



'WORKING HARD FOR A BETTER TOMORROW'



GARDEN grows

where Gandhi Mahal
burned to ground

"Even though I lost my building, we feel a sense of community," said Gandhi Mahal owner Ruhel Islam from the site where grass now grows. (Photo by Jan Willms)

By JAN WILLMS

As Gandhi Mahal, the restaurant known for its sustainable food practices and community service, as well as its mouth-watering Indian dishes, was burned to the ground May 28, 2020, in the aftermath of the George Floyd killing, owner Ruhel Islam

spoke out.

"Let my building burn," he said, "as long as justice is served." He called for the arrest of the four policemen involved in Floyd's death. "We can rebuild a building, but we cannot rebuild a life."

Rebuilding the restaurant at 3009

27th Ave. S. is just what Islam plans to do, but he expects it will take several years to happen. So he improvised and opened Curry in a Hurry on Oct. 6 of last year, in the Seward neighborhood at 3025 E. Franklin Ave.

GARDEN GROWS >> 8
Lake & Minnehaha updates >> 9-12

LCC bids farewell to longest serving executive director

Melanie Majors is the only African American to serve in this role



By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Longfellow Community Council (LCC) has bid farewell to its longest serving and only African American executive director.

Melanie Majors' last day was June 18, 2021. She had been at the helm of the 26-year-old organization for 14 years.

"Melanie has been a fierce and tireless advocate for the residents and businesses in Greater Longfellow," stated LCC board member Lisa Boyd. "She is simply great at building community connections."

LCC board member Beverly Conerton agreed. "Melanie is an experienced leader with a deep understanding of the important role of neighborhood organizations as an advocate for

community involvement, engagement, and empowerment," she said. "Under her leadership, LCC has continued to advocate for meaningful participation by residents and businesses in issues that affect the community."

An asset-rich community

Majors began her career in housing. She was with the Corporation for Supportive Housing for seven years, director of the Southside Housing Resource Center for two years, and then director of the former Lyndale Neighborhood Devel-

opment Corporation for two years, which was co-located with the neighborhood association. "I found the work of the neighborhood organization was broader and more mission driven. I wanted to have more direct contact with people and work on community projects," Majors recalled.

She credits the relationships she has with members of the community as the reason she stayed at LCC for so long.

"I have always thought of Greater Longfellow as asset
MAJORS BIDS FAREWELL >> 12

GF Square reopened to traffic

Community continues calls for justice

By JILL BOOGREN

On the approach to George Floyd Square from east 38th St., a new fist sculpture stands a block before the intersection. Stenciled on the street in front of it reads: WE STILL DEMAND followed by a list of the 24 demands outlined in Justice Resolution 001.

Despite city efforts to reopen - and then re-reopen - the streets, those who have held space for a year are still demanding justice.

And they're not going anywhere.

During the early morning hours of June 3, 2021, municipal workers, with assistance from Agape Movement, removed the concrete Jersey barriers from each of the four entrances to the Square - a year and one day after the city placed them there. By the 8 a.m. community meeting, more than a hundred people had gathered under the "Peoples' Way" and in the streets to protest their reopening.

Kia Bible, founder of 612 MASH, said this was nothing but spilled milk.

"So they removed the barriers. That's okay. But you know what they also did? Gave us the opportunity to continue the work. We've been out here for 370+ days," she said. "[We've shown that] we can break bread the right way. Hold space."

GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE >> 6



To view the large portrait of George Floyd, visitors stand behind concrete cones in what the city has marked as a north-bound lane of traffic. On June 3, a city-led effort began at 4:30 a.m. to reshape the square. The painted planters were moved and concrete cones were placed in front of the memorial, impeding access. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



1000s attend 'Rise & Remember' event at George Floyd Square

PAGES 2-3



Midori's Floating World Cafe moving forward

PAGE 10



Salvage and reuse building materials with deconstruction grants

PAGE 14

1000S ATTEND 'RISE & REMEMBER' EVENT AT GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE

Story & Photos
By JILL BOOGREN

Thousands of people visited George Floyd Square on May 25, 2021 for "Rise & Remember," a day-long event to honor George Floyd's life and legacy on the one-year anniversary of his death.

Hosted by the George Floyd Global Memorial (GFGM), with support from Floyd's family and the GFS community, it was a day of reflection and protest, calls for justice, community gathering, celebration and joy - with free food, art, an open mic and

an evening concert that ended with powerful performances by Sounds of Blackness and surprise special guest Common.

The event, which filled the four blocks of 38th and Chicago and drew people from all over the country, was made possi-

ble by the community that has grown out of the occupation of George Floyd Square. Nine days later, the city of Minneapolis Public Works, assisted by Agape Movement through its contract, removed and repositioned concrete barricades at the Square,

opening it up to vehicular traffic (see story that begins on page 1).

'RISE & REMEMBER' >> 3

>>PHOTO GALLERY ONLINE
LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com



Floyd family thanks community

Gathered at the fist sculpture in the afternoon, George "Perry" Floyd's aunt, Angela Harrelson (above center), and cousin, Paris Stevens (to Harrelson's immediate left), both GFGM board members, thanked the community and introduced members of Perry's family who had traveled from out of state (two Floyd family members sang during the evening concert - Aunt Laura "Jackie" Stevens sang "We Shall Overcome," and Uncle "Ike" Floyd sang a song he wrote, "Justice is Served.").

"This year has been a trying time for all of us, our family and for the community. The community has been here since Day One keeping this place sacred and welcoming for anyone who comes from all over the world. And we thank you... What has taken place here is just amazing... You are all our community.

You all are a representation of how other cities should act," said Stevens. Stevens called the event a celebration of life - to remember Perry (how George Floyd's family refers to him) but also to celebrate each other. "We have to be there for one another. We can't talk about justice and have our knee on our own neck. So continue to come together, love on one another, speak your voice. Everyone has a voice. However you want to protest, fight for justice, use your voice."

Many shared their stories at the open mic. Minnesota Teen Activists, whose mission is to be "boots on the ground wherever the community needs us" and who also had a booth at the event, said youth are the future of the movement.

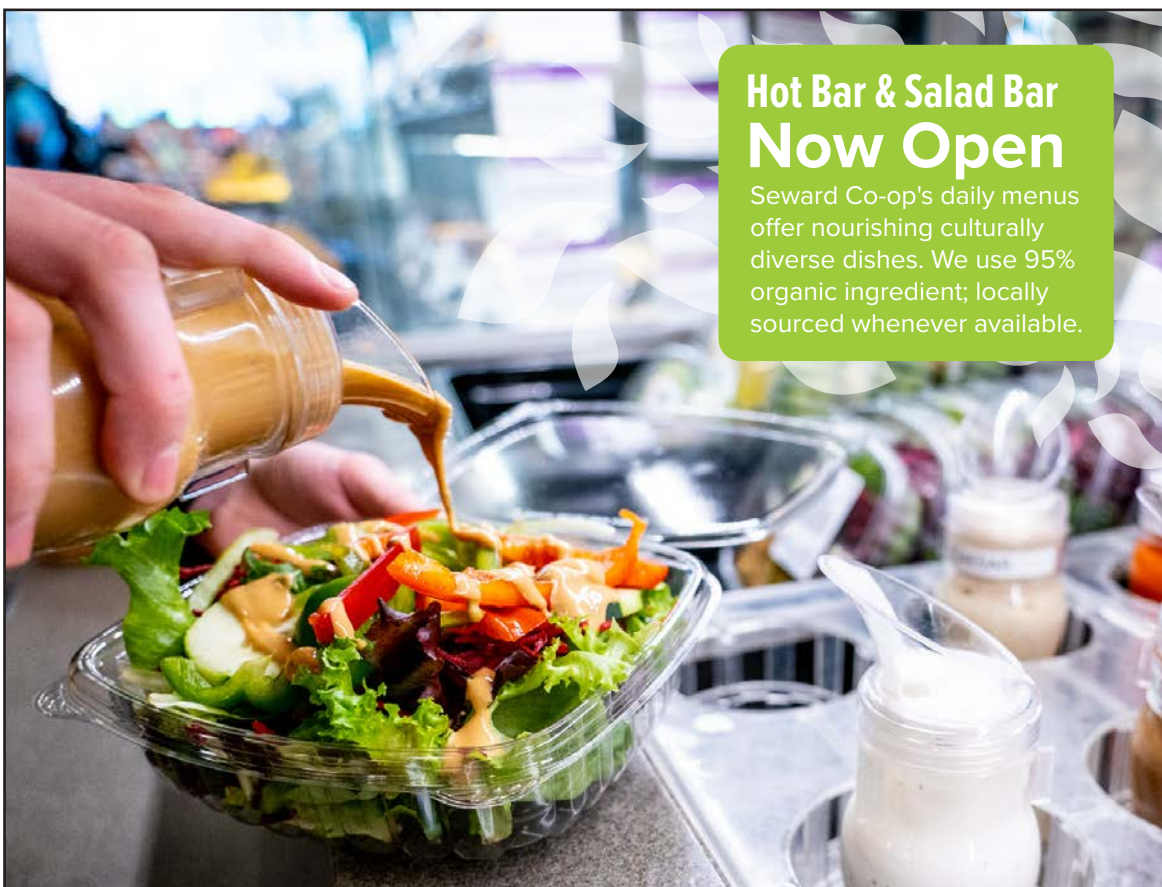
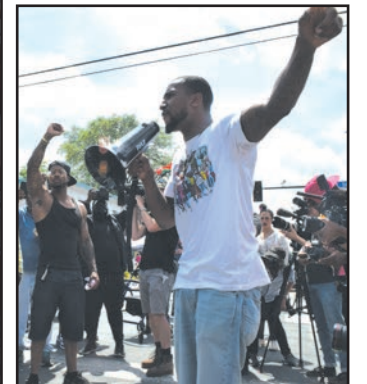
"Anybody can come [to George Floyd Square], but if you're not for the people, don't show up," said one activist. "And y'all showed up, 'cause y'all for the people."



People listen to speakers during open mic (above). A speaker leads chants using a megaphone (below).



At 11 years old, youth entrepreneur Innocynce (above left), ran the D.I.H. (Do It Herself) Positive Corner booth and also opened the Concert for Families of Stolen Lives with a moving vocal performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black National Anthem.



Hot Bar & Salad Bar Now Open
Seward Co-op's daily menus offer nourishing culturally diverse dishes. We use 95% organic ingredient; locally sourced whenever available.

Seward
COMMUNITY CO-OP

www.seward.coop

2823 E. Franklin Ave., MPLS & 317 E. 38th Ave. | MPLS

\$ + = \$ + = \$ + = \$ + = \$ + = \$ + = \$

DO THE MATH!

It costs 47¢ /piece to mail a promotional flyer to local residents letting them know about your business, organization or upcoming event. That does not include design, production, and printing charges.

For only 6¢/piece you can have a 4-color flyer PRINTED AND DELIVERED with the Messenger!



Contact Denis Woulfe for details
denis@longfellownokomisessenger.com
(651) 917-4183

'Rise and Remember' >> from 2 Concert for Families of Stolen Lives

Three-time Grammy Award Winning Sounds of Blackness (*below*) sang "Black Lives Matter: No Justice No Peace" and "Sick & Tired." They introduced their chart-topping hit "Royalty" with a reminder to ignore those who try to paint George Floyd and others as "thugs," because they're royalty – kings and queens worthy of their crowns.

Kept a surprise until he took the stage, the rapper Common spoke the names of people whose lives were taken through injustice, which prompted others in the audience to call out names.

"It's such a list it hurts your heart to say it," he said. He then dedicated the next song to them and their families, many of whom were seated in front of the stage, and with Sounds of Blackness offered a riveting performance of the Academy Award Winning song, "Glory."

Boricua singer, rapper and drummer Maria Isa (*below*) told the crowd that "Big Floyd," as she called George Floyd, carried these same drums and always made sure she and other women got safely to their cars after the shows.

"Every time he was here in the space of me bein' an artist, he protected me... I felt good," she said. She described drumming as a way to preserve culture in Puerto Rico and, with several musicians and

dancers on stage, treated the audience to Afro-Latino-Indigenous rhythms and traditional Bomba-style drumming and dancing.

At dusk, guests were invited to place an LED candle anywhere in the Square, each candle holding the name of a lost loved one. There were 540 total – which was not enough, according to community member Shari Seifert, of Calvary Lutheran Church, who helped organize the vigil.



Quilts, murals and art

At the Say Their Names Cemetery at the start of the Rise & Remember event, artist Sidney Brodie (*at right*) presented Floyd family members with his memorial quilt, onto which he had added a square with the name George Floyd. Begun after two-year-old Shaquanna Attwater was fatally shot in 1994 in Durham, North Carolina, the quilt now bears the names of 1,500 people lost to violence.

More quilts were in the making in the Square, with materials offered by Million Artist Movement, whose canopy was draped with quilt squares collected at 38th and Chicago during the uprising last year. Paige Reynolds and Signe Harriday called



the quilt a "living archive," explaining that creating a quilt square provides a space to grieve and a means to pause and share.

"It's those little sharings that are the stitches that build our community, and I think it's our community that's going to keep us safe, it's the community that's going to heal us, it's the community that has the answers for how to love each other," said Harriday. "But if we don't make connections, take time to stitch our relationships together, we can't hold the expan-

siveness of what our community is."

Some of the plywood art murals from the uprising collected by Save the Boards and Memorialize the Movement, were displayed side by side on Chicago Ave. – an extension of an exhibit the previous weekend (*see more online*).

Elsewhere in the Square, Raycurt Johnson played his violin, kids of all ages made giant soap bubbles, speakers grabbed megaphones and led chants of "Black Lives Matter" and "Say His Name: George Floyd." KMOJ DJs had people dancing in the street, and those who wanted to try their hand at pitching a fast ball, did so – at a dunk tank. Twin Cities Re-

lieff grilled chicken on site and provided free full meals to anyone who wanted one. Snacks, water and other free beverages were also available, and pop-up shops and information tables lined the Square.

The GFS Justice Task Force gave out stickers and buttons with information about ending qualified immunity (#8 of the 24 demands in Justice Resolution 001).

"We're here to educate people on yet another thing that prevents police accountability," said volunteer Mikki VanEps. Qualified immunity (QI) protects officers from civil lawsuits unless the officer is in violation of a "clearly established" law – meaning the identical circumstances are present in a previous court ruling. Advocates have been calling to end QI at the federal and state level. The GFS Task Force is exploring ways to introduce a city ordinance that ends QI in Minneapolis, similar to a law New York City passed in April 2021.

BUY LOCAL
Support your neighbors, live a more sustainable life, and build community. Tell them you saw it here.

NELSON ELECTRIC INC.
EST 1963

Service is Our Specialty

Residential Lighting Retrofits
Industrial Commercial
Restaurant Solar

FREE – estimates
Call today for an appointment.
Office Space for Lease

Robert Nelson – Owner **612-724-9500 or**
www.nelsonelectricinc.com **763-444-1523**

Contractor's Lic. #20636575 **ACCREDITED BUSINESS**
Electrical Lic. #EA001304 **BBB**

H1 **H2** **H3**

SEPTEMBER 25 - 26, 2021 NOON - 5PM DAILY SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS

Castle HOME TOUR
The Educational Remodeling Tour

EXECUTIVE SPONSORS

Castle Building & Remodeling
The best value in professional remodeling

MARVIN
AUTHORIZED REPLACEMENT CONTRACTOR

KOHLER

PREMIUM SPONSORS

Alerus MORTGAGE **guaranteedRate** **Lampert Lumber**

Win \$5,000 towards your remodel

TOUR 6 HOMES
Free to attend, meet the designers, learn from experts and enter to win!
Learn more: www.castlehometour.com

MNBC005657

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.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS INVESTIGATING THE MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT What does that mean for the community?

The U.S. Department of Justice has launched an investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department and the city of Minneapolis. They will be examining uses of force by the police and whether the police engage in racial discrimination. They are also looking at use of force against protesters and police treatment of people with disabilities, including people living with mental illness.

In addition, Racial Justice Network, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN), Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence, NAACP-Minneapolis, The Minnesota Justice Coalition, Disability Justice Network, Communities United Against Police Brutality,

and the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar have also asked the DOJ to look into the MPD's treatment of people experiencing homelessness and the MPD's poor quality of investigations into murders of people of color.

We know, of course, that Minneapolis police use excessive force and engage in racial profiling and discrimination. We know that protesters, people experiencing homelessness, and people with disabilities are mistreated. We also know that the city rarely holds cops accountable. Our goal as a community is to make sure the DOJ gets the information they need to uncover the truth about Minneapolis policing.

If the investigation is done well, the DOJ will learn about

the many issues with policing in Minneapolis. They will create a "consent decree" – a list of required changes. Then, if Minneapolis doesn't follow these requirements, the federal government could take over the MPD, a process called "receivership." Consent decrees have been effective in significantly reducing police violence in several cities.

Don't be a passive bystander at this crucial moment. There are a number of ways the community can get involved. You can get involved by:

- 1) Helping decide what should become part of the consent decree.
- 2) Telling your story to the DOJ.
- 3) Learning how to collect

other people's stories.

4) Spreading the word.

Communities United Against Police Brutality is hosting a series of events for people in the community. Attend one of these events to tell your story and share your ideas for a powerful consent decree. These events will be held at 6 p.m. each night and we will serve dinner. Bring a chair or blanket.

- Wednesday, July 7 (virtual – see our website for the link)
- Friday, July 23 at East Phillips Park, 2399 17th Ave S
- Monday, Aug. 9 at Matthews Park, 2318 29th Ave S
- Friday, Aug. 27 at Theo Wirth Park, Glenwood Ave. at Xerxes Ave.

You can also contact the DOJ

guest
column



By MICHELLE
GROSS

www.cuapb.org

directly to tell your story. Call 866-432-0268 or email Community.Minneapolis@usdoj.gov

This is an important opportunity to hold the MPD and the city of Minneapolis accountable. We all need to be part of the solution.

Michelle Gross is co-founder of the Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB), located at 4200 Cedar Ave. S. CUAPB weekly meetings are held every Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Deep political polarization requires more engagement from constituents

Serving as a member of the minority party at the Legislature is frustrating, especially during these polarizing times when loyalty to a political party and preserving a majority seem to be far more important than actual governing for some members.

I have served in the Minnesota Senate for 15 years and I have experienced these political divisions before, but not in the way I'm experiencing them today. During the last six years, while the Republican Party has held the majority in the Senate I have authored several bills to address environmental justice and racial inequality, eliminate academic disparities, and open opportunities for economic development in communities facing deep poverty. Few of these bills have received hearings. Other members who have authored similar legislation addressing climate change and pressing needs impacting minority groups and the poor have experienced the same.

As the Chair of the Senate

People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) caucus, I joined civil rights leaders and community activists in demanding police reforms and accountability measures we desperately need to protect Black and Brown lives. We cannot afford to wait any longer; we need to end qualified immunity, strengthen civilian oversight of police, end no-knock warrants, prohibit officers from affiliating with white supremacist organizations, and much more. The Senate Majority has blocked every single one of these efforts.

I've leveraged my influence as the Lead in the Environmental and Natural Resources Finance Committee speaking against the construction of Line 3, and I will continue to make the case that Line 3 is a terrible deal for Minnesotans that will cause irreparable harm to the soil, air, water, and violates Treaty rights. I authored four bills to safeguard our environment this session; one to regulate landfills, one to establish an environmental justice

From the
MN Senate



By SENATOR
PATRICIA TORRES RAY,
sen.patricia.torres.ray@senate.mn

board at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), one to provide technical assistance and grants to local and tribal governments, and one to require that proposed copper-sulfide mines in Minnesota prove that they have operated safely elsewhere in the United States for 10 years, and not polluted their local watersheds for 10 years after they ceased mining. Instead of considering my proposals, the Senate Republican majority pushed to weaken the authority of Minnesota's environmental agencies including the MPCA

and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Rolling back environmental protections and weakening the authority of our state's environmental agencies will compromise the ability of the state to implement measures designed to prevent or reduce the harmful effects of human activities on our natural ecosystems, which is why I opposed them at every turn.

I consider the bills that my colleagues and I introduced to be common sense policy and essential to addressing economic, social and growing political problems. But my Republican colleagues disagree. The political polarization is so significant in the Senate that even in areas where we typically agree, we have not been able to find consensus to support those who are in need. We often come together to support business growth, but not this time. The Republicans have blocked every single effort to provide relief for the small business-

es that were impacted by civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd. They have gone as far as amending the State's Disaster Aid statute to ensure Minneapolis and Saint Paul will be ineligible to receive any assistance.

This deep political polarization requires a new way of building alliances to govern. It requires more engagement from our constituents and a better understanding of the strategies that we must use to influence decision makers. But we can't give up because the future of our district, our state, our nation, and our planet are at stake. We can't give up because this is not just about a political fight, it is a fight for our existence. We need to make sure that our community's voices are heard, our needs are met, our neighborhoods are protected, police brutality is stopped, and environmental destruction is halted.

Only we – together – can accomplish that.

Letters

Small entrepreneurs may lose out in Washington

Over the past few years, Minnesota has become an undeniable hub for entrepreneurship and innovation. Many technology companies have continued to make investments here, growing their presence in the state and hiring locally.

What do you think?

Our startup ecosystem is expanding too. We're home to the Minnesota Cup, the largest statewide startup competition in the country. Since its founding in 2005, the contest has raised millions of dollars and helped thousands of founders. And last year, Inc. Magazine ranked the Twin Cities as one of the best places in America to start a business.

Write to us. We'd love to hear your perspective. News@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

It has been exciting to be part of this growth. We have a strong and supportive community of developers and entrepreneurs, and the ideas exchange between those of us pushing the boundaries here in the Twin Cities is invaluable.

While the presence of developers and innovators continues to grow here in Minnesota, tech

policy issues – particularly related to app stores – remain hot button topics in Washington. In the coming months, I would encourage lawmakers to proceed with caution. When government attempts to get between billion-dollar companies, as we're seeing during the active Epic v. Apple courtroom battle, it's the smaller developers and entrepre-

neurs who lose out at the end of the day. Significant changes to the landscape that Minnesota's developer community is thriving in today could disrupt innovation and slow our growth.

Sincerely,
Eric Harris

Messenger

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097
Minneapolis, MN 55417

612-345-9998

longfellownokomisemessenger.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger/>

Instagram: [LongfellowNokomisMessenger](https://www.instagram.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger)

News for you!

The Longfellow Nokomis Messenger is a monthly community publication in the Longfellow and Nokomis areas of Minneapolis, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. Visit our website for our calendar and publication dates.

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@longfellownokomisemessenger.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

Owner & Editor:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-345-9998
tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com

Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Wolfe, 651-917-4183
denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com

Design & Layout:

Tesha M. Christensen

Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

This issue of the Messenger is printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Approximately 95-97% of material that enters the print facility is recycled.

TMC
PUBLICATIONS CO



Delivery provided by: Fresh Heir

If you have a problem with delivery, call 612-345-9998 or email the editor. Mail subscriptions are available at \$40 a year.

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jan Wilms, Jill Boogren, Margie O'Loughlin, Abha Karnick, Matthew Davis, Stephanie Fox, Terry Faust, Iric Nathanson, Amy Pass

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.

All rights reserved. The contents of the Messenger cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2021.

Member of Minnesota Newspaper Association, America's Newspapers, Longfellow Business Association and Nokomis East Business Association.



COMMUNITY DEMANDS ANSWERS TO POLICE KILLINGS

By JILL BOOGREN

On June 3, just hours after the city of Minneapolis removed its barricades from George Floyd Square, law enforcement officers killed another Black man in Minneapolis.

His name was Winston Boogie Smith, a 32-year-old father and comedian and former Roosevelt High School student. Smith was fatally shot at the top of a parking ramp in Uptown by U.S. Marshals, allegedly operating within the "North Star Fugitive Task Force" in cooperation with county authorities.

The site of W. Lake St. and Girard Ave. S. quickly became a place of mourning and protest, expressions shared at an intersection blocked to traffic as demonstrators demanded answers. Among other messages, street art and signage read: "Winston Smith was Assassinated," "Stop the Cover Up," and "Release the Footage."

Racial Justice Network (RJN) issued a list of questions on June 5, including whether Mayor Jacob Frey, Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo and other law enforcement authorities signed off on the action, what the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between this task force and local government were, why the task force was allowed to operate without body worn cameras, and why the task force placed people in unnecessary danger by trapping and ambushing Smith in a parking lot in a busy part of Uptown.

"The lack of transparency in the MOA allows all of these agencies to escape responsibility for lying, their faulty decision-making and devaluing of Black life," said Nekima Levy Armstrong, civil rights attorney and founder of RJN.

Similar questions are still being asked about the fatal shooting on Dec. 30, 2020, by Minneapolis police of Dolal Idd, which took place at the busy Holiday gas station at 36th St. and Cedar Ave. and for which complete body worn, squad car and surveillance camera footage has not been released (the footage that was released is brief and lacks context as to what occurred before shots were fired).

Idd's father, Bayle Gelle, said at a June 6 march he recently learned that the investigator assigned to the case through the Dakota County Attorney's Office had retired, and the case sat idle for months. Gelle, with family members and supporters, continues to seek answers into his son's death and the raid by law enforcement of their fam-



Bayle Gelle, Dolal Idd's father (center left, with fist raised), stands with family members and supporters during a march on June 6, 2021 demanding answers into the killing of his son by Minneapolis police at the Holiday Station Store along Cedar Ave. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



On June 14, youth activists speak to the trauma experienced after witnessing the driver barreling through the protest and killing Deona Marie Knajdek the previous night. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

ily home later that same night which turned up no evidence.

Protester killed

Another life was taken Uptown, that of 31-year-old Deona Marie Knajdek, who was attending a protest on behalf of Winston Smith on the night of June 13. She was killed when a driver, Nicholas Kraus, barreled into a vehicle blocking the intersection, which then hit her.

As people gathered for a vigil for Deona Marie the following day, several youth who were there when Kraus drove through took turns with the microphone. Visibly shaken and fighting off tears, they spoke to the trauma this caused, being scared by loud noises and losing sleep. One activist told the crowd to be mindful of how the media would spin the narrative, and smear their names while giving White supremacists grace.

"Everyone here needs to spread the truth of what really happened. This man was sober, it was intentional. He got out...

he was smiling, he was smirking at us. He stopped at the red light down there, and one of our best friends tried to wave him away, and then he accelerated through," they said. "So just know that this was intentional."

Despite Mayor Frey referring to the incident in a press conference as a "car accident," Kraus has been charged by the Hennepin County Court with second degree murder, "with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation," and two counts of second degree assault for injuring two others using a dangerous weapon.

As demonstrators remained on site, police in riot gear disrupted the peaceful protest, slashing tires, towing cars and making targeted arrests. No dispersal orders were given, even after assurances by the mayor that those would be issued and people would be given an opportunity to leave.

Calls for answers – and justice – continue.

serve residents' needs, and proposing policies that govern the use and safety of the 180 park properties, 55 miles of parkways, 12 formal gardens, seven golf courses, and 49 recreation centers in our city. They also appoint the superintendent who implements the board policies, overseeing the budget and staff of more than 600 employees.

Perhaps you'll want to know about the improvements planned for your neighborhood park, or

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON POLICING

What's in the charter amendment?	CPAC	Yes4Mpls
Eliminates minimum officer requirement	✓	✓
Change name of police department to department of public safety	x	✓
Power to commend, discipline, or discharge any employee of department	✓	x
Duty to investigate all internal and external complaints, and report the results back to complainant	✓	x
Power to determine the police department budget	✓	x
Power to review and modify policy and procedure	✓	x
Sole focus on regulating police	✓	x

1) CPAC ballot initiative underway

Another petition to amend the Minneapolis city charter is being circulated that would place control of the police directly into the hands of the people by establishing a Civilian Police Accountability Commission (CPAC). "CPAC is the idea that the people who live in a community should be able to determine how it is policed," according to Minneapolis for Community Control of Police, a coalition of organizations advancing CPAC.

Right now there are two other charter amendment proposals in front of the Charter Commission – one proposed by City Council members, the other brought through a public petition process by Yes 4 Minneapolis (Y4M) – both of which would create a department of public safety and give greater oversight to the City Council.

Those two amendments and the CPAC amendment all remove the requirement for Minneapolis to have a minimum number of officers, but that's where the similarities leave off. CPAC would create a democratically elected local commission of 13 members who would have decision-making authority over the police. The commission would be responsible for setting policies and procedures, establishing the budget and negotiating contracts, as well as investigating potential misconduct and taking disciplinary action. They would have the ability to hire and fire police and refer cases for prosecution where necessary. While the deadline to get CPAC on the ballot this year has passed, organizers are working to put it to voters next year. To appear on the ballot, the petition must be signed by at least 12,000 registered Minneapolis voters and signatures approved. A majority of votes are required for the measure to pass.

Those interested in learning more are invited to attend CPAC 101 sessions:

- Saturday, July 10 at 11 a.m. (in person, location TBD)
- Wednesday, July 21 at 7 p.m. (online)

Check @mpls4ccp for petition signing events and tinyurl.com/mpls4ccp for more information.

2) CUAPB hosting sessions for DOJ input

As the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) conducts its investigation into the use of force by Minneapolis police, Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB) is inviting people to share their stories and ideas, to ensure the DOJ gets as much information as possible about people's experiences with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). (See column on page 4.)

According to Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, the DOJ investigation will assess whether MPD engages in discriminatory policing and will review all types of force used by MPD officers, including force used against people with behavioral health disabilities as well as against protesters exercising their First Amendment rights. Ideally, according to CUAPB, the DOJ will issue a consent decree – a list of changes the city would be required to follow.

CUAPB is hosting several sessions at 6 p.m. on each of the following nights for people to give input. Dinner will be served, and guests are asked to bring a chair or blanket.

- July 7 (virtual—event link: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/93230844891> or dial in at 651-372-8299. Meeting ID: 932 3084 4891)
- July 23 at East Phillips Park, 2399 17th Ave S.
- Aug. 9 at Matthews Park, 2318 29th Ave S.
- Aug. 27 at Theo Wirth Park, Glenwood Ave at Xerxes Ave.

People can also contact the DOJ directly to tell their story. Call 866-432-0268 or email community.minneapolis@usdoj.gov.

Vote for MPRB, then take a hike

This is part of a series about the 2021 municipal elections by the League of Women Voters Minneapolis.



When did you last enjoy a park? Did you have a picnic? Did you watch a little league game or take a knitting class? Minneapolis parks offer

any activities a creative mind can imagine. The many facets of the park system are overseen by nine commissioners elected by YOU.

One position for each of six park districts and three at-large positions are up for election this fall.

Meeting monthly, these commissioners are responsible for maintaining park properties, developing new sites to equitably

maybe you want to learn about plans for the Upper Harbor Terminal on the Mississippi or how the golf courses are operated. Information is available at minneapolisparcs.org. There you can learn about your park commissioners who are hoping to have your vote. Make your voice heard by contacting them and making your plan to vote in November.

Another choice

This fall you will also be able

to vote for two members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation. Board members set maximum tax levies for a variety of city and park and recreation funds. The board also reviews some department budgets and participates in the city's debt management policy, concerned with interest rates and prudent debt levels.

As a citizen, you vote for your representatives on this important oversight board. Your attention and your vote matter.

GF Square reopened to traffic

>> from 1

Throughout the day, community members showed up to do just that. A portrait of Emmett Till that had been completed the day before was installed. Makeshift barricades were moved into place. By the early hours of the following morning, new fist sculptures stood at the entrances (those barricades have since been cleared, but the fist sculptures remain).

Many of the Jersey barriers removed were placed elsewhere in the Square, some ostensibly as traffic calming devices (the west entrance on 38th St. is reduced to one lane by these repositioned barriers), others directly in front of memorial sites, protecting them from cars but impeding access by visitors.

Most people viewing the large portrait of George Floyd now stand in what is the newly-created northbound traffic lane. Cone-shaped concrete blocks were placed on top of a portion of the memorial for Daunte Wright. Any interaction with the fist sculpture must now be done from inside the traffic lanes of a roundabout.

Surveying the new arrangement, community member Rhea Smykalski shared these thoughts:

"It's really, really saddening that the city of Minneapolis... would allow this sacred space to be desecrated. Taking memorial flowers, art, letters from GFGM, George Floyd Global Memorial, a nonprofit, and stealing their property. And desecrating the space for the family. And for every other family in the United States that comes here as a mecca to leave their family's name, their family member's name, and feel like this space will hold them. Because we are the epicenter of this... It's gonna take a whole lot more to get us outta here."

In a press conference that afternoon, Mayor Jacob Frey reiterated what he has said for months, that "38th and Chicago is not and will not go back to where it was prior to May 25, 2020. This intersection will forever be changed."

Steve Floyd, co-founder and chief advisor of Agape Movement, acknowledged that what some in the movement were doing was courageous and noble, "but now we have to go through a transition to develop our neighborhood and give us an opportunity to build that neighborhood with a new normal."

"We have to change our community," he said. "We have to develop our young men."

Despite the mayor calling it a "community-led" endeavor (Agape is located in the Square), many were not informed.

When crews got close to the garden surrounding the fist, Jay



Jay Webb, aka "The Gardener," waters the garden around the metal fist sculpture. Webb prevented the city from removing the garden, which is now signposted as a roundabout. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

Webb, who has been tending the gardens for the past year, stood his ground and held them off. Agape's Steve Floyd acknowledged that people were shocked when they came in and that they hadn't had a chance to talk with Webb beforehand. The fist sculpture is now signposted as a roundabout and is still surrounded by gardens.

Caretakers of the George Floyd Global Memorial were also not consulted. Angela Harrelson, a GFGM board member and aunt of George Floyd, said she was traumatized.

"I will never drive my car down the street where my nephew was killed, knowing that he had cried out for his mama," she said.

A shifting narrative

The mayor has made clear his desire to reopen the streets since August 2020, when the city first asked the community what justice looked like, and again in February 2021, just before the Chauvin trial. Less clear are the reasons why.

In weekly media briefings leading up to and during the Chauvin trial, the mayor pivoted to improving safety at 38th and Chicago, often with rhetoric that hinted at a disproportionate level of violent crime emanating from that intersection. But a close analysis of Minneapolis Police Department crime data showed that in the months prior to the city's February announcement of their intent to reopen the streets after the trial, crime had already gone down at 38th and Chicago from the three months before that. While this is to be expected during winter months, it was not so at nearby Lyn-Lake, which reported more crime but saw al-

most no decrease over the same time period. Lyn-Lake received no mention from the city at these public briefings, and is also an intersection located where four neighborhoods come together (see graphic above).

In fact, the mayor kept the focus on 38th and Chicago despite 42 violent deaths being reported elsewhere throughout the city during that same timeframe (August 2020-February 2021) - none of which were inside the barricades at George Floyd Square.

The mayor has also talked about access. Yet for months Public Works was emptying the extra garbage bins and portable toilets that were on site (these were immediately cleared, incidentally, once streets were reopened). Firetrucks and paramedics have also had access throughout. So did the dozen or more (nearly 30 by an eye witness account) squad cars that entered the Square in pursuit of a truck on March 12, 2021 (despite the use of extensive city resources and a widely shared video of the incident, the city responded on May 6 to an open data request that it had no record of this).

Is it for the D Line? This is a bus rapid transit line that will travel from Bloomington to Brooklyn Center, in part along Chicago Ave. A conversation with a Metro Transit spokesperson earlier this year confirmed that a Chicago and 38th St. station is not included in 2021-2022 construction as they await direction from the city and community; alternate routes were not yet being discussed. To re-route around 38th and Chicago would be as doable as it is for every other bus route that doesn't follow a straight line. In fact, at 60th St. the D Line route itself jogs over



The hundreds of people who visit George Floyd Square each day now view the memorial from behind concrete cones that stand in what the city has marked as a northbound lane of traffic. (Photo by Vanna Contreras)

Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) Crime Statistics

of crime incidents over consecutive periods

Minneapolis Intersection*	Aug. 2020-Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020-Feb. 2021	% Change
38 th & Chicago	19	8	-58%
Lyn-Lake	25	24	-4%

*Includes one block in each direction.

to Portland Ave.

Is it for pedestrian safety? With streets reopened, visitors must now walk into traffic lanes to interact with the memorial. Kids, who have used these streets over the past year for roller skating, skateboarding, biking and art making must now be more watchful for drivers rolling through (it was never without vehicle traffic, but the barricades made for slower going). Notably, the mayor's proposed spending in phase 1 of American Rescue Plan funding earmarks \$500,000 for "traffic calming" (spending allocations for these federal funds go to a full city council vote on July 2). The city's Complete Streets policy places the highest importance on pedestrians and people using wheelchairs. The reason concrete barriers were placed in the first place was to protect pedestrian safety.

According to city officials, some neighbors and businesses want the streets reopened, but it has become clear over the past year that 38th and Chicago is more than a neighborhood traffic intersection. How it will operate under a "new normal" remains to be seen.

Liberation, historic district

Among speakers on June 3 was Myon Burrell, who was freed from prison after his sentence was commuted in December 2020. Number four of the 24 demands is: Open an independent investigation into the conviction of Myon Burrell.

"I have a unique attachment to this. I'm from here," he said. "I spent more than 18 years of my life in prison for a crime I didn't commit for bein' from here, a Black man from right here. I was George Floyd 18 years before

George Floyd."

Burrell went to prison at 16 years old and came out a 34-year-old man. He sees George Floyd as representative of the people, and the space - George Floyd Square - of liberation. So, too, is his own freedom.

"When people see me, I represent hope. I represent liberation... I represent dignity. That's what this space symbolizes for the people."

Webb, "the Gardener," got the crowd to repeat after him: "National. Historical. District." Pointing to different buildings and locations within the Square, he shared his vision of the creation of a justice center, health center, financial center, cultural center and organic gardens, and called to release one million men and women for non-violent crimes.

"Justice first," he said. Then "when you got peace, you can get healthy."

George Floyd Square holds many things for people: their pain, their joy, their hope, their anger, their love. The reopening took place nine days after the Rise & Remember event drew thousands to the Square to commemorate the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's death (see article "Rise & Remember" on pages 2-3). People have since celebrated Juneteenth in the Square. On Father's Day, a march with a drum line and dance team entered the Square. Visitors from across the country and around the world keep coming.

They are still walking in the street to view the memorial.

And the community is still seeking justice as prescribed by the 24 demands of Resolution 001 (bit.ly/georgefloydsquare-1).

DID YOU KNOW?

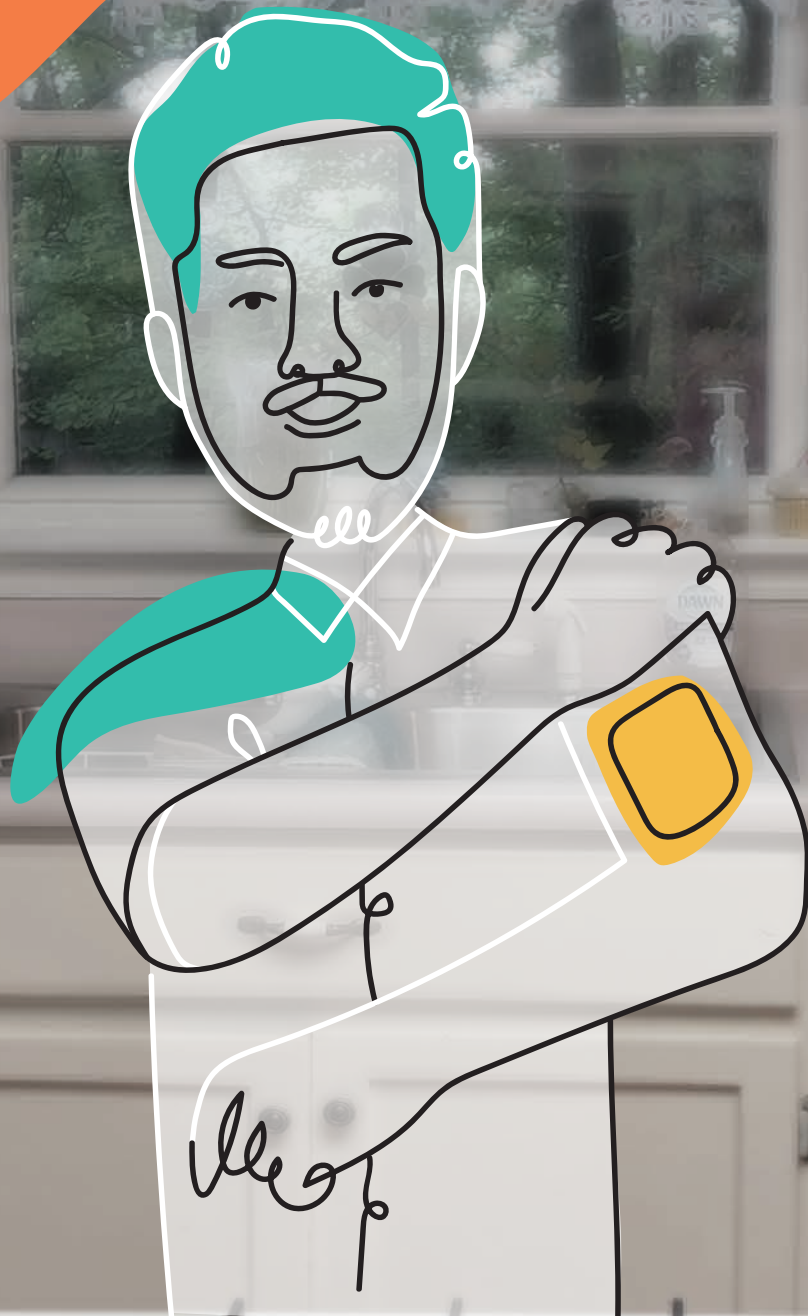
>> Our recent circulation audit showed that we reach 52,000 folks - most of them at their front door - and are picked up and read by 7 of 10.

>> 6 of 10 readers say they frequently purchase products and services from ads that they see in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger.

Free help to quit smoking or vaping your way

"Patches and texts from Quit Partner are helping me stay on track."

-Shawn, day 1 of quitting menthols



quit partner™

Whether this is your first time quitting or your tenth, we're here with free help 24/7. Curious about how to double your chances of quitting smoking for good? Try talking to a judgement-free coach and using patches, gum or lozenges* at the same time. Whenever you're ready, drop by online or say hello on the phone.

QuitPartnerMN.com

1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)

*18+

GARDEN grows

where Gandhi Mahal burned to ground

>> From 1

He and his staff are operating out of the old Chef's Shack at that location. "The owner of the building was great," Islam said. "He was a customer, and we signed an agreement, and we have been serving take-out and delivery."

Gandhi Mahal was known for its use of hydroponics and aquaponics. Islam raised fish in the basement of his building, and he grew vegetables and herbs. He also raised produce in several community gardens, providing fresh food for his menu.

Gandhi Mahal has joined with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL), All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission and New City Church to form the Gandhi Mahal Interfaith Garden. The crops harvested will become an assortment of traditional dishes at Gandhi Mahal, as well as supply the healthy, traditional indigenous ingredients for meals prepared at First Nations Kitchen,



Gandhi Mahal owner Ruhel Islam stands by a gate at 3009 27th Ave. on which statements that drive them are written, including "We are deeply connected. We value people over property. Justice needs to be served. We stand with our community." He plans to rebuild at the site of the former building, but said it will take several years to make it happen. (Photo by Jan Willms)

a ministry of All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission.

Most of the fish were killed in the fire, but Islam saved a few and plans to start raising them again.

"We hope to build everything better through collaboration," Islam said. "Even though I lost my building, we feel a sense of community."

Islam said that because the voices of unprivileged people have not been heard, the tragedy of George Floyd's loss of life happened. And it continues to happen. "We also have been fighting back hard against the pandemic, the coronavirus," he said. "Then the police killed George Floyd, and we saw his life slowly going out as he said he couldn't

"It took us a year to demolish what was left of the building, so we know it will take time to rebuild. So we are talking, talking, talking and growing, growing, growing." - Ruhel Islam

breathe. It was very sad."

Coming from Bangladesh, Islam said he was used to a police state, but people were usually killed in crossfire, not by torture. "This was the torture of a human being, and we must speak out," he stated. "If we do not speak out for the future, there will not be justice for everyone." Islam recalled the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Islam explained that he is grateful to be in America, where he can wake up, eat if he is hungry, and speak freely. And he is grateful for his democratic right to fight injustice.

He said he is also thankful to be on Dakota land, and very respectful of it. He recently attended a demonstration against Pipeline 3. "I am learning so much," he said. "There should be a war criminal trial for the things that have happened, and reparations."

He described learning as a small boy in school in Bangladesh that Columbus discovered America. "What? This was native land," he said. "We learn from the past, and we have to fix the problem. History is written by the winners, and policy is written by the privileged people."

But while he fights for justice, Islam is preparing to rebuild. "It took us a year to demolish what was left of the building, so we know it will take time to rebuild. So we are talking, talking, talking and growing, growing, growing."

He has plans to create a Minnesota-made chili powder, and he is raising 300 chili plants. He is also growing peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, butternut squash, cauliflower and beans. He hopes to grow wildflowers and sunflowers to draw the bees. He is also growing hemp, and he plans to construct the new building from hemp bricks.

"At the end of the day, I'm a chef," Islam said. "I want to share my recipes not only with the community, but with the world." He said the world knows about this area, and he wants to bring people to see the 10,000 lakes, Minnehaha Falls and other landmarks.

"We will work with the climate, food and racial justice, which are all connected. I am working hard today for a better tomorrow."

A Great Big
THANK YOU TO OUR **COMMUNITY**



We're rebuilding our community and we couldn't do it without the support you've shown over the last year.

ALEXANDER'S IMPORT AUTO REPAIR
Thank you for making us a part of the community since 1985 and the continued support over the last year! We hope you all stay safe and healthy.
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday closed
2904 E. 35th Street | Minneapolis
612-729-2516 | www.AlexandersImportAutoRepair.com

CORAZON GIFT GALLERY
"We all do better when we all do better."
Paul Wellstone
Paper + Art + Gift + Home
Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
4646 East Lake Street | Minneapolis
612-276-0198 | shop.corazononline.com

BIG BELL ICE CREAM & MINNEHAHA SCOOPS
Thanks for your support during a challenging year. We are proud to be a part of the Longfellow community and helping to bring joy into people's lives.
Hours: Sunday to Saturday 1-9 p.m.
3352 Minnehaha Ave. S. | Minneapolis
612-729-5205 | www.bigbellicecream.com

Redesign saves Coliseum from wrecking ball

By IRIC NATHANSON

In an effort to save Lake Street's iconic Coliseum Building from the wrecking ball, Redesign Inc. is purchasing the three-story brick building that has anchored the 27th and Lake intersection since 1917.

Redesign is paying \$2 million to the building's out-of-state owners who had intended to demolish the Longfellow landmark and sell off the land to the highest bidder.

Redesign's action represents the second time in 25 years that a South Minneapolis community organization has stepped in to preserve the Coliseum. In the late 1990s, when the Coliseum was known as the Podany Building, the Longfellow Community Council organized a city-backed effort to block the sale of the building to a local slumlord. LCC located and helped fund a local developer who agreed to rehab the property and restore its original name.

Now, in 2021, Redesign wants to stabilize and preserve the 100-year-old building caught up in the civil unrest that rocked Lake Street in 2020.

"After the events of last year, we knew we needed to do whatever we could to help heal the community," said Taylor Smrikarova, Redesign's Coliseum project manager. "We felt responsible for 27th and Lake because it is in our service area and it was at the epicenter of the tragic events following the murder of George Floyd."

It took a while for Smrikarova and the staff at Redesign to locate and begin negotiations with the Coliseum's owners about a potential acquisition of the Lake Street property. When that connection was finally made last fall, the owners told Redesign that the building, itself, was worthless in their view, and that property's only value was land on which it stood. "For us, the building did have value as a community asset, so we agreed to their asking price of \$2 million," Smrikarova said. "We were able to get in touch the demolition contractor who told us that the building had good bones, even though the interior was badly damaged. He saw no reason why the building had to come down."

Redesign arranged financing for the Coliseum acquisition through a loan from Twin Cities Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), a non-profit financier that invests in affordable housing and commercial

Building represents resiliency for community, says Chris Montana of Du Nord which will operate tap on first floor



Redesign Inc's Taylor Smrikarova is spearheading community efforts to save the Coliseum Building. At over 100 years old and 80,000 square feet, the building is one of the most consequential structures left standing in the area. "As we heal the Coliseum, it is a sign that the broader community along Lake St. is healing," said Smrikarova. (Photos by Terry Faust)

development in targeted neighborhoods. LISC brought together a group of banks, foundations and public agencies to establish a Community Asset Transition (CAT) fund to support projects like the Coliseum.

CAT's intent is to help community-based organization gain control of key properties along damaged corridors, according to LISC's Executive Director Peter McLaughlin. "We had memories of what happened in the wake of the Great Recession of 2008-09 when outside equity and capital came in from the coast and started buying up troubled properties," McLaughlin told the *Star Tribune's* Neal St. Anthony. "We didn't want to see that happen

on Lake Street. We wanted to keep local ownership."

Smrikarova explained that her group will be able to purchase the Coliseum with the help of CAT funds, but that it will need to do additional fund raising to cover the cost of rehabbing the building. "We will do whatever we can to make sure the building does not stand vacant any longer than necessary. In the short term, we will be using public art to deliver the message that a new day is coming for the Coliseum."

Redesign has put together an innovative equity-building plan for the Coliseum with several BIPOC partners that include Chris Montana from Du Nord

Craft Spirits, Alicia Belton with Urban Design Perspectives and Janice Downing at Commonsense Consulting @work. Montana intends to own and operate a tap for Du Nord on the Coliseum's first floor. Belton will use a cooperative structure to provide ownership opportunities for BIPOC businesses that will occupy the second floor.

"After the near wholesale destruction of the area, the Coliseum is still standing; that means the building can represent resilience within the community but only if the building is put back into use," said Montana.

"The recent history of the area demands that the building is not just rebuilt but is repur-

Minnesota Legislature funds Mainstreet Revitalization Program

Redesign Inc may be able to draw on a \$80 million state program to help rehab the Coliseum Building. The new Mainstreet Revitalization Program will provide up to \$2 million in loans and up to \$750,000 in grants for building projects along Lake Street and other targeted areas throughout Minnesota. Building owners will qualify for the grants provided that they can match \$1 in state funds with \$2 other funds under guidelines to be developed by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

posed to address the underlying cause of its near-destruction. I'm proud to be a part of the effort Redesign, Alicia, and Janice are making for BIPOC collaboration and growth at this most important intersection."

"For several years, we have had a dream to own a building where we can be a part of and create a community that values and supports business owners like us," added Belton. "Redesign's vision to make the Coliseum an opportunity to provide asset ownership is in alignment with our dream. What this means to us is that people who have been marginalized, overlooked, navigating systemic and institutional barriers will have a pathway to build capacity and achieve sustainable growth."

Redesign's efforts to acquire the Coliseum generated strong support from Lake Street area businesses. "At over 100 years old and 80,000 square feet, the Coliseum building is one of the largest and most consequential buildings left standing on Lake Street," noted Lake Street Council's Marie Compos. "Without efforts like Redesign's we risk losing small businesses, which means losing local ownership, entrepreneurship, and control. I am really excited to see existing Lake Street businesses like Du Nord Craft Spirits expand into the Coliseum. It will be amazing to see their growth alongside flourishing BIPOC entrepreneurs in the building's planned incubator space."

"The Coliseum has such symbolic importance for so many of us," added Smrikarova. "As we heal the Coliseum, it is a sign that the broader community along Lake Street is healing, as well."

612.729.7608 • www.buck-bros.com

BUCK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION
MN license #4593

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

Gardening Angel Garden Design

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LANDSCAPER

Design • Install • Maintain Residential & Commercial

Margi MacMurdo 612.206.7089 gardeningangel612@gmail.com

Midori's Floating World Café moving forward

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Midori and John Flomers, longtime proprietors of Midori's Floating World Café at 2629 E. Lake St. in Longfellow are serving Japanese take-out from a temporary location: the Seward Café at 2129 East Franklin Ave.

Many of their signature menu items are available Friday through Sunday from 4-8 p.m., including tempura appetizers, sushi, rice bowls, ramen and more.

Midori said, "It's very different preparing meals in a temporary kitchen. We've always been focused on sit-down dining with a certain ambience, but this is an interim arrangement. The Seward Café has been closed since the start of the pandemic. Our own restaurant at 27th Avenue and East Lake Street was heavily damaged in the uprising last spring, and we will not be reopening in that location. Until we can secure a new permanent space, we will continue offering take-out here."

Midori's Floating World Café opened in 2003, and has always had its roots in Longfellow. The first location was in a portion of the former Gandhi Mahal Restaurant; a few years later, the couple moved their business into a larger space across the street.

Ultimately, that space started to feel too big for their changing needs. John said, "Wherever we land next, we need to pare down our operation. I have limited use of my hands now due to arthritis. Midori makes all of the sushi and I run the kitchen."

A possible new location

Midori and John, with the help of Redesign Inc., are currently negotiating a lease on the former Subway Restaurant at 35th Ave. and East Lake Street. John said, "It hasn't been finalized yet, but we're hopeful. The seating area is about 20% smaller than what we had, which would meet our downsizing goal."

The couple has lived in Longfellow for more than 20 years, and the tremendous community support they've received for their restaurant confirms that this is where they belong.

Midori said, "Our customers really loved what we had. Their support kept us focused on what was positive. This is the second disaster our business has experienced. When our restaurant flooded in 2013, Redesign Inc. and the Lake Street Council were both banging on our door asking, 'How can we help?' They were the same through this."

Time to move forward

Through the Lake Street Council, Midori and John received a \$15,000 grant to replace destroyed inventory and apply toward reopening their next restaurant. The "We Love Lake Street" grant fund has raised \$12 million from more than 80,000 donors around the world, and helped hundreds of business owners deal with losses.

In addition, a GoFundMe campaign started by a former Midori's employee generated almost

Take-out currently available at Seward Café

\$60,000. A fundraiser organized by St. Albert the Great Catholic Church helped, too. John said, "The grassroots community support has gotten us through."

Midori added, "The city of Minneapolis gave us a reduced price when we renewed our commercial license, because we were unable to do any business from June 2020 until January 2021 when we started at the Seward Café."

Reopening, recreating, rehiring

For the time being, it's just Midori and John preparing take-out meals at the Seward Café. When they open the next iteration of Midori's Floating World Café, they will be starting from scratch in almost every way.

They were able to save some of the décor before their restaurant was vandalized last May. Midori said, "We have parasols and paper lanterns all over the house, and in a storage locker right now too. We can make the new space, wherever it will be, peaceful and beautiful again."

As for staff, they'll be reaching out to old employees first – but it's likely most people have gotten different jobs by now. John explained, "We'll be paying



Midori Flomers (right), originally from Nagasaki, Japan, and John Flomers (left) originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., pictured in their former restaurant. They will be re-opening in a new Longfellow location as soon as they are able. In the meantime, find their take-out at the Seward Café Friday through Sunday evenings until further notice. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

the new minimum wage. We're interested in working with warm, friendly people. Before the uprising, we had very little turn over."

To inquire about employment or to place an online order for take-out from Midori's Floating World Café at the Seward Café, visit www.floatingworldcafe.com.

Step Outside!

Decks • Fences • Pergolas • Seating areas • Steps and railings • Planters

It's your place. Your space.

Let us help you make the most of your backyard!

Fresh air • Rest and relaxation • Entertaining spaces
Beauty and tranquility • Habitat for birds and pollinators







Russ Henry,
owner

INTRODUCING MINNEHAHA REMODELING!

 Step onto a deck

 Step under a pergola

 Step up the stairs

Surround it all with a privacy fence!

High functioning, low maintenance landscape structures look great, and increase your property values! Build these assets in your backyard with Minnehaha Remodeling, our new construction branch!

Minnehaha Remodeling is led by green building principals, helping clients make wise investments that are as ecological as possible. We strive to buy local and build to last, with renewable materials.

Our landscape designers put your needs and well-being first to create high functioning, low maintenance landscapes that increase the value of your property!



A construction branch of Minnehaha Falls Landscaping

Call us at 612-724-5454
to see what we can build together!

MinnehahaFallsLandscape.com

Minnehaha Falls Landscaping and Minnehaha Remodeling 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.

UNDER THE CANOPY

Hook and Ladder brings back live shows to Lake and Minnehaha

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Live shows are back at the Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge inside the old Firehouse 21 building at East Lake St. and Minnehaha Ave.

This summer, concerts are taking place under the canopy set up in the courtyard between buildings.

Shows will return to the 300-seat indoor theater and casual Mission Room on Oct. 8.

Pivoting to survive

Surviving a pandemic that shuttered entertainment venues coupled with damage to their building and neighborhood during the protests after the murder of George Floyd required the non-profit Firehouse Performing

Arts Center to pivot.

They were sustained by two PPP loans and are still waiting for the Save Our Stages (SVOG) emergency funding. It's been stressful to wait for the relief funds, according to Marketing Director and Talent Buyer Jesse Brodd. "Thank goodness we had come up with the idea of Under the Canopy," he observed.

With an average of three shows a week from April to the start of October, the series will offer about 60 events. This includes the return of the three-day Roots Rock Deep Blues Festival July 15-17.

A key part of the Under the Canopy shows are the safety pods. With a maximum of 184 people at each show, folks buy

tickets of two, four or six together, arrive together, and sit together. The Mission Room has become the backstage.

The Hook offers music lovers a way to support their operations through Club 21 Patreon memberships with various perks include early ticket access, behind-the-scenes content, and discounts.

As other entertainment venues did, the Hook pivoted from live shows to streaming. Within a few months of the March 2020 shutdown they had wired the auditorium to offer multiple camera angles.

Brodd anticipates that the Hook will continue to stream shows, in part because their audience expanded outside Minneapolis during the pandemic. Plus, it is convenient for folks when the weather is bad.

They have the ability to stream the shows throughout the building now, so people who want to talk and drink during performances can sit in the Mission Room.

Damage and reopening

Despite its location next to the Third Precinct, the Hook and Ladder didn't burn down like many other nearby businesses. Brodd credits that, in part, to the tireless work of Moon Palace/Geek Love Cafe owner Jamie Schwesnedel and others, who watched over the buildings on the block night after night.

A fire was started in the back hall between the theater and Mission Room, but it didn't spread to the rest of the building, thanks to the two-inch-thick fire proof doors they had installed to bring the building up to code. The robust sprinkler system kept anyone from lingering in the building. "Everything in the Mission Room and theater was safe, aside from smoke damage," said Brodd. The majority of the damage was covered by insurance.

Less than a month after George Floyd's death, the Hook returned with the June 20, 2020 show by Davina & the Vagabonds. It was particularly poi-

gnant as band members Davina and Zack Lozier live just three blocks away.

What's coming next?

As property and business owners around them make plans, one big question remains unanswered. What is the city going to do with the Third Precinct site? Right now, shoppers and concert attendees are using the parking lot behind the Third Precinct as a community lot.

Ample parking is important to the vibrancy of the area, according to Brodd, and he hopes that is taken into account when the city evaluates what to do with the Third Precinct site moving forward. He suggested a few options, including a shared ground-level space for police and community or a multi-level parking garage.

"We were all in survival mode during the fires and COVID-19 and now it's up to us to set the standard for how to move forward," Brodd said.



MINNEHAHA SENIOR LIVING
minnehahaseniorliving.com

One Month's Free Rent

Love where you live!
Call 612.238.0010 today and ask about our move-in special!

*Call for details.

Senior Living with Services, Assisted Living, Memory Care & Enhanced Care

Offering a full spectrum of care on campus.

PROVIDENCE PLACE SENIOR LIVING

3733 23rd Ave S
Minneapolis 55407

Providing the services you need, when you need them in a safe and secure environment.



Jay Anderson
Selling Minneapolis Real Estate since 1993.

- Residential
- Commercial
- Investment
- Fixer-Uppers
- New Construction

612-819-7555
jay@CBBurnet.com

COLDWELL BANKER BURNET

LOST CAT

Missing since 5/31
Last seen 32nd Ave/36th Street



Female, large, friendly, blue eyes.
612-432-2765

Ask us how we can help you reach more folks at their doorsteps with our insert program.



Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com 651-917-4183

SAINT PAUL COLLEGE



life-changing SAINT PAUL COLLEGE

YES! We're back this fall.

fall semester starts August 23

Return to our campus this fall, as we plan a semester with significantly more in-person learning. A Saint Paul College education will cost you less and give you more. Our tuition is among the lowest anywhere, and many financial assistance options make it even more affordable. With over 100 degree, diploma, and certificate programs, Saint Paul College has something for everyone. **Act now to ensure the best course selection and financial aid opportunities!**

Register Now! saintpaul.edu/fallstart

MINNESOTA STATE
Saint Paul College
A member of Minnesota State

Document available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting 651.350.3008 or AccessResources@saintpaul.edu. Saint Paul College is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.



Celebrating 100 years!

INGEBRETSEN'S
SINCE 1921
NORDIC MARKETPLACE

1601 EAST LAKE ST MINNEAPOLIS, MN
P.612.729.9333 | ingebretsens.com

NEBA PRESENTS

THE RETURN OF CRAZY DAYS

AUGUST 6-8

AT A NOKOMIS EAST BUSINESS NEAR YOU

NOKOMISEASTBA.COM

TAKE A WALK WITH MIGIZI

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

One year after losing its newly renovated building in last year's protest fires, MIGIZI organized a walk from its former location at 3017 27th Ave. S. to the building it has begun renovating at 1845 E. Lake St.

"The walk from the old location to the new location meant moving forward from the past," said MIGIZI Director of Marketing and Communications Jacob Vang. "We wanted to recognize the past at our old space, but also through the walk on East Lake Street and settle on the future at our new space."

"The walk signified that we as a community have taken into account the past but will not let it hinder the progress that we set for our future."

Founded in 1977, the non-profit MIGIZI provides support and skills to Indigenous students in emerging industries, such as communications.

What has your journey looked like over the last year?

Being at the center of the protests last year after George Floyd's death was difficult in that we saw a lot of hurt and tears expressed in many ways. When we watched the fall of our new building, there was an initial sadness and grief that overcame us all as we had just opened that space a couple months before. Over the next few days, we were uplifted and encouraged by our family members, neighbors, and supporters from all over the world. This really helped us pick up our feet and start moving.

Approximately a week after our building fell, we already knew we had a lot of work to be done to get our summer programming up and running. Thus, our staff got right to it. We worked with partners around the Twin Cities that allowed us to work in their space and were graciously given tools and resources that we lost. As our program leaders worked on ensur-

ing a great summer for our young people, our administrators were looking for a new place to call home. Within a year we had found our new home at 1845 East Lake Street Minneapolis, MN 55407.

What support did you receive and from whom?

Our story got out there within hours of our building falling. People were giving generously and had given one million in a week. In the following weeks our supporters doubled that. Not only were we given financial support, but we were presented with a plethora of various donations such as projectors, computers, blankets, art supplies, and traditional medicines. And of course, we received thousands of encouraging messages on how our supporters could further assist us and how distraught they were about what had occurred. Support came from California to New York and everywhere between. We were especially in awe of the support coming from places such as Japan, Sweden, Australia, Mexico, and many other countries. We didn't know how widespread our story was until we reviewed such donations!

How did you establish the path to move forward and what kept you going?

Moving forward was no easy task but with the support and heart of thousands, we knew we had to move quickly to stick true to our mission to empower our young leaders. There were many moving parts that allowed for the success of our rebuilding but to name a few, we'd love to highlight our supporters, board and staff, and young people. Our supporters gave us an ease of mind with the financial detriment that we thought we would face and we're appreciative of that. Knowing that we had the backing of what it seemed like the world behind us, the board and staff diligently worked on a plan to pro-



On the one-year anniversary of the fire that destroyed the MIGIZI building at 3017 27th Ave. S., people gathered on the street to recognize the past. Then they symbolically walked from there along E. Lake Street to MIGIZI's new building (at 1845 E. Lake St.), near South High (below). See photo gallery online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com. (Photo courtesy of MIGIZI)

ceed step-by-step.

And of course, the purpose of MIGIZI are our young people. COVID was impacting our youth negatively in engagement and academic success. We realize that distance learning was tough for everyone, but it should not be an excuse to exceedingly low graduation rates. We were and are determined to see our young leaders use their full potential and to exceed what statistics have been.

Talk about your new location.

Our new building that we have bought is located at 1845 East Lake Street, previously Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly. This spot was selected because of the ease of access for students at South High School. South High School is one of our partnering schools and we're excited to be only 0.3 miles away from them. Our new building at 1845 E. Lake St. is projected to finish construction in early 2022. Currently, we are located at 2610 E. 32nd St [the Du Nord Craft Spirits, foundation and community market building].



The partnership with Du Nord has been great. Chris Montana, the owner of Du Nord, has been very understanding of our situation and extends his hospitality to all facets of our programming that allows our young people to learn, feel comfortable, and have a space that they can just hang out.

What's next for MIGIZI?

At MIGIZI, we are looking forward to having more students and participants be in our programs, establishing new partners for our young people so that they can access different experiences, and becoming the "spot" for young Indigenous people to grow.

How can folks help?

assist homeowners to make emergency repairs.

"LCC has become the go-to resource for residents and businesses looking to learn what is happening in the community, including proposed development, environmental protection activities, and community connections," said Santelli.

Bittersweet farewell

Majors will once again be working full-time for an organization that focuses on housing, this time across the state.

"Leaving LCC is bittersweet," remarked Majors. "I worry that the city of Minneapolis is moving further and further away from supporting neighborhood organizations and destroying a long-standing and beneficial system that engages, unites, and serves the people of this great city. I'm leaving LCC, but not my commitment to neighborhoods. I have genuinely loved working for LCC, and my greatest wish is that there will be well deserved recognition of the value of neighborhood associations."

She will keep connected with neighborhoods through her volunteer work as secretary of her neighborhood board, Ventura Village.

The Du Nord Foundation

Founded in the wake of the 2020 civil uprising to address racial inequities in the Twin Cities, the Du Nord Foundation focuses on three core tenets, according to staff member Jennifer Pennington:

- Providing stability through disaster
- Supporting business ownership and economic prosperity
- Investing in rebuilding the community through intentional and innovative business development

"We do this with an eye towards economic justice," said Pennington.

"Over 12,000 people from just about every country worldwide donated to our GoFundMe, bringing our total close to 1 million dollars.

"Of that, 48% of the donations were under \$25. That's almost half a million dollars in small contributions—proof that every person creates value.

"We distributed emergency rebuilding funds to 76 small and under-represented business owners in Minneapolis and St. Paul, whose physical stores or offices were damaged during the civil uprising.

"We relaunched the food shelf, called the Du Nord Foundation Community Market, which provides free groceries to over 400 families each week."

People can make a difference by just having a conversation on the disparity of graduation rates in Minnesota. American Indian students are graduating at just 50.8% in Minnesota whereas White students are at 89%. American Indian students year after year have remained the lowest ethnic group and there needs to be a change. We need to better our educational system to be more considerate, determined, and flexible to foster the growth of all students.

If wanting to help fight the cause further, consider donating to MIGIZI at migizi.org/support-us.

Majors bids farewell

>> From 1

rich. This neighborhood could be its own small town based on what it has to offer. There are so many businesses, parks, schools, churches, natural resources, etc. You can take care of all of your needs without leaving this community. The people in Greater Longfellow are a generational and ideological mix. They value relationships with their neighbors and they take a lot of pride in the place that they live," said Majors.

"Ultimately, I truly believe in the strength and power of residents to create and sustain the kind of community they want to live in."

'Gold standard' neighborhood organization

LCC Board Vice President Patrick Santelli gives Majors credit for developing Longfellow Community Council into one of the gold standard neighborhood organizations.

"She has been responsive to an ever evolving community and has ensured that the community is given an opportunity to weigh in on what is happening," he

stated.

Majors emphasized that all of LCC's programs, projects, activities and events be based on priorities determined by the board members representing their individual communities.

"One of my longstanding goals at LCC was to make it a fun and welcoming environment for new board members, new staff and residents in general," said Majors.

When she arrived, LCC was more formal and protocol driven. She knew from experience that most people participated for two main reasons: something fun is going on or something bad has happened. "I wanted to place more emphasis on fun so that people would want to join the board and make friends, and people would bring their families out for events and activities. That helped to cultivate the relationships to keep people engaged when something bad or challenging was happening.

"At this moment in time, LCC will have to change to strengthen our community engagement, outreach to under-represented communities and to view our work through a more equitable lens."

Ten years ago, LCC and other neighborhood organiza-

tions were facing the sunset of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the emergence of a new city program - Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR). "Melanie helped us navigate a changing relationship with city government and protected resources for our community so that LCC could continue to provide excellent programs and services for the neighborhood," stated Boyd.

When housing and mixed-used developments along the Hiawatha/Metro Blue Line corridor began to emerge a few years ago, Majors built the capacity of LCC through staff and volunteers, pointed out Boyd. She ensured that robust community engagement happened, in part through establishing strong partnerships between LCC and other non-profits, business organizations, neighborhood organizations and cultural community organizations.

"Over the past year and a half, Melanie has worked on behalf of the residents to build a more resilient Longfellow that is accessible to all," said Santelli. The organization offered "Stay Calm and Carryout" signs at the beginning of the pandemic for local business, and the "Open Citation and Emergency Funding" grant program to

Let's talk about Japanese beetles

It's July, and that means it's Japanese beetle season in Minnesota!

Japanese beetles have been a pest in the United States since they were accidentally introduced in the early 1900s. Over 100 years later, we still battle this invasive species each summer. I've spent many hours picking the beetles from my grape vines and currant bushes, and I'm sure many of you have, too. You may be wondering if there's a better way to control this common pest.

The good news is that Japanese beetle damage is usually only cosmetic. Although bug-eaten leaves are not very attractive, it usually will not kill a mature plant. However, Japanese beetle grubs can occasionally damage lawns. If a dead patch of grass can be rolled back like a carpet, its roots may have been eaten by Japanese beetle grubs.

Early July is a good time to start thinking about Japanese beetle control. Japanese beetle grubs spend the winter underground, where they mature into adults in the spring. Adult beetles emerge from the ground in late June or

early July and feed for 6 to 8 weeks. That means they are usually done feeding by late August.

Start looking around your yard for adult beetles now. They are approximately a half inch long and are metallic green and bronze in color. You are most likely to find them in groups, on plants that are in direct sunlight.

It's best to control Japanese beetles as soon as you start to see them because once leaves are damaged by beetles, they emit odors that attract even more beetles. So the more damage you have, the more you will get! On the other hand, it also means that Japanese beetles are attracted to individual plants that are emitting the odor, so you may see large numbers of beetles on one plant while nearby plants have very few beetles. You may choose to "sacrifice" a plant to the beetles in hopes that they are attracted only to that plant and leave other plants alone. You could even try placing a plant that the beetles particularly like (such as roses or hollyhocks) in a far corner of your yard, to draw them away from your favorite plants.

There are a number of differ-

The city gardener



By **LAUREN BETHKE**,
Master Gardener Intern



this often just makes the problem worse by attracting even more beetles than would otherwise have been present. University research has demonstrated that a lot of beetles fly towards the traps, but not all of them are caught. Rather, many beetles end up on nearby plants, where they cause damage.

Finally, when choosing new plants for your yard, consider planting species that Japanese beetles tend to avoid, including clematis, daylily, geranium, boxwood, and magnolia.

For more information, check out the University of Minnesota Extension Yard and Garden website. Extension resources are written by experts and contain the latest and most reliable research-based information. Happy gardening!

Lauren Bethke is a Hennepin County Master Gardener Intern with a passion for homegrown vegetables, pollinators, and everything green. She lives in Hiawatha with her husband and pets.

ent options for controlling Japanese beetles, which may be more or less practical depending on how much space you have. In a smaller yard, you can simply remove adult beetles from plants by hand and drop them into a bucket of soapy water to kill them. The beetles move more slowly when it is cool out, so it may be easier to catch them in the morning or evening.

If you have a specific plant that you want to protect, try covering it with fine netting to prevent beetles from reaching it. If the plant needs to be pollinated (like fruit trees), hand pick beetles until the plant is done blooming and then cover with netting. You don't want to prevent pollinators from reaching the blooms.

There are some insecticides that can be used to control Japanese beetles, but be careful to avoid

harming bees and other beneficial pollinators. Check the label to make sure the product is approved for Japanese beetle control and follow the label instructions closely. However, Japanese beetles rarely cause serious harm, so consider avoiding pesticides if possible.

Japanese beetle traps are widely advertised, but they are not effective for controlling beetles in your yard. Traps use synthetic pheromones to attract beetles, but

CRAZY DAYS: Bringing beloved tradition back Aug. 6-8

The Nokomis East community is lucky to be home to so many businesses, both storefront and home-based. Some are new additions who have recently opened their doors, but others have called the neighborhood home for decades. Thanks to those businesses with the deepest roots in the community, we learned about a much-loved tradition from the past: Crazy Days.

You may be familiar with the annual Nokomis Shoe Shop Sidewalk Sale, which happens every year over the first weekend in August. However, 30 plus years ago, businesses all along 34th Ave. used to hold festivities at the same time. The goal? Drawing people into the neighborhood for a Crazy Days event to celebrate the vibrant nature of Nokomis East.

Nokomis Shoe Shop has continued the Crazy Days legacy every

Nokomis East Business Association



By **HEIDI VAN HEEL**
www.nokomiseastba.com

year with their annual sidewalk sale. But, this August, businesses all over Nokomis East will be joining them for the first time in 30 years to revive this beloved tradition.

Crazy Days plans are still being finalized, but we'll have something for everyone in every corner of Nokomis East, whether you want to:

- Spend time by the lake
- Shop sidewalk sales on 34th

Ave.

- Learn more about the businesses in your backyard
- Attend parking lot parties and specialty events

And the best part? You'll have all weekend long to enjoy the fun! Watch for a detailed list, schedule, and map of our Crazy Days events to come in July.

Are you a storefront or home-based business? How about an artist, service organization, or faith-based group? If you're in the Nokomis East neighborhood, you're welcome to participate in Crazy Days. We're also looking for volunteers to help bring this beloved tradition back to the community.

Contact nokomiseastba@gmail.com to learn more about NEBA and our Crazy Days event. We look forward to seeing you Aug. 6-8!

Vie for best kickball team on July 31

NENA's Great Kickball Tournament and Fundraiser triumphantly returns on July 31, 2021. Vie for the title of best kickball team in Nokomis East!

Get an 8-10 person co-ed team together for the mother of all tournaments. Enjoy a family-friendly summer afternoon and raise money for NENA's Free Food Distribution project, which has donated over 650,000 pounds of food and supplies for our neighbors in need!

Visit today and register at www.nokomiseast.org/great-kickball-tournament-fundraiser

Other ways to get involved in our community:

- National Night Out Event Registration - Block Club Leaders can register events for free until July 20 at <https://www.minneapolis.gov/government/programs-initiatives/nno/registration-details/>. National Night Out will be on Aug. 3.

- Nokomis East Crazy Days Return - Local businesses and the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) are bringing back this local favorite during the weekend

of Aug. 6-8. Activities include an outdoor concert night on Friday, sales and information booths all day on Saturday on 34th Ave., and sites throughout Nokomis East. Visit www.nokomiseastba.com to learn more and participate!

- NENA Annual Meeting - We will be hosting an in-person event on Aug. 17 at Lake Nokomis Community Center Picnic Shelter. Learn about neighborhood news, hear from speakers, and get involved in planning for NENA's future priorities. For more info, visit www.nokomiseast.org/nena-annual-meeting/

- Nokomis East Free Food Distributions - On the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, NENA hosts a free food distribution at 5735 Sander Drive from 2-4 p.m. All are welcome, and volunteers are needed. Items include dairy, meat, fresh produce, pantry staples, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and culturally appropriate food options. For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org/nokomis-east-free-food-distribution/
- Minnehaha Food Shelf

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association



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

- Every Tuesday, the Minnehaha Food Shelf is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3701 E. 50th Street. For more information, visit www.minnehaha.org/foodshelf.html

Meetings and events:

- 7/14/2021: Nokomis East Free Food Distribution at 2-4 p.m.
 - 7/15/2021: NENA Green Initiatives Committee at 6:30 p.m., Via Zoom
 - 7/22/2021: NENA Board of Directors at 6:30 p.m., Via Zoom
 - 7/28/2021: Nokomis East Free Food Distribution at 2-4 p.m.
 - 7/31/2021: Great Kickball Tournament & Fundraiser at Keewaydin Park
- Find more information at www.nokomiseast.org.




3352 Minnehaha Ave. S. Minneapolis, Mn 55406

Check Facebook for current hours and events!

Operated by:
Big Bell Ice Cream Inc.
612-729-5205
www.bigbellicecream.com

\$1.00 OFF Next Purchase of One of Our Delicious Ice Cream or Popcorn Treats!

(Coupon good thru Oct. 20, 2021)



Staying in Place Grants

nokomiseast.org @NokomisEast Facebook

NENA's Staying in Place Grants help vulnerable adults - lower-income households, seniors, residents with a disability, and veterans - address housing maintenance issues

For the Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, and Wenonah neighborhoods

Visit nokomiseast.org/staying-in-place or call NENA at (612) 724-5652 to learn more

SALVAGE REUSE RECYCLE BUILDING MATERIALS

Deconstruction grants up to \$5,000 available for those willing to dismantle buildings piece by piece with hand tools

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Got a hammer? Got gloves? Deconstruction grants up to \$5,000 are available for homeowners or developers of properties located within Hennepin County built before 1970.

The work must be on residential properties, including houses and apartment buildings up to four units. Garages and sheds are ineligible for funding. The total amount of each grant is based on \$2 per square foot of material salvaged through deconstruction.

Applications are received on a rolling basis: 60% of Hennepin County's grant funds for 2021 are still available.

The goal of the one-year-old program is to incentivize deconstruction as opposed to mechanical demolition. Deconstruction means dismantling a building piece by piece, using hand tools.

Why go to all that trouble? To preserve building materials intact, so they can be used again.

Hennepin County environmental protection specialist Olivia Cashman manages the grant program. She said, "Before mechanical demolition took off, this is how buildings were taken down. We didn't invent deconstruction, but we're trying to bring it back."

Keeping usable material

According to Cashman, "In the first year, we funded 16 projects. More than \$65,000 of grant money was disbursed, and about 500 tons of construction material was diverted from the landfill. Deconstruction reduces waste going to a landfill, makes high

quality, reusable materials available to community members, provides jobs, and supports local reuse stores."

Some of the reclaimed material, like trim, doors, or flooring harvested from old growth forests, can't be reproduced because of the age of the wood.

What's the difference between old growth and new growth wood? Old growth wood was harvested before 1940, and has had time on its side. Because of its age, it developed tight growth rings, dense heartwood, and is high in pitch – which makes it naturally insect and rot resistant. The new growth wood used in new construction hasn't had time to develop these attributes.

The Deconstruction Grant Program is an opportunity to put old growth wood products back into the marketplace.

Nuts and bolts of program

According to program guidelines, the size of the structure or area of renovation must be 500 square feet or larger. For a full structural removal, the entire building must be 500 square feet or larger. For renovation projects, the combined area of rooms being renovated must be 500 square feet or larger (for example: 300-square-foot kitchen and 200-square-foot living room).

Deconstruction must take place after the agreement to issue grant funds is established. Grant funding cannot be used for deconstruction work that has already been completed.

Grant projects are subject to a pre-demolition inspection conducted by Hennepin County



Brighter Futures is a re-use warehouse located at 2620 Minnehaha Avenue South. They sell materials salvaged through deconstruction at affordable prices, while keeping used materials out of the landfill. Employees Jason Allen (left) and Tino Jones (right) select boards from the wall of salvaged lumber. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



According to Jason Allen, pieces like this solid oak timber can't be bought at stores selling new wood products. The timber is 100+ years old, meaning that the wood grain is tighter, and the pitch content is high (making it naturally insect and rot resistant). (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

staff, and applicants must verify viable reuse option for materials by checking that salvage organizations will accept their material. Two such organizations in the neighborhood are the Habitat for Humanity Re-Use Store and Bet-

ter Futures. Both are located on Minnehaha Ave.

Applicants will be notified within five business days of the county receiving their application. The county will develop a contract with the homeowner or

developer outlining the details for reimbursement.

If awarded, funds will be dispersed upon completion of deconstruction work and verification of material being reused, recycled, or disposed.

Itemized receipts from reuse retailers must be submitted to receive funding. Documentation showing weight of material sent to a Hennepin County approved construction and demolition waste recycling facility is also required.

One recipient's story

Alex Brogle is the owner of Aberdeen Companies, a development and construction company that builds community-focused, multi-family housing with an intimate feel. The company's goal is to provide a strong sense of home and place for tenants.

Brogle and his business partner bought a two-story brick home at 3136 Minnehaha Ave. last year. They received a Hennepin County Deconstruction Grant to take apart and recycle salvageable materials from the 1908 house, which was sandwiched in-between apartment buildings on either side.

Their vision, which is now well-underway, is to create eco-centered, market-rate rental housing in a newly constructed three-story building that will contain 18 units.

He said, "From the beginning, we saw this project as being geared toward eco-conscious tenants. It made sense to recycle as many of the historic materials as possible. There was a lot of old woodwork: a built in buffet, knee wall book cases with columns, paneled doors, and more than 800 square feet of hardwood flooring.

"There are certain houses that deserve to be repurposed. Because this house was surrounded by commercial properties already, we think it will help the mix of housing in the neighborhood. It also makes it possible for 18 individuals or families to live on a city lot that previously gave shelter to only one."

Hennepin County staff is available to determine project specifications and eligibility, and to answer questions about their deconstruction grants. Email olivia.cashman@hennepin.us or visit <https://www.hennepin.us/deconstruction> for more information.

'WATER YOU DOING? Advocating for our natural resources'

Miss Northland, Wabin Agiizi Goo Ikwe (Morning Spirit Woman) is Lori Martin-Kingbird: a junior at the University of Minnesota who presented at the Celebration of Language Festival held on the athletic fields at Anne Sullivan Elementary School on Saturday, June 19. Martin-Kingbird is an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Northern Minnesota, and is a candidate in this year's Miss Minnesota Competition. Her social initiative in the competition is called "Water You Doing? Advocating for our Natural Resources." She believes that water conservation starts at the individual level: first with one person, then with one community, and finally with one nation raising awareness and then standing up for safe drinking water. She said, "If we all work together, we can build hope for our future generations to sustain cleaner, healthier water." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Support the newspaper.

Support the businesses who advertise.

Tell them you saw it in the Messenger.

SAVE ON ENERGY BILLS WITH SOLAR POWER!

Utility Bill Vs. Solar Loan

OLD ELECTRIC BILL	YOU PAY LESS!
	SOLAR LOAN PAYMENT
	NEW ELECTRIC BILL

GET A FREE SOLAR QUOTE!

\$500 OFF WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD DURING YOUR PROPERTY EVALUATION

PROMO CODE: **DELIVERED**

EXPIRES 08/30/2021

AllEnergySolar.com/Messenger

651-374-8671



Home Matters

Treating your house like a home.



- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Wood Stripping & Refinishing
- Wallpaper Stripping / Wall Repair / Skim Coating
- Plaster / Sheetrock Repair
- Ceiling Texturing / Repair

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

STUMP GRINDING
612-724-6045

Merriam Park Painting

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

Call Ed 651-224-3660

HANDYMAN
 Dr. House does it all: From a leaky faucet to a new addition. I can save you money on electrical and plumbing. Call John at 651-231-5652.

A-Tree Service Inc.
 40 Years of Professional Service
 Owner/Operator
 Cleve Volk
 Licensed & Insured
 1849 E. 38th St.
 South Mpls.
 We accept  
612-724-6045
 Tree trimming • Tree removal
 Stump grinding • Chipping
 www.atreeservices.com

HOME DESIGN
 Plan your next remodel with Fresh Space Design! 18 years' experience in custom space planning, concept and construction drawings, fixture and finish selections. Gail Jacobson, Allied ASID. References available. 612-310-7069. www.FreshSpaceDesignLLC.com

wanted. Jim. 612-202-5514.
ROOFING
 30 years experience hail and wind damage specialist. Replace or repair. Free estimate. Licensed/insured. 612-724-3934

LAWN CARE
 Weekly mowing, complete lawn care. Call for details. Over 20 years in the neighborhood. A Greener Lawn Service. 612-554-4124.

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

Lawn mowing, yard clean-up, gardening/planting, etc. Call Larry 651-635-9228.
 All your GREEN needs - Mowing/Lawn Care/Landscaping. 20+ years in Mpls. Call 612-781-3420. SorensenLawnCare.com

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

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

WINDOW WASHING
 Window washing, inside and out. "You will see the difference." Call Larry. 651-635-9228.

Painting, wallpaper patch. Interior, exterior. Small jobs

YARD SERVICE
 Lawn Service, Spring Cleanup, Dethatching, Gutter Cleaning,


Five Element Martial Arts & Healing Center
 Our non-profit is dedicated to the empowerment of all people through martial arts, wellness, personal safety and self-defense training so we may have a more peaceful community and planet.
 Full schedule of classes online.
 3743 Cedar Ave. S., Mpls
 www.femamartialarts.org


Borden Window L.L.C.
Keep your old windows
 We turn old drafty windows into energy efficient tilt-in windows
BordenWindow.com
651-338-7163

KERN LANDSCAPE RESOURCES

ORGANIC GROWER'S BLEND + TOPSOIL + RAISED GARDEN BLEND + MANURE + COMPOST + TEN VARIETIES OF MULCH + CLASS FIVE + LIMESTONE + SAND + SEED

DELIVERY + PICK-UP + AWESOMENESS
kernlandscaping.com
Saint Paul, MN 651.646.1553

Job Matters

JOB OPPORTUNITY
 Male PCA to help young man learn appropriate community social interaction, educational tasks, IADLs, give mom a break. Good role model, sensitive to diverse cultures, clear spoken English, background check required. Flexible schedule. Jane 612-722-2271

OFFICE SPACE
 Wellness or therapy space for rent: On bus route. Easy access to light rail. Located at Minnehaha Ave S. and 42nd St. Open to build out. 2nd floor space avail. Call Jim between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. 612-490-1457 or email: KRZ@NELSONELECTRICINC.COM.

Ferdinand F. Peters, Esq. Law Firm

Flat Fees & Free Consultations
 651.647.6250
 Ferdlaw.com

Estates • Probate • Trusts • Family Law • Timeshares
 Real Estate • Business Law • Entrepreneurs • Litigation

NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.
7 out of **10** newspaper readers who read an office supply ad took action after seeing the ad.

Castle Building & Remodeling
NOW HIRING CASTLEBRI.COM

AVAILABLE POSITIONS:
 PROJECT MANAGER,
 DESIGNER, FRAMERS,
 CARPENTERS
 MNBC005657

HAYES WINDOW RESTORATION

- Full & Partial Restoration
- Sash Cord Repair & Tune-up
- Spot Glazing & Touch-up Painting
- Sill & Trim Replacement

hayeswindows.com
612-259-7855
 Lic # BC750502

Faith Matters

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

Bethlehem Covenant Church
 3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
 www.bethlehemcov.org
 Pastor Colleen Nelson
 All sermons can be found online at www.bethlehemcov.org
 Contact the office at office@bethlehemcov.org to find out how to join other gatherings virtually.

Epworth United Methodist
 3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
 www.epworthmpls.org
 Pastor Steven Reiser
 Adult Study 9:30 am via email
 10:30 am - Sunday Worship: livestreamed on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/EpworthUMCMPLS/
 2nd Sunday Outdoor Worship
 2nd Wednesday: Beer/Bagel & Bible Study via Zoom from 6:30-8:00 pm
 6/9-8/11: Weed & Water Wed. 9:30 to 11:30am; kids 0 to 8 y.o. bring adult

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church
 3430 East 51st St. • 612-729-5463
 www.faithlutheranmpls.org
 Pastor Jesse Davis
 Live Worship - Sundays 9:00 am; 10:15
 Bible Study after Sunday worship
 Wednesday Bible Study - 10 am
 Please wear a mask to all events at Faith.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
 4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
 www.minnehahacommunion.org
 Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom
 Go to church website for live and online information
 9:45 am-online Sunday Worship

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
 3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863
 www.parkavechurch.org
 Senior Pastor Gregg Taylor, Minister of Preaching Steven Belton
 Reaching & rebuilding in the Central Neighborhood. 100+ years of lively worship and diverse congregation. Open for in-person worship - 10AM Sundays

Spirit Garage - A curious, quirky and creative Christian faith community
 www.spiritgarage.org • 612-312-1074
 Pastor Holly Johnson
 Music Minister John Kerns
 Worship Sundays @ 10:30 AM outside Squirrel Haus Arts, 3450 Dight Ave. and On Facebook Live and YouTube
 Poetry, writing, racial reconciliation, outdoor adventure and book discussions

St. Albert the Great Catholic
 E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S. • 612-724-3643
 www.santalbertthegreat.org
 Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
 Weekend masses (masked & socially distanced) with attendance SUGGESTED by last name:
 Saturday 5:00 pm. A-G
 Sunday 9:30 am. H-M
 Sunday 12 noon. N-Z
 Center front door access only.


Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
 5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
 www.trinityfalls.org
 Pastor Matt Oxendale
 Livestream & in person worship Sundays 10 a.m. (beg. June 6)
 Link at http://www.trinityfalls.org

PROJECT OF NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES
Minnehaha Food Shelf, serving people Tuesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm
 Call us at 612-721-6231 • Minnehaha United Methodist • 3701 E. 50th St.


The Perfect Little Library Addition
 weeweathervanes.com

Little illustrated zines about gardening, butterflies, bees, & tea. Notecards too. Made in Longfellow, USA.

Use code LOCALPICKUP or ship it via US Mail.
 SharonsCompendium.etsy.com


Aurora Daybreak
Locally Handmade Gifts
 Adorable and Artsy Crafts
 etsy.com/shop/AuroraDaybreak
 Graphic Art Merch
 redbubble.com/people/AuroraDaybreak

CONTACT US TODAY TO BE PART OF THIS SECTION!
Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com 651-917-4183

HEAT? OR FOOD?

You don't have to choose.

Too many low-income residents of Hennepin County have to choose between paying their energy bill and other necessities like food, medicine and healthcare. Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program offers eligible Hennepin County residents help to pay their energy bills, so they do not have to choose between life necessities.

Energy Assistance Program changes effective April 16, 2021

- Application Deadline extended to September 1, 2021
- ERR Deadline extended to June 1, 2021
- Crisis increase from \$600- \$1,200
- EAP Income Eligibility Threshold Increased to 60% of State Median Income

2021 Maximum Energy Assistance Program Income Guidelines

Based on 50% SMI or 110%* of the federal poverty guidelines, whichever is greater

Household Size	Annual Income	3 Month Max. Guidelines	Household Size	Annual Income	3 Month Max. Guidelines
1	\$ 33,918	\$ 8,479	11	\$ 95,885	\$ 23,971
2	\$ 44,355	\$ 11,088	12	\$ 97,842	\$ 24,460
3	\$ 54,791	\$ 13,697	13	\$ 99,799	\$ 24,949
4	\$ 65,228	\$ 16,307	14	\$ 101,755	\$ 25,438
5	\$ 75,664	\$ 18,916	15	\$ 103,712	\$ 25,928
6	\$ 86,101	\$ 21,525	16	\$ 105,669	\$ 26,417
7	\$ 88,058	\$ 22,014	17	\$ 107,626	\$ 26,906
8	\$ 90,014	\$ 22,503	18	\$ 109,583	\$ 27,395
9	\$ 91,971	\$ 22,992	19	\$ 111,540	\$ 27,885
10	\$ 93,928	\$ 23,482	20	\$ 113,496	\$ 28,374



For information, call (952) 930-3541.
 We speak your language. Our staff speaks multiple languages.
 Visit www.caphennepin.org



A PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF HENNEPIN COUNTY,
 SPONSORED BY MN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES