



Local politicians and Minneapolis stand with Standing Rock

PAGE 6



Exodus Lending breaking the cycle of payday loans

PAGE 8



Longfellow crowns Chili Cook-off Champion of 2016

PAGE 12

Longfellow
Nokomis

Messenger



Your community newspaper since 1982

December 2016 • Vol. 32 No. 10

www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

21,000 Circulation

Shop your community values on Small Business Sat., Nov. 26

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Shop your values this holiday season and stay local on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26.

"Small Business Saturday supports the growth of our local economy and the individuals that are dedicated to making our neighborhoods thriving places to eat, shop, play, and live," observed Theresa Swaney of the Lake Street Council.

She pointed out that in 2015, consumers spent over \$16 billion on Small Business Saturday.

"While it is not necessarily a reject of big box stores entirely, Small Business Saturday represents a commitment to our neighborhoods and supporting local business owner's passions," said Swaney.

At Urban Forage Winery and Cider House (3016 E. Lake St.), the owners live and shop for supplies in the area. Bottles come from Fridley. Labels are printed in Minneapolis. The yeast and various winemaking supplies come from St. Paul.

"People should shop locally first because we have a really good product!" said Urban Forage Winery and Cider House owner Jeff Zeitler, who opened the facility in December 2015. "There's no reason to ship cider from England or New Hampshire or Oregon to have a really good quality cider. We make it right here! Minnesota produces wonderful apples, and our cider shows it." He suggested giving their apricot cider or strong mead as a local, artisanal gift this holiday season, and keep money in the community.

What is Small Business Saturday?

First there was Black Friday, then Cyber Monday.

Nov. 27, 2010 was the first ever Small Business Saturday, a day earmarked to celebrate the Shop Small movement to drive shoppers to local merchants across the U.S.

More than 200 organizations have joined American Express OPEN, the company's small business unit, in declaring the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday. Shop small and earn big with an enrolled American Express® card this holiday season. Through Dec. 31, cardholders will earn 2X rewards when they Shop Small.

Find qualifying American Express Card-accepting neighborhood merchants featured on the



map at www.smallbusinesssaturday.com.

Local small businesses also support important policies

Main Street Alliance is also encouraging people to patron the local shops, restaurants, and service providers that create local jobs and invest in their community.

The Main Street Alliance works to lift up the voices of small business owners on important policy issues, many of

Continued on page 5



Heid E. Erdrich speaks to a crowd at Moon Palace Books on Oct. 12 during in celebration of Sun Yung Shin's new book "Unbearable Splendor." The first 25 customers at the book store on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26, will receive copies of the Winter Catalog (with a coupon), a free downloadable audiobook copy of "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," and a free copy of "We Should All Be Feminists." (Photo submitted)

Simple and nature-based playground planned at Nokomis

Playground near community center will be redone next year and stand out as a unique park

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Neighborhood kids are excited by the plan to redo the playgrounds by the Nokomis Community Center next year.

They had the chance to check things out during an open house at the Nokomis Community Center on Tue, Nov. 15.

"It's really cool," said nine-year-old Emersen Russell after looking over display boards. Her friend, Annika Clift, agreed, pointing to an image of the multi-user swing. "We love those things!" she said.

Ava Beckett, age 10, is excited to see "those spinning things that I love."

"Everything looks fun," stated Gemma Cudd, age 10.

Adults gave the plan a thumbs up, as well.

"I think it looks nice," remarked longtime resident Scott Beckett.

"It looks like they're sticking to the spirit of the outdoors and nature," observed 16-year neighborhood resident Mike Russell. "It looks very interactive."

After seeing the parks in many other cities while traveling for work, Russell said he really appreciates what Minneapolis has. "The



The new design for the playground near the Nokomis Community Center features "logs" for balancing on and "wood" stepping stones made from recycled plastic materials, "tree" poles for climbing, and raised hills. There's a "birds nest" to play in on one of the three-to-four-foot high raised hills, and a taller structure on another. There will be one tall slide and two smaller ones, a climber, diggers, swings and Willow Thicket. (Photo submitted)

city and nature really blend like no other city," Russell said. "We have access to a lot of things to do outdoors."

Additional comments on the plan will be accepted until Dec. 2 either in person at the Nokomis Community Center or online at bit.ly/nokomisplayground.

It will go the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for approval on Jan. 4, 2017.

Simple and nature-based

The new design for ages 2-8 has a similar feel as the parks at Wabun and Levine Triangle, but it isn't meant to be like any others in the city.

"One of the goals is to have each playground be slightly different," explained project manager Beth Pfeifer. "We want people to have different experiences at different parks."

To get a feel for how residents use the current equipment, playground designer Chris Desroches observed it in person and then factored in resident comments before fashioning the new design. Comments were solicited earlier this year at three open houses and the Monarch Festival.

"People liked what was existing there and the style of it,"

Continued on page 3

Community policing, neighborhood safety, topics at LCC meeting

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) convened a four-person panel of experts to address neighborhood safety concerns on Nov. 9.

The panelists were Shun Tillman, 3rd Precinct Community Crime Prevention Specialist; Alyssa Dotson, neighborhood block club leader; Andrew Johnson, Ward 12 councilperson; and Thomas Stiller, 3rd Precinct lieutenant. The event was moderated by LCC Board Member and East Lake librarian Anna Sheppard.

Before the panel discussion began, LCC's program manager Ashleigh Walter presented the results of the recently completed community safety survey. One hundred and forty people responded and, overall, the survey indicated that people feel safe in their neighborhood, have faith in their police, and believe that police response times to emergencies are reasonable.

Respondents identified the area around Lake and Hiawatha as feeling the most uncomfortable: the underpass, the light rail station, and the nearby Hi-Lake shopping area all got poor marks for perceptions of safety. People responded overwhelmingly positively to participation in block clubs and related activities.

There has been a recent spurt of home and garage break-ins in Longfellow. What's the best way to reduce crime on your block? Join an existing block club, or start one from scratch. "There are a lot of advantages to being involved with block clubs," Dotson explained. "Everything from learning to work effectively with the 3rd Precinct police officers to getting assistance with neighborhood problems and issues. And, the best part, being known in your neighborhood and getting to know others."

Block Club leader training is held nearly every month, with the exception of December. Contact shun.tillman@ci.minneapolis.mn.us to learn more or to register for the next training session.

On the subject of community policing, Stiller (a 22 year veteran of the Minneapolis Police Department) said, "This is a very busy precinct, and public safety is our #1 priority. Regarding improving community relationships, we are adding more beats and more beat officers."

Stiller explained that "a beat is a specific area, like 46th and Hiawatha, where the same officers regularly patrol on foot or bikes. The officers assigned to beats are there because they want to be there. Neighborhood residents and business owners get used to seeing them, which makes their relationships stronger."

"Every Minneapolis Police officer now wears a body camera," Johnson added. "This took almost four years to implement, and we believe strongly that this is good for the officers as well as the citizens."

"I've pushing for an added layer of transparency for the last couple of years," Johnson continued, "a quality assurance team that would randomly re-

view footage from body cameras. The team would be made up of volunteers. We could identify officers who are underperforming, and those who are going above and beyond their duties. This kind of QA is standard practice in almost every industry. Surprisingly, I'm not aware of any other cities that are utilizing it. I hope the idea will be up and running by 2018."

Additionally, two types of training have been implemented for the Minneapolis Police Department to bridge the gap between officers and citizens.

The Implicit Bias Training helps officers learn to identify their personal biases. The training underscores that every person, no matter how well-intentioned, holds biases of which they are often unaware.

The Minneapolis Police Department is more than half way through its year-long Procedural Justice Training, in conjunction with the US Department of Justice. Procedural justice focuses on the way police interact with the public—and how those interactions shape the public's views of the police, their willingness to obey the law, and actual crime rates.

Johnson concluded by saying, "We need to continue with these kinds of trainings, and we need to hire more police officers. Our force is overworked and understaffed. The mayor's budget for 2017 asks for funding to hire 15 more officers. Despite



The panelists for LCC's Community Safety Meeting agreed that reducing crime in Minneapolis happens block by block—but it takes concerned citizens to get it going. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

my own healthy impatience, I feel that slowly things are getting better around the issue of community policing."

For anyone interested in deepening their neighborhood involvement, consider joining LCC's Community Connections Committee. It meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6pm at the Longfellow Recreation Center, 3435 36th Ave. S.



FUN CITY DOGS
Daycare, Grooming, & Boarding
Outside space to play, clean, webcams, kennel free or traditional kennels
2213 Snelling Avenue
Funcitydogs.com 612-722-3647

Friends School OF MINNESOTA
Open House
Thursday, January 19
6:30-8:30 p.m.
K-8 progressive education
Quaker values
www.fsmn.org
651-621-8937 admissions@fsmn.org
1365 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul

BUY LOCAL
\$40 for 1st 30 Days of Yoga
24 weekly yoga classes
YOGA TEACHER TRAINING
RYT200 | Feb 2017
THAI MASSAGE TRAINING
4 Weekends | Jan 2017
BIG RIVER YOGA
a center for wellness
3336 E 25th St. Minneapolis 55406 • www.bigriveryoga.com

Alexander's IMPORT AUTO REPAIR
Winter Tire Offer
Drive Safer
Save Money
www.alexandersimportautorepair.com
FREE 2 Wheel Alignment with purchase of 4 tires
(Some limitations apply. Offer good thru 12/31/16)
2904 E. 35th Street
612.729.2516

NELSON ELECTRIC INC.
EST 1963
Service is Our Specialty
Residential Industrial Restaurant Lighting Retrofits Commercial Solar
FREE – estimates
Call today for an appointment.
Office Space for Lease
Robert Nelson – Owner 612-724-9500 or www.nelsonelectricinc.com 763-444-1523
Contractor's Lic. #20636575 Electrical Lic. #EA001304
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Nokomis playground

Continued from page 1

recalled Desroches. They expressed a desire for a simple and nature-based playground.

"This will be a unique space," said Desroches.

The new design features "logs" for balancing on and "wood" stepping stones made from recycled plastic materials, "tree" poles for climbing, and raised hills. There's a "birds nest" to play in on one of the three-to-four-foot high raised hills, and a taller structure on another.

"What we wanted to do was play off the nature play area, but not replicate it," explained Desroches.

The hills will be well-suited for younger kids, who won't be hurt if they end up rolling down them.

Residents asked for a high slide, so there's one in the plan, as well as two other smaller ones. They wanted lots of swings, so the plan includes a row of six with another two baby swings on the other side.

People with older and younger kids commented that it is hard to maintain good visibility of all their kids with the current set-up. In recognition of that, a hill will be graded and benches installed that allow parents to view the entire



Playground designer Chris Desroches (left) explains the new pieces of equipment that will be installed at the Nokomis playground to Gemma Cudd, age 10, and Ava Beckett, age 10 during an open house. Beckett is excited to see "those spinning things that I love." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

playground area at a time.

Planners intend to tie the existing disconnected play structures into a single playground through the use of a long concrete border (that will double as a balance beam for children) and a single container filled with an ADA-compliant surface. The green portions are a material similar to that at Wabun, and the rest will be a virgin hardwood material made specifically so that a wheelchair can be rolled across it. Plus, it last longer than regular mulch.

Metal equipment to be reused

Some of the existing equipment looks like it is solid and still in good shape, pointed out some res-

idents. Park workers agreed. Two galvanized steel slides, a climber, the chin-up and turning bars, and the diggers will be reused.

Because safety standards are different today than they were 50 years ago, not everything can be reused in the same way. The dolphin with teeth and a bowler hat can't be used as is, but designers have a plan for it. The dolphin will be buried in the sand so that children can dig it up. Planners think this lends towards the desire by community residents to keep pieces that inspire creativity.

The Willow Thicket that has been at the Rose Garden

Continued on page 4

**NOTE DEADLINE CHANGE FOR JANUARY ISSUE!
DEADLINE: Dec. 12 PUBLICATION: Dec. 22**

Letters to the Editor

Resident urges volunteering for P+P

To the editor,

It was a morning in June. I couldn't have asked for more beautiful weather to kick off my 30th birthday weekend. The sun was shining, the birds were chirping, and I was... watching a PowerPoint on tax preparation in the basement of an office building.

Why would a person choose to celebrate their 30th birthday at local nonprofit tax clinic Prepare + Prosper? Great question.

In my case, it all comes down to resolutions. I'm a big believer in birthday resolutions, and this year I resolved to do two things: learn a new skill and give my time to an organization I believed in.

That's how I found myself at an all-day tax preparation training that day in June. I decided to kill two birthday birds with one stone and become a volunteer at Prepare + Prosper (P+P). I'd

develop a deeper understanding of the tax code - something I needed after doing my own taxes for years. I'd also be able to help P+P's clients collect the refunds they'd earned over the past year.

Volunteering at P+P felt great. My favorite moment was always giving the client their estimated refund totals. Tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit mean that low-income, working taxpayers can receive up to 30% of their annual income through their tax refund. This is an amount of money that can make a difference in peoples' lives, and they shouldn't have to pay a paid tax preparer to access it.

I'm eager to get back to work at P+P this coming tax season, and I encourage you to do the same!

If you're worried about all the numbers, don't sweat it. Not all the volunteer opportunities require tax knowledge. The tax site specialist provides customer support and service for the taxpayers and the financial advocates work one-on-one with customers to discuss their individual financial goals to offer support and access to financial services and referrals. All tax preparers go through training and pass an IRS-certification test.

Prepare + Prosper is looking for 550 volunteers who are passionate about making a difference in their community for the 2017 tax season. If you want to volunteer, they are holding orientations through December. Visit their website at www.prepareandprosper.org or call 651-262-2163. Dolores Ohmans Longfellow

COME CELEBRATE
THE Joy of the SEASON

AT OUR
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
11:00AM - 4:00PM

- Sample tasty seasonal treats
- Get helpful tips and entertaining ideas

THE JOY OF GOOD FOOD!

KOWALSKI'S
MARKETS

THE TWIN CITIES OUTSTANDING GOURMET GROCERY STORE!

612-824-2430 5615 CHICAGO AVE. SOUTH www.kowalskis.com



NOKOMIS BEACH COFFEE

Stop by Our Tree Lot This Season for Wide Selection of Your Favorite Trees

FRAZER • BALSAM • WHITE PINE

All Sizes! Great Prices!

FREE Delivery

4956 28th Ave. South
612-729-2190



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
Sat, Dec 3 - Ladies' Christmas Lunch
Noon - Call for Reservations (\$5)
Christmas Eve Service - 4 pm
Christmas Day Service - 10:30 am

Bethlehem Covenant Church
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
www.bethlehemcov.org
Pastor Matt Kennedy
Sundays:
Contemporary Worship - 8:45am
Sunday school for all ages - 10:00am
Traditional Worship - 11:00am
Espanol - 1:30pm
Wednesdays at 5:45pm
Meal and activities for the family
Christmas Pageant
Dec. 18 - 9:00am & 10:30am
Christmas Eve Services
4:30pm and 10:00pm
Christmas Day Service- 10:30am
(Handicapped accessible)

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthumcpls.org
Pastor Steven Reiser
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
(Childcare Provided)
(Wheelchair Accessible)


Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacomunion.com
Pastors Dan and Sally Ankerfelt
Sunday Worship - 9:45 am
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Sunday, December 18 - 9:45 am worship
with children's program,
Longest Night service - 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve, candlelight worship
service - 4:00 pm
Christmas Day - "Christmas With Classy
Jazz" worship service - 9:45 am
Child Care Available
(Wheelchair Accessible)

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 (thru Jan 8)
Sunday School 9:20 am
Christmas Eve - 4 & 10 pm
Christmas Day - 10:30 am
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.



**Nokomis East
Neighborhood Association**

Night Before New Year's Eve 2016

Volunteer spots still available
www.nokomiseast.org



Friday, December 30, 2016, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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

This family-oriented, free event offers parents and kids a chance to celebrate the coming New Year a night early.

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

612-724-5652
www.nokomiseast.org

 Nokomiseast  NokomisEast

The Night Before New Year's Eve party, on Fri., Dec. 30, is a family-oriented, free event. It offers parents and kids a chance to celebrate the coming New Year a night early.

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

If you are looking to forgo 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.

Night Before New Year's Eve is on Dec. 30, 5:30-7:30pm at Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

Volunteers needed!

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.

Apply for vacant Board seat

NENA is seeking applicants for the vacant Board seat from the Wenonah neighborhood. The Wenonah neighborhood is bordered by 54th St. on the north; 34th Ave. on the east; Cedar Ave. on the west; and the southern boundary of the City of Minneapolis on the south.

If you live (homeowners and renters) in the Wenonah neighborhood, you can nominate yourself (most common); or any NENA member can nominate a Wenonah neighborhood resident

Nokomis playground

Continued from page 3

temporarily will find a permanent home at Nokomis.

It will be surrounded by round concrete billers — sort of like the ones in the front of Target stores, explained Desroches. The bollards can be used many different ways. Children will be able to climb on them. Plus, they allow parents to engage with each other in a way that neither benches nor picnic tables do while also keeping a good eye on their children because they can lean on them and move around as needed. Other bollards will be placed around the concrete border to break it up.

Nature pop-up becomes pilot project

As part of the project, the pop-up nature play area on the south side that was added last spring will be made more permanent.

A natural play area wasn't included in the Nokomis master plan, but since it was so well-loved, planners didn't want to remove it, according to Pfeifer.

Instead, the pop-up will become a pilot project.

They've asked the forestry department to hold onto specific shapes and pieces next spring that will become key anchors in the natural play area.

The area will be closed for a short time to be regarded and place the new wood pieces.

Work likely to take six weeks

Residents commented that they wanted to have a playground to

NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

4313 54th St. E.

Night Before New Year's Eve 2016 planned for Dec. 30

as an applicant for the Board. Completed nomination forms are due on Dec. 8.

The NENA Board of Directors will review all applications and appoint a new Board member at its Dec. 15 meeting. This is a replacement appointment serving from December 2016 to April 2017. The appointed Board member can run to be elected to the seat at the April Annual Meeting and serve a full two-year term.

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

34th Ave. S. rebuild

The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) and the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) will host a public information meeting about the planned 2018 rebuilding of 34th Ave. S. from E. 50th St. to E. 58th St. The open house is co-hosted with City Council Members Andrew Johnson (Ward 12) and John Quincy (Ward 11), along with the Public Works Department.

Construction is expected to begin in 2018, but plans are already being put together, and this is your first chance to hear about it and have your voice heard. The city will solicit public comments regarding street parking, sidewalks, bike lanes, pedestrian and cyclist safety, streetscape elements, boulevard trees and more.

The public meeting is from

6-8pm at the NENA office at 4313 E. 54th St. The meeting will be an open house format, with a short presentation from the city at 6:30pm. City staff will be present to answer questions throughout the meeting.

Come with your questions and suggestions. This is an occasion to identify any concerns you may have about the project. You'll have an opportunity to see the street configuration and hear and exchange ideas with your neighbors and city staff.

A second public information meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2017.

Bossen Field is taking shape

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Bossen Field has not seen the current level of construction in almost 30 years. The Master Plan passed by the MPRB in 2015 will bring about substantial change to the 37-acre park.

Brief updates on all of the work underway are below. An aerial view of the park's master plan is linked below, otherwise, click the picture to the right.

Much of the work of the Master Plan will be completed in 2017, but some projects will be phased in over several years.

A large amount of work has already been completed. The softball fields to the south now have their irrigation, fencing, infield/warning track and new sod. The south parking lot has its new curbs installed,

and lighting is coming before the end of the year. Irrigation has been completed, and the new topsoil and sod are also in place for the east open field. The northern softball fields still have considerable work to be done. Once the grading is done, other projects on those fields can move forward in 2017.

More information and an aerial view of the park's Master Plan is on the MPRB website.

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, depend 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 Metropol-

itan Housing Corporation's Housing Resource Center 612-722-7141, or visit www.gmhousing.org. Loan applications are processed on a first-come, first served basis.

Upcoming events

- Tues., Nov. 29, 6:30-8pm: MPRB Meeting - Hiawatha Ground Water at Powderhorn Recreation Center, 3400 15th Ave. S.
- Wed., Dec. 7, 6:30-8:30pm: NENA Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee at the NENA Office, 4313 E. 54th St.
- Thur., Dec. 8, 7-8pm: NENA Executive Committee Meeting at the NENA Office
- Tues., Dec. 13, 5-6:30pm: Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) Happy Hour at Town Hall Lanes, 5019 S. 34th Ave.
- Tues., Dec. 13, 6:30-8pm: NEBA Board Member Meeting at McDonald's Liquor Store (Meeting Room), 5010 34th Ave. S.
- Wed., Dec. 14, 6:45-7:45pm: NENA Green Initiatives Committee Meeting at the NENA Office
- Thur., Dec. 15, 7-9pm: NENA Board of Directors Meeting at the NENA Office
- Wed., Jan. 4, 2017, 6:30-8:30pm: NENA Housing, Commercial and Streetscape Committee at the NENA Office

Sign up for NENA News

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

use during the summer, particularly for use by the Rec Plus program that begins when school releases. Planners also recognize that having it under construction during the Monarch Festival would be bad timing.

The current plan is to wait until fall 2017 to begin work, but if there's an early spring, the project will be done then instead.

Once work begins, it will take about six weeks to complete, depending on the weather.

The large playground structure for ages 5-12 that was recently replaced will remain. However, the existing sand will be replaced with an ADA-compliant surface. The hope is to complete that work first so that this part of the playground will still be usable while the rest is fenced off.

The \$300,000 cost of the work is part of the MPRB's 2015 Capital Improvement Plan and is funded with net debt bonds.

MATERIALS ReUSE RETAIL WAREHOUSE NOW OPEN!

Better Futures Minnesota is a social enterprise supporting the personal transformation of high-risk men and building healthy, vibrant communities. Our retail reuse warehouse supports our programming, gives men valuable work skills, and impacts the environment by reclaiming materials for reuse.



- Kitchen Cabinets
- Reclaimed lumber
- Appliances
- Household fixtures
- Countertops
- ...and much more!

Donations Also Accepted

Discover your new neighborhood resource for reclaimed materials.

2620 Minnehaha Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406

Warehouse Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11am - 7PM, Sat. 9am - 2 pm

763-710-7325

April 1st thru October 31st

GET YOUR HOLIDAY FRAMING DONE EARLY

50% OFF

any custom moulding PLUS an additional **\$10 OFF** of each custom framing project. Exp. 12/22/16

The FrameWorks
Gallery & Custom Picture Framing

Highland Shopping Center
In the Village • 2022 A Ford Parkway, Saint Paul, MN 55116 • 651-698-3372
www.frameworksminn.com

Volunteer! Hennepin County 2017 Citizen Advisory Boards

Vacancies available on:

- Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC)
- Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin Board (Elected officials only)
- County Extension Committee (University of Minnesota Extension)
- Human Resources Board
- Library Board
- Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board
- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board
- Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners
- Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Board

Application deadline: Friday, December 30, 2016

For more information and to apply online: www.hennepin.us/advisoryboards



Small Business Saturday

Continued from page 1

which benefit the communities they serve. In Minnesota, the MSA is fighting for a common-sense, practical approach to earned sick and safe time as a new baseline standard.

"Offering paid sick time is a workplace practice that acknowledges and makes room for managing the sometimes unpredictable needs of other human beings. Paid sick time also helps create protection for employees whose managers may lack the skills, training, authority, or empathy to have created an environment where illness or emergency can be managed more collaboratively, and having a clear paid sick time policy provides people managers with a consistent starting point for initiating absenteeism-related conversations with employees in circumstances where such discussion is warranted," remarked Julie Kearns, owner of Junket: Tossed and Found (4049 Minnehaha Ave.).

2,000 businesses in the Lake St. corridor

There are about 2,000 businesses along Lake St., and the majority are small businesses.

"Lake St. is a great culturally diverse mix of businesses and has always been a start point for immigrants and minorities," said Swaney. "We have a large percentage of Latino, Somali, and women-owned businesses on Lake St."

In the Lake St. corridor, many residents are entirely de-



There are about 2,000 businesses along Lake St., and the majority are small businesses. "Lake St. is a great culturally diverse mix of businesses and has always been a start point for immigrants and minorities," said Theresa Swaney of the Lake Street Council. "We have a large percentage of Latino, Somali, and women-owned businesses on Lake St." (Photo submitted)

of small businesses—by choice or by necessity. Because of this, pockets of commercial activity have sprung up to support this dependence, including the Downtown Longfellow area at the intersection of 27th Ave and Lake St.

"Not only can you eat, shop, and play but you can also buy your groceries, go to the library, mail your packages and get your clothes dry cleaned," stated Swaney.

Small business owner Zeitler appreciates how progressive the community is, and how involved people are in their neighborhood.

"Longfellow and Seward have the feel of a small town," observed Zeitler. "They're more sophisticated than most small towns, but the neighborhoods



The Hub (3020 Minnehaha Ave.) is partnering with The Official Intergalactic Surly Regional HQ on a special demo ride on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26 from 3-7pm. It will feature fat/plus mountain bikes from Surly, Heller, Jamis, and Felt. (Photo submitted)

are friendly and have a little bit of a Lake Wobegon feel. I also love being a part of the revival of Lake St. There were lots of vacant storefronts—we were one of them—a few years ago that are now thriving businesses."

Variety of local gifts, events

What sorts of gifts can residents find along the Lake St. corridor? According to Swaney, check out:

- Home goods at Forage Modern Workshop (4023 E. Lake St.) and Corazon (4646 E. Lake St.)
- Pop culture items at Northern Sun (2916 E. Lake St.)
- Outdoor and sports gear at Repair Lair (3304 E. Lake) and The Hub (3020 Minnehaha Ave.)
- Coffee related items at Peace Coffee (3262 Minnehaha Ave.)
- Clothing and jewelry in Lyn-Lake
- Vintage items from the Minnehaha Mile, stores like Junket (4049 Minnehaha Ave.) and Time Bomb (4008 Minnehaha Ave.)
- Garden supplies at Minnehaha Nursery (4461 Minnehaha Ave.)
- Holiday shows at Hook & Ladder (3010 Minnehaha Ave.), Heart Of the Beast Theater and the Jungle Theater
- Norwegian gifts from Ingebretsen's (1601 E. Lake St.)

At Moon Palace Books (3260 Minnehaha Ave.), the first 25 customers on Small Business Saturday will get a free downloadable audio book copy



The Stringdingers will be part of the Third Annual Minneapolis Rock Art Experience on Sat., Nov. 26 at The Hook and Ladder Theater (3010 Minnehaha Ave.) from 4 to 9pm. The live music begins Live Music at 8pm. Also playing will be Luke Warm and the Cool Hands with Ryan Young (CD release party) and The Gentlemen's Anti-Temperance League. Arrive earlier to enjoy local artists and their creations for the music world that will be on display and for purchase. It's Minnesota artists, Minnesota musicians, and Minnesota beer at a new Minnesota music venue. More details at <http://thehookmpls.com>. (Photo submitted)

of Sherman Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" and a free copy of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "We Should All Be Feminists."

The bookshop moved around the corner earlier this summer with the help of a volunteer book brigade that moved 10,000 books. "It took three hours and 60 vol-

unteers, and is why we totally and completely love this neighborhood. So many good people willing to help," said Moon Palace Books owner Angela Schwesnedl.

Next door, the Trylon microcinema (3258 Minnehaha Ave.) is holding a benefit for its 2017 expansion on Nov. 26. The Trylon has 50 rocker seats, a 20-foot screen and a pair of 35mm projectors that were donated by the University of Minnesota. During the benefit, thousands of used DVDs and Blu-ray discs, many sealed Criterion and rare UK discs (UK BR and DVDs will only play in an all-region player), will be for sale, beginning at 9am.

The Hub (3020 Minnehaha Ave.) is partnering with The Official Intergalactic Surly Regional HQ on a special demo ride featuring fat/plus mountain bikes from Surly, Heller, Jamis, and Felt. Meet at The Hub at 3pm, and ride from 4-7pm. Lights will be provided, and demos of the following models will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis: Surly Ice Cream Truck, Surly Karate Monkey 27.5+, Surly Krampus Felt DD10, Jamis Roughneck and Heller Shagamaw. All bikes are welcome.



Bill Bryant, Realtor

Neighborhood Specialist - 30 Years Experience
Your Agent to Buy, Invest or Sell Properties

william.bryant@cbburnet.com
Cell 612-747-4167
www.bryant-cpa.com/realtor



pendent upon the wide range

Family Dentistry



Joan Jakubas, D.D.S.
Jenna Swenson, D.D.S.

- General Dentistry
- Cosmetic Bonding
- Whitening
- Crown and Bridge Work

WE CATER TO COWARDS!
New Patients Welcome!

612-721-3012

www.JakubasDental.com



Serving you since 1988
4554 Minnehaha Ave. S.
Mpls., MN 55406

Most Insurance Accepted • Ample Parking

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Saturday, December 24
4:00 p.m. Family Service
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25
10:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Worship

TRINITY MINNEHAHA FALLS
5212 41 Ave. So., Minneapolis
612.724.3691 WWW.TRINITYFALLS.ORG



Local leaders and Minneapolis stand firm with Standing Rock

By JILL BOOGREN

The crowd stood hushed as a young Native American child sang out a prayer on the steps of Minneapolis City Hall. As it drew to a close, the several hundred people gathered here erupted in cheers. They were assembled for a rally in late October to demand that Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek bring home the deputies he had deployed to Standing Rock, ND, where thousands of tribal members of many nations have joined in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Carrying signs reading Water is Life - Mni Wiconi, NO DAPL, No Special Ops At Standing Rock, tribal members, students, families and elected officials delivered a strong message: Bring the officers home.

Among tribal elders and other speakers, local Rep. Karen Clark (MN House Dist. 62A) shared a letter to the sheriff from state representatives, signed by herself, Rep. Jim Davnie (Dist. 63A), Rep. Jean Wagenius (Dist. 63B), Sen. Patricia Torres Ray (MN Senate Dist. 63) and 20 others, calling it "grossly inappropriate" to send our officers to North Dakota.

An excerpt reads:

"The insertion of local law enforcement in a North Dakota issue involving protection of the Standing Rock Reservation Lakota people's sovereign rights... sends the wrong message to our Indigenous constituents and to others who have deep felt concerns about these issues."

Sheriff Stanek created a social media firestorm when he first announced his action and people flooded his Facebook page demanding they return immediately. When Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin



Rep. Karen Clark (Dist. 62A) reads from the letter being delivered by state representatives to Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek calling his deployment of county personnel and resources "grossly inappropriate." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

and Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson posted their disappointment in the sheriff's decision on their respective pages, they drew as many "thank you's" for standing in solidarity.

Sheriff Stanek brought personnel and equipment home after meeting with representatives but issued a statement defending his action, which was in response to the State of North Dakota's "urgent" request for 50 sworn peace officers under an Emergency Management Assistance Compact between our two states.

"Law enforcement is not taking sides on this issue," Stanek said in his statement. "Our de-

cision to help Morton County was operational, not political. We were there to assist maintaining public safety, preserving the peace and protecting the constitutional rights of all parties involved."

Davnies, who was at the rally with his two teenage kids and spoke later by phone, said it's good that municipalities have mutual aid agreements so that when they need help, they can get it. When the 35W bridge collapsed, for example, first responders mobilized from around the metro and beyond to help.

"It's good that Minnesota has an agreement with other states. But it was intended for disaster," said Davnie. "It wasn't

intended for political problems. And North Dakota and the Dakota Access Pipeline have decided to push forward this project without an environmental impact statement and without fully engaging the Standing Rock Tribe as a sovereign nation. I don't think Hennepin County has to get in the middle of that."

Davnies also said Hennepin County was under no obligation to participate and that Stanek was "solely responsible" for sending staff and equipment. In fact, sheriffs in other jurisdictions had declined.

Both Davnie and Johnson felt strongly that if the sheriff has extra resources, we could use them in Minneapolis.



Arlana Omaha is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Leech Lake Ojibwe and is a first generation urban Indian born and raised in South Minneapolis. She spoke from Standing Rock via short video clips during an early November trip there. She's involved here in town and has traveled to Oceti Sakowin camp. (Photo courtesy of Arlana Omaha)

"We could have them patrolling alleys and looking for burglars, there's plenty of need here," said Johnson. "If he has those spare resources, please put them to work right here."

Many dispute Stanek's assertion that Hennepin County deputies were preserving the peace and protecting constitutional rights. Videos from Stand-

Continued on page 7



Youth were among those making their voices heard at a rally at Minneapolis City Hall. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



**SEWARD CO-OP
CREAMERY CAFE**



**Seward Burger &
Smoked Beet
Reuben**



Local Beer & Organic Wine

2601 E. Franklin Ave., MPLS | Sun.-Tues. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
www.coopcreamery.coop | Wed.-Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

Standing with Standing Rock

Continued from page 6

ing Rock show officers using mace, rubber bullets, and batons against demonstrators. The letter Minnesota representatives sent to Stanek explicitly mentions concerns "about media reports which surfaced on Oct. 27 indicating that Hennepin County personnel were involved in the arrest of an Indigenous elder [and]... used force on a member of the media."

Arlana Omaha, member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Leech Lake Ojibwe who describes herself as a "1st generation urban Indian born and raised in South Minneapolis," spoke from Standing Rock via short video clips during an early November trip there. Asked specifically about arrests made and use of mace, she said that's nothing new.

"We've been dealing with that for decades, so it's not foreign. But unfortunately having [to be] vigilant, from trauma, and... always being scared of cops, and worried about cops shaking us down and all that, that's continuous," she said. "I wish there was a way to have a positive impact to change that relationship [between Native peoples and police], but what they're doing now, they're just damaging it and tainting and making it worse."

Omaha welcomed the outcome of deputies leaving but said it's unfortunate that it took pressure from the inside.

"If it was just our voice it would be very challenging, and take a long time. It may never happen," she said. She said it's important for nonnatives to support and stand with them and be there. "It's power of strength in numbers, and it shows that human beings are all the same and that we need the same resources, and we need to stand



Students stand with Standing Rock, Native American Involvement Day, Nov. 15, at Roosevelt High School. (Photo by Candida Gonzalez.)

up for the same causes and support each other. It's powerful. It's moving. It's inspirational. We need our allies, and we couldn't do a lot of stuff that we do for our people without our allies and our supporters."

Solidarity

Support is being felt in schools, coffee shops and neighborhood organizations throughout the community and includes elected

officials representing all levels of government for our area. In addition to those named previously, 5th District Congressman Keith Ellison, Ward 2 Council Member Cam Gordon, and Ward 9 Council Member Alondra Cano are actively engaged.

The rally at City Hall was just one moment, but there have been countless actions and events that still continue. The City passed a resolution in Sep-

tember "Expressing solidarity with Indigenous resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline" and another declaring Oct. 10th—Indigenous People's Day—"Coldwater Springs Protection and Preservation Day" in Minneapolis.

Friends of Lake Hiawatha publicly stated they stand with the "water protectors" at Standing Rock. In November there was a Tipi Signing and The Ave Stands event along the Indian Cultural Corridor on Franklin Ave., as well as a youth rally at U.S. Bank Stadium involving students from around the metro area.

And when a day was announced to hold an international prayer vigil, including one at Wabun picnic area, supporters of Standing Rock numbered in the thousands and posted pictures of their vigils from as far away as Hawaii, Scotland, and New Zealand.

There are reasons this issue is connecting people across all nations and geographic boundaries.

For Omaha, it runs very deep. "I guess it's almost like a life or death situation because without our water we all know what happens to us. So we need to share our teachings with others," she said.

It also cuts across some issues Longfellow and Nokomis residents and neighborhood organizations pour their hearts into daily: promoting clean energy, stopping environmental degradation, and justice for all people. The Dakota Access Pipeline would carry as many as 570,000 barrels of fracked crude oil per day for more than 1,100 miles from North Dakota to Illinois, going across or under more than 200 rivers, creeks, and tributaries, including the Missouri River, a critical source of drinking water. Ultimately, Standing Rock is



People make their voices heard at a rally at Minneapolis City Hall. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

about people. As Johnson pointed out, we have a large population of Indigenous people in Ward 12, and we're the center of the American Indian Movement.

"We have a responsibility to stand up for... climate justice and environmental justice and Native rights and also to stand up in solidarity with our residents whose very families and their land are affected by this," he said. And youth, well represented at many events, have been passionately engaged.

"The youth are the ones who inspired this movement, have been the backbone of it since day one," said Omaha. "So the youth in Minneapolis, standing up and standing strong for Standing Rock? Yeah, powerful."

It's also brought people together on a very spiritual level. When 500 Clergy members arrive at a camp in a North Dakota prairie, something very powerful is happening.

Soon after arriving in Standing Rock, Omaha shared this: "All the Lakota and all nations from all over the United States and all races are here speaking up and speaking out for the water." Asked how that felt, she said, "It's very inspiring, it's priceless. There's a word on my shirt, WAKAN; it means sacred. So that's how it feels."

Tribal members and supporters at the camp are preparing for winter. For more info see www.octisakowincamp.org.



Hundreds of people gather outside Minneapolis City Hall to demand that Hennepin County Sheriff Stanek bring home its deputies from Standing Rock. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

A GREENER, GENTLER ALTERNATIVE

GREEN CREMATION PACKAGES starting at \$1,595

Green Cremation is a gentle, water-based, eco-friendly alternative to flame-based cremation. Just like with traditional cremation, the body is reduced to ashes, which are then returned to the family. However, no flames are used during the Green Cremation process, making it the more natural choice.

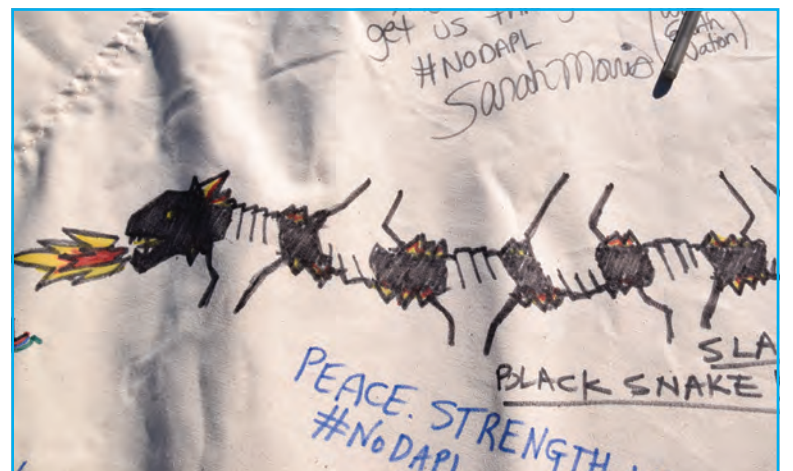
We honor societies pre plans and memberships
For more info, or to pre-plan call 612.724.3621

GreenCremation[®]
by Bradshaw

GreenCremation.com

Bradshaw
Creating Meaningful Events That Celebrate Life[®]

3131 Minnehaha Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.724.3621
BradshawFuneral.com



Among the "signatures" offered on an art Tipi destined for Standing Rock, "Black snake" is how people describe the Dakota Access Pipeline. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

Exodus Lending is breaking the cycle of payday loans

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Payday loans are getting a lot of attention these days. A payday loan is a small, short-term, unsecured loan taken out to cover an emergency, and it's meant to be repaid with the next paycheck. However, the interest and fees charged are almost always exorbitant—and can create a cycle of debt that is very hard to break.

Exodus Lending has been helping borrowers trapped by payday lending since it opened its doors 1½ years ago. The brain-child of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (HTLC) in the Longfellow neighborhood, its two-person staff has guided over 100 participants on the path to financial stability.

In the words of Sarah, an Exodus Lending graduate: "Even though I worried that it wasn't the best solution for my money problems, I took out a payday loan. I couldn't afford to pay back the loan when it came due, so I found myself taking out another loan to pay off the first loan and its fees. I never thought I'd be stuck in the same cycle a year later—but there I was."

Exodus Lending asks the following eligibility questions: Do you live in the state of Minnesota? Do you have a balance on a payday loan that is less than \$1,000? Have you had the loan for more than 30 days? Do you have a job?

Exodus Lending program manager Kathy Dixon may be able to offer financial assistance if the answer to all four questions is yes. She can be reached at 612-615-0067 to schedule an appointment, and the office location will then be disclosed.

HTLC's parish organizer Megan Olsen Biebighauser explained how Exodus Lending came to be. She said, "My job as parish organizer is to listen deeply to those within this place, and in the larger parish beyond. We use the word parish in the old-fashioned way here, incorporating the neighborhood as well as the church community. With a small army of volunteers, we shared hundreds of conversations about what people found hopeful in our neighborhood, and what they found troubling."

"Repeatedly we heard that people were bothered by the presence of two payday lending shops in proximity to HTLC," Olsen Biebighauser said. "Cashwell, at 3018 E. Lake St., relocated a few months ago but ACE Cash Express, at 2701 E. Lake St., is still going strong."

Most people who come to Exodus Lending have been trapped in the cycle of debt for months, usually originating from a loan of \$500-\$600. People who fall prey to payday lending are not the poorest of the poor—they're people who are working paycheck to paycheck and coming up short.

Olsen Biebighauser explained, "Our participants often come in filled with all kinds of shame. It's quite common for people not to even have told their spouse about their debt cycle. For us at HTLC, it's a clear-cut issue spiritually. We believe it's unethical to charge exorbitant interest rates, and most especially to those who are already poor."

Exodus Lending can work

By the numbers

- Total number of loans refinanced: 124
- Total amount of \$ refinanced: \$61,433
- Average amount refinanced per participant: \$668
- APR participants were paying before Exodus lending: 460%
- Fees and interest paid to Exodus lending: \$0
- Fees and interest saved for participants in 12 months: \$240,243

with eligible clients anywhere in Minnesota, though most participants live in the Twin Cities metro. If a person meets the program criteria, Exodus Lending will pay off their payday loan balance if it's less than \$1,000. The participant then has 12 months to repay the loan to Exodus Lending at 0% interest and no fees.

Participants are also referred to three sessions of financial counseling at Lutheran Social Services.

If they're able to save a minimum of \$400 over the 12 months of their repayment term, Exodus Lending will give them an additional \$100 as an incentive to keep saving.

The name Exodus Lending suits the program. "Our congregation connected with this image of God's people moving together out of the bondage of debt," Olson Biebighauser explained. A circle of generosity has continued to wrap itself around Exodus Lending since its beginning.

A couple of years ago, HTLC applied for a \$40,000 social entrepreneurship grant from the Colonial Church of Edina and won. That generous gift proved to be the seed money for starting Exodus Lending, and its coffers have grown steadily with donations from individuals, HTLC, and other congregations, and grants.

HTLC has also provided fiscal sponsorship. Exodus Lending will soon be a separate non-profit organization with its own executive director: Sarah Nelson-Pallmeyer.



Until consumer banks and credit unions offer an affordable, small-dollar loan product, people will continue to use payday lenders like ACE Cash Express at 27th and E. Lake St. Exodus Lending hopes to serve 200+ clients in 2017, seeking lasting change for individuals, financial institutions, and society at large. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

utive director: Sarah Nelson-Pallmeyer.

"This program has changed the lives of its participants," Olson Biebighauser said, "and also the workings of our church. People within the church are more candid now about their own financial struggles. They feel safer talking about what their safety nets are—and what they aren't. We've become much more thoughtful about the way we support each other and our broader parish community."

To make a contribution toward breaking the debt cycle of the working poor, visit www.exoduslending.org.



Shawn Mackay
Longfellow/Nokomis Expert!
 27 Years Experience
612-584-8334
shawnmackay@edinarealty.com

Edina Realty



Warm welcomes even in a cold season.
 Since 1935, St. Albert's has been a welcoming and hospitable faith community reaching out to wherever YOU are on your journey of faith.

Join us for the Christmas season:
Saturday, Dec. 24 -- Christmas Eve
 Family Mass with children's pageant 5 pm
 Candlelight Mass 10 pm
Sunday, Dec 25 -- Christmas Day
 Mass at 10 am
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 Masses at regular times
 5:00 pm Saturday, 9:30 am Sunday

Church of St. Albert the Great
 on E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S., in Minneapolis
www.SaintAlbertTheGreat.org 6123-724-3643

(By the way, our hugely popular **Fish Dinners** start on **March 3, 2017** served 4:30 to 7:30 pm on the six Fridays of Lent. Catch 'em all!)



You're Invited...



Nokomis Square Cooperative
 5015 35th Avenue South
Annual Holiday Open House
 Friday, December 9, 2016

Apartment Tours 2:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Music 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Holiday Treats 2:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact
 Pam Schultz
 612-721-5077
Visit our website
nokomissquare.com



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.

Epworth plans open Wednesdays for kids

Epworth UMC, 3207 37th Ave., offers space for kids up to 5 years old to play with other kids from 9:30-11:30am on Cabin Fever 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. Contact the Epworth office at 612-722-0232 or epworthumcplsmn@gmail.com if you have questions or need more information.

Senior holiday party scheduled Dec. 20

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for the annual Holiday Party for Seniors on Tue., Dec. 20 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. Enjoy live music, lunch, and door prizes. The event will be held in the basement gymnasium and doors will open around 10am. All seniors who reside in greater Longfellow and Seward are welcome to attend this free event (however, a suggested donation of \$2 is appreciated). Preregistration is not required. Call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799 for more information.

Healthy Seniors plan monthly events

Nokomis Healthy Seniors, based at Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.), will hold their next Health Educational Event: "Medication Therapy Management," planned for Thur., Dec. 1, 11:15am. Learn how to manage your medications in this informative session presented by Fairview Pharmacy Services.

Advent Workshop scheduled Dec. 4

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 32nd Ave. S., will hold their annual Advent Workshop on Sun., Dec. 4, 12:30-2:30pm. Have fun making holiday gifts and decorations for family and friends. Help make banners and other gifts of support for the water protectors at Standing Rock. The cost for the workshop is a donation of non-perishable food items for the Minnehaha Food Shelf or donations of hats, gloves, mittens, or scarves for the Epworth Mitten Tree. The Mitten Tree benefits the children at two local elementary schools.



Some of the cast members of Roosevelt High School Theater's production of "The Laramie Project," which they performed in November. The play explored the 1998 murder of a young gay man, Matthew Shepard, and the societal impact that came from it. (Photo by Candida Gonzales).

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.

New church opens

A new church has opened in the neighborhood. Spirit Garage, "The church with the really big door," is located at 3010 Minnehaha Ave., at the Hook & Ladder Theater. Sunday worship is at 10:30am. You can find out more about the church by calling 612-827-1074, emailing bigdoor@spiritgarage.org, or going to their website at www.spiritgarage.org.

Movements hour scheduled Dec. 16

An hour of Meditative Movements is scheduled at Bethany Lutheran Church, 3901 36th Ave. S., on Fri., Dec. 16, at 5:30pm.

De-stress! Change begins within yourself. Relying on things outside of yourself only gives an illusion. Created by Ellie Peterson, Meditative Movements incorporates simple body movements aligned with the power of breath and spoken affirmations. A variety of standing and floor exercises are used, so bring a mat or blanket. Drinking water is also encouraged. Chairs will be provided for people who prefer to do all poses sitting. This is a practice for all body types and abilities.

Adoption support group meets Dec. 6

The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups at Minnehaha Communion Lu-

theran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), for parents and teens who have been adopted. Next meeting will be held on Tues., Dec. 6 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).

Christmas luncheon planned Dec. 3

A Women's Christmas Luncheon will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.) on Sat., Dec. 3, at noon with speaker Marion Eisenmann. Her program will be "Christmas Stories to Warm the Heart." She is a story teller, author, and inspirational speaker. Tickets are \$5. Contact the Bethany church office at 612-729-9376 or office@bethanyon36th.com to make reservations. All are welcome, Warm hats, scarves, and mittens will be collected for a mitten tree.

Rental partners expand programs

Tapestry Folkdance Center, 38th St. and Minnehaha, offers a variety of dance and movement opportunities every day and every week. Thanks to rental partners, the Center will have even more to offer in 2017:

- Parkinson's Wellness Recovery (PWR), Tuesdays, Jan. 10-Feb. 14, 9:30-10:30am. PWR is a program designed to help

people with mild to moderate Parkinson's disease improve their posture, mobility, agility, endurance, strength, and function. It is appropriate for any adult who can get on and off the floor without assistance. Instructor Ruth Davini will work with people at their ability level and adaptations can be made as needed. Bring a yoga mat. Cost: \$8 each session, or \$42 for all 6 sessions.

- Duniya West African Drum & Dance, Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30pm. This class gives a thorough and invigorating workout, incorporating traditional West African dance movement with live drumming. Each class covers the cultural background of the rhythm, as well as the conversation between drummer and dancer. All levels and ages welcome. \$14/class.

- Shotokan Karate, Monday through Saturday, varying times. Shotokan Karate is adding additional evening classes for adults and children. Shotokan Karate classes combine martial arts practice with yoga stretches to help participants move their body in a healthy, safe and effective way while developing power and stamina.

See the Tapestry website for a complete listing of dates and times of dances and activities, www.tapestryfolkdance.org.

East Lake Library schedules events

East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St., is offering a host of open events in the next month. They include

- Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, K to 12th Grade Homework Help, 3:30-7:30pm (on break 12/16/16 - 01/03/2017)
- Thur., Dec. 1, 6-8pm, Teen Fandom Club
- Tues., Dec. 6, 7-8pm, Nonfiction Book Club discussing "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie
- Wed., Dec. 7, 10:30-11:20am, the Biography Book Club will discuss "Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls" by David Sedaris
- Wed., Dec. 7, 10:15am, Child-care Group Story Time
- Fri., Dec. 9, 10:30-11:30am, the Adult Book Club will discuss "Under the Udala Trees" by Chinelo Okparanta
- Sat., Dec. 10, 1-2:30pm, East Lake Library Writers' Workshop
- Sat., Dec. 10, 3:30-4, South High Pop Singers Concert
- Mon., Dec. 12, 9:30-10:30am, Small Group Computer Help
- Thur., Dec. 15, 3-5pm, Lego Lab for Kids
- Mon., Dec. 19, 6:30-7:30pm, Quick Reads Book Club discusses "Fail Fail Again Fail Better" by Pema Chodron
- Wed., Dec. 21, 9:30-10:30am, Small Group Computer Help
- Sat., Dec. 31, 11:15-12:15, Stories Together: Noon Year's Eve

- Family Storytime and Baby Storytime are on break through Jan. 6

- English Conversation Circles has a break in December. The program will restart in January.

Folwell schedules Winter Arts Concert

Folwell School, Performing Arts Magnet will give their Winter Arts Concert on Thur., Dec. 15, 6pm. The 5th-8th grade students have been working hard all year to put together this special evening full of music, song, and dance at Folwell, 3611 20th Ave. S.

Fare For All plans local stop Dec. 7

Fare For All, a local non-profit food program created to make fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable to Twin Cities families will be selling Holiday Packs for \$30 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (2730 E. 31st St.) on Wed., Dec. 7 from 3:30-5:30pm. Each Holiday Pack includes a 7lb spiral cut ham, a whole chicken, chicken strips, two packages of ground beef, two bags of mixed vegetables and an apple pie. There is no need to register in advance.

Fare For All sells packages of fresh produce and frozen meat at 37 locations throughout Minnesota. With prices ranging from \$10 to \$30 per package, Fare For All offers savings that are much less than retail prices. The program has no income requirements and is open to everyone who is looking to save money. There are no forms to complete and cash, credit, debit and EBT cards are all accepted.

"Last December we saw over 100 families in two hours, so we are once again expecting a big turnout," said co-site leader Clifford Brown. "Many families have been forced to cut back on fresh produce and lean meats because of ever-shrinking food budgets. The program is designed to help make affordable, healthy foods available to those families—especially during the holiday season."

For additional dates and a map of Fare For All locations, go to fareforall.org or find them on Facebook.

AA and NA meets

Every Monday night there is an AA meeting at 7 pm 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.

Continued on page 10

In Our Community

Continued from page 9

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.

Annual tree lighting scheduled Nov. 26

The fourth annual Nokomis Tree Lighting returns on Sat., Nov. 26, 4-6pm hosted by Oxendale's Market, 5025 S. 34th Ave.

During the event, the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) will feature several sponsoring member businesses including Steve's Tire & Auto (tree sponsor), Town Hall Lanes (beverage sponsor), Brushed Monkey (Santa photo sponsor) and Oxendale's Market (host).

The tree will light up at 5:30pm with a countdown, surrounded by spirited holiday music. Santa Claus will make an appearance inside Oxendale's Market, with free pictures taken by professional photographer Pamela Diedrich.

Children will also be able to pick out a free book, provided by the Friends of the Nokomis Library.

Nokomis Shoe Shop will also be attendance handing out free gift bags to families.

Roosevelt High School kicks off their longtime tradition of Operation Holiday Basket at the Nokomis Tree Lighting. The

school will be on site accepting food donations that are given to over 300 families.

All Nokomis East neighbors are invited to kick off the holiday season and support the Nokomis East Business District during this free event on Small Business Saturday.

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., Nov. 19, 12-2pm.

'Jungle Book Jr.' scheduled Dec. 1-2

Folwell School, Performing Arts Magnet Elementary students will present Disney's "The Jungle Book Jr." on Thur., Dec. 1 and Fri., Dec. 2. Both performances are at the school, 3611 20th Ave. S., at 6pm. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Share in a fun night of theater featuring their K-4th-grade students.

Minnehaha Ave. ends major construction

Major reconstruction on Minnehaha Ave., between 34th and Lake streets, is complete and the area is now open to all vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

With the road now open, most of the work has concluded for the project. However, crews may still be in the area working on a few miscellaneous activities. Crews will also be back next spring to complete any mis-

cellaneous tasks and warranty/restoration work. This work may require lane closures/shifts and some temporary parking restrictions to complete in select areas.

Academy hosted book release

On Nov. 15 Minnehaha Academy welcomed meteorologist Paul Douglas and Evangelical Environmental Network Director Mitch Hescox for a community conversation and book release event about climate change and the Biblical call for Christians to care about the earth.

The first 500 attendees received a free copy of Hescox and Douglas' new book "Caring for Creation: The Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment."

Millwork Lofts breaks ground for housing

Minneapolis-based Dominion broke ground Nov. 1 for adaptive reuse of a historically significant industrial building into 78 units of affordable housing located at 4041 Hiawatha Ave. S.

Units at Millwork Lofts will provide modern amenities, while showcasing the historic character of the building, with exposed brick walls, tongue and groove wood ceilings, and in some cases restored original wood windows. Kitchens will have granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. All units will also be equipped with washer and dryers.

"This important restoration will keep the historic character of the neighborhood intact while providing much needed afford-

able housing in the Hiawatha Corridor," said Dominion developer, Nick Andersen. "The character of the building combined with the strong demand for housing in the area made this site a prime opportunity for adaptive reuse."

Shared amenities at Millwork Lofts will include a clubroom, rooftop deck and fitness room/yoga room. The building will also make use of a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Bossen Field Park construction update

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has announced that construction on Bossen Field Park is continuing and will continue into 2017:

- Irrigation, fencing, and infield/warning track surfacing are in place in the south softball fields, and new sod has been placed. Benches and walkways will be installed in the spring.
- In the south parking lot, curbing is done, lighting is expected later this fall, and it will be paved in the spring.
- Irrigation is done in the east open field; topsoil is in place, and new sod was laid.
- A play container has been built for the playground, and new equipment will be installed in the spring.
- Grading is still being performed on the northern softball fields. Field sub-base, topsoil, fencing, concrete work and seeding will continue into 2017.
- All storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water service are now in, which includes sanitary and water service that will serve a future concessions building.

Christmas concert scheduled Dec. 11

Join Spirit Garage's Garage Band Xmas Concert 8: "Laughing All the Way" on Dec. 11. The Spirit Garage bands and friends are sharing Christmas and holiday songs that will make you laugh and giggle.

The featured comedian co-hosts are Crystal Loken and Elizabeth Lasley-Lord.

New this year, there are two shows at the Hook and Ladder Theater and Lounge, 3010 Minnehaha Ave.—a family friendly 4pm show and a slightly later show at 7pm. Free cookies and treats will be plentiful.

A freewill donation will be taken to share with Spirit Garage's Partners in Giving: Feed My Starving Children, Crescent Cove, International Justice Mission, Global Health Ministries and Sharing the Dream.

Christmas Boutique set at St. Albert

St. Albert the Great invites you to their annual Christmas Boutique Sat., Dec. 3 (2-6:30pm), and Sun., Dec. 4 (9am to noon). Another opportunity for shopping will be Sun., Dec. 11, 9am to noon. Our local parishioners will sell their handmade items on Dec. 3 and Dec. 11. Lots and lots of Christmas treasures await, along with delicious St. Albert's fudge, Christmas cookies and many bake sale items. Help the Rosary Altar Society celebrate 80 years of service to their parish. St. Albert the Great is located at the corner of E. 29th St. and 32nd Ave. S.

Classifieds

Messenger

Want ads must be received by the Messenger by December 12 for the December 22 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 Dec. 12 for the Dec. 22 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

COMPUTER REPAIR/SERVICE

Harmony PC computer repair, service, instruction. Service in your home. 25 years exp. State Courts, Microsoft. Woman-owned. www.harmonypc.us 651-605-5804. 4-17

MACHINING/WELDING

J.P.P. Machining & Welding Service. Weld repairs, part duplication, lathe work, milling work, metal fabrication. Call, text, email. 612-990-5771. jppmachining@gmail.com. 12-16

PAINTING

Bill's Painting. 38 years experience. Painting, wallpaper, staining and texturing. Fully insured. Free estimates. Attention to details. Call Bill 612-790-1266. 12-16

Painting, wallpaper removal, small painting jobs wanted. Jim. 612-202-5514. Lawn mowing. B-16

PETS

John's Dog Walking - Daily dog walks, boarding and in home pet visits. 15 years experience, Insured and Bonded. 612-825-9019. www.facebook.com/johnpetservice 12-16

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-16

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

Treating your house like a home



Painting by Jerry Wind

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Wallpapering & Paper Stripping
- Wood Stripping & Refinishing
- Plaster/Sheetrock Repair
- Ceiling Texturing/Repair
- Wood Floor Sanding & Refinishing

METRO-WIDE FREE ESTIMATES

VISA (612) 827-6140 or (651) 699-6140
WWW.PAINTINGBYJERRYWIND.COM



Borden Window

LLC.

Keep your old windows

We turn old drafty windows into energy efficient tilt-in windows

BordenWindow.com

651-338-7163

BLUE LADDER PAINTING

"We take pride in our work so you can take pride in your home."

Professional painting service designed to meet all of your residential and commercial painting needs.

Call Kevin McNealey:
612-825-1809 612-685-0210

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER
Licensed • Bonded • Insured

blueladderpainting@gmail.com

A Tree Service and Garden Store

Coming 11/21/2016:

Christmas Trees, Tree Tops, Wreaths, and Garlands

We accept  

Straw and Firewood

1849 E. 38th St.
612-724-6045

Nilles Builders, Inc.

Additions • Remodeling
Renovation • Windows & Siding
Concrete • Garages

Licensed • Bonded • Insured #4690
651-222-8701
www.nillesbuilders.com

FREE ESTIMATES



- Interior, Exterior
- Licensed, Insured
- Friendly, Pro Staff

www.IndyPainting.net
612-781-INDY

Merriam Park Painting

- Exterior & Interior
- Painting - Enameling
- Ceiling Texturing
- Wallpapering
- Free Estimates

Call Ed 651-224-3660

ROOFING

Nilles Builders, Inc.

Full Warranty
Licensed • Bonded • Insured #4690
"We Work All Winter"

651-222-8701
www.nillesbuilders.com

Third leg of transit triangle eyes route over Ford Parkway Bridge

Planners studying whether a river crossing at the Ford Parkway Bridge, or Highway 5, would be better

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Will a new transit line connect South Minneapolis with downtown St. Paul in the near future?

The proposed Riverview Corridor transportation route would run 12-miles from St. Paul's Union Depot to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

One possible route takes riders from the Union Station past the Xcel Center, down West 7th St., jogging over to the former Ford plant site in Highland Park, across the Ford Parkway bridge and to the 46th St. station before heading down to the airport and mall.

Another option is using Highway 5 instead of going through Highland Park or building a new river crossing.

"The goal of the Riverview Corridor is to create a new connection between downtown St. Paul and the airport, improving transit and stimulating development along the way," remarked Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson.

Johnson pointed out that the route will need to cross the river somewhere, and the options to do so are down to Highway 5 or the Ford Parkway bridge, each having advantages and disadvantages.

"While the Ford Parkway bridge would add additional transit time to the route, it also maximizes the development potential of the 135-acre Ford Plant site and avoids some logistical difficulties associated with using Highway 5," said Johnson.

Spring 2017 new deadline date

The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority launched the latest study of the corridor in July 2014, the fifth since 1998. Three committees have been collecting and analyzing data on modes and routes, of what is often called the third leg of a transit triangle, the others being the Blue Line in Minneapolis and the Green Line in St. Paul.

Planners have reduced the options to three: West 7th, the Canadian Pacific Spur Line that runs a few blocks south of West 7th, or a combination of the two.

Businesses along West 7th have been concerned about the potential loss of parking and lanes there.



The Ford Parkway bridge may be the best place for the Riverview Corridor to cross the Mississippi River and also connect with the Blue line. "Longfellow is closer to Highland Park than much of Minneapolis, so not only could the Riverview Corridor better connect us with the great neighborhood across the bridge, but it also helps position the Ford Plant site to emerge as a thriving town square with great shopping, dining, entertainment, and recreation options that are just minutes away," said Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

The Policy Advisory Committee expected to select an option by spring 2017.

The project would then need to be adopted by several government bodies and funding secured. A new transit service could take up to 12 years to design and construct.

Light rail, Bus Rapid Transit or streetcar?

Possible modes include light rail, bus rapid transit, streetcars or a hybrid option.

Johnson's preference for this route is a streetcar line. "Streetcars feel like light rail, but are significantly less expensive and don't eliminate a lane of traffic," he pointed out. "Yet unlike Bus Rapid Transit, the permanent infrastructure stimulates economic development. The latter is particularly important for the future of the Ford Plant site, which has the potential to become the extension of, and complement to, Highland Park."

When the Godfrey Parkway bridge is replaced next year, the new bridge will be capable of supporting LRT or streetcars.

How would a streetcar cross Hiawatha without making traffic worse?

The biggest issue for Ward 12, according to Johnson, is how a streetcar will cross Hiawatha Ave. and the interchange at the 46th Street Station without making the traffic

flow worse.

"The good news," Johnson said, "is that this project may very well be the way we get Metro Transit to approve the use of 'rail obstruction' sensors. They would eliminate the need for the 'clearing phase' that occurs today, where an oncoming Blue Line train overrides the traffic signals to give eastbound traffic a green light even if they just had one."

"The need to ensure that no vehicles are obstructing the tracks when a train comes is critically important, but the current method is terribly inefficient and disruptive to the overall flow of traffic," Johnson noted.

"A win-win would be using the Riverview Corridor project to secure this traffic flow improvement for Hiawatha."

He is excited by how this line would connect South Minneapolis with its neighbor right across the river.

"Longfellow is closer to Highland Park than much of Minneapolis," Johnson added, "so not only could the Riverview Corridor better connect us with the great neighborhood across the bridge, but it also helps position the Ford Plant site to emerge as a thriving town square with great shopping, dining, entertainment, and recreation options that are just minutes away."

Existing bus not adequate

The bus line #54 currently travels between Union Depot and the Mall of America taking West 7th and Highway 5, making the trip in about 40 minutes. Officials say it is often crowded and inadequate for the corridor.

By the year 2040, the population in the corridor is expected to grow by 63% and employment by 33%, making this highly traveled corridor more difficult to travel in years to come.

Proponents say transit improvements would increase mobility, and support community and regional economic development goals.

The many people without a car in the area would also benefit. The percentage of households without an automobile in the Riverview Corridor study

"This line will help connect residents with jobs and amenities on the other side of the river, provide a great transit route to downtown Saint Paul, and even help stimulate economic development on the east side of the 46th Street Station."

— Andrew Johnson, Ward 12 Council Member

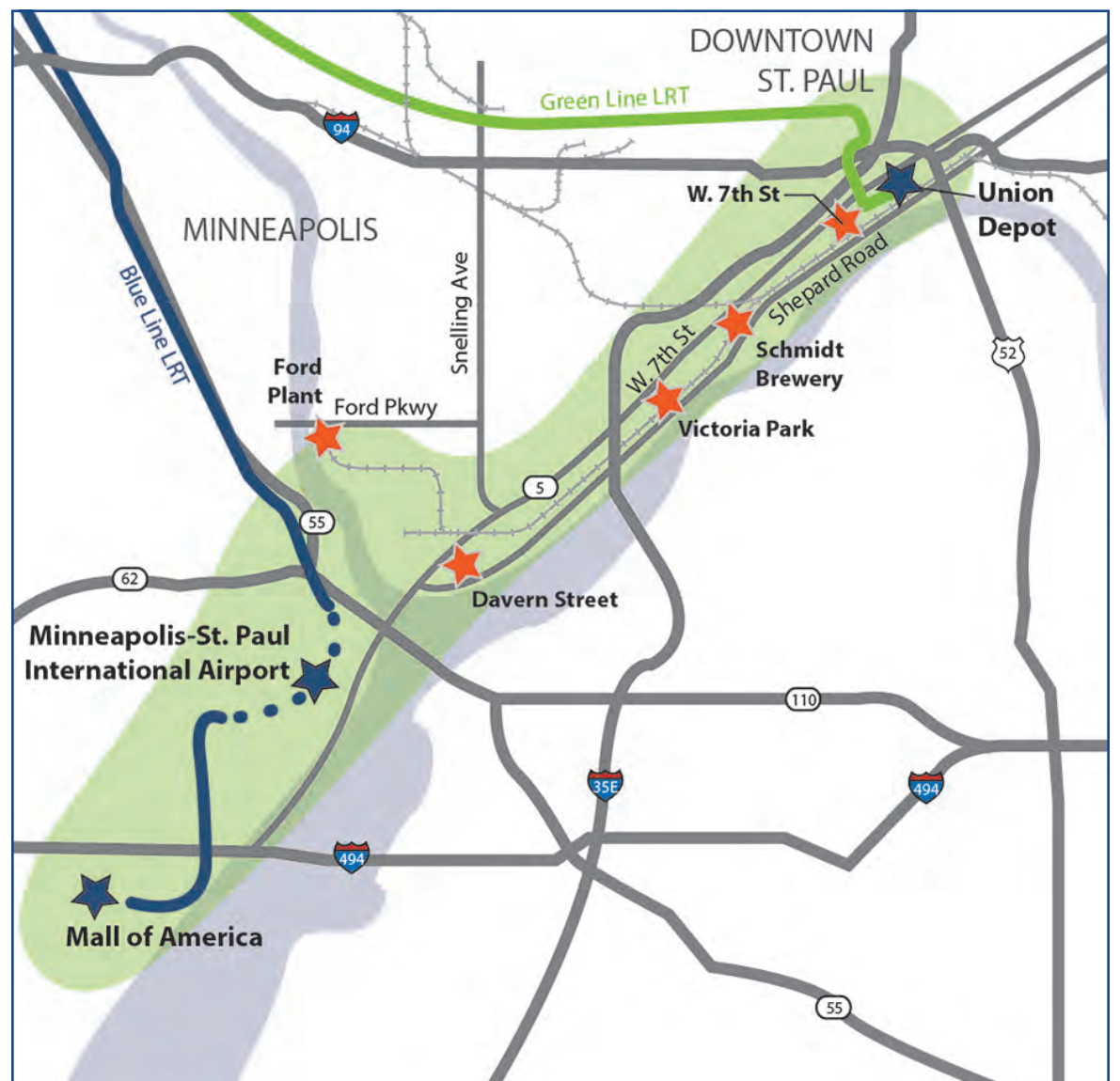
area is near twice that of households in Ramsey County as a whole.

Meetings planned

Upcoming meetings are being planned for the Longfellow neighborhood, but have not yet been scheduled. According to Johnson, the project team will soon be reaching out to Longfellow to engage the neighborhood and get feedback on the proposed route.

"This line will help connect residents with jobs and amenities on the other side of the river, provide a great transit route to downtown Saint Paul, and even help stimulate economic development on the east side of the 46th Street Station," said Johnson.

To sign up for project updates, go to <http://riverviewcorridor.com>.



The proposed Riverview Corridor transportation route would run 12-miles from St. Paul's Union Depot to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. One possible route takes riders from the Union Station past the Xcel Center, down West 7th St., jogging over to the former Ford plant site in Highland Park, across the Ford Parkway bridge and to the 46th St. station before heading down to the airport and mall. (Photo submitted)

612.729.7608 • www.buck-bros.com

BUCK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION
MN license #4593

We design & build in your neighborhood
Kitchens, Baths, Additions Restorations



Fifth Annual Chili Cook-off brought diverse cooks to the table

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) held its fifth annual chili cook-off fundraiser on Nov. 13. About 75 people attended the event, hosted by Gandhi Mahal Restaurant, 3009 27th Ave. S.

Each of the 11 chili cook-off contestants provided five quarts of their original chili. The recipes spanned the gamut of creative cooking: from Hillbilly Chilly (made with bacon, hamburger, hot dogs and corn) to Cari's Conscience Chili (strictly vegetarian with a gentle punch of onion and garlic).

A middle-of-the-road candidate won in the end: a robust turkey chili liberally spiced and created by Kevin Venerus.

According to LCC executive director Melanie Majors, "The cook-off was successful in every way. Events like this fulfill all of our strategic goals at one time. We get to create and experience community engagement, partner with local businesses, do our fundraising and have fun together."

"The past ten years have brought tremendous growth to this neighborhood," Majors said. "Housing development is surging, schools are reopening, new businesses are starting up here, and old businesses are expanding. Longfellow



The winner of this year's 2016 Chili Cook-off was LCC board member Kevin Venerus, pictured with son Eliot.



The community space at Gandhi Mahal was once again donated to LCC for the 2016 Fifth Annual Chili Cook-off. This year the winner was a robust turkey chili.

has turned into an innovative place to work and live.

LCC has been active as a non-profit organization since 1991. Before that, Longfellow residents were organizing to create a stronger community for almost 20 years under federal community development block grants.

Majors concluded by saying, "I feel like we've got a really good grasp on 'institutionalizing' our annual events by now. People know this fundraiser happens every fall, and they look forward to it. Thanks to everybody who turned out, and to all the individuals and businesses who

made it possible."

The community space at Gandhi Mahal was once again donated to LCC for the evening. The Riverview Theater, Dock 6 Pottery, and LCC provided items for auction.

All monies raised from the fundraiser will go to support LCC initiatives.

(Photo right) The creator of Cari's Conscience Chili, strictly vegetarian with a gentle punch of onion and garlic.



Alex Howie (pictured left) and friend ladled up their Hillbilly Chilly.



LCC executive director Melanie Majors said, "Events like the chili cook-off provide us with great outreach opportunities. We get to welcome long-standing supporters, new residents, and even a few people from outside the neighborhood."



What makes Calvin Christian School special?

Your child! We're small enough that your son or daughter has a special place here, but we have a big academic vision and a rich, biblical worldview. Give your child the benefits of a nurturing, supportive community and a proven, accredited program that is strong in the basic disciplines but broad enough to meet individual student needs.

Thursday, December 1, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm: free food, family Christmas fun, and open house.



CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Pre-K through 8th grade

www.calvinchristian.org

612-900-7300