrival of the New Year, consider this annual community party, now in its 17th year. This party is chock-full of family-friendly activities.

Looking for a good way to ring in the New Year? Go to www.nokomiseast.org and click on the "Volunteer" button on the right. You'll be able to sign up for one of the many volunteer opportunities we have available at the Night Before New Year's Eve party.

State of the Neighborhood

The second annual Nokomis East Neighborhood Association State of The Neighborhood community gathering will be held on Wed., Jan. 18, 6-9pm at Morris Park Recreation Center, 5531 39th Ave. S.

Hear from NENA, our business community, elected officials, and other community leaders. This neighborhood conversation will address several topics important to the Nokomis East

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

4313 54th St. E.

Night Before New Year's Eve 2016

community. NENA has spent 2016 working to improve, empower and energize our neighborhood. Some of the major accomplishments include the tenant/landlord programs that have begun in the Bossen Terrace area, another successful and expanded Minneapolis Monarch Festival, and community meetings that brought together hundreds of neighbors to address numerous community issues.

In 2017, NENA, along with many others, has plans to make our neighborhood an even better, more vibrant community, come to the State of the Neighborhood meeting to hear about them.

The meeting is free and open to the public. There will be light refreshments available. Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP on the event's Facebook page, or on the NENA website.

34th Ave. S. rebuild community meeting

The City of Minneapolis proposes to reconstruct 34th Ave. S. between E. Minnehaha Pkwy. and E. 58th St. The proposed 1.37-mile project is scheduled to occur over the course of the 2018 construction season and will consist of improvements to the roadway, sidewalk, and utilities. City staff is currently in the preliminary stages of planning and design for the project, which will be accompanied by community outreach activities that will help inform and guide design concepts.

The project encompasses the entire right-of-way and will address deteriorating pavement conditions by reconstruction the pavement surface, installing new curb and gutter, and sidewalks. The project is also planned to include ADA compliant pedes-

trian walkways, needed utility improvements, curb extensions, new signage and pavement markings. The project will also include trees planted in the boulevard and pedestrian level lighting.

The City will present preliminary plans based on feedback they have received from residents in the neighborhood.

The second meeting will take place on Wed., Jan. 25, 6-8pm at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church in the Nokomis Room (lunchroom, handicap accessible), 5011 S. 31st Ave. The meeting will be an open-house format, with a short presentation from the city at 6:15pm. City staff will be present to answer questions throughout the meeting.

Dave Larson joins the NENA Board of Directors

In November, Dave Larson of Morris Park was appointed to fill a recently vacated seat on the NENA Board.

Larson is a longtime volunteer and active community member. He and his family have called Nokomis East home for several years. His oldest children attend LNCS-Wenonah School, and he volunteers on the school Site Leadership Council. Dave is also a block leader in his neighborhood and has attended and helped at numerous community events in Nokomis East and around Minneapolis. He may be best known for his work with the Minneapolis Police Department as a volunteer Chaplain in the 3rd Precinct.

Larson also started a program out of his home called Neighborhood Conversations, a program that brings neighbors together on a regular basis to discuss issues concerning the neighborhood. He is excited to join

the NENA Board "to put my connections and experience to use in order to serve the neighborhood as a whole in any way I can to make it a peaceful, enjoyable, and fruitful place to live."

The next election of Board members will be at our Annual Meeting on Apr. 27, 2017.

NENA Home Improvement Loan Program

Whether by choice or necessity, start planning your next home project now with the help of a home improvement loan from NENA. Owners of one to four unit residences can apply for up to \$15,000 to make improvements to their properties. Owner occupants and investors may apply. Interest rates are either 2 percent or 3 percent, depending on income, and there are no income restrictions.

NENA also has available a limited amount of funds for our emergency repair loan program. Only owner-occupied households are eligible, and income restrictions do apply. There is a maximum loan amount of \$7,500 at 0 percent interest. The loan is due in full upon sale of the property or title transfer.

For more information or to request an application for the NENA loan program, call our partner, the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation's Housing Resource Center 612-722-7141, or visit www.gmhchousing.org. Loan applications are processed on a first-come, first served basis.

Upcoming events for the NENA:

- **Fri., Dec. 30, 5:30-7:30pm**, Nokomis East Night Before New Year's Eve, Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.
- **Wed., Jan. 4, 6:30-8:30pm**, NENA Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee, at NENA Office, 4313 E. 54th St.
- **Tues., Jan. 10, 6:30-7:30pm**, NEBA Board Member Meeting, at McDonald's Liquor Store, 5010 S. 34th Ave.
- **Wed., Jan. 11, 6:45-7:45pm**, NENA Green Initiatives Committee Meeting at the NENA Office
- **Thur., Jan. 12, 7-9pm**, NENA Executive Committee Meeting at the NENA Office
- **Wed., Jan. 18, 6-8pm**, Nokomis East State of the Neighborhood at Morris Park Rec Center, 5531 S. 39th Ave.
- **Mon., Jan. 23, 6:30-7:30pm**, MPD 3rd Precinct Advisory Council at 3000 Minnehaha Ave.
- **Wed., Jan. 25, 6-8pm**, Community Input Meeting II - Design Layout for 34th Ave. Reconstruction, at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church - 5011 S. 31st Ave.
- **Thur., Jan. 26, 7-8:30pm**, NENA Board of Directors Meeting at the NENA Office

Dist. 63 legislators Davnie, Wagenius, and Torres Ray plan series of Town Hall Forums

Responding to the concerns constituents have shared with them, Minneapolis State Representatives Jim Davnie, Jean Wagenius, and State Senator Patricia Torres Ray are inviting residents of Senate Dist. 63 to attend a series of town hall meetings.

A new Presidential Administration and Republican Majorities in both chambers of the Minnesota Legislature will mean significant changes on a number of topics and issues facing the community. These meetings will provide information and take questions from community members. These forums are free and open to the public.

The first meeting will focus on Women's Rights and in addition to the legislators, representatives from Planned Parenthood, NARAL and Gender Justice will attend. The town hall will be Tues., Jan. 17, 6:30-8pm at the Communications Workers of America Hall, 3521 E. Lake St.

The second town hall meeting with Davnie, Wagenius, and Torres Ray will take place Tues., Feb. 7, 6:30-8pm at Mayflower Church, 106 E. Diamond Lake Rd. Representatives from MN350, Fresh Energy and Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light will join the discussion.

A third meeting, focusing on Civil Rights will take place Tues., Feb. 21, 6:30-8pm at Communications Workers of America Hall. Representatives from ACLU-Minnesota, League of Women Voters-Minnesota and Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation will join the discussion.

For more info contact:
—Rep. Jim Davnie at 651-296-0173; rep.jim.davnie@house.mn
—Rep. Jean Wagenius at 651-296-4200; rep.jean.wagenius@house.mn
—Sen. Patricia Torres Ray at 651-296-4274; sen.patricia.torres.ray@senate.mn

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Now it's easier than ever to keep in touch with the *Messenger*. Letters to the editor and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail at editorial@deruyternelson.com. Be sure to send copy in the body of the e-mail, and please mark whether the copy is a letter, a news release for publication, or perhaps just your thoughts on the last issue. Don't forget to write!

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**Nokomis East
Neighborhood Association**

**Night Before
New Year's Eve
2016**

Friday, Dec 30, 2016


5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Lake Nokomis Community Center
2401 E Minnehaha Pkwy**

Midnight Countdown at 7:25 p.m.

**Family
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**2nd Annual Nokomis East
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Wednesday, January 18

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Transition Longfellow

By PETER FOSTER

Transition Longfellow kicks off its 6th year

On Sat., Jan. 14, Transition Longfellow will host its Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3901 36th Ave. S., from 9 to 11am. This is the group's sole fundraising activity for the year, and at this kick-off event, they will also unveil activities planned for 2017.

For five years, Transition Longfellow—a South Minneapolis resilience and sustainability group—has been building resident knowledge, skills and community connections. As a result of the work of these neighborhood volunteers, residents have:

- made little free libraries, solar cookers, cold frames, raised bed garden boxes, insulated curtains and a whole lot of homebrewed beer and kombucha;
- learned how to grow vegetables, cook with the sun, compost, prune, connect multi-barrel rain-water systems, and reduce waste;
- connected with their neighbors at potlucks, movie nights, game nights, book groups, and knitting groups; and
- grappled with some hard truths about Minnesota's changing climate and explored ways to reduce their carbon footprint and energy use while preparing for change.

The group facilitates multiple activities every month, with a budget of less than \$1,000 a year and no paid staff. How do they do it?

"We have great partnerships with community groups and businesses, and we've got a core group of dedicated volunteers," said Leslie MacKenzie, one of the founders of the group, "but we could really use more help."

This year one of the group's most pressing needs will be to find a new home base for its monthly movie night with a potluck. "Free or affordable space where the community can gather

is one of the biggest barriers for volunteer groups like ours," said MacKenzie. "We've been very lucky to be welcomed at Bethany Lutheran on 36th, Gandhi Mahal, Riverview Wine Bar, Lake Coffee House, Junket, and Peace Coffee."

Looking Ahead to 2017

Food and garden-related programs planned for 2017 include:

- Growing microgreens indoors (Jan. 23) and sow summer foods in winter (Mar. 12)
- A 5-week Veggie Basics class with Hennepin County Master Gardeners (5 Saturdays in Apr.)
- Installing 24 more raised bed gardens with the Chard Your Yard program (installed 2nd Saturday in May)
- A garden work-sharing group (May - Oct)
- How to make and use biochar (June)
- A Day of Garden Skillshares (July 15) and a Day of Food Skillshares (Sept. 23)

A cornerstone activity of Transition groups around the globe is a commitment to reducing energy use and taking action on climate change. In November, Transition Longfellow worked with the Seward Neighborhood Group, Longfellow Community Council, the City of Minneapolis Emergency Services and the Department of Health to host a climate resilience conversation with community members. Transition Longfellow intends to continue the conversation in 2017 with a series of preparedness-related talks in the spring and summer.

"If we're going to be a resilient community that can handle all the 'mores' that a changing climate is going to bring—more rain, more heat, more ice, more insect-borne diseases—we need to prepare now, and ideally we will do it together," said MacK-

enzie.

The group will host a book group, reading Sharon Astyk's "Making Home." This book engages readers in finding more security, more peace of mind and

more happiness by putting down deeper roots. The author shares ways to save money, create more resilient families and preserve more for future generations. The book group starts in January; dates to be announced on the Transition website.

Longfellow residents are known for their commitment to waste reduction and recycling. Transition Longfellow is partnering with Junket to host a Getting Ready to Go Zero Waste class (Mar. 9), with an accompanying online group where people can

follow up on their waste reduction commitments.

The group will continue to host monthly movie nights with potlucks at 6:30pm, and a pre-dinner Meditative Movement for Health class at 5:30pm, led by Deb Davis. Until June, movie nights will be at Bethany Lutheran.

For more information about the pancake breakfast and silent auction, or any of our activities, visit transitionlongfellow.org or call 612-724-4265.

Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

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

Pastor Susan Masters
Sundays:
9:15 am - Adult Education
10:30 am - Worship
Christmas Eve - 4 pm Candlelight Service
Christmas Day - 10:30 am Worship

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

Pastor Matt Kennedy
Children especially welcome
Handicapped Accessible
One service on Jan. 3 at 10:30am
All other Sundays:
Contemporary Worship - 8:45am
Sunday school for all ages - 10:00am
Traditional Worship - 11:00am
Español - 1:30pm
Wednesdays at 5:45pm
Meal and activities for the family

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

Pastor Steven Reiser
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Worship Service, 7 pm
Music & Candlelight
Christmas Day Worship, 10:30 am
Come in your PJs to eat cinnamon rolls and to sing songs and tell stories that celebrate the Christ Child.
Everyone's Welcome!
(Childcare Provided) (Wheelchair Accessible)

Hiawatha Church
4155 41st Ave S - 612-721-2201
www.hiawathachurch.com

Sunday Worship Gatherings:
9:00 & 11:00 am
Christmas Eve Service, 4:30 pm
Christmas Day Service, 10:00 am
New Years Day Service, 10:00 am

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

Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
Sunday Worship - 9:45 am
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Christmas Eve, candlelight worship service - 4:00 pm
Christmas Day - "Christmas With Classy Jazz" worship service - 9:45 am
Child Care Available
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Projects of the Neighborhood Churches Include:

Minnehaha Food Shelf, Serving People Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm

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Minnehaha United Methodist •
3701 E. 50th St.

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

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

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

www.stpeders.net
Julie A. Ebbesen, Pastor
Sundays: 9 am Worship (childcare available)
9 am Children/Youth Faith Formation
10 am Coffee & Fellowship
10:20 am Adult Faith Formation
(Handicap acc., Braille)

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

www.trinityfalls.org
Pastor Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:20 am
Christmas Eve - 4 & 10 pm
Christmas Day - 10:30 am

ENGAGING ON ISSUES THAT MATTER TO OUR COMMUNITY:

2017 Town Hall Meetings with Senate District 63 Legislators



Rep. Jim Davnie



Rep. Jean Wagenius



Sen. Patricia Torres Ray

Join this series of town hall meetings responding to concerns raised by constituents about potential changes with the new Presidential Administration and Republican Majorities in both chambers of the Minnesota Legislature. Legislators and experts will hold panel conversations exploring developments and ways to engage on the state and federal level. Free and open to the public.

Town Hall on Women's Rights with Planned Parenthood, NARAL and Gender Justice: Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Communications Workers of America Hall; 3521 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Town Hall on Climate Change with MN350, Fresh Energy and MN Interfaith Power & Light: Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Mayflower Church, 106 East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Town Hall on Civil Rights with ACLU-MN, League of Women Voters and Mpls Regional Labor Federation: Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Communications Workers of America Hall, 3521 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406

For more info contact: Rep. Jim Davnie at (651)296-0173 or at rep.jim.davnie@house.mn,
Sen. Patricia Torres Ray at sen.patricia.torres.ray@senate.mn (651)296-4274,
or Rep. Jean Wagenius at (651)296-4200 or rep.jean.wagenius@house.mn

Neighbors for Jim Davnie, 3152 42nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406, Patricia Torres Ray for State Senate, 3800 40th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Messenger

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July 17	July 27
August 21	August 31
September 18	September 28
October 16	October 26
November 13	November 27
December 11	December 21

Wishing for a large grocery store on south side of Longfellow?

Developers eyeing city-identified 'town square retail site' near 46th and Hiawatha for grocery store and apartments

By TESHA A. CHRISTENSEN

Are you going out of the neighborhood to grocery shop? You're not alone.

"Third-party grocery consultants estimate that 85% of the available food dollars leave the Longfellow neighborhood—resulting in more traffic and road miles traveled," according to Drew Johnson of Oppidan Investment Company.

In fact, parts of south Minneapolis are classified as a food desert by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) because of low access to grocery stores.

Oppidan hopes to change that by building a new grocery store near the 46th and Hiawatha intersection.

Construction may begin soon.

"Despite grocery options along Lake St., across the river, or further west of Highway 55, a market analysis reveals the area as a 'food desert,' so having a grocery store there would serve the community well," said Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson. "What will be important, though, is which particular grocer moves in. For it to be most beneficial to the community, I believe it has to offer something differentiated from what we already have nearby."

5.7-acre site

Oppidan owns the 5.7-acre site with a 75,000-square-foot warehouse that Creative Kidstuff leases for its corporate office at 3939 E. 46th St. A landscaping company uses the southern portion of the site near the Dairy Queen and Nawadaha Blvd. The long, triangular-shaped parcel abuts a railroad track that is no longer used.

Oppidan has been working on plans for a mixed-use project in the northern part of the site, with the grocery store fronting 46th St. Snelling Ave. will be extended south into the development and likely curve over to the area between Burger



A grocery store and 140 to 160 apartments may be constructed at Snelling and E. 46th in 2017. The investment in phase one will be \$38-\$44 million. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

King and the mall.

"This store will bring grocery goods and services not currently offered in the trade area, and what consumers have come to expect in a grocery store: hot food bar with seating areas, grab and go options, large fresh bakery and large deli, floral, and organic offerings, as well as standard 'center isle' items," said D. Johnson.

Early phase one concept plans show between 140 to 160 apartments, and around 50,000 square feet of retail, the majority for the grocery store. The investment in phase one will be \$38-\$44 million.

D. Johnson pointed out that the plan for the site fits with the city's transit-oriented development strategy for the area, which places a town square retail site there.

Development challenges include barriers to development such as the high-voltage

lattice towers, the cost of new public streets, and managing traffic on 46th and Hiawatha. Additionally, there will be en-

vironmental clean-up from some of the former uses at the site, including a coal/fuel company, a lumberyard, a gas sta-

"This store will bring grocery goods and services not currently offered in the trade area, and what consumers have come to expect in a grocery store: hot food bar with seating areas, grab and go options, large fresh bakery and large deli, floral, and organic offerings, as well as standard 'center isle' items."

– Drew Johnson, Oppidan

tion, and diesel storage.

Oppidan was drawn to the parcel because of its large size and location with great transit connections.

"Done right, this project will offer positive features to both new and existing residents/neighbors: additional housing options in a market

Continued on page 10



Oppidan's plan for the site fits with the city's transit-oriented development strategy for the area, which places a town square retail site at Snelling and 46th Ave. E.

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LONGFELLOW RESIDENT FINDS CHALLENGE AND FULFILLMENT IN PUPPETS

By JAN WILLMS

For his third career, Longfellow resident Paul Eide has turned to puppet making. Specifically, he is creating the heads of puppets.

Creativity has been a part of his work ever since he graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in education. He was involved with puppetry even back then, and he was hired to make two puppets for a public service announcement.

"This was a time when there was a lot of worry about nuclear war," Eide recalled. "These public service announcements were designed to teach farmers how to protect their cows from nuclear fallout by stacking bales of straw around them. This was to protect the cows from Strontium 90. I doubt too many farmers were up watching TV at 1am when these PSAs ran."

When that project was finished, a job became available in the film department. "I intended to stay there for a couple of years, and I stayed there for the next 35," Eide said.

"We did 15-millimeter films, educational movies on all sorts of topics: the arts, medicine, and anthropology. It was a wonderful job. I realized looking back how lucky I was to have that job," Eide added. He retired from that job in 2000. "That was the end of my first career," he noted.



Longfellow resident Paul Eide was looking for his "third career" when he was inspired by the work of Toronto puppet-maker Ronny Burkett. Eide has set a first goal of making 100 puppets. (Photo by Terry Faust)

While still working at the U, he combined his interest in pup-

petry and writing and became editor of the Puppetry Journal, a quarterly magazine produced for Puppeteers of America, a national organization. "I did that for the next 15 years," Eide said. "It was a one-man production thing. I did some of the writing, all of the layout and graphic design, for better or worse." He said

that over a year ago, he decided to turn it over to somebody a couple of generations younger. "By then, I was 76," Eide reflected. "I enjoyed this too, but I didn't want to keep somebody else from doing it, so I stepped aside."

Eide was at loose ends last year. Even though editing the

Puppetry Journal had been a part-time job, he said it consumed him all the time. "I was constantly tracking down people to write articles and planning the next two issues," he said. So when he retired from it, he was used to putting in a lot of working hours.

"Around that time, last winter, a very, very talented puppeteer in Toronto, Ronny Burkett, was making puppets," Eide said. "Burkett is one of those talented people that makes you shake your fist at the heavens and say 'Why did you give him all the talent?'"

Burkett looked like a movie star, had a great voice, built these puppets, and wrote award-winning plays that would sell out. "He would perform all by himself to great acclaim," Eide added. "He's a Facebook friend, and he started posting pictures of puppets he was making for shows."

Eide said Burkett was undertaking making 100 hand puppets to hand out to his audience to use and return them. He would post pictures of a lot of the puppets as he was making them. And as a Facebook friend, Eide viewed these different puppets.

"I thought 'What would that be like?' It made me think of my old high school art teacher when she was instructing us in watercolors. She told us the first 100 are the hardest, which implied that by the time you made 100, you would know what you were doing. Or not."

"At that time I was looking at a project for post-retirement.

Continued on page 7



Paul Eide first sketches the puppet in front and side views to understand its individual "personality." (Photo by Terry Faust)

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Longfellow puppet maker

Continued from page 6

What if I set out to make 100 puppets?" And so Eide began working on his third career.

He said that the head is the most important part of a puppet because that is where the personality lies. So that is the part he concentrated on.

"I had made puppets off and on, all my life, and they were good enough. But I would like to make puppets that were really good. So I started experimenting with methods and materials of all sorts."

Eide said the kind of puppets he likes to make are rod puppets. "Hand puppets are controlled by the hands, and marionette puppets are controlled by strings. In between, there are rod puppets, which have a rod for the head and rods on hands. They don't have legs, generally, but you can get quite a bit of expression out of rod puppets with sweeping gestures."

"Every puppet had to have a mouth that opened and closed," Eide explained. "I tried various



Buster the cat watches over the work in Paul Eide's workshop. Eide gives every puppet a name to fit its personality. He created one that looks like his grandmother's sister. One developed from a Sherlock Holmes story he was listening to on the Internet. (Photo by Terry Faust)

construction methods and materials to cover them with and finish them with. I am now on puppet number 12, so I am just embarking on this."

He claimed the puppets he

has made so far all have a defect or some inadequacy. "By the time I get to 30 or 40, I might be reasonably good at it," he chuckled.

Eide said a puppet is like a musical instrument and a puppeteer like a musician. "A puppet comes to life when you move it," he noted. "The instrument a musician picks up has to not only sound good but has to be built, so there are no impediments." He aspires to make a puppet that works as well in the hands of a puppeteer; that is so reliable and smooth it feels good to hold it and make it come to life.

"I am experimenting with different finishes with the puppets," Eide said. "There are little things, like a mouth that doesn't close as it should, that I have to master." He gives every puppet a name to fit its personality. He created one that looks like his grandmother's sister. One developed from a Sherlock Holmes

story he was listening to on the Internet. "There was a character who was a slightly deaf bell-ringer, and I imagined what he might look like," Eide said. He draws front and side views of every puppet, making sketches of them at different stages.

He works on more than one at a time. He said the structure is wood. He uses installation foam that comes in 4x8 foot sheets, cutting up and shaping with electric wire. Paper clay is used to complete the head, which can be sanded smooth and painted.

He has a workshop in his basement where he creates the puppets. "I try to go there while the cat is still sleeping," he joked. His cat, Buster, likes to supervise while Eide works.

"I am enjoying this a lot. It is

one of those things that you can think about when you wake up in the middle of the night. It has been very much fun, and a good use of my time."

Eide reflected that puppetry is growing and changing. "The kind of puppets people are using change over the decades," he said. "You could have made a living building marionette shows and touring schools. Now the school funding has dried up. But puppetry is going as strong today as ever. The main difference between now and fifty years ago is that contemporary artists don't feel constrained by traditional forms and formats and puppetry styles. They experiment with any and all methods of giving objects the illusion of life, intelligence, personality, emotion--which is what puppetry is."

"Today a puppet can be anything, and it can be made to move by strings or rods or multiple puppeteers standing behind it in full view, making it move," Eide continued. "There are many young puppeteers who are doing very good and very adventurous work--just look at our two permanent puppet theaters in the Twin Cities: Heart of the Beast and Open Eye Figure Theater."

And puppetry is a long-lasting career. Eide said that puppeteers from the age of four who knew what they wanted to be are still practicing the art of puppetry in their 80s.



"It is one of those things that you can think about when you wake up in the middle of the night," said puppet-maker Paul Eide. "It has been very much fun, and a good use of my time." (Photo by Terry Faust)

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What would happen to Lake Hiawatha if dams in creek were removed?

Park Board, City enter phase two of investigation and hope to find preferred solution to water issues at golf course

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

If the level of Lake Hiawatha were lowered, would that keep the golf course playable and stop water from entering nearby basements?

Perhaps.

While dredging the lake wouldn't help lower the level of the lake, planners are studying what would happen if the existing weirs at 28th St. and Hiawatha Ave. were lowered and the creek dredged between the two. (A weir is a low dam built across a river or stream to raise the level of water upstream or regulate its flow.) The outlet of the lake would also need to be modified.

A plus side to a lower lake is that it would offer more flood storage in the area. When there is a large storm and the area around Lake Hiawatha floods, that's flood storage, pointed out a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board FAQ on the issue. The bigger the area, the more flood storage there is. A lower lake level would not only provide more flood storage but also might lower flood elevations. The exact impact is not yet known because it hasn't been studied.

Recently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) adjusted its 100-year flood zone maps, affecting some properties in South Minneapolis. Nearly the entire golf course itself is within the FEMA 100-year floodplain. The level of the golf course could be raised by filling in the low areas. While that might reduce the need for pumping groundwater, it would also reduce the flood storage, which increases the chances of roads, buildings and houses flooding.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Assistant Superintendent of Planning Michael Schroeder stressed that neither the park board nor the city have the authority to make any alterations to Lake Hiawatha or Minnehaha Creek. Permits and approvals would be needed from regulatory agencies that include the Department of Natural Resources, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, FEMA, and the Army Corp of Engineers.

"This is a big problem, and



Jeanne LaBore lives near the golf course. She commented that the planning so far seems predicated on the notion that a golf course will be maintained. She questioned the cost of that and suggested that remediation for the homes, such as the installation of sump pumps, might be cheaper. "What's the best use of that land?" LaBore asked. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and city of Minneapolis are working closely on a solution to the water issues around Lake Hiawatha and the golf course. Park Commissioner Steffanie Musich (at left), Minneapolis Director of Surface Water and Sewers Katrina Kessler, and MPRB Assistant Superintendent of Planning Michael Schroeder answered questions together at the public meeting on Tues., Nov. 29, 2016. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

this will take a big solution," said Schroeder during a public meeting on Nov. 29.

Phase one: water being pumped in a big circle

During the first investigative phase, planners gathered data to understand the scope of the problem.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has been evaluating what to do at the golf course since the large amount of pumping was discovered last fall while planners were working to restore the golf course with \$100 million from FEMA.

The volume of water being pumped from Hiawatha Golf Course is far greater than allowed by a permit issued by the DNR in 1993 for 36.5 million gallons.

The golf course is currently pumping 263 million gallons of groundwater annually, the amount of water used by a small town in a year, said Schroeder.

Of that, 105 million gallons a year are being pumped in a little circle, seeping from the ponds into Lake Hiawatha and back into the ponds. Of the rest, 17 percent is stormwater run-off, and 50 percent is shallow groundwater. Tests determining this were done from Dec. 31, 2015, to Jan. 4, 2016.

If pumping were to stop, most of the course would be underwater, and it would be shut down.

Planners also realized that turning off the pumps might flood 9-18 homes nearby in the area of 19th Ave. and 44th St. They began meeting with homeowners in June to better understand how deep their basements are and the water issues they face. They also question whether homes farther upstream might also be affected.

Analysts estimate that some nearby basements are at an elevation of 811.3, which falls below the 812 elevation of the lake. The street is at an elevation of 816.3, while the ponds are at 808.6.

The elevation of nearby Lake Nokomis, which is separated from the creek, is 816. Planners acknowledge that anything done at Lake Hiawatha will affect Lake Nokomis, and plan to take that into account, as well.

Phase two: what's next

MPRB is now ready to move on to phase two and pinpoint the best answer for the long-term future of the park land.

"We're going to move through this process deliberately," promised Schroeder.

He did stress that the property would remain parkland even if the golf course goes away.

MPRB is working closely with the city. "We know that the park board can't solve this on our own. We're going to find a solution together," said Schroeder.

The solution will not just deal with the golf course, but also the trash flow and ecology of the creek. "This is a very broad and complex issue, and we want to find a good answer to it," said Schroeder.

Investigations will evaluate what will happen if the park board continues pumping, reduces pumping, or stops pumping.

"If we're going to do this for another 100 years, we want someone to say it is good for 100 years," said Schroeder.

Della Young of Young Environmental Consulting Group has been hired to provide ex-

pertise, and another technical consultant is expected to be hired.

A preferred scenario with a clear direction forward and costs will be identified by July 2017.

Jeanne LaBore lives near the golf course. She commented that the planning so far seems predicated on the notion that a golf course will be maintained. She questioned the cost of that and suggested that remediation for the homes, such as the installation of sump pumps, might be cheaper.

"What's the best use of that land?" LaBore asked.

"We think it's really important that before you get to that preferred concept, you address the ethics of trying to keep a wetland a golf course," said resident Connie Peppin.

According to Schroeder, the next community meeting will be in March in order to get more input from residents.

How will the trash issue be solved?

The trash that flows directly into the lake without a filter from a stormwater pipe on the northwest side continues to remain an issue for residents. One attendee encouraged the city to put the stormwater somewhere else, not in the lake.

There are only so many options for stormwater, pointed out Minneapolis Director of Surface Water and Sewers Katrina Kessler. There are hundreds of storm drains in the city. "Ultimately, we are responsible to what is flowing off our properties," she said. She urged residents to consider other alternatives to salt sidewalks this

winter to keep that from entering the watershed.

Roxanne Stuhr remarked that much of the trash pulled out of Lake Hiawatha by volunteers has been styrofoam, and she suggested that the city ban these types of containers.

Another resident suggested that the city begin sweeping streets more frequently. Kessler responded, "We are looking at that." The parkways adjacent to lakes and creeks are already swept on a bi-weekly basis in the summer.

"This is a problem that takes many hands to solve," said Kessler, who pointed out that they're trying to attack it from multiple facets.

The Friends of Lake Hiawatha are encouraging residents to take part in the city's Adopt-A-Drain program to keep trash from entering the lake. Volunteers commit to clearing leaves and trash from a drain regularly.

The city piloted a floating curtain in an attempt to catch trash entering the lake from the large storm drain last summer. The curtain netted only four pounds of trash. Compare that to the 2,400 pounds kept out of the city's drains through the Adopt-A-Drain program, said Kessler.

Seventy residents have adopted over 120 drains in the Standish Erickson neighborhood, with 29 of those draining to Lake Hiawatha.



This graph shows the elevations of the land and water of Lake Hiawatha. The dark blue shows existing open water, while the light blue shows the area that falls below the 812.8 elevation of the lake, and would be under water if the pumping were to stop altogether. The white area shows the portion of the golf course that is at 813.8. (Photo submitted)



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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.

Container gardening topic of Garden Club

Container gardening—it's not just for tomatoes and peppers anymore! Learn about container veggies and herbs at the next meeting of the Longfellow Garden Club, Wed., Jan. 11, at 7pm. The club meets at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S.

Learn about exotics that do well in pots, such as eggplants and beets. Master Gardener Theresa Rooney will provide tips and advice for successful container gardening. Take advantage of your yard's sunniest areas by placing containers of vegetables or herbs in those spots. Herbs stay cleaner in pots, and rovers like mint stay out of the rest of the garden. Containers and fresh potting soil can simplify the rotation of varieties susceptible to wilt and other ills.

See more at www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub.

Hook & Ladder expands capacity

After months of behind the scenes work by an all-volunteer board and staff at the new non-profit Firehouse Performing Arts Center (FPAC), the historic Hook & Ladder Theater announced it has secured its Class A theater license from the City of Minneapolis. The new license allows for significantly increased show capacity and regular beer/wine sales at performances and events.

FPAC's regular weekly programming also rolled out in the Hook & Ladder Theater beginning in December, including a wide variety of showcases, performances, and open-stage opportunities, in addition to the ticketed shows.

Unless otherwise noted on the TheHookmpls.com website, the Hook's Lounge stage will be operating Wed.-Sat. starting at 4pm each day and feature a wide variety of the best Minnesota craft beverages.

The upcoming performances are planned at Hook & Ladder: — Wed., Dec. 28: Holiday Gathering with Gin Twins/The String-dingers - 7pm

— Thur., Dec. 29: Lonesome Dan Kase (Free on Lounge Stage) - 6pm

— Fri., Dec. 30: Eleganza/The Fret Rattles/Rearrange The Furniture - 6pm

— Sat., Dec. 31: The Last Revel New Year's Eve Party - 8pm

— Fri., Jan. 6: Freewheelin' 1st Friday Presents: Trailer Trash's Inaugural Concert of 2017 - "It's Still A Free Country" - 8pm

— Fri., Jan. 13: Dead Pigeons/Bernie King & The Guilty Pleasures/The Beavers / Big Hay Zeus - 8pm

— Fri., Jan. 20: Heatwave &

Landman Album Release - 8pm — Sat., Jan. 21: Jeff Ray & The Stakes/RAMM - 8pm

Additional information is available at <http://thehookmpls.com>.

Celebrate New Year's Eve with Dance

Dance away the last hours of 2016 at Tapestry Folkdance Center (3748 Minnehaha Ave. S.) a friendly, alcohol-free environment for people of all ages. The evening begins at 8:30pm with a Contra dance, a lively, energetic and easy-to-learn dance. No need to have a partner; you can find one at the dance. Contra dance is perfect for beginners because a "caller" provides instruction throughout the evening.

The New Year's Eve Contra will be called by Ted Hodapp, with music provided by talented musicians Mary DuShane, Nick Jordan, Bill Cagley and Pat O'Loughlin, who regularly play with local Contra bands Greenwood Tree, Moonlight Trio, Light of the Moon and Contratopia.

At 9pm, an International dance begins in the small studio, with masters of ceremony Mark Kanazawa and Ed Stern leading and teaching group, non-partner dances from around the world.

Just before midnight, the groups will gather together to ring in the New Year with a song, a waltz, and a closing Swedish Langdans, with festivities ending at 12:15am.

Admission is \$15 (general) or \$12 (member) for both dances. The cost for only the International dance is \$8 general; \$6 for members or \$5 for students. No passes or discounts. There will be a dessert potluck in the lounge throughout the evening. Dancers are invited to bring a dessert to share. As always, this is an alcohol-free event.

Tapestry Folkdance Center is handicapped accessible and provides dance opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Contact the Center at 612-722-2914 if you would like to attend a dance but have questions about accessibility. To see more activities at Tapestry Folkdance Center, visit the website www.Tapestryfolkdance.org.

Public hearing on playground planned

A public hearing on the proposed concept design for Lake Nokomis Community Center Playground Improvements is scheduled Wed., Jan. 4, 6pm at Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters, 2117 W. River Rd.

During the hearing, interested members of the public have a chance to weigh in on the playground improvements before the Board of Commissioners. After

the hearing is closed, commissioners will consider its approval.

Improvements to the playground are focused on the upper containers. The "Evos" play equipment is not being replaced. Also, the commissioners are excited that the community has been actively using and engaged in the nature play area. They are proposing some grading and installation of a few pieces in coordination with MPRB Forestry as part of the playground project.

Concept illustrations can be seen at www.minneapolisparcs.org/_asset/6mnjcm/nokomis_playground_openhouse_graphics.pdf.

Roosevelt Theater fundraiser planned

The second annual Growler Gala to benefit Roosevelt High School Theater will be held at The Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge (3010 Minnehaha Ave.) on Thur., Jan. 26, 7-11pm. This fundraising event is for adults 21+ and will feature local musicians, a "cake walk" with growlers from area taprooms, a silent auction, and more. Have some fun and help the theater program raise enough funds to produce a spring musical. Rocket Appliances, Grammar, and The Betsies are the musical entertainment for the evening. Hosted by Advocates of Roosevelt Theater Arts. Tickets are available at thehookmpls.ticketfly.com.

Healthy Seniors plan monthly events

"Health Care Directives" will be the topic at the Jan. 17 Senior Social/Health Talk, 10:30am, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. Learn the basics about advance care planning and how to complete your own Health Care Directive based on your values, beliefs, and priorities. Forms will be available.

Winter yoga classes start on Jan. 9. Yoga classes are held on Mondays at Bethlehem Covenant Church, 3141 43rd Ave. S. The "Yoga for Structural Integrity" class meets from 9:30-10:30am, and the Gentle Yoga for Seniors class is from 10:45-11:45am. (Please note time change in both classes.) Sample classes on Jan. 9 and 23 (no class on Jan. 16 due to the M.L. King holiday). The cost is \$5/class. Classes from Jan. 30 to Mar. 20 are offered as an 8-week package for \$40.

A Low Vision Support Group will be held Jan. 10 at 1:30pm at Trinity Apartments, 2800 E. 31st St.

Also, Healthy Seniors is looking for volunteer drivers and "friendly visitors" for seniors. Call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information on activities, services or volunteer opportunities.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

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

Adoption support group meets Jan. 10

The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), for parents and teens who have been adopted. Next meeting will be held on Tues., Jan. 10 at 6:30pm.

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

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 (The NA group will meet on Thanksgiving Night, Nov. 24). All are welcome to attend.

N.A. group meets every Friday

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

Outreach for blind slated at Faith

A monthly fellowship outreach for the Blind will be held at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., on Sat., Jan. 27, 12-2pm.

Cabin Fever slated for Wednesdays

Epworth UMC, 3207 37th Ave., offers space for kids 0 to 5 years old to play with other little kids from 9:30-11:30am on Wednesdays. Toys, crafts, and snacks will be provided. Kids are required to bring a caring

adult with them to watch them as they play. There will also be coffee and conversation for adults. There is no cost. Cabin Fever ends in March. Contact the Epworth office at 612-722-0232 or epworthumcmplsmn@gmail.com if you have questions or need more info.

Food and thought for hungry spirits

Join others Jan. 4 and 18 at Epworth UMC, 3207 37th Ave., at 6pm for Supper followed by Intergenerational Conversation at 6:30pm on the topic of "Sabbath." The discussion will be based on either Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now by Walter Brueggemann or Rhythms of Rest: Finding the Spirit of Sabbath in a Busy World by Shelly Miller.

Pasta Dinner slated Jan. 11 for food shelf

Minnehaha Food Shelf will hold their annual Fundraiser Pasta Dinner on Wed., Jan. 11, 5-7pm, at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3501 E. 50th St. Treat yourself to a great dinner and help your neighbors at the same time. Once again Fat Lorenzo donates their delicious pasta to the Minnehaha Food Shelf Fundraiser. There will be a twelve piece accordion band for entertainment and a raffle for great prizes. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for ages 13-17, free for those 12 and under.

Winter Warming Party set Jan. 26

The Longfellow Community Council is hosting its Winter Warming Party from 5:30-7:30pm on Thur., Jan. 26. The event, an open house, is a chance for residents, volunteers and board members to get to know the Longfellow Community's staff, as well the organization's current projects. In addition, there will be free food and beverages provided by local businesses.

This is a family-friendly event, and there will be a children's room with various activities.

LCC plans January committee meets

The Longfellow Community Council is hosting the following regular committee meetings:

- Community Connections Committee, 6-7:30pm, Tues., Jan. 3 at Longfellow Recreation Center, 3435 36 Ave. S.

Continued on page 10

In Our Community

Continued from page 9

Neighborhood Development and Transportation Committee, 7:30-9pm, Tues., Jan. 3 at Longfellow Recreation Center

• River Gorge Committee, 6-7:30pm, Wed., Jan. 4 at Hiawatha School Park, 4305 E. 42nd St.

• Environment Committee, 7:30-9pm, Wed., Jan. 4 at Hiawatha School Park

For details, go to www.longfellow.org or contact staff in the Longfellow Community Council office is at 2727 26th Ave. S.

Longfellow grocery store

Continued from page 5

that has an extremely low vacancy rate, multi-modal access to grocery, cleaning-up impacted soils from historical uses, treating stormwater before it leaves the site, and public trails and plaza areas connecting to other redevelopments in the area," said D. Johnson.

"Despite being located across the street from Minnehaha Falls, a block from the 46th St. light rail station, and on a bus-rapid-transit line, the property today is mostly a giant asphalt lot... they even pile wood chips out back!" said council member Johnson. "I believe there are much better uses for such an excellent location."

The sheer size of the property may be its biggest challenge. "This makes a strong vision and good urban design essential, as it is all too easy for most develop-

Coldwater plans Winter Walk Jan. 26

The Winter Walk is planned at Coldwater Spring (5601 Minnehaha Park Dr. S.) on Thur., Jan. 26, 5-7pm. Walk through a winter wonderland with the National Park Service! Join Ranger Sharon for a casual, one-mile evening walk through Coldwater Spring. This is planned as a fun, guided, naturalist tour of Coldwater Spring with stops along the way to learn more about the site. Bundle up and come out to discover the park's history, and learn about the critters that call this area home. This event is open to all ages, no registration required.

Drawing classes set at Nokomis Rec

Area resident Mike Russell is leading two new drawing classes at the Nokomis Recreation Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., starting Wednesdays in January.

Beginning Drawing (activity 67719) is scheduled each Wednesday from Jan. 4-Mar. 22, 6-7:20pm. Experience the "Art of Seeing" in this beginning drawing class for adults. Learn mark making, contour and gesture drawing, hatching and crosshatching, stippling and veiling to create shadows, tones, and gradation. Work with drawing materials such as pencil, graphite, and charcoal. Draw what you see through visual observation and

execute beginning drawing techniques with confidence. For more info see https://apm.activecommunities.com/minneapolisparcs/Activity_Search/drawing-beginning/66728.

Advanced Drawing (activity 68247) is planned each Wednesday, Jan. 4-Mar. 22, from 7:30-8:50pm. This class is for those who have the fundamental skills mark making, contour and gesture drawing, hatching and crosshatching, stippling and veiling to create shadows, tones, and gradation. Learn to locate and define objects in your drawings through the use of composition, positive and negative space, tension, spacing, blocking-in, and placement. Explore the depiction of three dimensions with precise perspective. Plus, get tips

for working with drawing materials like ink, brush, and application of water.

Movie night screens Willy Wonka

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., will hold a Family Movie Night on Sat., Jan. 21, starting at 7pm. On screen will be a classic, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Popcorn and drinks will be provided, feel free to bring additional snacks or drinks to share. Please RSVP to Phil if you're planning to come, 651 231-7725 or email dec@holycrossmpls.org.

"Despite being located across the street from Minnehaha Falls, a block from the 46th St. light rail station, and on a bus-rapid-transit line, the property today is mostly a giant asphalt lot... they even pile wood chips out back! I believe there are much better uses for such an excellent location."

— Council Member Andrew Johnson

ers to pursue the biggest, easiest, and cheapest project possible to maximize profit and move on. I have seen firsthand Oppidan's willingness thus far to focus on the details and make the redevelop-

ment of this property a good fit for the neighborhood," said A. Johnson. "They are also planning ahead for the future so that this site could be combined with others nearby to make a little village for shopping, living, and entertainment that's integrated with green space and paths to the park and transit."

When A. Johnson first saw the plan, he suggested some revisions to activate the public realm on 46th St. with commercial spaces and pedestrian-friendly features.

"They broke up the long and bulky building into two separate buildings, and they made some other tweaks to fit better with the site and neighborhood," observed A. Johnson.

"Moving forward, the city will play a pretty big role in helping make any development of this site a success, as there are some public infrastructure changes to consider, such as extending Snelling Ave. and converting the abandoned railroad tracks into a connection with Minnehaha

Park," added council member Johnson.

Min Hi Line: a linear park

The Min Hi Line Coalition envisions a linear park traversing the space now unused by railroad tracks, of which the area within the grocery store development is the southernmost link to Minnehaha Park.

Since 2001, the city's master planning guiding documents have also promoted the old rail right-of-way being turned into a linear park. A bike/walk trail in this area would create a protected connection between the Midtown Greenway and Minnehaha Pkwy, and complete the Longfellow Grand Rounds, as noted in the Minneapolis Bicycle Master Plan.

The Min Hi Line Coalition (www.minhiline.org) aims to incorporate park space with public art, trails, streets, historical markers and storm water management. Successful precedents from across the country, such as the Atlanta Beltline, New York High Line, and Minneapolis Midtown Greenway serve as models and guide the work.

Share your comments

The developer's next step is to engage with community stakeholders.

Learn more on Tues., Jan. 3 at the Longfellow Community Council's Neighborhood Development and Transportation Committee meeting at the Longfellow Recreation Center (3435 36th Ave. S.), at 7:30 p.m.

Learn more at the Longfellow Community Council Neighborhood Development and Transportation Committee Meeting, Jan. 3, at Longfellow Recreation Center (3435 36th Ave. S.), 7:30 p.m.

Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by January 16 for the January 26 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Messenger Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger Classifieds*, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before Jan. 16 for the Jan. 26 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Messenger's* website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

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RENTAL

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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. B-1

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DID YOU KNOW? When you purchase a print classified ad, you receive a free online classified?

Homeless grandparents will soon call Frey Flats home

Alliance Housing pulling together funds to construct apartments along E. Lake for single, homeless adults over 55

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

"Would you want your parents or grandparents homeless?" asked Alliance Housing Inc. (AHI) Executive Director Barbara Jeanetta. "It is nearly impossible for anyone to accomplish much positive in their lives without stable housing."

To help ease the problem of homelessness in those over 55, AHI is constructing a four-story apartment building with 41 studios to house homeless single adults age 55 and over. Frey Flats will be built on the vacant lot at 3001 E. Lake St.

Homelessness in adults over 55 is the only growing area of the homeless population in Hennepin County. The problem is expected to get worse as the number of Baby Boomers over 55 grows in the next decade.

Statewide, the 2012 single night Wilder Survey counted 777 men and women aged 55 and older, which is a 47% increase in their numbers over the 2009 Wilder Survey. In 2015, the number of homeless adults age 55 and older was 843, an 8 percent increase from 2012.

What people don't understand

Jeanetta has found that most people don't understand the level of chronic homelessness among adults over 55.

"Many of these adults have never had a place of their own or certainly not for many years," said Jeanetta. "There is a high level of alcoholism and mental illness. Housing has proven to mitigate the problems from both."

AHI plans to have a capable, experienced service provider on staff through Touchstone Mental Health that can address the health, well-being and behavior of tenants.

There are good examples of how stable housing and a supportive community environment are a foundation for a more positive lifestyle and opportunity to make other positive change. The lack of it leads to other chaos.

A 2012 report sponsored by the Family Housing Fund, "Financial Implications of Public Interventions on Behalf of a Chronically Homeless Family" documented significant savings of public dollars in emergency medical care, foster care, substance abuse treatment, and incarceration when people have stable and supportive housing.

Also, these elder adults are easy victims of assault, theft and other crime that further sets back opportunities for stability.

A shelter bed at Hennepin County cost \$30 a day. A hospital stay at Hennepin County Medical



Alliance rents to tenants that other landlords turn down because of their low income or poor rental and criminal histories, like 75-year-old Tom McDaniels. He had spent three years living in his car, after five years of camping out in the Minnesota cold, because a 30-year-old felony staining his record made finding affordable housing nearly impossible. Now he lives at an Alliance Housing rooming house at 2011 Pillsbury Ave. (Photo submitted)

Center for alcohol/drug use treatment is a minimum of \$4,169 a day. A night in jail is \$378 per day.

A room at an Alliance Housing facility costs \$9-15 a day.

More than a bed

Optimistically, AHI will begin construction on Frey Flats in 2018.

"To keep rents affordable to very low-income persons, we raise money from public sources that don't have to be repaid (city, county, state)," explained Jeanetta.

Currently, AHI has raised \$1.2 million from the Department of Health Services and the city of Minneapolis. AHI has a \$500,000 request pending with the Federal Home Loan Bank and will ask the State Housing Agency for about \$8 million in the summer of 2017. AHI also needs housing infrastructure bonds that will need to be authorized by the State Legislature in the 2017 session.

While the design has not been finalized, it will include community, office and service space with a traditional storefront look.

The building will have elevators, a sizable community room, an office for rental and tenant services, a laundry, and storage areas. The efficiency units will all be furnished.

Outside there will be an area for grilling and a small area to raise vegetables and flowers.

AHI intends to operate the building with a live-in caretaker



From left, Alliance Housing Inc. Executive Director Barbara Jeanetta and Human Services Commissioner Emily Piper talk with Alliance Housing rooming house residents Richard Love, Michael Huffman and Tracy Muse on Tues., Nov. 15, in Minneapolis. Piper announced this year's Live Well at Home grants while visiting an Alliance Housing Incorporated building in Minneapolis's Whittier neighborhood that serves primarily older Minnesotans with low incomes. Alliance Housing is receiving \$700,000 to help build a new 41-unit affordable housing project in the Longfellow neighborhood to serve older homeless adults, a population that is on the rise across Minnesota. In 2015, the number of homeless adults age 55 and older was 843, an 8 percent increase from 2012, according to Wilder Research's most recent one-night statewide study of homeless people. (Photo submitted)

and a secure front desk. Very often, persons moving out of homelessness lose their housing because they cannot keep their old friends and associates out of their new place, explained Jeanetta. Having eyes on the property or a secure front desk help residents maintain their housing stability and ease the pressure of unwanted guests. AHI's rooming house at 2011 Pillsbury has a live-in caretaker that compliments its property manager and has an excellent reputation with neighbors and the Minneapolis police.

AHI is seeking a service partner to assist residents with maintaining housing stability, managing health and well-being, and accessing community services. Conversations are underway with St. Stephens Human Services, Catholic Charities, Jewish Children and Family Services, and Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors.

Alliance's caretaker and the building design and amenities will support a connected community of residents. Often it is difficult for homeless individuals to transition away from and replace their "community of the streets." Community space for passive and organized activities will help residents recognize and support their neighbors.

AHI creates long-term solutions

AHI was born out of the vision of St. Stephens' Catholic Church volunteers and emergency shelter staff and residents who wanted to create tangible, long-term housing solutions for homeless families and individuals.

The nonprofit (not religious affiliated) organization was incorporated in 1991 and took advantage of vacant and available properties at low cost in South Minneapolis. Alliance continues to honor its history by developing housing solutions for homeless, poor and other individuals shut out of market opportunities.

Alliance's programs and activities include affordable housing development and management and supportive housing programming for families. Its 450 units of housing serve a continuum of single adults to families.

Hiawatha Commons (2740 Minnehaha Ave.) in Longfellow is four-story, brick apartment building located a short walk from the Hiawatha Light Rail station on Lake St. This transit-oriented, mixed-income project was designed for low-wage workers who work in the neighborhood or at the airport, Mall of America and Downtown. The building was opened in 2006 and its 80 units stay leased consistently.

Meet Tom McDaniels

AHI's housing development and property management fills a critical niche in Minneapolis' affordable housing marketplace. Units fall among the most affordable in the city at 15-35% below market rents.

Alliance rents to tenants that other landlords turn down because of their low income or poor rental and criminal histories, like 75-year-old Tom McDaniels. He had spent three years living in his car, after five years of camping out in the Minnesota cold, because a 30-year-old felony staining his re-

cord made finding affordable housing nearly impossible. Having spent many years in prison, McDaniels only has seven years of work experience, which provide him with just enough in social security and other benefits to make ends meet. On top of rent, McDaniels has regular medical expenses that come along with the health conditions he is faced with as he ages.

In January 2015, McDaniels moved into an AHI rooming house at 2011 Pillsbury Ave. He no longer has to worry about where he's sleeping that night.

Alliance's work makes it possible for individuals and families to create homes for themselves, regardless of income and background by developing and managing housing that is inclusive, affordable, relational, and flexible, according to Jeanetta.

Site on good transit corridor

AHI discussed the Frey Flats concept with Longfellow's Community Development and Environment Committee in January 2016. Residents who attended the meeting were generally supportive and had questions related to design and use of green features.

AHI had hoped to construct this 55 plus building in the Phillips neighborhood, but wasn't able to secure funding.

"We were searching for a site along a good transit corridor," explained Jeanetta. "This site was available and within a reasonable price range. Longfellow has been very welcoming all along the process."

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Santa arrives in Longfellow

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Santa Erik made a day-long appearance at the Longfellow Mother Earth Gardens on Sat., Dec. 9th. He has been stopping at the corner of 42nd Ave. and 38th St. for the past ten years to talk with neighborhood children about their holiday wishes.



Each child that was willing received a listening session on Santa's candy cane couch.



The store was packed by 9:30am. Upwards of 150 visitors were expected throughout the day. Some of the smaller visitors needed a little coaxing.



Because covering South Minneapolis is too big a job for one, Santa enlisted the help of several elves. Longfellow resident Yvette Higgins served cookies and cider, and directed families to Santa's corner.

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