



Professor brings people together to think about how their homes help them live better

Thriving places, thriving lives

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

How does the design of your house or apartment help you live a healthy and connected life?

Kingfield resident Tasoulla Hadjiyanni has been studying this through her work as Northrop Professor of Interior Design at the University of Minnesota.



Tasoulla Hadjiyanni has lived in South Minneapolis for 29 years.

"Homes are among the primary settings where we live, cook, eat, play, socialize, pray, work, study, and engage in activities that give meaning to our life and determine our ability to thrive," she observed.

Her latest book, "The Right to Home - Exploring How Space, Culture, and Identity Intersect with Disparities" features stories of Hmong, Somali, Mexicans, Ojibwe, and African Americans in Minnesota. It explores how elements of interiors support or suppress meaning-making.

Hadjiyanni focuses on the intersections of design, culture, and identity under conditions of displacement. Her own experience as a refugee from Cyprus as a child propelled her into this work.

"Bottom line is that we all eat, play, sleep, socialize, pray, work, rest, etc. - how we do these may be different," pointed out Hadjiyanni. "As a result, there could be unexpected uses and unintended consequences of domestic environments."

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INGEBRETSEN'S CELEBRATES 100 YEARS



Anna Bloomstrand (left) and Julie Ingebretsen (right), mother and daughter duo, run Ingebretsen's Scandinavian Gifts and Foods. The shop sells a variety of food items, including lingonberry preserves, as well as gifts which range from earthy-friendly candles, cellulose dish clothes and Scandinavian-themed art. (Photos by Margie O'Loughlin)

Family stays on Lake Street where immigrant businesses get their start, just like Grandfather Ingebretsen did in 1921

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

If you've dreamed of traveling to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden but have never gone - forget your passport, and try this instead.

Ingebretsen's is a Nordic marketplace for gifts, foods, crafts and, in better times, classes. Their fourth generation, family-owned business at 1601 East Lake St. has goods for the home with Scandinavian charm and legacy craftsmanship built in to every product.

Co-owner Julie Ingebretsen said, "Ingebretsen's was started by my Norwegian grandfather in 1921. This store stood on the outer edges of Minneapolis in its early days. Lake Street has always been the street where new immigrants got their feet on the ground, and then moved on. We joke and say that we forgot to move, but that isn't true. We stayed because we love it here. My dad, who died 10 years ago, felt a strong loyalty to this neighborhood."

Ingebretsen's was a meat market and corner store until 1974, when Julie came on to board to run the gift shop conceived of by her dad and his business partner. The idea was that Julie would run the gift shop for a year or two, until she figured out what she wanted to do

when she grew up. She said, "I was a college student watching the world fall apart. In some ways, it felt a lot like it does now except our crises were the Vietnam War and the Watergate Scandal."

Shelves full of treasures

Forty-seven years have passed, and Julie is still running the gift store. The times may have changed, but Ingebretsen's commitment to quality has not. Julie said, "There's something timeless and uplifting about handmade, natural products made with excellent design. That's the Scandinavian thing. Everything we sell is well-constructed and will last a long time; many of our items are also quite affordable."

The cellulose dish clothes from Sweden are one example. Priced at \$7, they come in a variety of folk art patterns. Julie said, "The dish clothes are hard-working and when they finally are spent, you can toss them in the compost bin because they're made of natural wood fibers."

There are greeting cards, calendars, and an array of Scandinavian cooking aids from cookie cutters to natural bristle brushes, rolling pins, hot pads, and hand carved spoons.

INGEBRETSEN'S >> 8

Calls for justice ring out as Chauvin trial gets underway

By JILL BOOGREN

When hundreds of people gathered outside the Hennepin County Courthouse on March 8, 2021, the first day of the Derek Chauvin murder trial, they set the tone for the month to come: they would be visible and clear in pursuit of justice, not just for George Floyd, but for all lives taken at the hands of police.

Against the backdrop of a barricaded and boarded-up county courthouse and city hall, civil rights activists gathered and marched in the streets. Apart from a couple of National Guard members standing behind a chain-link fence, law enforcement officers were not present or needed for the peaceful hours-long protest that wound its way through downtown streets.

At the head of the crowd, people stretched a large banner across the street that read: "Justice 4 George Floyd & All Stolen Lives. The World is Watching." Inside the block lettering spelling George Floyd were the names of Terrance Franklin, Thurman Blevins, Philando Castile and hundreds of others slain by police. People carried signs that read Convict Chauvin, Justice for George Floyd, Convict Killer Cops, Black Lives Matter, and Community Control of MPD. Organizers led chants of "No Justice, No Peace. Prosecute the Police" and many others as nearly two dozen speakers took turns at the microphone.

Several expressed frustration at the fortification of downtown and trepidation about the trial

- the first time in Minnesota a White officer was on trial for killing a Black man while on duty. DJ Hooker, of Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar (TCC4J), said he was nervous, stressed out and only had about an hour of sleep.

"You don't think I got stuff to do? I play chess. I play Tetris. I go to Super Smash Brothers competitions," he said, to laughter. "But you know, right now I'm out here fighting for justice. Do you know why? Because it's a duty to fight for my people."

Hooker said the case seems pretty open and shut, referring to the video seen around the world of Chauvin with his knee to George Floyd's neck.

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DJ Hooker of Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Council member Schroeder works towards tougher environmental policies

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STATE OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The city of Minneapolis declared a State of Climate Emergency in December 2019. The resolution (which passed the Minneapolis City Council unanimously) demanded a "massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address the consequences and causes of climate change."

Ward 11 Council Member Jeremy Schroeder was one of the bill's co-authors. In the last 15 months, he has continued to work for tougher environmental policies – and to help empower residents to take on climate action in their own lives.

Of the Climate Emergency Declaration, he said, "It affirms on the city level how real and serious the climate situation is. The declaration requires us to be more ambitious, more purposeful, and more attentive, but it's tricky."

"For instance, one of the stated goals is to reduce city-wide carbon emissions by 80% by the year 2050. Truthfully, it's a lot easier to reduce the first 25%. It gets harder after that. The good news is that every city department is on board with the Climate Emergency Declaration, because often climate action gets 'siloed' in the Office of Sustainability."

Policy into action

Under the declaration, the city of Minneapolis pledged to establish a "social cost of carbon." Schroeder described this as a way to measure the damage from carbon emissions to human health, food production, homes and businesses, and energy costs. He believes it is high time people factor those costs into long term planning.

The city of Minneapolis also committed to creating a sustainable building policy under a

bill Schroeder co-authored. He said, "This means we can push for higher energy efficiency standards for buildings the city utilizes. This carries over into sustainable building materials, energy efficient heating and cooling systems, and ensuring that there are multi-modal ways of transit for people to get to city buildings."

Schroeder wants to make sure people have the tools they need to make changes on a personal level, too. He authored a Residential Energy Disclosure that provides all Minneapolis residents – renters and home owners – reliable information about energy use in their homes, so they can make energy investments wisely.

In addition, Schroeder has championed the Green Cost Share for businesses and Inclusionary Financing for residents. These programs help small business owners benefit from Minnesota's growing green economy, and provide low income residents the means to make cost-saving energy improvements. He said, "With information and support, our whole community can contribute to a cleaner, greener Minneapolis."

Schroeder is trained as an electrical engineer, an attorney, and has served in leadership and board of director roles of several nonprofits.

He said, "Effective city leaders embrace the nitty-gritty details to ensure that policies enacted will work for everyone. In my many committee roles on the council, including as the chair of the zoning and planning committee and member of the city's planning commission, I put this attention to policy details to work every day."

Renewable technologies are here

Schroeder is passionate about helping the city of Minneapolis get to 100% renewable energy by 2030. He said, "It is imperative that we accelerate our efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, our dependence on fossil fuels."

He opposes the proposed natural gas plant proposed by Xcel Energy in Becker, Minn., and the Enbridge Energy Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project. Citing that wind and solar costs keep dropping, Schroeder said, "We have the technologies right now; what we need is the political will to move fully away from fossil fuels. It's not enough to be committed to the ideal. We need to act."

Small actions add up

A word that gets used a lot in environmental policy work is the word "sustainable." Schroeder doesn't think it carries enough weight. He said, "Sustainable practices seek to maintain the same, whereas regenerative practices improve the condition or quality of something. We need to be doing so much more to combat climate change and create environmental justice."

"Everybody can contribute on some level, even if their starting actions are small. Try adding one action step at a time, and next year add one more. Lower the temperature of your home in winter by one degree; switch to LED light bulbs; drive less; turn off lights when you leave a room; switch off power strips when not in use. Small actions add up. We're still living in a very extractive way, meaning that we take or extract far more than we give back to the earth."

Council member Schroeder welcomes constituent comments and can be reached at jeremy.schroeder@minneapolismn.gov.

Ward 11 council member Jeremy Schroeder authors bills, works for tougher environmental policies in Minneapolis



Ward 11 council member Jeremy Schroeder said, "The science is clear: we need serious, dedicated action at all levels to combat climate change and create environmental justice." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Line 3 threatens Mississippi River

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light held a rally on March 11 to protest the Enbridge Energy Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Program. A spokesperson for the group said, "Construction of the tar sands pipeline, which was approved without regard for climate justice or native treaty rights, is already 30 percent complete."

"The Biden administration has the chance to prevent further destruction to the delicate ecosystem of the Mississippi River, and to stop an unnecessary pipeline that threatens clean drinking water for hundreds of communities across the state."

The demonstration was part of a grassroots multi-faith day of action that is lifting up strident climate demands in more than 40 countries. As the featured U.S. event, and online broadcast of "Rise by the River" was shared with millions of people in the global faith and climate movement. The march started at the scenic overlook near 615 Mississippi Blvd. S., crossed the Ford Bridge, and continued on the Minneapolis side of the river.

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light is no-profit organization located at 4407 East Lake St. They advocate on behalf of a healthy, just, and sustainable world – for all.



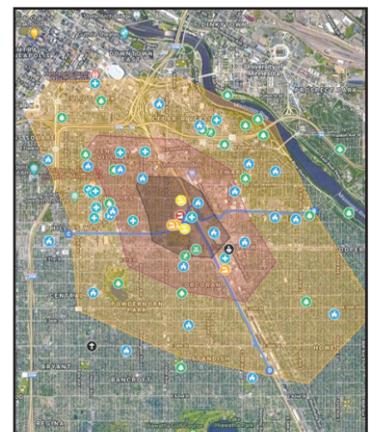
Over 500 people marched along the Mississippi River on March 11 to protest Enbridge drilling their tar sands Line 3 pipeline under the headwaters of the Mississippi. It was part of the largest ever grassroots multi-faith day of action to lift up bold climate demands in over 40 countries. At right is Sharon Day of the Indigenous People's Task Force. (Photos by Margie O'Loughlin)



City plans to increase pollution in Green Zone, tear down Roof Depot building in April

The pollution from the city's proposed plan to expand its facility at Hiawatha and E. 26th would affect a majority of South Minneapolis, pointed out representatives of the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute which released a map showing the extent of the area affected. The city's plan is to demolish the iconic Sears warehouse, and replace it with a series of sheds for 400 commercial city vehicles (most of them diesel), a hot asphalt storage facility, and multi-story parking ramp for the 400 employee vehicles that would be coming and going twice a day. No water will be treated on the site; that is done at 4500 Reservoir Blvd. in Columbia Heights.

EPNI supporters point out that while national news covers the city's settlement regarding the horrific killing of George Floyd, "the Minneapolis City Council is simultaneously in the middle of a land grab that will directly harm Indigenous, Black, and Brown communities in East Phillips. This is happening near the epicenter of last year's collective trauma. It is in the middle of a Green Zone, and goes against the city's own Climate



Emergency Declaration. It is also illegal – the Clark-Berglund Environmental Justice Law prevents this." The community has proposed using the building for an indoor urban farm, affordable housing, and incubator for small businesses along the Midtown Greenway.

The city has announced it will tear down the building in April.

View the map at <http://bit.ly/roofdepot>. More at <http://www.east-phillipsneighborhoodinstitute.org>

Trial dates

>>March 9: Jury selection began.
 >>March 29: Trial opening statements are anticipated to commence.
 >>April: Instructions given to jury. Jury sequestered to deliberate until they reach a verdict.
 >>Aug. 23: Trial proceedings begin for three additional officers involved in the case.

Resources and information

>>The State Court has posted public details about the trial to its website for public access; found under State vs. Derek Chauvin, 27-CV-20-12646. <https://www.mncourts.gov/media/StateofMinnesotavDerekChauvin>

>>The Legal Rights Center has posted videos with community perspectives on the trial as well as well as brief educational videos discussing the different parts of a criminal trial. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/350680014960525/2287634058048312/>



GFS protest art exhibit

After George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police on May 25, 2020, people from all over the country and the world laid offerings at the memorial at 38th and Chicago. As the protest continues, the George Floyd Global Memorial invites the community to experience a rememory of a selection of these offerings, "Still here... Unstolen. Unbroken." It will be on display in the Nokomis Gallery of the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (3749 Chicago Ave. S) from the end of March through Juneteenth. For more information, see the website at georgefloydglobalmemorial.org and social media @gfgmemorial.

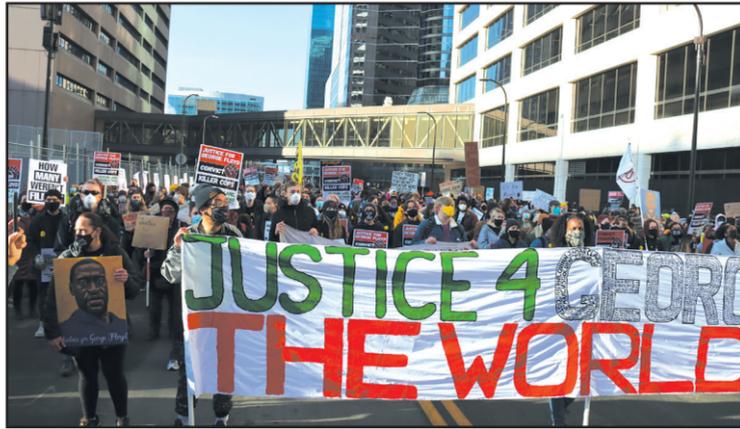
Song, music video released

As the trial of former Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, began, a new commemorative song and video piece – "George Floyd (Say His Name)" – has just been released by a diverse group of Minneapolis artists composed and led by folksinger-activist Larry Long of Longfellow and gospel and reggae vocalist Van Nixon, with videographer Nathaniel Nelson.

The entire music video by Nathaniel Nelson (Treedome) was filmed at George Floyd Square – The People's Memorial. It is available on Spotify, Apple Music, TikTok, Amazon, Pandora, and Deezeez.

Documentary on PBS

Cy Dodson's documentary film, "Say His Name: Five Days for George Floyd," which premiered at Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February, will be airing on TPT-Twin Cities PBS in April. The tragic police killing of George Floyd on May 25 sparked a global uprising, the epicenter in Director Cy Dodson's Longfellow neighborhood. The film provides an immersive observation of unrest in his own neighborhood between the police killing of George Floyd and the charges filed against police officer Derek Chauvin, as centuries of racial oppression erupted into five days that changed the world. More at <https://triumphpictures.com/>.



Marching behind a sign that read, "Justice for George Floyd / The World is Watching," protesters began outside the government center where the trial of Derek Chauvin is taking place. The sidewalks and plaza are blocked off by barricades, fences and razor wire. People hung signs on the fences, including one that showed a photo from May 4, 1970 and read, "Bringing in the National Guard - What could possibly go wrong?" (Photos by Tesha M. Christensen)



Calls for justice ring out as Chauvin trial gets underway

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He was concerned that building a fortress downtown seemed like "they're preparing not to do the right thing."

"We're here to make sure that they do the right thing," said Hooker. He also spoke of the need to fight for George Floyd as well as for those whose lives were taken without the public knowing it.

"We want justice here, in the case of Chauvin," he said. "But we need to make sure we get systemic justice. To make sure this doesn't happen again."

Push for police accountability

TCC4J is calling for the establishment of a Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC), an elected body of civilians only (no police or former police) who would have the power to hire, fire and prosecute the police. This requires a change in the city charter, under which control over the police currently lies with the mayor.

Hooker's sentiments were echoed by many: that despite the Chauvin trial taking place steps away, this was about seeking justice not just for George Floyd but for those whose lives were lost before and after his.

"This is about all of the people that they have slain in these streets for no just cause. All of the people that have shed blood for no true real reason and purpose," said Toshira Garraway Allen, who lost the father of her son, Justin Teigen, at the hands of St. Paul police in 2009. "This is for all stolen lives."

She pointed out that of the hundreds of lives taken by law enforcement in Minnesota in the last 20 years, just one has been held accountable - Mohamed Noor, a Black man who killed a White woman.

"There's no time for sugar coatin,'" she said. "I call these police departments the Ku Klux Klan with badges on."

Garraway Allen said Teigen was killed by police and then thrown into the trash. When she sought answers, officers sat outside her house, followed her, intimidated her. When it happened in 2009, there was no Black Lives Matter movement, no one out there to hear her story. She listed the names of many others killed by police – Hardel Sherrell, Kobe Heisler, Cordale Handy, Marcus Golden, Jaffort Smith, Jamar Clark, Travis Jordan – whose

stories are now being heard. She said for their families this trial was retraumatizing.

"We have to look at a trial that we only wish and pray that our families could get, that our loved ones could receive that same day in trial," she said. "George Floyd hasn't even got justice yet, but to even get a trial. Most of our families didn't even receive that."

Garraway Allen founded Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence to provide support to family members and friends who have lost someone or have been brutalized in any way by the police. She said families will not be quiet.

"They silenced me for years," she said. "Well, guess what? I'm done bein' quiet."

Bills before MN Legislature

In front of the U.S. Bank Stadium under a sun-soaked sky, CAIR-MN Deputy Director Mohamed Ibrahim asked for a moment of silence.

"And the reason why we need to have a moment of silence is because we're talking about human life," he said afterward. He called for passage of police accountability bills supported by MN Coalition that have been introduced at the Minnesota Legislature. One such bill would end qualified immunity as a legal defense for police brutality.

"The time is now. And it is always the right time to do the right thing," Ibrahim said. "The right thing to do is give us justice."

MN Coalition, according to its website at mncoalition.org, is a group of community organizations working together to transform police accountability, supporting families of stolen lives.

Students shaking unjust system

South High Student Zach Moore fired up the students who were missing school to be downtown.

"You know, [Gov.] Tim Walz is trying to send us all back to our classrooms on this day, blocking us from taking part and demanding justice," he said. "We won't stand for that. We are gonna be here, just like we were here during the Uprising. We are gonna stand up for justice."

He said youth demand justice for George Floyd and community control of the police, so people "can hold these killers ac-

countable."

He scoffed at the fencing and barricades and the signs welcoming protesters into a free speech zone, "like a lion welcoming a mouse into its jaws. But I'll tell you this. The system may be a lion, but the people are no mouse," he said. "We have managed to move mountains. We are an earthquake shaking the very foundation of this racist, unjust system."

He led the crowd in another chant: "Ain't no power like the

power of the people 'cause the power of the people don't stop."

Class was back in session once Chauntyll Allen of Black Lives Matter Twin Cities Metro stepped up to speak. Allen, who is also a St. Paul School Board member, said she was glad the students were there and gave them a quick history lesson.

She relayed the role students played in St. Augustine, Fla., which became a pivotal moment in passing the Civil Rights Act.

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Join the conversation, and let us know your diverse thoughts on the issues that affect your neighborhood. Send letters and guest commentaries to news@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

Getting 'engaged' with our readers

Longfellow Nokomis Messenger staff attended the Minnesota Newspaper Association Convention (MNA) last month from the comfort of our respective homes. As many events these days, it ended up being a virtual convention, with Wisconsin and Iowa also participating given the unique set of obstacles that COVID-19 presents for in-person events. I have fond memories of attending my first MNA Convention back I was a junior at Hamline University and editing the *Hamline Oracle*. Our college paper had entered the Better Newspaper Contest that the MNA sponsors each year and we were lucky to win in several categories. It was heady stuff for a young journalist and provided enough memories to last a lifetime.

This year's event was far different from the one I attended while in college, of course, but the convention did provide a lot of insights into how newspapers in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin are coping with the challenges of publishing a newspaper during the pandemic. At one of the online sessions called "Publishing Through a Pandemic: Newspaper Leaders Share Solu-

tions," newspaper leaders talked extensively about how their newspapers had invested heavily in their websites over the past 10 years and had created digital pay walls where readers had to subscribe to gain access to the content.

The model is not a new one, of course, and comes right from the playbook of the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. Likewise, the *Star Tribune*, which was represented in the seminar by its publisher, Michael J. Klingensmith, modeled their own strategy on the *Times* and *Post*: Build up the newspaper's website with content and then eventually set up a pay wall so that readers have to pay to see the content. Over the course of that time period media outlets across the country have increased their digital revenue streams by doing just that. Some media outlets have been successful at it and some are still trying to cover the costs for their additional website investments.

Not all newspapers have embraced that model, however. The *Messenger*, for example, has done something far different. Unlike its big city rivals, the *Messenger's* print edition and its website are

View from the Messenger

By DENIS WOULFE
Sales Manager
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still free to all readers. Many outsiders marvel at our ability to do that, but newspapers like the *Messenger* make our living based solely on advertising revenue. We know that our advertisers want to reach a local audience like the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods of South Minneapolis. And our advertisers know that residents and business owners in Longfellow and Nokomis rely on the *Messenger* to keep them current on news in the community, events going on at their local church, and insights into their neighbors in South Minneapolis. Our advertisers also know that our readers will reciprocate by supporting those same advertisers when they need to buy goods and services.

With the departure of some

newspapers from our market area and the shrinking footprint of other newspapers in an effort to save costs, the *Messenger* remains one of the few newspapers that continues to be home delivered, door-to-door in the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods. And in addition, our newly re-released website gives you access to an archive of current and past issues of the *Messenger* as well as other news and features. All of that with no charge to you, dear reader.

But as part of that commitment to you, we would make this one important request: Please let our advertisers know that you are avid readers of the *Messenger*. Yes, in addition to reading the *Messenger*, sending in letters to the editor and liking our posts on social media, we hope you'll also seek engagement with our advertisers by letting them know that you are supporters of the *Messenger*, and when you have products or services that you need that you are highly likely to patronize those same *Messenger* advertisers. That engagement is so important, and it goes a long way in validating those advertisers investing their marketing dollars in the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*. And it also ensures that the *Messenger* will continue to keep coming to your doorstep on a monthly basis free of charge.

Engagement is really what the *Messenger* is all about. Our primary mission is to facilitate our readers' ability to get engaged with their community. But for that mission to occur, we also facilitate our advertisers gaining important new customers, allowing them to engage with those customers via the *Messenger*, and finally giving advertisers the opportunity to thank their customers with their advertising messages in the *Messenger*.

As the supply of the vaccines for COVID-19 increases and more Americans are vaccinated, I would hope that next year we'll be able to return to an in-person Minnesota Newspaper Association. I would also imagine that in the months ahead we'll also see more and more of our local businesses reopen their doors and return to full capacity as restrictions lessen and our population approaches herd immunity. As you are out and about in the months ahead, I would encourage *Messenger* readers to be sure to let business owners know that you value their presence in Longfellow and Nokomis and you also value their presence in the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*. As always, thanks for your support of the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger* and happy reading!

Democracy for the People Act: one of bills I've introduced

From the moment I was sworn in two months ago, I felt the weight and responsibility of taking office in a time of great uncertainty for our state and our country. A global pandemic has upended our lives and laid bare the deficiencies and inequities of our economy, healthcare system, and social safety net. We've seen our democracy tested in unimaginable ways, and there are challenges ahead. But we've come together to tackle big challenges before. I know that together, we can build a Minnesota where everyone thrives.

That starts with protecting and strengthening our democracy. As a voting rights lawyer, I've been on the frontlines of the fight for voting rights and seen disinformation and lies about voter fraud used to justify policies that disenfranchise voters, attack election officials, and cast doubt on election results. It's a dangerous lie in a policy debate, and now we've seen it spark a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

This didn't happen overnight, and there's no quick fix to repair the damage. But the fact is that 3.3 million Minnesotans – from every region, race, gener-

ation, and political persuasion – turned out this year to make their voices heard. Our democracy worked. Now we need to work together to defend and strengthen Minnesota's best traditions of voter participation and grassroots politics.

In January, I introduced the Democracy for the People Act, legislation that puts Minnesotans at the center of our democracy. My bill strengthens voting rights by prohibiting voter intimidation, expanding voter registration, restoring the right to vote to people on probation or parole, and ensuring everyone has the information and support they need to vote, in the language they need it. It increases transparency and disclosure of secret spending and reforms Minnesota's campaign finance system to empower voters and small donors, reducing the influence of corporations and wealthy individuals. To make real progress on issues important to Minnesotans – including education, climate change, health care, economic justice, housing, and racial equity – we must build a stronger, more inclusive democracy. This will help make that vision a reality.

Voters sent us to the Minne-

Guest commentary

By EMMA GREENMAN
Minnesota Representative D63B
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sota Capitol to ensure everyone has a place to call home, food on the table, affordable health care, living-wage jobs, and a high-quality education. Meeting Minnesotans' needs, during and after the pandemic, is a top priority. We're working hard to help families, communities, and small businesses weather COVID-19 and thrive after it ends, with a focus on equity and ending the racial disparities that are holding Minnesota back.

To build a stronger, brighter future, we must lead with our values and invest in families, workers, and communities, starting with our kids. Public education is the cornerstone of our democracy and the center of our communities. We're fighting to invest in public schools, address

unacceptable disparities in our education system, pass the Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Act, and provide more supportive services to students and their families.

We're also working to ensure every Minnesotan has access to health care they can afford to use. I'm supporting legislation that expands access to high-quality health care, including a proposal that allows people to buy into MinnesotaCare, a proven program that provides coverage for low-income Minnesotans. This will help more people get the care they need and move us one step closer to a health care system that prioritizes people, not profits.

We must tackle the climate crisis and the impact it's having on Minnesotans, with disproportionate effects on Indigenous communities and communities of color. We need to transition to clean energy and reduce carbon emissions in order to make Minnesota a healthy place to live for future generations. I'm proud to support ambitious plans to equitably transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2040 and build resilient, sustainable communities that can adapt as our climate

changes.

There's so much important work to do. Building a strong, inclusive democracy and economy starts by centering the experiences and needs of those impacted by our policy. We must ensure that Minnesotans – Black, Brown, White, and Indigenous – from every corner of our state have a voice in this process. Together, we are working for a brighter future where we invest in all of our kids, our communities, and our environment, for generations to come.

I believe together we can build power and create a Minnesota where everyone thrives. As your state representative, I will stand with you and work with you towards a brighter future for people in our community and across Minnesota. If you'd like to share your story or feedback, please feel free to contact me at rep.emma.greenman@house.mn or 651-296-4200. It's an honor to serve South Minneapolis and eastern Richfield in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

What do you think?

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Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the *Messenger*. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@longfellownokomisessenger.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

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The *Messenger* is for profit and for a purpose – and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertis-

ers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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A SIMPLE THING: BUBBLES

It's just another day in quarantine. The Minnesota winter feels extra cold as negative temperatures discourage walks and breaks away from laptops, people, and small spaces.

She thought this was going to be another one of "dad's dumb ideas," the almost-alliteration she expected to play on repeat with her father's ideas. Her little brother danced around with the wand in hand.

"I LOVE bubbles!!" he exclaimed over and over again.

"Grab your hat," she said grumpily. She pushed him out into the snow and closed the door behind them. The frosty wind met her warm cheeks, making her wince with regret at coming outside. The south Minneapolis alleyway was lit with street lamps as soft snow fell. It was quiet except for an occasional siren or car honking. She watched her brother try hopelessly to blow bubbles, his one eyebrow raised as he concentrated on the task at hand.

Stop
Think
Feel

By ABHA
KARNICK



Why can't we blow bubbles inside, she thought to herself, annoyed as her toes grew colder and her hands numbed. After another minute full of failed attempts, his eyes met hers.

"I can't do it..." he sighed

sadly. "I can't get the bubble to form. You do it."

She reached hastily for the container, eager to create one bubble and then call it quits. She grasped the wand and blew slowly and carefully. A bubble began to form and then quickly popped.

"Not so easy, huh?" her brother smirked. She rolled her eyes and tried again. To both of their surprise, a glistening ball slowly bounced off of the wand and landed in the snow. Before their eyes, it began to freeze. The edges curled slightly and a dome was formed. The light snow fall-

ing from the sky added a cake-like topping, creating a sparkle effect. They both stared for a minute, the cold and bitterness of the day, no, the past year, absorbing into nothingness.

But see, the most simple of things in life are always waiting to surprise you. Even when it's -10 degrees outside.

Abha Karnick is a south Minneapolis resident with East Indian roots who graduated from Hamline University in 2019. Her passion lies in storytelling and finding moments to capture.

Letters

You're missing key points about crime at GFS

Recent media coverage about police incidents and calls to open the memorial site at George Floyd Square (38th and Chicago) to traffic are missing some key points about the Square and fail to answer some basic questions of logic.

1) What is the correlation between the lack of car and bus traffic and crime? Crime is up all over the city, are there barricades up everywhere?

2) The increase in crime happening around the Square is highly suspect. MPD and the city need a narrative. They will make sure they have it.

3) The 'criminal element' at the square have operated in the alley behind Cup for 30 years. This is not new.

4) The police know who every member of that gang is, have arrested and released several, many times over this past year. Again the crime in the area is not new and has nothing to do with the barricades. The police/fire department and EMS have not been prevented from entering the square. I have been there many times and have seen it myself.

5) The vast majority of the community there are holding that space as a protest zone, a place of mourning and a place of Black Empowerment.

6) The individuals that make up the gang in that neighborhood are part of that community, born and raised. They went to our public schools, they are our former students. They are the children and grandchildren of our neighbors. I see their humanity, do you?

7) The gangs exist in our communities because of institutionalized racism and White Supremacy in all of our systems. We are responsible for that. We must hold ourselves and all of our institutions accountable.

8) The 24 Demands of GFS (Justice Resolution .001) asks for economic opportunity/jobs and affordable housing for people around those four corners. Take care of those demands and the pipeline to the gangs will begin to close.

9) Because of recent rhetoric by the MPD Chief, I am scared for the community at the square. Yes, all of them. I have been there many many times and always felt safe and welcome. We should be learning from the community

there not trying to destroy it.

Jill Jacobson
Roosevelt High School
teacher

'For Everyone Who's Been Suffering'

Our world has changed
Like never before

And our lives have changed too
And so many families suffering
Every day and this virus is here
to stay

And we where all caught and un-
aware and it's sadness

In the air and isolated from fam-
ily and friends
And there's no happiness or joy
today

It's just an other loved one who's
passed away
And coronavirus walks among us
every day

And we try our best to struggle
through

This horrible coronavirus storm
And the hurt and pain it's
brought us and

There's nothing much to gain
and our
Peace and love has all gone away
And it's silent tears all day and
I've been

Crying on the inside so you can't
see

And all the pain running though
me

Coronavirus, coronavirus when
will you ever
Go away and I cry for the loved
ones who have

Passed away and so if you listen
you may hear my silent tears
Every day and I'm lost without
you in my life and

The world has changed so much
Coronavirus is not going away
And the darkness surrounds the
world today

And it's so cold and painful every
day and

I feel the chill up and down my
spine every day
And our warm hugs and soft kiss-
es

Have just all faded away and
Just like our loved ones today
And nobody to hold at night
And nobody to whisper I love
you goodnight

And as a lonely tear rolls down
my face
I try to smile and remember her
beautiful face

But I promise you all I'll love
And pray for everyone
Who's been suffering from
coronavirus

Every day.

David P. Carroll
Minneapolis

We've got lots of ways for you to get involved

It is springtime and NENA offers many ways to get involved in your community. Find more information at www.nokomis.org:

- Run for a seat on NENA's Board of Directors - Run for a seat and join us for a meaningful volunteering experience. Applications and more information available online. NENA will host its online Annual Meeting on April 22, 2021. Again, we will offer pre-event online and telephone voting to elect our new Board of Directors members.

- NENA Pollinator Plant Sale - NENA will host Minnesota Native Landscapes on Saturday, May 29, 2021, at Lake Nokomis for another pollinator plant sale. Due to the popularity of this sale, we can accept pre-orders only - no plants sold at event.

- 2021 Garage Sale Day -

NENA, the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, and Longfellow Community Council will host our Garage Sale Day on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

NENA Food Truck Rally for the Nokomis East Food Distribution

Join NENA and your neighbors on Saturday, April 17, 2021, for the Truck Rally and Fundraiser! There will be something for everyone in the family. New this spring - More trucks and live music!

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, the needs of community members are changing, too. We will be raising donations for NENA's Free Food Distribution project, which has donated over 600,000 pounds of food and supplies since July.

There is a \$5 or more suggested donation per group to attend the event. No one will be turned away.

In April, the food distribution is moving back outdoors and to a twice a month schedule. Please call or text Karla Arredondo, NENA community organizer, at (612) 293-9683 or email karla.arredondo@nokomiseast.org to find out more details.

Curb appeal matching grants

Planning an exterior project visible from the sidewalk? Plan to apply! Grants are available for homeowners, renters, and residential property owners in the four Nokomis East neighborhoods of Keewaydin, Minnehaha,

Nokomis
East
Neighborhood
Association



By BECKY TIMM,
Executive Director
becky.timm@nokomiseast.org

Morris Park, and Wenonah.

Examples of eligible exterior improvements may include but are not limited to painting and trim work, exterior lighting, masonry work, and tuck-pointing, restoration of historically appropriate exterior finishes, and hard-scaping.

Eligible participants can apply for up to \$500 in matching grant funds. This is a one-to-one matching grant and a reimbursement project. This is a first-come, first-served program. Visit NENA's website at nokomiseast.org/curb-appeal-matching-grants/

Upcoming meetings and events

4/1/2021: NENA Board Candidate Information Session at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

4/3/2021: NENA Board Candidate Information Session at 9 a.m., via Zoom

4/6/21: NENA Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

4/15/21: NENA Green Initiatives Committee at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

4/22/2021: NENA Annual Meeting and Board Election at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

In Brief

Bartell honored

Dawn Bartell, a local American Family Insurance agency owner (4020 Minnehaha Ave. Suite 1010) has been recognized for providing an outstanding customer experience under the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification Program. The service excellence distinction was determined through an evaluation process conducted under guidelines established through the company's American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification Program. The process consists of a customer satisfaction survey which measures customers' overall experience with their current American Family Insurance agency owner. Bartell has been an agency owner for American Family since November 1997.

Hunger relief for elders

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors is one of six recipients nationwide to receive an Invest in Others Charitable Foundation grant for hunger relief efforts in communities that its financial advisors are actively involved with. Patricia Lovelette, Financial Advisor at Riverlink Financial Advisors in Minneapolis, applied for the grant on Healthy Seniors' behalf. The \$12,000 award will be used to purchase and distribute food to lower income seniors in the greater Longfellow and Seward neighborhoods. A portion of the funding will be used to purchase culturally specific food for Somali elders. Healthy Seniors' mission is to enable community seniors to live healthy, independent and socially connected lives. Contact Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors to learn more about its services for area seniors: www.LShealthyseniors.org or 612-729-5799.

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DID YOU KNOW?

60% of readers say they frequently purchase products and services from ads that they see in the Messenger

CHANGING HOMES

COVID-19 has changed what people want in their homes as they've needed to accommodate work and school at home, and figure out how to effectively quarantine.

"Flexibility and adaptability are now key," said Tasoulla Hadjiyanni, Northrop Professor of Interior Design at the University of Minnesota. People are balancing the need for aloneness versus togetherness through a variety of ways, including:

- Flexible spaces for children to play and study with easy supervision
- A bedroom/bathroom combination that can be separated for quarantine
- Kitchens that boast a separated disinfecting and organizing station
- Mold-resistant material finishes and adequate natural and mechanical ventilation in bathrooms

The storage of food and cleaning supplies is a valued characteristic, as are smaller units that are affordable. People are looking for multi-functional/adaptable rooms that can go from living spaces to working spaces for children and adults. They appreciate furniture with antimicrobial and easy-to-clean fabrics and materials, and touchless sensor-operated appliances to limit germ spread.

"Also crucial is mental health, and the design implications for supporting mental well-being vary from space layout to lighting, materials, sound and acoustics, as well as views to the outdoors," observed Hadjiyanni.

"There cannot be any more apartment buildings designed without access to the outdoors through functional balconies" that allow for light and air along with space for children and adults to decompress.

THRIVING PLACES, THRIVING LIVES

>> from 1

Connecting through stories

Hadjiyanni is an interior design scholar and educator – and she's also a storyteller. "A story is the shortest distance between two people," they say. So I create platforms for people to talk about their stories, I collect stories, and I find ways to share stories with diverse audiences," she said. "These are often the stories of community members whose voices are not heard and whose stories are not known, such as refugees, immigrants, and minorities. I use interviews

and focus groups primarily, including gathering stories inside peoples' homes, as a way to see and better understand challenges people might be facing." (See sidebar *INSIDE 3 HOMES* on page 7).

The physical realities of living space have big impacts on how people live. A kitchen layout may restrict cooking. The size of social areas limits gatherings with friends. A dining table can shape aspirations.

Hadjiyanni founded Culturally Enriched Communities to advocate for buildings that pave the way for social and racial justice. At the heart is a drive

to create communities in which everyone can thrive.

Her award-winning scholarship and teaching pedagogies have been widely published, and used to decolonize design education.

"Home is more than housing," she stressed. "It includes the ability of people to construct meaning inside their house – along with schools for their children to be educated, workplaces where they can earn an income and find purpose, parks to relax and exercise, and hospitals

THIS TEXT CONTINUES ON >> 9
But there's more on >> 7

BEFORE AND AFTER

"The "before" version is a two-bedroom affordable housing apartment (1,011 square feet) from one of Minneapolis' largest affordable housing providers, Aeon's Ripley Gardens. With two bedrooms, it can be inhabited by a maximum of four people, according to Minneapolis' occupancy limits.

The "after" scheme proposes a design solution that is more flexible and adaptable. Physical and social health are supported by the kitchen being moved to the right side of the unit for a more direct connection to the social area. A person cooking can easily supervise children doing homework or converse with family members and guests. That person can also have views to the outdoors, which makes cooking a more enjoyable task and eases stress. The kitchen can be closed or open and this option can be accomplished with a simple window on the wall that connects to the social area. If totally open, it can accommodate multiple cooks on the two counters. Flexibility continues with the dining area, which can easily be expanded for special celebrations and large gatherings.

A similar approach is applied to the bathroom, which is now compartmentalized and an additional sink is placed in the corridor for multiple users. The privacy concerns in the bedrooms are subdued by the placement of closets used as a buffer. An angled wall forges a sense of entry and can be used to display cherished possessions, helping craft meaning and identity. From within the bedroom, the angled wall can be the setting of a desk, signifying the importance of education and grounding aspirations for the future." - From *The Right to Home*, page 302



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MEET AUTHOR TASOULLA HADJIYANNI



"I was 10 years old when Turkey invaded the Cyprus and my family joined the thousands of refugees around the world, losing everything we had ever known. Losing my house and home ruptured my way

of being. I embarked on a new life as a 10-year old child of war, rootless, fearful, and apprehensive, with a gap in my heart that could not be closed.



"To counteract my sense of loss, I turned to my schoolwork – education, my parents told me, is something no one can ever take away from you. Before completing high school, I was awarded an AMIDEAST scholarship to study architecture in the U.S., a diplomatic effort on the part of the U.S. to assist refugees in Cyprus rebuild their lives. Little did I know that I would meet my husband a few months before graduating from Carnegie Mellon University and move to Minnesota.

"My experiences as a refugee and a member of the Greek diaspora propelled me to connect with others who experienced displacement and injustice as part of my healing process. I was struggling with not knowing how to mend my broken self and worst of all, being pregnant at the time, I did not know how to create a sense of home for my daughter and my family.

"In collecting the stories of refugees, immigrants and minorities both in Cyprus and Minnesota what struck me was recognizing that the effects of losing one's cultural connections and sense of continuity carried forward for generations. I, therefore, used my platform to advocate for designs and policies that recognize home as a right and contribute to creating communities in which everyone can thrive."

- Excerpted from "Right to Home," by Tasoulla Hadjiyanni, Ph.D., Northrop Professor of Interior Design at the University of Minnesota

1 In many of the immigrant families we interviewed, including Somali families, extended families were an instrumental means for adaptation, as families could share incomes and help each other with things like cooking and child caring. In this Somali family's home, the bathroom is used for the wudu ritual, which means to wash before praying. When ventilation is not suitable and when materials are not resistant to mold and mildew, problems with landlords would start and the wudu ritual would endanger elders who had to lift their feet in the sink. At the same time, having all fixtures in one space increased stress for families who had to share a bathroom and get out of the house for work and school. A solution is compartmentalizing bathroom designs.



INSIDE 3 HOMES



2 Another example is corridor-type kitchens: In our interviews with Mexicans, disparities in obesity could be tied to kitchen designs. Obesity is one of the underlined conditions that increases the risk of severe illness in the pandemic and can be among the explanations for the great numbers of Hispanics who have died during the pandemic. Hispanic adults (47%) had the highest prevalence of obesity; Hispanic women (50.6%) the second highest; Hispanic youth, the highest rate (25.8%).

Corridor-type kitchens in apartments, with very little counter space were not conducive to cooking healthy meals for this extended family of 6.

3 Native Americans suffer premature death and violent injury at rates far exceeding those of non-Natives. Depression is also pervasive, and suicide rates among male youth ages 18-19 are six times higher than any demographic in the state, 2.5 times the national average. Partly to blame are the forced assimilation and forced acculturation American Indians experienced and therefore a better understanding of Ojibwe efforts to reclaim their past and reconstruct lost material and immaterial connections in the home is imperative.

This family uses the dining room for beadwork, a traditional Ojibwe craft that helps revitalize the Ojibwe language, foster connections between the past, the present, and the future, as well as provide supplemental income to the family. The poor lighting stressed the elder's eyes and she wished she had more space to lay out her crafts so she did not have to move things around for the Sunday dinners.

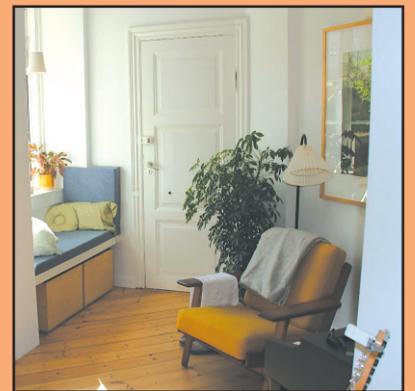


THRIVING PLACES, LIVES >> 9



HYGGE AND ALONENESS

Instrumental to the Scandinavian "hygge" is the ability to be both together and alone. A window seat in a home and separated "retreat spaces" in the workplace, provide opportunities to recharge.



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INGEBRETSEN'S CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

>> From 1

Environmental ethos

Concern for the environment drives the gift store's inventory. Consider the taper candles sold at Ingebretsen's; they are made from stearin, which is plant-based and clean burning. They have cotton wicks, and are scent free. According to Green America, a nonprofit organization that promotes environmentally aware, ethical consumerism, most candles on the market today are made from paraffin – a by-product of petroleum waste.

There are several earth-friendly gifts available at Ingebretsen's including Bio Snap Boxes for food storage, re-usable Bio Straws, and Bio Sporks (a spoon-fork combo for people who choose not to use disposable items).

Family roots run deep

Julie's daughter Anna Bloomstrand is the store's creative consultant and resident artist. Along with her cousin Gus, Anna represents the fourth generation committed to carrying Ingebretsen's into the future.

Julie explained, "I was a busy working mom when Anna was born in 1978. I needed to be at the store hands-free, so I often put Anna in a cardboard box. Eventually we gave her some crayons to play with. She entertained herself for hours, and eventually went on to have a successful career as an artist."

What makes a store more than just a store?

The family ethos, as well as the environmental ethos, is neatly woven into all things at Ingebretsen's. Anna explained, "There's an interesting piece that



Ingebretsen's Scandinavian Gifts and Foods shop sells a variety of food items, including lingonberry preserves, as well as gifts. (Photos by Margie O'Loughlin)

my Mom doesn't talk about. She is a classic Scandinavian with a quiet personality, but she has cultivated a very broad network. It starts with our family and our Nordic cultural heritage, but it goes much farther out into the community.

"What people connect with in our store, whether consciously or unconsciously, is the depth, richness, and history of our business and our neighborhood. This is part of what makes our store so special."

Renovations plural

The gift store and craft store (two separate store fronts) have both recently been renovated.

Anna dug into the first renovation when the lockdown started. She said, "We thought we might be closed for a long time, so we took advantage of the quiet. I was often there by myself, which gave me a lot of time to think about the generations of my family, and the many ups and downs Lake Street has experienced. This gave me needed perspective as the events of 2020 continued to unwind. Our family

has lived through hard times before, and our store is still here."

The first renovation was just about done when Ingebretsen's was looted on May 27. Julie said, "We came in at 6 a.m. the next morning, and our store was in shambles. May 28 was one of the most impactful days of my life, but the good of the day turned out to be so much bigger than the bad. I'll never forget all the people who came out to help our neighborhood businesses clean up.

"The looting was extensive, but we had good insurance and were able to reopen in September. In many ways, we consider ourselves lucky."

Understanding the why

Anna said, "We don't think there is one explanation for why so many Lake Street businesses were destroyed. There were thousands of people who may have had thousands of motives. We're working to stay connected to the why of what happened, and what we can all do better in the world.

INGEBRETSEN'S >> 9

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INGEBRETSEN'S >> From 8

"Our store has been broken into a few times over the years, and there was always an icky feeling in the building afterwards. The uprising was different though. It was more like a storm moving through the neighborhood. Understanding the bigger picture made it easier to not take the looting personally, and it was immediately clear what our role should be moving forward."

Ingebretsen's is 100 years old this year. There will not be a big bash like there would have been in different times. Anna explained, "There are four businesses on our block all run by families. The details of our busi-

nesses and the times we arrived are different, but in spirit we're all the same. Our store is up and running again, but not everyone has been so lucky."

In it together

She continued, "Hopefully we'll celebrate our 101st anniversary in person next year. In 2022, there will be plenty of cause to celebrate the rebirth of the Lake Street corridor. We'll look forward to celebrating with our community. We're always in this together. No exceptions."

Visit www.ingebretsens.com for store details and to shop the online catalogue. Or, call 612.729.9333.

Thriving places, thriving lives

>> from 7

to heal their wounds. The spatial scales relevant to eliminating disparities range from the kitchen table (or lack thereof) to a room, a house, a neighborhood, a city, a nation, and the world."

Landscapes of Hope

Her current work builds off the two crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the murder of George Floyd, which occurred 12 blocks from her house.

The Landscapes of Hope project (www.ccc-design.com/landscapesofhope/) includes a digital map of over 200 buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Searchable by building type and location, the map enables easy access to design-related interventions for everything from affordable housing to streets. "At the same time, searching by location enables advocates from different neighborhoods of Minneapolis (North Minneapolis, Seward, Longfellow, Powderhorn, Lake Street, Hennepin Ave., Nicollet Ave., South Minneapolis, and Lyndale Ave.) and St Paul to see stories in their area, so they can form partnerships and synergies while giving visibility to the neighborhoods' resilience," said Hadjiyanni.

"I knew the neighborhoods and businesses impacted by the protests. I set out to share these stories in 'Landscapes of Hope,' because I know that the answers we are looking for in terms of how to move toward social justice are right here, in front of our eyes, if we know where to look."

She added, "Many of these businesses are Black-owned, immigrant-owned, refugee-owned, family-owned, and women-owned restaurants, shops, daycares, and hair salons, along with organizations that pave the way for eliminating disparities and creating a just and equitable world."

Minority-owned firms in Minnesota generated more than \$8.7 billion in sales, pointed out Hadjiyanni, and Minnesota boasts close to 3,200 African immigrant businesses.

"Design can be used to strengthen everything from economic opportunities for Black and immigrant entrepreneurs through the development of thriving business corridors in BIPOC communities to health and well-being through parks that instill dignity and foster community," stated Hadjiyanni.

Learn more at www.ccc-design.com.

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BEE LAWNS PROTECT POLLINATORS AND YOUR PRECIOUS TIME

Guest
column

By Russ Henry,
Bee Safe Minneapolis, Minnehaha
Landscaping



Bumblebee and
Joe Pye Weed

There are better ways to spend your spring and summer than mowing the lawn. The noise, smell of exhaust fumes, heat, and humidity add up to a less than pleasant chore. How many perfect Saturday afternoons have we sacrificed to appease the fickle gods of sod? Time-wasting may not be the only concern when it comes to lawn maintenance. We also need to ask ourselves if we're doing right by the environment in the little patch of Earth, we call our lawn. Many St. Paul homeowners are choosing to reclaim their weekends and support wildlife through a transition to no-mow-bee-lawns.

We need bees. Seventy-five percent of the world's plants and 30% of human food crops depend on bees and other pollinators to reproduce. The way we manage lawns and landscapes can have a profound impact on bee health. Common landscaping practices such as short mowing and pesticide use leave little support for bees in our landscapes.

All of our damage to the environment adds up. Many species of bees and other pollinators are

facing extinction. Loss of habitat, and pesticides have led to rapidly rising rates of extinction. According to the United Nations, current species extinction rates are 100 to 1000 times higher than normal due to human activity. The good news is that you can help bees, butterflies, and save your weekends at the same time.

The easiest way to protect pollinators at home is to replace your regular lawn with a bee-lawn. Bee friendly lawns are grown with a mix of blooming ground cover combined with no-mow grasses. Bee lawns are visually appealing with blossoms throughout the season, while also providing food for bees and other pollinators.

Some local landscaping companies have already started offering bee lawns. If you're a do-it-yourselfer, here's how to grow your own bee lawn at home.

Transitioning to a bee lawn

There are two basic meth-

ods that I use for transitioning regular grass lawns to bee lawns. Both methods utilize the same seed mix. To ensure quality, you'll want to purchase bee lawn mix from a Twin Cities based seed vendor. Make sure the mix you purchase includes Dutch White Clover, Self-Heal, Creeping Thyme, and at least four types of no-mow fescue grass.

Rapid Bee Lawn transition

The "rapid transition" method for installing a bee lawn, can happen over the course of a few weeks, if you follow these steps:

1. Remove existing lawn with sod cutter, and aerate bare ground with a core aerator. Both are available for rent locally.
2. Spread compost up to one inch thick over lawn area.
3. Spread seed according to instructions on the bag, usually about 4 pounds per 1000 square feet.
4. Cover with biodegradable, wood fiber based "net-less" roll

out seed mats, available at Twin Cities seed vendors.

5. Water 2-3 times per day until seed is evenly sprouted. Sunny areas tend to dry out quickly and may need more watering. Your goal is to keep the ground damp at all times during seed sprouting.

6. Re-seed and continue to water any areas that don't sprout with the rest of the lawn.

Moderate bee lawn transition:

If you are patient and would rather avoid up-front cost, you may decide to perform a "moderate transition" which may require a couple growing seasons to complete. Here is how it's done:

1. Three times per season (early spring, late summer, early fall) aerate and over-seed your existing lawn using a core aerator.
2. Run aerator 2-3 times over all parts of the lawn.
3. Seed according to instructions on the bag, usually about 4 pounds per 1000 square feet.
4. Watering is optional for the moderate transition method because seed sprouts in holes left by the aerator.
5. Repeat seasonally until clover, self-heal, and thyme are well established.
6. Moderate transitions can be started any time during the spring, summer, or early fall.

Maintaining a bee lawn

- Mow less. The best approach for bee lawn maintenance

is to mow only one time at the end of the season in late August. This will help control taller weeds. If you feel you need to mow more to keep up with the neighborhood aesthetic, that is also okay for bee lawn plants. They can be mowed weekly if needed.

- Eliminate pesticides, fertilizers, and irrigation. Bee lawn plants do better without pampering, and pesticides are contributing to bee extinction.

- Anytime you mow, keep your mower deck height adjusted as high as it will go and keep your blade sharp. Never mow shorter than 3.5" in a bee lawn.

The Minnesota Legislature recently set aside funding to encourage homeowners to grow bee lawns. You can find more information about this grant program at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources website.

There has never been a better time to support local pollinators by transitioning to a bee-lawn. Bee lawns are perfect way to enjoy a nature-filled pollinator paradise outside your front door, and get your weekends back!

Russ Henry is a landscaper, naturalist, gardener, soil health specialist, and educator. He is devoted to pollinator protection and is the founder of Bee Safe Minneapolis. As the owner of Minnehaha Falls Landscaping and a certified soil life consultant, he scientifically explores and supports soil health, the foundation for beauty and productivity in all landscapes.

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Russ Henry,
owner

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

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Minnehaha Falls Landscaping creates outdoor environments that grow beauty, and support health and wellness. From this foundation grows our garden division, Giving Tree Gardens and our advocacy branch, Bee Safe Minneapolis.



LONGFELLOW

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BEST.
[Zoom]
MEETING.
EVER.
Annual General
Membership Meeting

Tuesday
Apr. 27
2021
6-7:30pm

Due to COVID-19 and the recent civil unrest, LCC is working with residents and community partners on these issues facing our community:

1. Rebuilding businesses & community resources in the impacted areas
2. Food security
3. Safety and security of residents and businesses

Bylaw Amendments
The General Membership of Greater Longfellow will vote on whether or not to approve Bylaw amendments approved by the LCC Board of Directors in February of 2020.

The amendments will clarify the role of the Executive Committee and LCC Grievance Process.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments:
longfellow.org/2021/03/15/2021-proposed-bylaw-amendments/



Greater Longfellow Resilience & Restoration

- Updates from elected officials
- LCC updates on rebuilding efforts

Meeting held via zoom.
Visit:
longfellow.org/2021/03/15/april-2021-gmm/
For login information.

2021 Bylaw Amendments

In February 2020, the LCC Board of Directors proposed amendments to the LCC Bylaws that were to be reviewed during the April 2020 General Membership Meeting. When this meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic, the bylaw amendments were tabled until a new board could be seated in November of 2020. These amendments are now being offered for review at the April 27th, 2021 LCC General Membership Meeting (please see the meeting announcement on this page). Below is a short description of the amendments. You can find the full text here: www.longfellow.org/2021/03/15/2021-proposed-bylaw-amendments/

Article VI. Board of Directors

An addition was made to Section E. DUTIES OF DIRECTORS. The addition is in bold and adds new language about how Directors communicate with each other, staff and the community.

Section F. OFFICERS, 1.a, and 1.d

Minor grammatical changes

Section F. OFFICERS, 2.

Additional language to explain the role of the Board President

Section F. OFFICERS, 6

An additional paragraph is added to explain decision making of the Executive Committee

Article VIII Committees, Section A. 1

Additional language added to explain management responsibilities of the Executive Committee between the time an Executive Director leaves the LCC and a new Executive Director begins their tenure.

Article XIV Grievance Procedure A.

Language added to define who can file a grievance against the LCC.

Article XIV Grievance Procedure A. a.

a. is created to outline the procedure for handling grievances against any member of the Executive Committee.

Article XIV Grievance Procedure B.

Language deleted and added to clarify the process for grievances.

Article XIV Grievance Procedure C.

Language added to explain the responsibility of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors. Additional edits are made adding sections E., F., and G.

Community Survey on Policing: Survey conducted by the Longfellow Community Council

To all Longfellow residents and business owners:

The Longfellow Community Council conducted an online survey of our community members about their views of policing issues in the city of Minneapolis. The full final report of the results available on our website here: www.longfellow.org/2021/03/19/community-survey-on-policing/. These results are also being shared with Minneapolis City staff, police and elected officials. The city of Minneapolis also conducted a survey of residents city-wide about policing and community safety; visit www.longfellow.org/2021/03/19/community-survey-on-policing/ for the linked summary of their results (the City survey is also still open for participation; visit www.minneapolis.gov/government/programs-initiatives/community-safety/get-involved/ to participate).

Some of the findings of the results of the City survey and LCC survey are similar, but the results are difficult to compare because the survey questions were quite different. The LCC survey questions were multiple choice while the City survey questions were open-ended format (write-in responses). In both surveys, people of color were underrepresented.

The LCC plans to conduct future surveys that reach more residents and include other options for completing the survey (such as in-person and written/hard copy options). Any comments or feedback, email info@longfellow.org or phone 612.722.4529

Rebuilding Longfellow – Existing Conditions Assessment and Community Survey Results

LCC is pleased to announce the completion of the “Rebuild Longfellow Existing Conditions Assessment”. The document, developed under the auspices of Longfellow Community Council (LCC), is the result of an unprecedented community partnership between LCC, Greater Longfellow community organizations, residents and businesses, and a consortium of planning and design consultants assembled and led

by Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc (SEH®). The consultants brought together by SEH – including Biko Associates, Inc., Patrick Conroy and Community Design Group – offered their services to the community on a pro-bono basis with the goal of assisting in planning efforts to rebuild.

Importantly, the document is meant to be used as a non-proprietary, freely shared platform

that will serve as foundational reference to inform planning efforts that are currently ramping up and are being led by allied organizations, including Longfellow Rising, Redesign, Longfellow Business Association, Lake Street Council and others. You can read the full Existing Conditions Assessment and Community Survey results on our website at: www.longfellow.org/rebuilding-greater-longfellow

Security Lighting Grants Available

The Longfellow Community Council is now offering grants of up to \$200 to reimburse residential property owners in Greater Longfellow for security lighting purchases. For information on eligible projects and how to apply, please visit www.longfellow.org/programs/home-security-lighting-grant/ If you have questions about the program or application process, please contact LCC Program Manager Justin Gaarder at: justin@longfellow.org

Greater Longfellow’s Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale June 5th, 2021

We’re teaming up six other adjacent neighborhoods for one day of amazing deals!

To participate: Registration fee is \$10 for your sale to be included on the Sale Map. Sign-up is open May 1-26, 2021 at www.longfellow.org/2021/03/17/longfellow-garage-sale-2021/. Funds raised help support LCC’s neighborhood work. Additional details will be available in May, check our social media, newsletter, or website.

Longfellow Community Council
2727 26th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.722.4529 • www.longfellow.org

Melanie Majors, Executive Director
Justin Gaarder, Program Manager
Carly Swenson, Communications & Events Manager

melanie@longfellow.org
justin@longfellow.org
carly@longfellow.org



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Raising Funds and Fun for
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Saturday, April 17, 2021
4:00 - 7:00 pm
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Six Food Trucks & Live Music
Outdoors, Socially-Distanced

Visit nokomiseast.org/vena-food-truck-rally/

NENA addresses diversity, equity and inclusion

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

If you are looking for a way to work on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in the community, members of Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) have formed a new committee to do just that. Renters, property owners, business owners, and employees of businesses in the Nokomis East neighborhood are welcome to join the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Jerome Evans is the past president of the NENA Board of Directors. He said, "Before we formed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI), there was nothing in the language of our organization that spoke directly to racism.

"The purpose of the DEI is to provide guidance and services to NENA members, the board of directors, and staff to ensure we are working to identify and dismantle oppressive structures in our community."

Founding committee member Mia Simpson added, "We have about a dozen active DEI members currently, and we are building our awareness of how deeply the oppressive structures of White supremacy affect housing, health care, education, and hiring policies, among other things."

She continued, "I'm pretty new to the neighborhood. I moved here from Richfield two years ago. I want to be part of creating a community where everyone feels accepted and connected. Part of our mission is to get information out to the community about resources and services available through NENA and other organizations."

Promoting neighborhood resources

One resource is a free food distribution on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-4 p.m. held at NENA's office: 4313 East 54th Street through March. Registration and masks are required. Guests will receive two bags with toiletries and non-perishable foods. Food distributions will return to 5734 Sander Drive in April - visit www.nokomiseast.org for new dates and times.

Karla Arredondo is NENA's Community Organizer and oversees the food distribution. She said, "We currently serve about 130 families, and anyone may participate. There is no requirement that you live in Nokomis East."

NENA welcomes donations of any amount. The organization is hosting a Food Truck Rally & Fundraiser on April 17, 2021. All donations will allow NENA to purchase food and personal care supplies.

Call or text 612.293.9683 to schedule an appointment; both English and Spanish are spoken. The nearby Minnehaha Food Shelf is also open on Tuesdays from 10-3 p.m. They do not require reservations.

Co-founding DEI member Lisa Dahle, said, "When the Uprising happened last summer, it really shone a spotlight on our neighborhood disparities. For instance, our Nokomis East residents range from being quite wealthy to being under-banked

New DEI committee members seek to learn, engage and promote neighborhood resources



Karla Arredondo is NENA's Community Organizer and oversees the food distribution, which takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call or text 612.293.9683 to schedule an appointment at least 24 hours before you plan to come; both English and Spanish are spoken. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

DEI COMMITTEE

The grounding statement of the committee is that every person has the right to a safe, healthy home and a welcoming community that values diversity, equity, and inclusion.

and under-housed.

"We are trying to make resources available to everybody. For residents with the funds to do so, we are ramping up efforts to provide opportunities for learning about socially responsible investing.

"For residents who are interested, we've partnered with a non-profit called Prepare + Prosper. Our first venture with them is to promote their services at our Food Harvests."

Prepare + Prosper provides free tax and financial services, financial coaching, and access to financial products. They advocate and work to advance policies and practices that directly affect people with low to moderate incomes in the areas of tax credits, asset-building, and consumer protection.

Value in learning together

Members of the DEI Committee are learning as they go. The new committee is a safe space for community members who share a passion for uncovering barriers to equity, and those barriers are many. To name a few: systemic racism, xenophobia (distrust or prejudice against from other countries), religious intolerance, classism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism (defining people by their disabilities.)

According to Simpson, "The first efforts of the committee are being directed toward anti-racism projects. Residents made it clear they wanted more community engagement in the aftermath of George Floyd's killing and the

civil Uprising."

Committee members completed a challenge together last year called "21 Days to Becoming an Anti-Racist." Dahle said, "We want to make this challenge available to others in the community."

You don't need to be an expert to join

The DEI Committee welcomes new members to co-create this evolving group with neighbors. The invitation is open to anyone; there is no requirement beyond a geographic connection to Nokomis East and a desire to learn.

The group meets at 6:30-8: p.m. on the first Tuesday each month. Meetings are currently held via Zoom. Committee members are welcome to volunteer additional time each month on projects, but not required. Visit the NENA community calendar for meeting login instructions prior to the monthly event.

Simpson, who, like Dahle, sits on several NENA committees, said, "Joining DEI means you attend monthly meetings, design projects, and implement strategies to make our community even better."

Ultimately, the committee will:

- Advise NENA board of directors, staff, and members on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues
- Improve awareness of issues that may impact diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in NENA's neighborhoods
- Advocate for programs that address diversity, equity, and inclusion issues.
- Advise the city of Minneapolis (and other government agencies) on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in Nokomis East.

Contact lisa.dahle@nokomiseast.org or mia.simpson@nokomiseast.org with any questions about joining the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Survey on policing conducted by the Longfellow Community Council

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) conducted an online community survey of residents and business owners throughout Greater Longfellow and neighboring communities regarding policing issues. The online link was shared through standard communication channels of LCC (Facebook, LCC weekly newsletter, NextDoor), and also shared with the neighborhood associations of nearby neighborhoods. The link was available from Oct. 13, 2020 through Jan. 2, 2021. Total number of respondents was 232.

The city of Minneapolis also conducted a survey of residents city-wide about policing and community safety; the city survey is also still open for participation.

Some of the findings of the results of the city survey and LCC

survey are similar, but the results are difficult to compare because the survey questions were quite different. The LCC survey questions were multiple choice while the city survey questions were open-ended format (write-in responses). In both surveys, people of color were underrepresented. The LCC plans to conduct future surveys that reach more residents and include other options for completing the survey (such as in-person and written/hard copy options).

To comment or give feedback, email info@longfellow.org or phone 612.722.4529.

Main findings

- Respondents were primarily from Greater Longfellow, white, homeowners, and over age 25 (65% female)

- Views on the police presence in the neighborhood were different before and after the unrest in May and June 2020

- 55% thought there was enough of a police presence before the unrest

- 21% thought there was enough of a police presence after the unrest

- Responses were mixed about level of funding for the police department

- 42% said funding should be increased

- 37% said funding should be decreased

- Responses were mixed about the number of police officers that should be in the department

- Most respondents (79%) were "not at all" or "not very confident that Minneapolis City leadership could change the po-

lice department in a way that will fairly serve all residents

- Respondents were supportive of many possible changes to the police department, including:

- 73% supported increasing the diversity of the department to better represent the communities they serve

- 78% supported not limiting 911 responders to police officers; have other trained persons who may be best for a situation

- Most respondents thought that the police officers need more training, particularly on working with other professionals and on the issue of racism

- Responses were mixed about the future location of 3rd police precinct building

- Many respondents added comments about policing. Read them all online at www.longfellow.org/rebuilding-greater-longfellow.

Development BRIEFS

US Bank may relocate

US Bank plans to relocate from the building (2800 E. Lake St.) damaged by fire and looting last year into the former Tim Horton building at 3600 E. Lake St. The new location would have three drive-up lanes with a remote ATM. Sections of the existing parking lot would be landscaped, and a mural added on the northeast corner of the building.

6-story building to replace Geller Automotive

Plans are in the works to replace the Geller Automotive building at 4601 Minnehaha Ave. with a six-story, mixed-use building. The plans were submitted to the city by Pete Keely of Collage Architects, on behalf of Hall Sweeney Properties, for 4601, 4617 and 4621 Minnehaha Ave. Collage Architects also helped developed the multi-use building across 46th St. The new building will have 123 dwelling units and 4,255 square feet of commercial space. It will have 36 covered parking stalls and 12 surface stalls. It is the sixth multi-story building constructed, under construction or planned for the area between Hiawatha, 46th, Minnehaha Ave. and Minnehaha Parkway in the past few years. A seventh is being built just north of Walgreens along Hiawatha Ave., and plans are to develop Snelling Yard, as well, at Snelling and 45th.

New 2-story building

Jorj Ayez, of Aspen Builders, has submitted an application to build a new, two-story mixed-use building at 3840 Minnehaha Ave.

3-story building on E. Lake

Heron Lopez has submitted an application to allow the construction of a new three-story mixed-use building with eight dwelling units and 2,400 square feet of commercial space at 2815 Lake St. E.

38th and Hiawatha

Construction has begun on a 102-unit, four-story apartment building on the southeast corner of Hiawatha and 38th. There will be mix of studio and one-bedroom apartments built by Yellow Tree (1834 E. 38th). It will also include 2,200 square feet of commercial space. There will be 49 stalls of covered parking, rooftop outdoor space, and a dog run. It sits next to the 180-unit Longfellow Station.

>> See images on our website at www.longfellownokomisessenger.com

Calls for justice ring out as Chauvin trial gets underway

>> from 3

Young Black people went to a "Whites-only" beach and despite, as Allen told it, getting their "asses whooped," kept returning day after day.

When Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. staged a protest at a local motel there and protesters were told "Y'all Black folks ain't coming into this hotel," students went around back, hopped the fence and jumped into the pool. This moment was captured in a now-historic photograph that, according to Allen, was sent on to President Lyndon B. Johnson who signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law soon afterward.

"I know we're a long way from actually gaining our rights - that's why we're standing in the streets," said Allen. "But we do know that that was a milestone in that space. And I wanna say that it was young people that made that happen."

She encouraged them to take to the streets and make their voices heard.

For those downtown during the trial and who have been at rallies since last May, a conviction of Chauvin (as well as the three officers charged with aiding and abetting, whose trial is scheduled for August) will mark not an end, but a starting point - with the real work for justice ahead.

Demonstrations are ongoing, with more planned for



Demonstrators march downtown during The People vs Derek Chauvin Rally for Justice as jury selection began on Monday, March 9. Opening statements will be made on March 29 and the trial is expected to last 2-4 weeks. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

March 29, when opening remarks are expected to begin, and April 5, when closing remarks are expected. Events are listed on Facebook at The People vs. Derek Chauvin.



Toshira Garraway Allen of Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence rallied for all those killed by police before and after George Floyd. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



South High student Zach Moore said, "The system may be a lion, but the people are no mouse. We have managed to move mountains." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

United Theological Seminary launches 'Disrupting White Supremacy' series

>> from 16

ident and CEO of the Twin Cities Urban League) and Rev. Traci Blackmon of Ferguson, Mo. Both Rev. Belton and Rev. Blackmon have been prominent public voices and ministers in response to the killing of Black men and women at the hands of police across America.

With the first "Disrupting White Supremacy" dialogue, the lead-up to Chauvin's trial was at the forefront of the discussion. Rev. Dr. Green II said, "Racial jus-

stice is multi-faceted, collaborative, complicated work. One of the first steps is learning to see White supremacy - and understanding how it functions."

Learn to see White supremacy

"In the context of what has happened in the Twin Cities, we tend to focus on forms of racial violence that are directed at Black and Brown-skinned people (as in the killings of Jamar Clark and George Floyd.) But there is also a lot of harm done that isn't necessarily visible."

Rev. Dr. Green II went on to describe the countless times he has been in stores minding his own business, only to have his thoughts disrupted by a White customer asking him where they can find a certain product. He said, "The assumption is that be-

cause I'm Black, I work there."

Experiencing White supremacy first-hand runs the gamut from micro-aggressions to terror. Rev. Dr. Green explained, "While George Floyd's death was traumatic, I experienced it as part of the broader trajectory of Black men and women being killed at the hands of police. Like many others, I experience the fear that comes from the potential for violence regularly. My body responds every time I see a police car."

Rev. Dr. Green II explained how he believes the cycle of racism is perpetuated, even among well-intentioned people who consider themselves progressive: a racist event happens, people are triggered to respond, the shock wears off, and those same people settle back into their own

rhythms. He said, "We need to be having ongoing conversations about how to disrupt White supremacy, and not keep responding just in moments of visible crisis."

Anti-racism as a lifestyle

Rev. Dr. Green II said, "The pace of change around racist policies has been glacial. Just living in this world in a neutral way is contributing to the wrongs that exist. It is not enough. Disrupting White supremacy will have to be a daily struggle for all of us if we are going to see real change. It has to become a life-style rather than a project."

He continued, "I do have hope though, because of what seems like a genuine eye-opener this time. Perhaps due to the

pandemic, people around the world witnessed George Floyd's death. His killing didn't happen in an instant, but took nearly eight minutes. Every moment was caught on film. We're seeing differently than we were before this happened. The daunting part is in knowing how much sustained work has to be done to break the structure of White supremacy down."

The March 2 broadcast was recorded and will be released as a podcast once edited. The next "Disrupting White Supremacy" broadcast will be sometime this summer. To learn more or to register for upcoming events, go to <https://spas-elca.org/event>. The suggested donation is \$10, but anyone can attend regardless of ability to pay.



By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN
Nelson's Automotive (5415 34th Ave.) shut down in March 2020 just like everyone else did as they waited to see what the impact of COVID-19 would be. They opened back up a few weeks later when they were deemed an essential service.

But business has been slower in the past year as people drive their vehicles less, according to owner Nick Nelson. Nelson's staff fix a lot of commuter cars – and with the work from home orders, these vehicles aren't getting as many miles on them. "It slowed us down," said Nelson. "The industry is down 30% as a whole."

He's hopeful that things will change as people get vaccinated and the restrictions ease. The prediction is that more folks will opt to drive instead of fly this sum-

mer, which will translate into increased business for small auto repair shops, he pointed out.

Nelson was able to keep almost all of his employees at his three locations thanks to a PPP loan. "I wouldn't have been able to do it without that," he observed. "The fact that we're still around and running – I am thankful every day."

To keep staff and customers safe, "we basically changed everything," said Nelson. Staff began wearing masks and gloves, and they implemented new disinfecting protocols. Due to the high cost of disposable masks, they

switched to reusable gaiters with the Nelson's logo.

It was hard to find spit shield screens, and even the glass and plexiglass material was tough to come by last spring. He hunted around for the materials and when he found it, Nelson made the screens himself. He plans to keep them in place even after the COVID-19 threat has diminished.

There was a period of time where he worried about getting parts and supplies, but even when it was slow, they still received what they needed from their suppliers.

Nelson suspects that many of his staff had COVID-19 two weeks before the shutdown. He was the first one to get sick shortly after a surgery in February, and it ran through the rest of his employees. "We were all deathly ill," recalled Nelson.

Keeping his staff energized and excited is the number one thing Nelson says he does every day as a manager. But he knows how important employee morale is. Nelson worked as a mechanic for years before starting his own business in 2007, and recognizes how demoralizing a cold, dark shop can be. And so they shut down on major holidays and plan to take their annual work camping trip up north in June.

One issue Minneapolis residents are dealing with right now

is catalytic converter thefts. "We help people deal with insurance companies," said Nelson. The part is required by law, but with an average cost of \$1,000 the replacement can be a financial hardship for people. "We try to work with people and make it cheaper and more affordable," said Nelson. One way they do that is looking at aftermarket options. They also have financing available for more expensive repairs.

Nelson's staff encourage customers to use their remote option for drop-offs and to pay via credit card. It's an option they always had, but more people are using it now. "I want people to know they can call us. There are no stupid questions," said Nelson. "We will talk you through the good-better-best options."

For the Nelson's Auto staff, it's all about building relationships. "I want people to feel like they can build a long-term relationship with us and bring us their cars for years to come," said Nelson.

Three areas to pay attention to

Longtime auto shop owner Dan Swenson has also made adjustments in the shop due to COVID-19. They're wiping keys down and wearing masks, and have implemented other safety protocols.

Swenson and Guy Lender bought Alexander's (2904 E. 35th St.) in 1996 from Kevin Alexander who had started the shop in 1985. "Many of our customers are driving less. A few are driving more as delivery drivers," said Swenson.

He pointed out that there are three areas of concern for cars that sit for long periods of time.

First, is the paint. "Contaminants left on paint for long periods can damage paint, and could be harder to clean off," remarked Swenson. He encourages people to keep their vehicles clean.

Second are the brakes. Rust can develop quickly on brake surfaces. "Regular driving naturally cleans this rust off," observed Swenson. On cars that sit for long periods, the rust can become embedded and require service to get back into good working order. "A regular drive every week or two will help keep this from happening," recommended Swenson. "Just be sure to drive long enough that the car gets up to operating temperature – about 15 minutes. Cars that are parked outside are more susceptible to this rust build-up."

The third area of concern is the battery. All modern cars have some current draw on the battery even if the car isn't in use, he said. "This draw will cause the battery to become low on charge and this cycling will shorten the life of a battery. If your car sits for long periods without use you may want to consider a battery maintainer. They are relatively inexpensive and easy to install on most vehicles."



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After working for a big company, Nick quit to do repairs in his garage. His clients encouraged him to open a location, so he rented out part of the Purity Baking building at South 5th Ave. and 35th St. He was having fun fixing vans for traveling bands, but was ready to grow. Nick bought a shop at 24th and Hennepin, added one at 2809 Lyndale Ave., and then opened the East Nokomis shop at 34th Ave. and 54th St. in 2016. He was local, and hired local folks to work on their neighbor's vehicles. He and his staff focused on superior customer service and quality without compromise. "It felt like we were on to something," he said.

"I think transparency in the automotive industry is lacking and we try to break that open," remarked Nick. They operate as an "open book," inviting cus-

tomers into the shop to look under the hood and check out exactly what broke. Eric is the manager of the East Nokomis shop, and has been there since it opened. Sam is the lead technician and Mike is the general technician. "They're an amazing group of guys," said Nick.



Meet Eric, Sam and Mike

Eric, Sam and Mike recognize that most people enter an automotive shop on the defensive, worried they're going to get a raw deal. So they educate customers on the process and what it takes to fix a car properly.

There are no secrets – and no hidden fees, stressed Sam. "A vehicle is one of the most expensive things you own, and it's a big responsibility to be able to take care of it," observed Mike. They keep up with current auto technologies and trends, and don't stray from classical repair service fundamentals. At Nelson's, they fix a lot of commuter cars. "We get you to work. That's what we do," stated Eric.

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Seeking justice, caring for people: preparing for the days ahead

United Theological Seminary launches 'Disrupting White Supremacy' series

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

As the criminal trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin begins, the Twin Cities will once again be front and center in confronting the trauma of racism, police brutality, and White supremacy.

To help clergy and community members prepare, United Theological Seminary is offering a new web-based series called "Disrupting White Supremacy." On Tuesday, March 2, the first dialogue, called "Seeking Justice, Caring for Community: Preparing for the Days Ahead," was launched via Zoom. Its purpose was to prepare listeners for the upcoming trials of the former police officers accused in George Floyd's death.

This program was the first in a two-year series. The project has a non-denominational and anti-racist orientation, and will address political issues of concern at the local and national levels with different guest voices in the months ahead.

Series moderator Rev. Dr. Gary Green II said, "This first



Rev. Traci Blackmon

"To be Black in America, no matter your social class, is to always be living in some state of racialized trauma. George Floyd is not the only reason people are showing up for these protests. People are hurting in so many different places. As to the role of clergy, I can only speak from the context of my own experience in movement work. Any movement is fluid. In Ferguson, following Michael Brown's killing at the hands of police in 2014, leaders were chosen by the

community. Clergy may assume that because they lead in the pulpit, they lead in the streets – but it isn't usually that way. As clergy, we need to respect the leaders that the movement chooses."

Rev. Steven Belton



"Black community is not a monolithic thing; it is both complex and fragile. We need to honor the anger and trauma that has built up in our community, because there is a compiling effect to it. In terms of what people need, I like the saying, 'Different strokes for different folks.'

"The Black church venerates images of Jesus as the Great Physician. Clergy members need to be writing out prescriptions for self-care right now, because different people need different things. Don't forget the very young and the very old, the homeless, and other people on the edges. Hurting people are more likely to hurt people. We need to be providing trauma-centered care in our community."

conversation is meant to help our communities develop the resources to support and care for each other, while disrupting the

ways White supremacy functions behind the scenes to create circumstances where Black bodies are routinely killed."



Rev. Dr. Gary Green II

"White supremacy is an idea that has been used to construct our society. Whiteness is assumed to be superior, and Blackness is assumed to be inferior. Start to listen to the words around you, maybe even coming out of your own mouth: blackball, blackmail, black list, sold down the river. Rarely do we have conversations about the insidious ways that racism works; the stuff that is just baked into our system." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

In this moment

Rev. Dr. Green II is an assistant professor in pastoral theology and social engagement at

United Theological Seminary. He moderated the discussion between Rev. Steven Belton (President) and Rev. Traci Blackmon. **SEEKING JUSTICE >> 13**



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