



## What is role of artists in community?

*Ten Thousands Things helps people find common ground*

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Marcela Lorca is the artistic director of Ten Thousand Things (TTT), a theater company whose work has been grounded in practices of inclusion, equity, service and accessibility since its founding in 1990.

Like many other organizations, TTT has issued an anti-racism statement in this last turbulent year. Lorca said, "At TTT, we acknowledge that every theater, including our own, has a duty to investigate and dismantle white supremacy structures."

TTT productions have always been done without a stage; actors perform on the floor inside a circle of chairs, with minimal sets and live music. The troupe gives free performances in non-traditional theater spaces like homeless shelters, correctional facilities, low-income senior centers, after-school programs, women's shelters, and in rural towns across Minnesota — any place where people live without easy access to the arts.

In addition, they also perform for paying audiences at locations including Open Book in Minneapolis and North Garden Theater in St. Paul.

Wherever the actors perform, all the lights in the room are left on. Lorca said, "We don't preach easy answers to life's problems. Having the actors and the audience see each other is crucial to the way we work. We try to transcend perceptions of class, race, education and life experience that often divide people."

ROLE OF ARTISTS? ➤ 11



Ten Thousand Things Artistic director Marcela Lorca said, "This is a very difficult time, but it has required all of us to learn many new things." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

On a summer day



Kids cool off in Lake Nokomis on a sweltering hot day, capturing the joy of summertime in this reader-submitted photo by Dallas Crow.

## GET CRAZY IN NOKOMIS EAST

*Businesses host concerts, sidewalk sales, dog rescue, special beer, fish fry, yoga, games and more Aug. 6-8*

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Did you hear?

Crazy Days is back.

Thirty years ago, folks flocked to 34th Avenue for the annual event on the first weekend of August. Bringing back a beloved East Nokomis tradition of sidewalk sales, music, good food and fun seemed like the perfect way to celebrate after a tough year, so local businesses started meeting in June to plan a rebirth of the event.

"This is a great neighborhood that has been so supportive and welcoming to our business and others. Bringing new life to an old tradition like Crazy Days is a way to get neighbors together to celebrate," remarked Bull's Horn co-owner Amy Greeley. She and her husband revamped the longtime Sunrise Inn (4563 S. 34th Ave.) in 2017, and also run Sandcastle at Lake Nokomis beach.

"Life has been hard and hopefully an event like this can be a time to relax and have fun. Walk out your door, see some music, talk to a neighbor, find a new favorite business, enjoy some food in an easy and positive environment."

Bull's Horn is collaborating with nearby Venn Brewing (3550 E 46th St.) on a special Crazy Days brew. Get a taste during their parking lot fish fry on Saturday from 1-5 p.m. Flashback to the 90s with rounds of musical chairs. Plus, there will be music at Bull's Horn by DJ Truckstache along with

other games and activities.

On Sunday, Sandcastle at Lake Nokomis' main beach from noon to 6 p.m. will have live music and vendor tables, along with a yoga class by Fit to Live.

### Dog rescue and music

Nokomis Shoe Shop (4950 S 34th Ave.) kept the memory of Crazy Days alive, continuing its annual sidewalk sale for the past three decades.

Talking to folks there gave Mike Welsh of Nokomis Tattoo (4933 S. 34th Ave.) the idea of bringing back Crazy Days in a big way. Welsh and his wife have lived in the neighborhood since 2013, opened their business in 2019, and are active in the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA).

"It sounded like a great thing for Nokomis East in the past so why wouldn't we want to bring it back?" Welsh asked. "Bringing people together all over Nokomis East and beyond to celebrate all things Nokomis is an awesome thing."

Nokomis Tattoo is partnering with Under Dog Rescue on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. Meet your next pet, and start the adoption process. Folks can also chat with foster dog parents, buy snacks and gear for themselves and their pets, and learn more about the organization. Under Dog Rescue is one

GET CRAZY IN NOKOMIS EAST ➤ 8

## Reviving upper Hidden Falls Creek

*Former Ford plant redevelopment is a celebration of water*

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

This summer, workers are building a channel and bridge that will connect a recreated upper Hidden Falls Creek with the lower falls at East River Parkway and Magoffin Avenue.



It's part of the redevelopment occurring at the former Ford Plant.

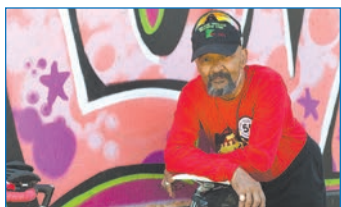
For nearly a century, the Ford Assembly Plant was a landmark in the Highland Park neighborhood. After it closed 10 years ago, the city of Saint Paul worked with area stakeholders and community members to develop a new plan for the 122-acre site. Ryan Companies, a national real estate developer with headquarters in Minneapolis, purchased the site in 2019. It is one of the largest land tracts open to redevelopment in the Twin Cities.

Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) has collaborated with Ryan Companies, the city of Saint Paul, and many other partners to design a new mixed use development there called Highland Bridge. The plan will implement clean technologies and high-quality design for storm water management, renewable energy, energy efficient buildings and infrastructure. At its core is a water feature that will recreate the historic path of Hidden Falls Creek, and return clean, filtered water to the Mississippi River.

REVIVING HIDDEN FALLS ➤ 10



Mac Pegovac (foreground) is the project manager for Ryan Companies Parks and Public Spaces. Bob Fossum of CRWD is pictured behind her. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Major Taylor Bicycling Club welcomes everyone, but be warned: 'We ride fast'

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The Adoption Story Project becomes a graphic novel

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CRAZY DAYS  
Schedule, discounts and more

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## Major Taylor Bicycling Club promotes cycling geared towards African American riders

### 'We ride fast'

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota has been bringing diversity to Twin Cities cycling since it started in 1999.

Co-founded by Louie Moore and Walter Griffin, the nonprofit recreational/social club promotes cycling geared towards African American riders in Minneapolis and St. Paul, but anyone is welcome to ride – with a word of caution.

Moore, who has been club president since the beginning, said, "We ride fast."

The club roster has about 30 active members. Their Wednesday night and Saturday morning rides average 18-20 miles per hour, and usually cover 35 or so miles. Club members range in age from 50-80. They ride with bike shoes clipped in to their pedals, and wear matching lycra bike shorts and jerseys. Moore, at 80, is the oldest member.

### Cycling interest growing in Black communities

Marshall "Major" Taylor was an American bike racer born in Indianapolis (1878-1932). He is considered the world's first Black sports superstar, but many people have never heard his name. By 1899, Major Taylor was the world cycling champion. He became American sprint champion one year later and also set several track cycling records. In the Jim Crow Era, he had to fight racial prejudice every step of the way just to get to the start line. Exhausted by his racing schedule and relentless racism, Taylor re-



Louie Moore has been president of the Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota for 22 years. He is a tireless advocate for cycling: promoting the sport in communities of color, and improving biking conditions across the city for all. Club rides meet at his home near 48th Street and Columbus Avenue in South Minneapolis. Moore was the first Black person to buy a home on his block, and has lived there for 57 years. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

tired from cycling at age 32.

More than 70 bike clubs across the country now bear Major Taylor's name. According to Moore, "Interest in cycling within the Black community has skyrocketed in the last 10 years. Every large American city has a Major Taylor Bicycling Club. Some have two."

### Why join a club?

Cycling is an endurance sport with cardiovascular and respiratory health benefits. Moore said, "Because of racial inequities, a lot of people in the Black community have health problems. Cycling is a great way to counter that."

The club promotes the benefits of friendship and fellowship,

too. Moore explained, "Many members have been with our club for years. In addition to biking, we enjoy having dinner together, going to cultural events, and traveling to biking destinations. Being a mixed group racially, it's been an education for all of us. Our bike group is made up of people who love to communicate with each other."

This summer, there will be a new recreational club forming for riders who don't ride as far or as fast as the established group. That club will be led by Major Taylor ride coordinator Walter Griffin and will include art rides, dinner rides, and local history rides. Visit the website for more details at [www.majortaylormn.org](http://www.majortaylormn.org).

### Lifelong dedication to cycling

Moore worked as an aide to former Minnesota congressman Martin Sabo from 1988-2007 and, among many other things, served as a strong advocate for cycling. He persuaded Metro Transit to put bike racks on their buses, and CEOs of big businesses to install bike facilities on their campuses so people could ride to work more easily.

As a member of the Minneapolis Bike Advisory Committee, Moore was behind the push to get dedicated bike lanes on Minneapolis city streets. And through the years, his has been a persistent, influential voice promoting cycling in communities of color.

### Cycling events

The Southside Sprint had hoped to return July 18, 2021 for another day of racing and celebrating the neighborhood around 48th Street and Chicago Avenue. The Southside Sprint course is 3/4 of a mile long. This year would have been its 10th anniversary run.

More at <https://bigwater-sclassic.com/>.

The event typically serves as the Minnesota State Criterium Championship. A criterium is a bike race made up of a set number of laps on public roads

WE RIDE FAST >> 3

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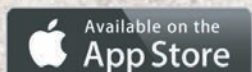
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# IN MY HEART: the Adoption Story Project

*Play about adoption becomes a graphic novel*

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Seven years ago, Wonderlust Productions co-artistic directors Alan Berks and Leah Cooper (both former South Minneapolis residents) began inviting people from the adoption community to share their personal stories about adoption. When the story circles ended several months later, more than 200 adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents, adoption social workers, foster families, siblings and others affected by adoption had participated.

From those stories, Berks and Cooper created a play called, "In my Heart: the Adoption Project." In 2016, it was performed at Mixed Blood Theatre by a 34-member cast and live band. The cast included professional actors along with members of the adoption community who had never acted before.

Cooper said, "We were often asked when we might remount the play, because it held so much meaning for people who saw it. A remount wasn't possible, but we tried to think of ways to share the play more broadly. The idea for a graphic novel came up."

She explained, "A graphic novel is closer to theater than film, because the reader gets to choose where their eye goes. There's something really special about a piece you can read and

touch and share with someone. That's different from the experience of seeing a play."

Berks added, "We'll always be people who love theater but because of this experience, everything we do will have more than one application moving forward."

## From stage to page

The dictionary definition of a graphic novel is a story presented in comic-strip format and published as a book. After Berks and Cooper decided to adapt the play into graphic novel form, they asked actress and illustrator Becca Hart to draw a mock-up of two scenes – and they liked what they saw.

Berks explained, "Becca is a theater artist who spent her adolescence deep in graphic novels. She was uniquely fit to illustrate this project. We wanted the graphic novel to follow the play. The drawings are based on the original cast members, and the characters speak the lines that were spoken in the play."

He continued, "This is a collective story about adoption experienced from many different angles. Both the play and the graphic novel wrestle with that."

## Difficult truths

Cooper, who is an adoptee,

said, "We don't shy away from difficult truths in our plays. There is a lot of joy in adoption, where almost everyone is acting out of generosity. But usually a child gets placed for adoption because their birth parents can't raise them. There is some sort of crisis. Many adoptive parents are also grieving their inability to conceive and produce a birth child. There can be feelings of grief and loss, overlaid with expectation. There are a lot of overlapping feelings for people whose lives have been touched by adoption."

## Recurrent themes

One of the themes that kept coming up in the story circles, according to Berks and Cooper, was the theme of the "good" adoptee and the "bad" adoptee. That is, if there are two adopted children in a family, a dichotomy is common.

Cooper said, "Both of the adoptees act out their fear of abandonment, but in different ways. Transracial adoption complicates things even further. We have more Korean adoptees in Minnesota than any other state. Many Korean adoptees we hear from said they grew up thinking they were white."

In this storyline, there are two adopted sisters. One is White (Alice) and one is Korean (Jen). Alice and her boyfriend Lewis are engaged. Alice meets her future in-laws for the first time at her



Alan Berks (left) and Leah Cooper (right) are co-artistic directors of Wonderlust Productions. Their 2016 play about the experience of adoption has been adapted into graphic novel form. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

own engagement party, at which Jen appears after spending two years in Korea.

Both sisters go down a rabbit hole at the engagement party, as the realities of adoption set in. The feelings they've spent years avoiding start to surface in fantastical forms. Questions swirl as the sisters ask, "Who am I? Where did I come from? Do I even belong in my adoptive family?"

Cooper said, "Part of what made The Adoption Play Project so special, and what inspired us to create the graphic novel, was people saying, 'This play gave

me language for what I'm feeling. This play is a tool for having more meaningful conversations about adoption.'

"We hope that people inside and outside the adoption community will continue having these conversations. A deeper understanding of adoption makes all of our connections stronger."

"In my Heart: the Adoption Story Project" is on the shelves at Next Chapter Booksellers in St. Paul and Magers and Quinn in Minneapolis. Copies can also be purchased from Wonderlust Productions' website at <http://wl-productions.org/inmyheart>.

## 'We ride fast'

» from 2

closed to normal traffic. Riders race in tight formation at high speed, testing both strength and agility.

Members of the Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota always ride in the race wearing brightly colored kits (jerseys and shorts) designed by St. Paul artist and club member Seitu Jones.

On Aug. 21, the bike club will provide ride marshals for an event called the Ride for Reparations. This 34-mile leisurely ride through the Twin Cities is educational in nature. Riders will come away with a better understanding of African American history in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The legacy of slavery lives on in America – expressed in segregated housing, poor schools, mass incarceration, and higher crime rates in communities of color. The mission of Ride 4 Reparations is to be part of healing racial inequities in America. All ride participants agree to donate to an organization working to improve the lives of Black Americans; a list of national and local partners is provided.

For more information or to register, email [harold@ride4reparations.com](mailto:harold@ride4reparations.com).

## New Burlington coming to Hi-Lake Shopping Center this fall

Sections of the Hi-Lake Shopping Center that burned down in the unrest following the murder of George Floyd are being rebuilt. Burlington Stores will open a new store at Hi-Lake Shopping Center (2124 E. Lake St.) in Minneapolis this fall, bringing the total number of locations in the state to 11.

"We are very excited to welcome Burlington to the newly rebuilt Hi-Lake Shopping Center," stated David Wellington, executive vice president of Wellington Management, which owns the property. "The whole Burlington team has been remarkably steadfast in their determination these past 18 months to bring a high quality retail environment to an important anchor in our community."

"We appreciate the partnership and patience Burlington and all of our neighbors have shown as we have worked through the complicated rebuilding efforts and look forward to re-opening the entire center in the coming weeks."

Additional tenants will be moving into Hi-Lake Shopping Center and opening their spaces back up in the rebuilt portions over the next few months.



Burlington will open its 11th store in the state this fall at Hi-Lake Shopping Center. Prior to the fire that destroyed part of the shopping center, this central space had been home to Saver's. -(Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Burlington's new location will feature an updated, clean design making it easy for customers to navigate. The company's stores offer an extensive selection of in-season, fashion-focused merchandise at up to 60% off other retailers' prices, including women's

ready-to-wear apparel, menswear, youth apparel, baby, beauty, footwear, accessories, home, toys, gifts and coats.

Additionally, Burlington Stores' layaway program, available in most store locations, is offered all year-round. Customers can place items on

layaway at checkout, come back to pay for it later and love their new purchase forever. For more details about Burlington's layaway program, please visit [burlington.com/layaway](http://burlington.com/layaway).

Interested candidates can learn more about joining the team at [www.BurlingtonStores.jobs](http://www.BurlingtonStores.jobs).

The retailer's top priority is the safety and well-being of customers and associates, and Burlington will continue to follow social distance practices and cleaning measures in alignment with CDC guidelines.

## About Burlington

Burlington Stores, Inc., headquartered in New Jersey, is a nationally recognized off-price retailer with Fiscal 2020 net sales of \$5.8 billion. The company is a Fortune 500 company and its common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "BURL." The company operated 784 stores as of the end of the first quarter of Fiscal 2021, in 45 states and Puerto Rico, principally under the name Burlington Stores. For more information about the Company, visit [Burlington.com](http://Burlington.com).

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# READ IN COLOR: summer reading challenge

Summer reading can help to foster academic success and promote community building. Our nonprofit, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, is excited to announce our partnership with Little Free Library.

We are supporting the national Read in Color® initiative. Together, we are promoting literacy at the grassroots level. The program works in cooperation with key local partners to distribute diverse and culturally relevant books to Little Free Library book-sharing boxes in local communities. The initiative is committed to furthering diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This is critically important when less than 25% of children's books feature a character of color. With current trends, you are more likely to see a black bear or black dog on the cover of a book than a Black girl or Black boy.

Our nation has evolved into a rich multicultural tapestry. Books should reflect this great gift and treasure by serving as mirrors and windows for children. Diverse books inspire and enable children of color to see themselves represented in the lit-

## Planting seeds

By DR. ARTIKA TYNER,  
[dr.artikatyner@gmail.com](mailto:dr.artikatyner@gmail.com)



erature. They learn how to unveil their limitless potential and discover the leader within. These are the mirrors where they can see themselves clearly as the leaders and change agents of the future.

Diverse books also serve as windows for all children as they learn about the cultural experiences of others. This may include learning about global citizenship by exploring a new language, food, or culture. Children can travel around the world through pages of a book. Reading diverse books supports and fosters leadership development. It provides youth with the tools needed to become inclusive leaders who take action for justice and equity.

The mission of the PPGJLI is to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach. Books and literacy are essential to ac-



Jules Porter, the founder of Seraph 7 studios, adds diverse books to a Read in Color Little Free Library and shares about their Youth STEAM program. Learn more at [seraph7studios.com](http://seraph7studios.com). (Photo submitted)

complish that goal. The Read in Color® initiative through the Little Free Library is an important resource for the community. It aids in teaching youth about

the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion, along with empathy and understanding. It equips our youth with critical leadership skills and tools.

Read in Color® provides depictions of our rich multicultural tapestry, offers new perspectives on racism and social justice, and celebrates marginalized voices.

This summer, you can make a difference in your community by supporting your local little free library, signing the Read in Color Pledge, and adding new diverse books to your reading list

## Suggested titles for your summer reading list:

- "Bee Love (Can Be Hard)" by Alan Page and Kamie Page
- "Black boy, Black boy" by Crown Shepherd)
- "Black is a Rainbow Color" by Angela Joy
- "Cameron Goes to School" by Sheletta Brundidge
- "Ghana: A Place I Call Home" by Monica Habia

\*Note: Data on books by and about Black, Indigenous and People of Color published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Through her organization, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, Dr. Artika Tyner seeks to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach.

## Letters

### July issue gave me hope

Thanks for the July issue of the paper. I really appreciated the stories about how businesses and organizations were doing one year after last summer's unrest. It gave me hope for our community and raised my spirits. The articles were well-written and very much appreciated.

Sam Catanzaro  
Longfellow

### Don't make Mississippi River Boulevard a one-way street on St. Paul side

I have been a resident of St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood since 1954 when my parents moved into the house I presently call home. Do the math, I was in Kindergarten. I went to Horace Mann Elementary and graduated from Highland Jr. and Sr. High in 1967.

During the period of the 1950s-60s, I saw the Temple of Aaron and the Ford Plant expand into the wild forest and paths along the cliffs that we used to make forts, run and bike; we also built a sandlot baseball field at the south end of the Ford Plant.

## What do you think?

Life was good. Then progress took out all the trees and thickets, also much of the wild life. Growing up, I recall pheasants along the boulevard. They are gone. Then the dredging and renewal at the base of gorge hat brought in deer and beaver! We used to wander the cliffs and the flats and clean up after all the weekend parties. Today, we have wild turkeys, Bald Eagles (of which I had a nest for three years in my Cottonwood) coyotes and I've even seen foxes. Mother Nature moves on.

I read in the *Villager*, that a 'majority' want to return to last summer's closure and permanently turn the MRB into a one-way street, north only? Seriously? What majority? I was never queried and I have lived here for 66 years. What is the Union Park District Council Transportation Committee (UPDC) and who are the members? The MRB, as far as I can remember, was never meant to be one way. It is a direct route to and from the U of M and other destinations. Growing up during this time, I and many others, road our bikes everywhere, walked or hitch-hiked to the U. Never a problem with traffic, just maybe the weather, and the

## Write to us. We'd love to hear your perspective. [News@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](mailto:News@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

scenery along the river and the changing of the seasons was just spectacular!

Today, sadly, progress has arrogance about it. Bicycles have become more of a transportation means than it ever was. I believe the Twin Cities ranks very high when it comes to year round transportation (I can't imagine riding in the winter, but many do). Here, here! I thank those that bike for being cognizant of the environment.

Now, let's examine the biking community. Majority of those biking are friendly, considerate, just out for a ride or exercise. For a decade or more, there has been a growing vocal outcry from a select group of the biking community. Racers, high energy elite athletes and others. I commend their conditioning, but, their wishes to impose, on the public, and the powers that be in the government, their perceived right to ride where and how they want is misguided. As an MRB resident and daily driver, I have become a pace car driver rarely going more than 30 mph (speed limit on the MRB is 25 mph) and passed by cars. I have been spit and sworn at, flipped off, drafted behind

my vehicle and scared I could hit someone when they ride 2-3 abreast and not yielding to a vehicle that could cause great bodily harm. I wrote an editorial a year ago about an incident I had. Stop signs? Turns? Not yielding! The law says I could be ticketed and prosecuted for running a stop sign. Why, then, is there no enforcement for bicyclist? Bikers, too, must obey the law.

Now that the Ford Plant / Highland Bridge construction is under way and the density is going to increase 'biggly' (sorry, couldn't resist) a one-way MRB does not make any sense. Rather, make the streets within the new community be one-way and leave the MRB alone for those going both north and south to other destinations. The MRB is a valued asset to St. Paul transportation. Maybe to create more pedestrian access, explore extending the sidewalks on the residential side on the city property. It is now mostly grass forcing people to not want to 'trespass' on neighbors property, forcing them to stay on the river side of the road. I agree that a northbound bike lane would make sense by increasing the width of the boulevard.

If the MRB is deemed to be a one-way street, where would the traffic be detoured to? Through our neighborhood's streets where our kids and pets play? Mt Curve? Woodlawn? Montrose? Through other major arteries that already are congested during morning and evening traffic? Maybe we should call for one-way traffic on Cretin, Cleveland, Fairview, Snelling, and Lexington... maybe east-west one-ways on Randolph, Summit and Marshall. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

And what about parking? There is currently parking on the residential side of the MRB. Will that be eliminated? Where do friends and family, park? In the past, there were political events that were very common on both north and south sides of Randolph, when there was a gathering, there would be dozens of cars. Sadly, those folks have passed away, but new activists will be along. What should they do?

One other note: why reconfigure the MRB when streets like Pelham Blvd. desperately need a major scrape and resurfacing?

Dana Rose  
Highland Park

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### Story ideas always welcome.

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# New software shows how to maximize the benefits of investing in urban nature

## University researchers look at how to repurpose underused golf course land

The University of Minnesota is a part of a multi-institutional effort to bring forward an innovative and free open-source software — Urban InVEST — developed by the Natural Capital Project. Urban InVEST creates maps to assist city planners and developers to determine where investments in nature, such as parks and marshlands, can maximize benefits to people, like protection from flooding and improved health.

The researchers tested Urban InVEST by applying the software in multiple cities around the world, including Minneapolis, by working with local partners to understand priority questions. They published the case studies as part of a new paper about the software in Urban Sustainability and another in Landscape and Urban Planning assessing ecosystem services provided by

golf courses. In Minneapolis, planners were deciding how to repurpose underused golf course land.

"In Minneapolis-St. Paul metro, golf revenue is declining. The downturn has created an appealing opportunity for private golf courses to sell off their land for development," said Eric Lonsdorf, lead scientist for the Natural Capital Project at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and coauthor. "To assist developers in deciding whether to create a new park or build a new neighborhood, we used Urban InVEST to show how, compared to golf courses, new parks could increase urban cooling, keep river waters clean, support bee pollinators and sustain dwindling pockets of biodiversity. New residential development, on the other hand, would increase temperatures, pollute

freshwater and decrease habitat for bees and other biodiversity."

Urban InVEST is the first-of-its-kind software for cities and allows for the combination of environmental data, like temperature patterns, with social demographics and economic data, like income levels. Users can input their city's datasets into the software or access a diversity of open global data sources, from NASA satellites to local weather stations. The new software joins the Natural Capital Project's existing InVEST software suite, a set of tools designed for experts to map and model the benefits that nature provides to people.

"This software helps design cities that are better for both people and nature," said Anne Guerri, chief strategy officer and lead scientist at the Natural Capital Project. "Urban nature is a multitasking benefactor — the trees on your street can lower temperatures so your apartment is cooler on hot summer days. At the same time, they're soaking up the car-

bon emissions that cause climate change, creating a free, accessible place to stay healthy through physical activity and just making your city a more pleasant place to be."

Urban InVEST was applied in multiple cities around the world: Paris, France; Lausanne, Switzerland; Shenzhen and

Guangzhou, China; and several U.S. cities, including San Francisco and Minneapolis. In many cases, the research team worked with local partners to understand priority questions and looked at reducing the overall temperature in cities, targeting nature inequities, and planning for greener futures with cities.

## UPDATE ON REOPENING REC CENTERS

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been following a phased approach to reopening recreation centers this year after closing due to the pandemic. Five more recreation centers reopened this month: Morris, Painter, Peavey, Pershing, Van Cleve.

Locally, Hiawatha School, Keewaydin, Lake Hiawatha, Lake Nokomis, Pearl, Powderhorn, and Sibley are open. Longfellow remains closed.

In total, there are currently 38 recreation centers are open

with the following conditions:

- Recreation centers are only open for scheduled programs.
  - No drop in visits.
  - Registration is required for all programs so that the MPRB can perform contact tracing in the case of a COVID-19 outbreak.
  - Masks are required for unvaccinated visitors and staff.
  - Masks are encouraged for vaccinated visitors and staff.
- All recreation centers are expected to return to regular hours and operation this fall.

## Letters

### Robin is for Minneapolis

I have lived in the Twin Cities for nearly 15 years, and Minneapolis for nearly 14. As a resident of the Longfellow community, and Cooper neighborhood, Cam Gordon has been a faithful representative for our community, he has served on the city council since 2006. Cam appointed me to serve on the Minneapolis Arts Commission, has been responsive to my questions, and has been an active participant in many neighborhood meetings. Cam is decent man.

Peter McLaughlin, the former Hennepin County Commissioner representing Longfellow for 28 years, was also a good representative for issues in our community, attended meetings, and is a decent man.

What these two men share, aside from being White men, with long terms, is their inability to read the room. Or maybe they fail[ed] to acknowledge the obvious; they are two White cis-gendered men, who perhaps do not recognize that what they represent, and who they serve, were/are people that look like me. White men of privilege. Oh, I am fully aware, Longfellow is more than White men of privilege, and I am aware of the class issues that exist in our community, our city, and our state. I do not think Cam can solve those issues alone, but I do expect more from our city council members.

I think all city council members representing South Minneapolis failed not only George Floyd, but our community, our people, our city, by not standing with the people most directly affected by the violence perpetrated by police in our communities. They were reactive, and not proactive; they stood on the

### What do you think about the city elections?

sidelines, instead of standing for the people. What makes their inaction during the early days even more egregious is this simple, glaring fact: in a city with a system that prioritizes a strong city council, over a weak mayoral system — the city council punted responsibility to a police department, plagued with racist cops, looking to utilize military weapons and tactics, to terrorize our community.

Robin Wonsley Worlobah has a plan for Longfellow. It includes equitable, affordable housing, fully funded equitable education, a real public safety plan for all, strengthening workers rights, ending our city's involvement with ICE and CBP. Robin is for ending the free ride private institutions, and Fortune 500 companies have had in our city, and for the funding of a just social safety net.

Cam's successes are well documented, and very well appreciated, but his failure to deal with our police department, housing issues, and equity in our community render his accomplishments into the furthest recesses of my mind. Now, we need Cam Gordon to see this; it is time for Cam Gordon to read the room, and see that Robin Wonsley Worlobah is the best person, for this moment, for the future of Longfellow. Robin is for ALL of Us. Robin is for Minneapolis.

Ken R. Koens  
Longfellow

### Adults grateful for south Minneapolis park activities

Much has been written related to Minneapolis Park Board leadership over the past year and yet there are ongoing neighborhood park programs and a consistent and dedicated number of

individuals whom lead and staff the community programs that we hear about too infrequently.

Minneapolis city parks are not just for youth activities and day care for toddlers but also for adults. Some of the activities offered include art and craft groups, card playing, yoga, exercise classes and more. Many activities are free or for only a few dollars. They also host monthly luncheons and entertainment as well as day trips to theaters/plays, rides on local rivers and lakes, field trips to historical sites, eagle watching on Lake Pepin and more.

During the pandemic and

pandemic shut down, the south Minneapolis park directors and staff stayed connected and would reach out and call the older adults with an offer of help or provide assistance for anything they might need. They also delivered creative and uplifting "care packages" periodically to the older adults that included reading material, word games, treats and gifts. When spring arrived, the care packages we received included flowers and plants which were not only colorful and bright but also evoking an openness, hope and rebirth after a challenging year.

We adults, appreciate the

Minneapolis parks directors, staff and the ongoing programs they offer us and we'd like to recognize these folks for their passion for striving to create a community where all are welcome.

While my experience is that of partaking in south Minneapolis programs; equally, there are park programs offered throughout the city. The directors and staff are true community builders and heroes within their work to support neighbors and a sense of belonging. This is Minneapolis at its best thanks to these leaders!.

Irma Turner  
Lifelong resident of south Minneapolis

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*Minneapolis businesses and neighborhood associations partner with the Minneapolis Foundation to raise \$20 million to help small business owners and corridors impacted by civil unrest after Floyd's murder*

## INVESTING IN RESILIENCY

If you thought the 350 or so Minneapolis and St. Paul small business owners on Lake Street and West Broadway in Minneapolis, and University Avenue in St. Paul's Midway who watched their businesses get damaged or destroyed in the civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd one year ago were giving up on their dreams, you would be wrong.

What the civil unrest took away has made them stronger and even more determined than ever to rebuild their businesses and reimagine their futures and the futures of their communities.

"I will not quit until I know I can't go on anymore," said Wonneda Hing, owner of Universal Hair Design located in St. Paul's East Midway/West Frogtown neighborhood. "So, I will strive to find some funding, some loans, to help my dream."

### Resiliency inspires Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund

It's this determination that's fueling a new fundraising effort supported by a coalition of businesses and nonprofits to help Minneapolis and St. Paul small businesses directly affected by civil unrest to reconstruct their operations.

Formed by the Minneapolis Foundation, the community-based Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund (RRRFund.org) started with a challenge grant from the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation and received donations so far from Target Corporation, the Donaldson Foundation, and Mortenson. In creating the fund, the goal is to raise at least \$20 million within the next year.

"I am personally inspired by the determination of these small businesses to rebuild," said Rod Young, CEO and president of Delta Dental of Minnesota. "Because of their fighting spirit and the love for their communities, we've joined with other major businesses and neighborhood nonprofits to accelerate their rebuilding efforts. Through our Foundation, we want to build on their momentum."

These businesses are partnering with the Lake Street Council, the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, and the Midway Chamber of Commerce in St. Paul, and raised funds will be directed and distributed through the Minneapolis Foundation's Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund. Complementing these efforts, Minneapolis-based Mortenson, one of Minnesota's largest construction companies, has been



"I'm staying for the community. I'm staying for the love of the people," said Gloria Wong, owner of Sunrise Plaza and Century Plaza in the Midway. (Photo submitted)

providing pro bono services and technical consultation to assist impacted businesses, and connecting affected business owners with local minority-owned contractors for services.

"The physical restoration of these main corridors in our community is vital," said Lynn Littlejohn, Vice President of Community Affairs and Development for Mortenson. "Much has been accomplished so far, but a significant amount of work remains. Time becomes a factor the longer we wait. That's why we need to act now and act decisively to restore these three key cultural and business corridors."

### Mini-documentary brings resiliency to light

The world was shocked when images of burning buildings, smashed facades, and looted businesses flooded their screens one year ago.

Today, new images are emerging – of small business owners on Lake Street, West Broadway and University Avenue more determined than ever to reimagine their futures.

Their stories are captured in their own words in a new 12-minute mini-documentary called Corridors, which shares how businesses on Lake Street and West Broadway in Minneapolis, and on University Avenue in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood, were damaged or destroyed, how the community came together to help, and why owners are passionate about staying in their neighborhoods, rebuilding their businesses and reimaging their futures. The documentary is available to watch on RRRFund.org.

The mini-documentary was created in support of the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund and serves as a call-to-action to encourage further philanthropic investment in the vital Minneapolis and St. Paul communities affected by the civil unrest.

"These small business owners are part of a long-standing legacy of immigrants who came to Minnesota to forge a new future for themselves and their adopted new home," said R.T. Rybak, President of the Minneapolis Foundation. "Many fled wars and strife in their homelands. There's no one who understands better what it means to rebuild than these business owners. That's why we're investing in them."



Anna Bloomstrand of Ingebreetsen's talks about their business in the mini-documentary. (Photo submitted)

### Restoring hope; reimagining the future

Donations to the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund will be used specifically to help small businesses impacted by the civil unrest re-construct their businesses. These efforts range from minor repairs to store façades to the complete reconstruction of buildings.

"We've learned in our community outreach efforts over the past year that many of these small businesses were underinsured," said Littlejohn. "The Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund will help fill that gap."

But what's very clear, according to the Corridors documentary, is the will of these small business owners to survive and thrive.

"I want to build a building. How realistic is that dream?" asked K.B. Brown, owner of Wolfpack Promotions LLC on West Broadway in Minneapolis' Jordan neighborhood. "I'm an entrepreneur. I don't believe in failure. I'll make it happen."

### Giving to the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund

Business and community leaders and individuals who want to help small businesses on Lake Street and West Broadway in Minneapolis and University Avenue in St. Paul rebuild, can give directly to the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund at RRRFund.org, by emailing [rebuild@mplsfoundation.org](mailto:rebuild@mplsfoundation.org), by calling 612-672-3867, or texting "REBUILD" to 243725. Donations of all sizes are being accepted. Donations will be administered to local businesses by the Minneapolis Foundation's Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund.

"The strength of Minneapolis and Saint Paul is when we come together and help each other out," said Rybak. "There's a lot of momentum behind the Restore-Rebuild-Reimagine Fund and we invite everyone who cares deeply about these communities to consider giving."

"I'm hoping that we can form alliances and people who do have the means can partner with those who don't. I hope we can have these partnerships," said Christina Le, who owns Lake Wine & Spirits with her husband, both immigrants from Vietnam. "It's hard to do something alone. We would like to stay here as long as possible, grow with the city, and reinvest our time and money into our neighborhood again. No guts, no glory!"



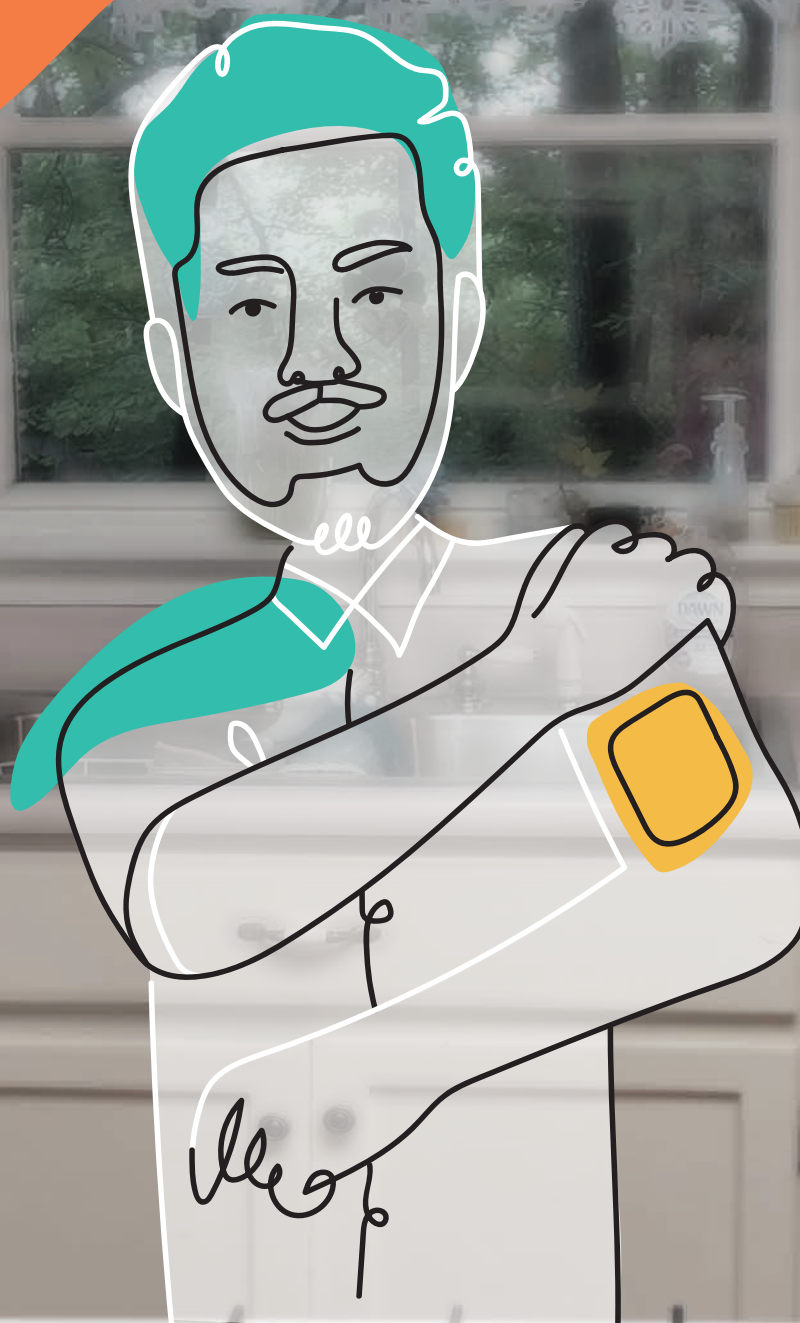
Fidencio Cruz of Maria's Restaurant talks about their business in the 12-minute "Corridors."



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## SIMPLY Life

### End of Day: Practicing Stillness

Kevin Morgel rests on a bench along Lake Nokomis, observing the sunset. "I have three goals: try to exercise everyday, to take at least one picture of the sunset, and to do a little writing. I am enjoying the evening," he said.

>> Photo series  
by Vanna Contreras

# GET CRAZY IN NOKOMIS EAST

>> from 1

of three organization that Welsh and his wife do what they can to support, and that includes holding dog rescue events on a regular basis.

"Both of our dogs are rescues and it's an important cause to my wife and I," remarked Welsh. They adopted Cricket, their pit bull, from Under Dog eight years ago. Eleven-year-old Oliver, a boxer, is also a rescue dog. There's a mural on the side of their building that features both of their dogs.

Nokomis Tattoo, Nokomis Surplus and MKT Law are hosting the kickoff event for Crazy Days on Friday from 5-9:30 p.m., which also happens to be the next in NEBA's Outdoor Concert Series. Catch Miguel Goebel from 5-5:30 p.m., and acoustic guitar vocal duo Oake and Paine from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Doug Collins and Rob Genadek take to the stage with their mix of Beatle-esque pop and classic country from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Welsh's wife, Jackie, is working on compiling the history of the buildings and businesses in the area, and she's looking for interesting tidbits from folks.

The couple volunteers regularly with NEBA.

"Let me quote Jennie from the Workshop. 'When one of us does better, we all do better.' I'm a strong believer that if the businesses around mine do well then I have a better chance of doing well," observed Welsh. "Last year when COVID-19 hit, NEBA did a t-shirt fundraiser to help some of the businesses that were decimated by the pandemic. The community came together and purchased a lot of shirts. If you look around our area we lost very few businesses in the last 18 months compared to other places. I feel there's probably a connection.

"We're very lucky to have such a supportive grass roots community."

Welsh added, "My favorite thing about Nokomis East is how many working class people have made this their home for decades. I've tattooed all across the U.S. and there's never been one community like Nokomis East. I've unfortunately seen places where working class people have been pushed out of an area through gentrification. I'm a newer resident and only lived in the area for eight years, but I absolutely love how many people have kept their homes and made this the place they want to raise a family.

"I love all things Nokomis."

So does Greeley, who points to the good work being done by the local business association. "NEBA has been an important way to connect with other businesses, share resources, work on projects like this and stay connected to our community," she observed.

"In recent years, NEBA has been trying to find fresh new ways to support our area businesses and the community. This effort became even more critical given the challenges we've all faced during the pandemic," remarked NEBA Co-President Heidi Van Heel of hvh Engage!, who started a home-based busi-

ness after working in public television for 14 years. "We started with a T-shirt sale fundraiser and 'Nokomis Treasures' medallion hunt last January. However, we knew from the very beginning of the shutdown that we wanted to have a special celebration as soon as we could, and when we learned about the Crazy Days legacy, we thought it was a perfect opportunity."

She added, "It's not easy running a business, pandemic or not. NEBA is a volunteer-run organization that is open to storefront, home-based, and service organizations. By working together, we can build a stronger, richer, and more vibrant community. You can learn more about NEBA by visiting [nokomiseastba.com](http://nokomiseastba.com)."

### Saturday happenings

There's a lot happening along 34th on Saturday. Eat great food, drink local beer, take classes, and chat with artists as you stroll along the main avenue. Of course, Nokomis Shoe Shop will be holding its three-day sidewalk sale.

The third generation McDonald's Liquor (5010 S. 34th Ave.) is hosting wine tastings and a raffle from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and is partnering with Town Hall Brewery across the street on beer pours. "We support bringing back Crazy Days to strengthen relationships with our patrons and local businesses," remarked Nick Daugherty of McDonald's. He's glad to celebrate togetherness after a tough 2020.

"I love the myriad of options for dining, shopping and having a great day outside, but the people are what make this neighborhood so great," Daugherty pointed out.

"Crazy Days is something that brought the neighborhood together," remarked Mehtab Taylor of Town Hall (5019 S. 34th Ave.), a place known for its award-winning beer and entertainment. "After all that we have been through in the last one and a half years community is important more than ever. It really brought all the businesses and neighbors together and made us family."

Parking lot parties at McDonald's, Town Hall, Casa Maria (5001 S. 34th Ave.) and Oxendale's (5025 S. 34th Ave.) will feature artists, home-based businesses, community groups, churches and more. Don't miss A Great Pottery Throwdown at the Workshop (5004 S. 34th Ave.) on Saturday from 10-11:30 a.m. and classes at PaddleSculpt (5007 S. 34th Ave.) in morning.

Grande Sunrise (5554 S. 34th Ave.) will have inflatables and specials, Nokomis Surplus (4935 S. 34th Ave.) is holding a three-day sale, Topsy Steer (5000 Hiawatha Ave.) will have a lunchtime crawfish/seafood boil, Nokomis Hardware is giving away temporary tattoos (5155 S. 34th Ave.) and you can get a free donut hole at Mel-O-Glaze (4800 S. 28th Ave.).

Learn about herbalism, farming and mushroom growing at the area's new plant shop, Agrarian Seed and Garden (5152 Hiawatha Ave.) on Saturday from

### What they love

#### Mehtab Taylor of Town Hall

**Lanes:** I love going to Bullshorn with my family and playing tabs and the juke box. I love takeout from all the Mexican restaurants, and I shop at all the stores for my needs. This is a great one-stop block and neighborhood.

#### Nick Daugherty of McDonald's

**Liquor:** Any of the delicious food options from our surrounding restaurants, and certainly any of the classes and educational services provided by local storefronts and home-based businesses.

#### Amy Greeley of Bull's Horn & Sandcastle:

This neighborhood has a lot going for it like green spaces, a variety of local businesses so you don't have to hit up the big box stores all the time, and great food! I've made pottery at The Workshop Mpls, I buy groceries at Oxendales, I eat on 34th, get coffee at Nokomis Beach, train my dogs at Canine Coach – what more could you want in a neighborhood?

#### Heidi Van Heel, hvh Engage!:

Everything! Personally, I love the feeling that comes with shopping and eating at places where people recognize me and seem genuinely happy to see me (and vice versa!). They may not know my name or what I do, but the experience makes me feel as if I'm a part of something – and I am. I'm part of the Nokomis East community.

#### Mike Welsh of Nokomis Tattoo:

How do I answer that? It's like a parent picking their favorite kid. Everyone is doing cool stuff so check it all out!



Nokomis Shoe staff hang out during a past community event. They've continued doing their annual 3-day sidewalk sale over the last three decades, and will again be joined by other local businesses for the Nokomis Crazy Days event Aug. 6-8, 2021. (Photo submitted)

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Find the complete schedule on page 9 and at [Nokomis.Rocks](http://Nokomis.Rocks).

And mark your schedule for next year. Venn, Town Hall and others are already talking about a bigger, better beer collaboration.

"We think that everyone who lives, works, and owns a business in Nokomis East realizes that our neighborhood is special," stated Van Heel. "Our hope is that by bringing this much-loved event back, we can continue strengthening the connections people have to the area."



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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**FRIDAY, AUG. 6**  
**NEBA Outdoor Concert Series** provided by Nokomis Tattoo, Nokomis Surplus & MKT Law Building. Located in the back parking lot.  
 • 5-5:30pm - Miguel Goebel  
 • 5:30-7:30pm - Oake and Paine  
 • 7:30-9:30pm - Doug Collins and Rob Genadek

**ALL DAY SATURDAY**  
**Oxendale's, Casa Maria, and McDonald's Liquor & Wine** - Parking Lot Parties featuring artists, home-based businesses, community groups, churches, and much more.

\*ADA bathrooms available at the Nokomis Library

**SATURDAY, AUG. 7**  
**8-9am - PaddleSculpt** - Strong & Calm free full body circuit & yoga (all levels welcome)

**9-10am - PaddleSculpt** - Row Sculpt free rowing circuit workout (all levels welcome)

**10-11:30am - The Workshop** hosts A Great Pottery Throwdown

**11am-1pm - Agrarian Seed and Garden** - Learn about herbalism, farming, and mushroom growing from our wonderful local producers! Organic produce for sale. Complimentary Well Rooted iced tea!

**11am-2pm - Tippy Steer** - Local Sassy Brew Food - Drink Specials and Crawfish/Shrimp Boil (while supplies last).

**11am-5pm - Town Hall** will have a DJ in the parking lot. Beer on tap and pub pretzels for sale.

**11am-8pm - Grande Sunrise** food & drink specials, inflatables, bouncy house & raffle

**12-2pm - The Workshop** - Live Outdoor Screen Printing. T-shirts and Bags proceeds fund our BIPOC makers class "Carving Space"

**12-3pm - McDonald's Liquor** Wine Tasting & Raffle (cost and details at Nokomis.Rocks)

**12-3pm - NENA at Casa Maria's**  
**1-4pm - Nokomis Tattoo Dog Rescue Event**

**1-5pm - Bull's Horn** - Parking Lot Party and Fish Fry. DJ, games, and Venn Brewing "Crazy Days" beer collaboration.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 8**  
**1-5pm - Sandcastle** live music and 4-5 tables of vendors

**4pm - Linda Simon of Fit to Live** will provide a yoga class at Sandcastle

**6pm - Crazy Days Closing Concert** provided by Sandcastle

**ALL WEEKEND**  
**Nokomis Hardware** - Nokomis East Temporary Tattoos

**Nokomis Shoes** - Yearly Sidewalk Sale

**Nokomis Surplus** - 3 Day Sale

**Mel-O-Glaze Bakery** - Free Donut Hole

**Agrarian Seed and Garden** - 20% off all plants

**Berry Sweet Kitchen** - Find all of your breakfast favorites, including the best French toast in the city!

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# Reviving upper Hidden Falls Creek

>> from 1

## Reviving a creek long buried

Hidden Falls Creek was buried and paved over prior to construction of the Ford Assembly Plant. Since then, impervious surfaces at the site have sent runoff downstream without treatment, destabilizing the underground creek and carrying pollutants to the river.

The revived Hidden Falls Creek will flow to Hidden Falls Regional Park through a channel underneath Mississippi River Boulevard. The 90-foot channel will connect the park with Highland Bridge. Adjacent to the creek, a paved pedestrian and bike path will end at a terrace overlooking Hidden Falls. CRWD will contribute grant funds for this portion of the project in addition to providing funds for stormwater management.

Called the Mississippi River Boulevard Crossing, construction of the channel and bridge started in April; traffic has been detoured around the construction area since May 10. The parkway is expected to reopen in the fall, once this first phase of the project is complete.

In addition to its aesthetic and recreational benefits to Highland Bridge and the broader community, the system now taking shape will filter pollutants year-round. Much of the system's stream path has been built, and is receiving finishing touches before the water starts to flow later this month.

## Innovative stormwater storage

The stormwater collection system consists of a series of underground tanks, surface ponds, and manufactured wetlands that all support the central water feature. Designed to hold 3-7 feet of water, the flow isn't expected to run dry during drought or get overwhelmed by torrential rains because of the steady ground water supply.

Bob Fossum, is the Monitoring and Research Division Man-



Bob Fossum of CRWD (left), Les Saunders-Pierce (center) and Anne Gardner (right) of the city of St. Paul take a tour of Highland Bridge. The central water feature for Highland Bridge will offer recreational, as well as environmental, opportunities. Four new parks and several public spaces within the redevelopment project at the former Ford Assembly site will be available for public use starting next summer. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Green markers indicate where the manufactured wetland will be. Native plants growing in the wetland, along the water feature, and in surrounding rain gardens will help filter pollutants out of stormwater runoff. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

ager for CRWD. He said, "The Ford site is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to apply sustainable practices to a very large piece of land in the heart of the city, and take a leading role in improving environmental health for future generations. We see this project as very positive from a water resource perspective."

## Increased green space and

## wildlife habitat

In addition to the underground storage and filtration practices, there are several large rain gardens and a manufactured wetland that will collect and filter stormwater runoff for the central water feature. Rain garden and wetland plants will provide beauty and increased wildlife habitat, while helping to clean water as it passes through the soil.

The stormwater systems will capture and clean an estimated 64 million gallons of water annually. This will prevent approximately 55,200 pounds of total suspended solids and 145 pounds of phosphorus from entering the Mississippi River each year.

Prior to redevelopment, polluted stormwater from this site entered the river untreated. By

## Learn more

Saint Paul Water Resources Coordinator Wes Saunders-Pierce said, "In the Highland Park neighborhood, the water table is high because it's near the river. With this project, we're diverting ground water into the water feature and improving the water quality of stormwater runoff flowing into the Mississippi. Ground water doesn't carry the same level of contaminants as storm water. It is always more clean, clear, cool, and dependable. We see this project as being a real celebration of water."



*"The Ford site is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to apply sustainable practices to a very large piece of land in the heart of the city."*

~ Bob Fossum

cleaning and reusing stormwater in the central water feature, rainwater will be a resource – instead of a waste product.

The four new city parks and public open spaces within Highland Bridge will be available for public use beginning next summer.

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# What is role of artists in community?

&gt;&gt; from 1



Marcela Lorca, artistic director of Ten Thousand Things said, "I keep thinking back to a play I directed at the Guthrie almost 10 years ago called "Caroline, or Change." There was a song in it with a refrain, "Change comes fast and change comes slow, but change comes." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

TTT actors, staff, and board members are used to this idea of seeing each other with the lights on. "Still," Lorca said, "the pandemic and the Up-rising last summer really made us take a deeper look at how we operate."

## A time of deep racial reckoning

She continued, "In particular, a letter authored by more than 250 BIPOC theater artists last June was a call to action. The letter spoke directly to the indignities and racism that BIPOC, and in particular Black theater professionals, face on a daily basis. Hundreds more names have since been added to the letter, which is called 'We see you, White American theater.'"

"The letter seemed geared toward large institutions, like Broadway houses, but it applied to everyone. Many American theater groups started to issue anti-racist statements, and to do deep racial reckoning."

Read the full letter at <https://www.weseeyouwat.com/statement>.

Lorca and her colleagues at TTT embraced the challenge to go deeper. Actors, staff, and board members gathering monthly through Zoom last year to create what they call, "A living, breathing document." It incorporates anti-racism practices including: to produce plays from a wide range of BIPOC perspectives, to engage more BIPOC artists as playwrights, composers, directors, choreographers, stage managers, designers, actors, etc., to employ intentional color-conscious casting, to center BIPOC voices and BIPOC history, and to heal.

Furthermore, they've agreed to continue revisiting, reviewing and revising the document and to assess their progress twice yearly. The anti-racism practices are a commitment

to all of their artists, staff, board members, volunteers, community partners, and audiences.

## Be brave, talk to one another

The anti-racism committee at TTT is called "On Belonging."

Lorca said, "The exercise of writing our anti-racism statement allowed us to come together and have each person share their point of view. As we crafted the statement, we asked ourselves, 'What does this word really mean to you?'"

"It's very important right now to have honest conversations, and to be able to ask questions. To be candid about what we do and don't understand. Different people use different vocabularies. There are generational gaps, and there are gaps across cultural lines. It takes courage to ask questions. Enhance your sense of curiosity with kindness, in a spirit of wanting to understand another person more deeply."

## Role of artists in community

When Lorca opens a newspaper, she wishes that the Arts Section wasn't buried in the back. She said, "I once asked a reporter at the Star Tribune, 'Why don't you ever put us on the front page? I feel like artists are the messengers of culture, and that their consciousness is often visionary. Artists are wrestling with the human and social issues of our times. That process has the power to lead others into real and fruitful conversations. Through art, a common ground can be found that is so needed in our world right now.'"

"When members of an audience watch a challenging play together and there's a discussion afterwards, they

become open to share much more than just the space."

## We need each other

Lorca continued, "We are social creatures – we need each other. A lot of people have suffered from extreme isolation during COVID-19, and the negative mental health consequences are very real."

To counter that isolation, TTT launched a pandemic series called "Ten Thousand Voices." They sought stories from people living in correctional and assisted living facilities: the very people who would usually be the audience became the storytellers. TTT actors read the stories; a selection was recorded on video and all were recorded in podcast form.

Of the 44 stories TTT received, Lorca said, "There wasn't one bad piece."

"It is very meaningful for people to be listened to. It's an essential human need to know that you matter."

Experience the Ten Thousand Voices podcast here: <https://tenthou-sandthings.org/season/ten-thousand-voices>

## Change comes

Reflecting on the challenges of running a theater company during this last year, Lorca said, "This is a difficult time, but it has invited us to learn so many new things."

"Selective history has been taught in text books and classes; whole cultures and events have been ignored. Only one version of many stories has been told, and this has caught up with us. It's time to learn and share new and untold stories."

"The process of racial reckoning gives me so much hope."

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# BILLBOARDS AT GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE SHOW CONNECTION, UNITY

## Social Justice Billboard Project begins as crowd-funded effort

By JILL BOOGREN

Two new artist-created billboards are up on the rooftops at George Floyd Square.

Part of the Social Justice Billboard Project, "La Connexion," by Maria Cristina "Tina" Tavera, and an untitled work by Patience Zalanga now sit side by side atop Cup Foods at 38th and Chicago.

### 'La Connexion'

La Connexion features an image of an Indigenous woman (Mexica dancer Atquetzali Quiroz of East St. Paul posed for it) whose braids wrap around three separate images – a bag of groceries, a person wearing a face mask and a crowd of people in silhouette, their hands and a sign raised. The braids connect to a numbered switchboard, from the early days of telephone operators, which to artist Tina Tavera represent the connections the community made to push through the violence and unrest that happened after George Floyd was killed last year. As organizers continued to lead protests and people navigated health and safety concerns with COVID, food shelves were created and mutual aid flourished.

"It's celebrating how we were able to move forward by working together in the different communities," said Tavera, offering as examples Sanford Middle School, which saw an outpour of food donations during the uprising, and El Colegio, which opened a free grocery store. Tavera lives on 38th St., a few blocks from the Square in the Powderhorn neighborhood. Asked what it meant to have her work featured in the space, she said having different artists share their work here was likewise symbolic of the different

communities coming together.

"Just to be a part of this moment historically is incredibly significant," she said.

### 'Untitled'

The billboard next to this, "Untitled," is a black and white photograph of a Black man sitting on a bench, reading to a small child who is sitting in his lap. The photograph was taken in George Floyd Square when the people's library was housed inside a bus shelter (it has since been moved into its own small building, the "Book Shelf," in the Peoples' Way). According to artist Patience Zalanga, the child is the man's son, and he chose the book they were reading. Zalanga saw this moment when she was on her way out of the Square in September.

"These are the beautiful and quiet moments that happen at the Square," said Zalanga. She believes the image challenges the ideas that people outside of the Twin Cities and outside of Minnesota have of George Floyd Square.

"Ultimately I want this image to be a reminder to Black people, to ourselves, of who we are, the power of relationship to each other," said Zalanga. "And I wanted this image to remind us of who we are, given the dehumanizing stereotypes that we have to navigate on a daily basis and this idea that Black fathers are not engaged, Black parents are not engaged in their children's learning and their children's growth."

Seeing the picture in such a large format is a little shocking for Zalanga, but she also feels its size is appropriate for what it meant to be a witness to that par-

ticular moment in time.

"The size of it is equal to just how significant and powerful that moment was for me. And so it's really humbling to be a part of the space in this way," she said. "My hope is that when people see it, they are also able to see themselves in that image, too."

Zalanga sees the role of artists as an important part of helping inform the public, process current events, and make sense of the different layers and systems people are trying to change to create a safer, more just world. As a photographer who for the last six years has focused on covering social movements and Uprisings in the United States, she takes her role during this historic period seriously.

"Within the context of what the city has experienced in the last year, and continues to grapple with, I think that engaging and documenting our communities is so important," said Zalanga. "My work is here to inform people of what is currently happening in our communities, but I also want my work to be information that the future can gather about what this time was for us."

### Message of equity

Billboards by 11 artists, from Minneapolis and around the country, have been installed at the Square since the project launched in July 2020. Initiated by NE Sculpture I Gallery Factory in response to the murder of George Floyd, the idea for the project came as gallery director John Hock was helping place Peyton Scott Russell's large portrait of George Floyd, "Icon of a Revolution," in the Square in the days following Mr. Floyd's death.

"At the time I looked up and



Tina Tavera stands with her billboard "La Connexion" on the Cup Foods rooftop behind her. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

saw these billboards, and that's what inspired the idea of it," said Hock.

He set up a crowdfunding platform, and the Social Justice Billboard Project (SJBPP) was born. The aim was to elevate BIPOC voices and artwork by renting the three billboards that face inward, toward the center of the Square. Entirely community funded, the first phase of the project ran from July 2020 through March 2021. According to Hock, funding provided by the National Academy of Design/Edwin Austin Abbey Memorial

Trust Fund for Mural Painting, NYC, means the project will continue for at least another year.

"We want to keep the quality up and the intensity up. It's all about the message of the Square," said Hock. That message? "Equity."

### 'We're all in this together'

A third SJBPP billboard, "Unified," was installed across the street in April. The piece features black and white photographs of five separate raised hands, each treated by artist Xavier Tavera as

BILLBOARDS >> 13



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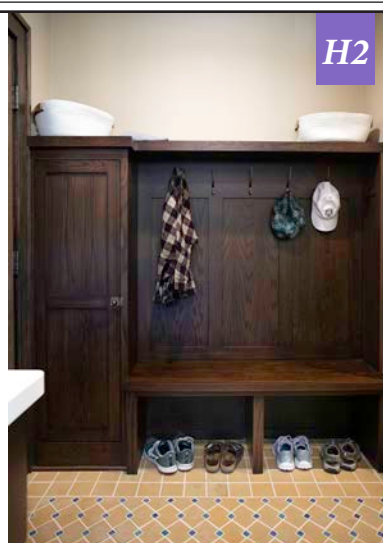
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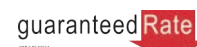
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Two of the Social Justice Billboard Project billboards as seen from the opposite corner at George Floyd Square. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Photographer Patience Zalanga's billboard is of a moment she captured of a father reading to his son on a bench at George Floyd Square, a book he chose from the community's free library. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Xavier Tavera at a wooden fist sculpture at George Floyd Square, his billboard "Unified" visible in the background. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

## BILLBOARDS

» From 12

a portrait.

"The whole point is to build a vocabulary for power, for peace, for caring, for healing with the gestures that the hands are doing," said Tavera. "This piece is a lot about unite... because we all have something in common. That in this very divisible time it's important to push more than the 'I am and you're not' and 'Who are you.' It's 'We're all in this together, and we should make an effort to communicate

with each other."

The anonymity of the people behind the hands helps do that, Tavera believes. And though the hands are those of a diverse group of people - Black, Indigenous, Asian, Chicana and Mexican - in black and white, they're several tones of grey.

"There's a little bit of hint of race, but it's the unification of this language that I'm trying to do," said Tavera. "And I think it could be something powerful, it can be something that brings people together."

As to being in this space at this time, Tavera called it a historical place - the killing of George Floyd changed the place,

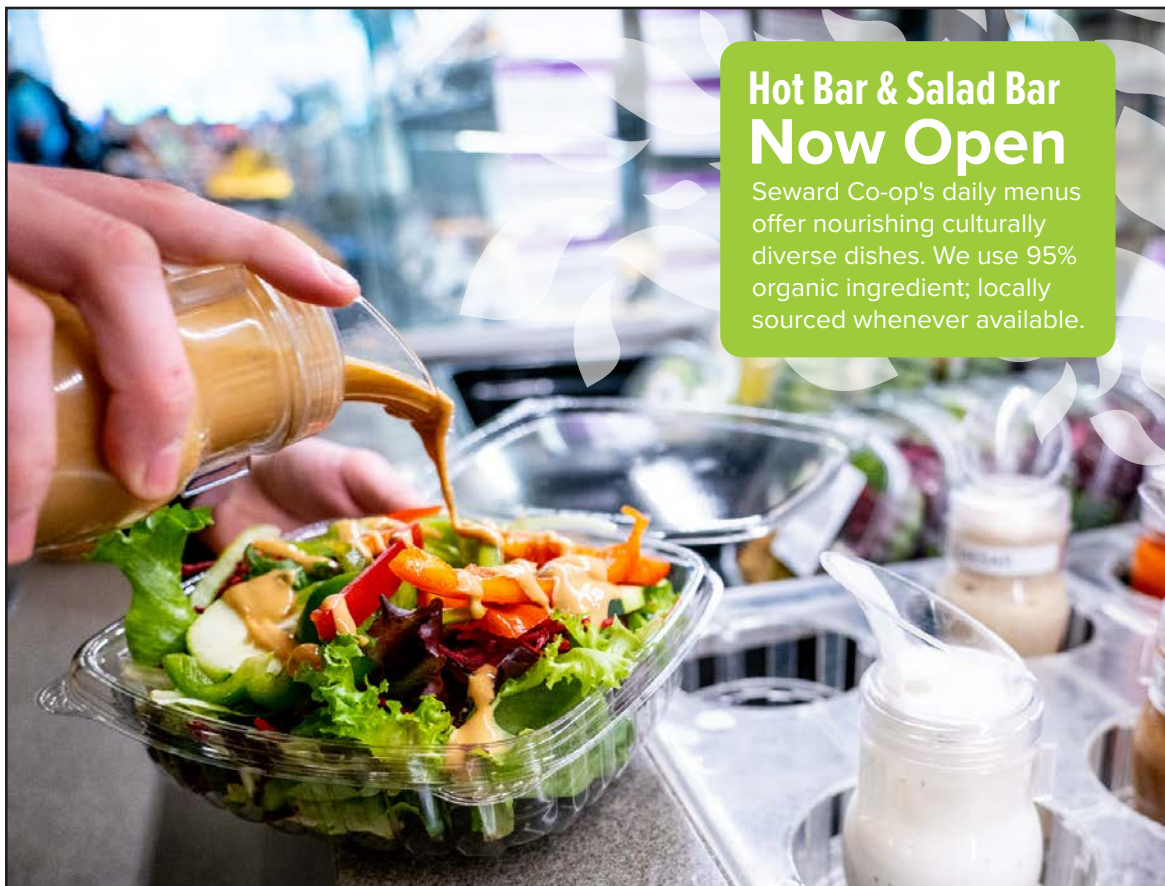
the neighborhood, the state, the country and farther.

"So there's an enormous amount of responsibility," he said. "And with that sense of re-

sponsibility, we are displaying something that we think can have a resonance with other people."

For more information on the Social Justice Billboard Proj-

ect, visit [ne-sculpture.org/billboard-project](http://ne-sculpture.org/billboard-project). Find the artists on social media @tina.tavera, @patiencezalanga and @taveraxavier.



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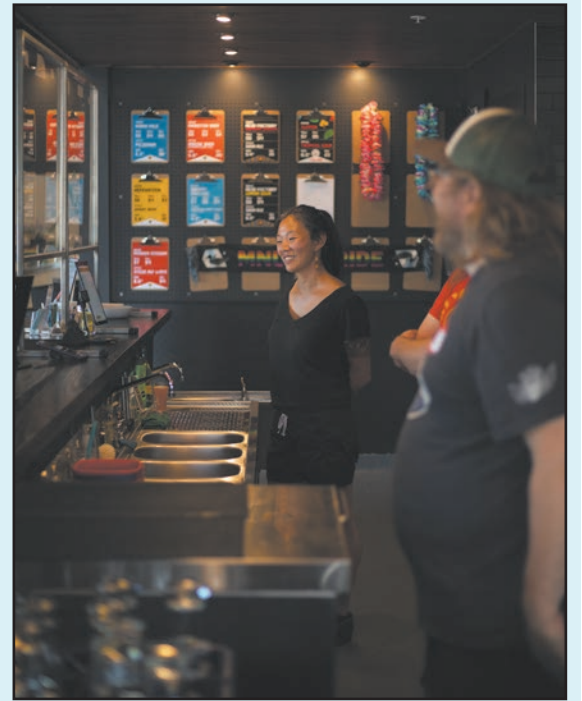
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# LBA gathers *together* again



Habanero Tacos food truck served up delicious food during the first Longfellow Business Association (LBA) gathering since before the pandemic. Normally closed on Mondays, Arbeiter Brewing opened its taproom and patio space for LBA members on Monday, June 7 from 4-6 p.m. There was also cold press from Wildflyer Coffee and kombucha from The Fix Cafe. (Photos by Vanna Contreras)



Businesses and non-profits connected at Arbeiter Brewing during the Longfellow Business Association annual meeting on June 7, 2021. There are open seats on the LBA Board. For more information about that or membership, contact Kim Jakus at [kim@longfellow-businessassociation.org](mailto:kim@longfellow-businessassociation.org). "We depend on these member donations in order to offer direct support, advocacy and resource sharing - especially during these challenging times. If you value this work, please consider becoming an LBA member and donating any amount," encouraged Jakus. (Photos by Vanna Contreras)

Do you know someone doing extraordinary things in their community?

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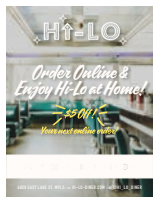
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# 'FEAR AND LOVING IN SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS'

Minneapolis journalist releases new book, aims to connect readers with world

By JAN WILLMS

Jim Walsh has spent much of his life as an observer.

The Minneapolis writer, journalist, columnist and song writer's most recent book, "Fear and Loving in South Minneapolis," is a collection of some of the stories he has written in the past 25 years about the city he grew up in.

Drawing from some of the articles he has written for *City Pages*, *The Southwest Journal*, *the Downtown Journal*, *the Pioneer Press* and *MinnPost*, Walsh has created a literary tapestry of the people and the places he knows so well.

"A lot of my journalism has to do with being in big and small crowds as an observer and a reporter," Walsh said in a recent interview. "Writing can be a lonely profession, but even if you are writing in solitude you are writing to connect with the reader, that one-person audience. That makes it a lot less lonely process. And being a pure observer, a kind of wallflower, obviously lends itself well to writing, taking in the world from a quiet, observational stance."

## Fear

Walsh said the title for his book came from a column he wrote about an experience he had in a Minneapolis suburban parking lot, and his editor really liked the title, "Fear and Loving in South Minneapolis." In the parking lot, Walsh needed a jump to get his car battery started, and the woman he asked for help refused. The fear she exhibited towards him made him stop and consider what her life might be like.

Walsh also contemplates the fear in a city as he writes about his son being harassed by the po-

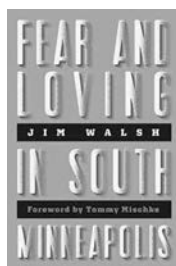
lice as he was out for a walk in his neighborhood. Walsh was the first to interview Ilhan Omar as she became an about-to-be elected official. "As a history book, it goes right up against the racism and Donald Trump that everyone knows America for now. It's there, in between the lines," Walsh said. He recalled the city's census-taking, redlining and white supremacist history.

"To live in Minneapolis is to know its history and be accountable for it as a citizen and go forward," stated Walsh. "For me as a writer and journalist, I have had all this in the forefront for a long time. I know where I live and have always welcomed every perspective, be it North, South, Northeast or Southeast. It's my home, but I have a critical eye for it as well."

Walsh said that he writes about people, warts and all, himself included. "As a writer, you try to get at truths and universal truths; warts and chocolate bonbons are all a part of it," he noted. One of his stories in the book is about Curtis, a man who ranted about Norm Coleman and lionized Al Franken. "I keep going back to Curtis in the early 2000s, the problems we thought we had with Norm Coleman and (columnist) Katherine Kersten, and look where we are now (during the Trump administration). It feels like we have been the parents of a child who throws tantrums every day for the past four years, and now we are eternally talking about the child's behavior. The child has stopped screaming, and what do we do?"

## Loving

The loving part of South Minneapolis is very evident in Walsh's book, from family descriptions to the Lake Harriet



Rose Garden to his interview with Harriet Lovejoy's ghost.

When Walsh writes about his dad's office in the family home with an open

door for his children to come in and plop down on his couch, and his dad coming downstairs from his work and asking his son to scratch his back, you can feel the love. His description of his love affair with Lake Harriet on a sultry, steaming day, with music playing and people of all ages and races gathered together in the humid temperatures, would lead any reader to seek out the lake. And when he interviews the spirit of the namesake of the lake, Harriet Lovejoy, the historic aspects of Minneapolis come to light.

Regarding the Lovejoy column he wrote for the *Southwest Journal* in 2018, Walsh said he would talk to his editor and explain what he wanted to do. "As a columnist, I wanted to write from the original standpoint of an idea, and I did that. I had great editors who gave me license to experiment." Walsh said that just thinking about the name change to Lake Calhoun made him more curious about Lake Harriet, so he conducted a Q and A with Lovejoy's ghost.

"History can be told in much more interesting ways than just history books, which I love and am immersed in now," Walsh said.

Walsh, who has also written books about Prince and The Replacements, said he was very drawn to capturing a lot of the moments he was seeing and hearing and listening to, with music. As well as writing stories and songs, Walsh performs with his band, Jim Walsh and the Dog



"To live in Minneapolis is to know its history and be accountable for it as a citizen and go forward. For me, as a writer and journalist, I have had all this in the forefront for a long time," said South Minneapolis resident Jim Walsh. "It's my home, but I have a critical eye for it as well." He recently wrote, "Folk Song for George Floyd." His new book draws from some of the articles he wrote for *City Pages*, *The Southwest Journal*, *the Downtown Journal*, *the Pioneer Press* and *MinnPost*. (Photo by David Tanner Photography)

Day Cicadas. He recently wrote "Folk Song for George Floyd."

## Why he writes

He said he remembered when he was in second grade and the family was at a fireworks display to celebrate the 4th of July. "A cardboard piece of firework hit my dad in his lap, and I kept that for years. I thought it was the coolest thing. I think that is what I have been doing since, trying to explain why that artifact, that moment mean so much to me."

Walsh explained that there has been something in him for a long time that has had him sit down and write. "It is something I have always wanted to do as meditative practice and as a livelihood," he said. "It helps me make sense of the world. I am no archivist, but if something is going on I would like to put it down for posterity. I want to represent with words and make the world connect with my readers the way it has for me."

## INVOLVD web docuseries features people making positive changes

# Recognize someone making a difference

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Know someone making an impact in the community?

A new web docuseries called INVOLVD by Minneapolis company ADX is highlighting people making outsized contributions in their Twin Cities communities, and they're looking for tips on people to feature.

A second season launches Thursday, Aug. 19.

"2020 was a tumultuous year, with many episodes to be firmly put behind us as a nation. For us here in the Twin Cities, it was a time of reckoning too, when we were each forced to think about how to be better for the good of our city, our citizens, and our nation," remarked Steve Renner, founder of ADXLabs, Inc. and the ADX Foundation in Minneapolis. "As a company, ADX decided to invest in people, projects, and our community."

He added, "We face tremendous uncertainty and economic difficulties, but through it all our fellow citizens have made a positive difference in ways big and small. Our new web series, IN-

VOLVD, focuses on people in our community who are doing what they can to make the world a better place."

"There was a lot of bad news happening in the media and we wanted to focus on people doing good things. So we started this show to invoke change in people, to promote a culture of listening," explained northeast Minneapolis resident Eric King, producer and creative director of VNA-TION!, the ADX entertainment branch. He formerly lived for 20 years in Frogtown, the North End and West St. Paul.

The team began by reaching out to people they knew and it grew from there. "We've got our eyes open all the time," remarked producer/writer Katrina Hood, an Augsburg University graduate.

The first season featured four community members in two- to five-minute episodes and begin airing on Feb. 11, 2021.

"They have interesting stories to tell," said executive producer Davis Draheim, who resides in Bloomington and developed the series.

Episode one focuses on Chris Axelson, an artist and former member of the U.S. National Guard who talks about the art he created using the 1778 Gadsden Flag with the words "Don't Kneel on Me" that went viral.

Two episodes feature artists who have been a part of the Creative Enterprise Zone in St. Paul. City of Skate member Witt Siasoco talks about how he's merged skateboarding and art in Minneapolis.

St. Paul resident Xee Reiter is a first-generation Hmong American finding her voice and place in the world through artistic expression. She creates murals, book illustrations and TV graphics.

Cool Meets Cause breaks down cost barriers that prevent Twin Cities youth from snowboarding. They provide gear, instructors, time, and space at Theodore Wirth Park in north Minneapolis.

The first season of filming during COVID-19 restrictions came with a set of challenges, according to the four-member

*"We started this show to invoke change in people, to promote a culture of listening." ~ Eric King*

INVOLVD team, which also includes producer Jean Park. Some shoots were just a single person with a camera in order to keep contact at a minimum.

They begin by researching each idea, and figuring out how to package it in such a way that they can tell the story in just three minutes. They recognize they're not interviewing professional actors.

"Sometimes people don't want to be on camera but they still want to tell their stories," said Draheim, "so we come up with creative ways to do that."

Along the way, the INVOLVD team gets to know the people they're documenting, and the stories affect them, too.

When he watched kids experience snowboarding for the first time, King said, "I got chills up and down my spine."

## 'Grassroots'

Season two includes six episodes that features the stories of people that aren't well known. "We want to support the grassroots people," said Draheim.

The goal of south Minneapolis resident Vikas Narula of Neighborhood Forest is that every child in America plant a baby tree.

New City Charter School in Northeast Minneapolis is teaching students to be global citizens and showing them how they can be a part of making a difference.

Pat Gerdes and Marti Johnson of Can Do Canines of New Hope provide fully trained assistance dogs to people with health issues or disabilities.

Mary Kay Ziniewicz started Bus Stop Mamas to help parents connect with jobs and explain the gap on their resumes.

Tri Vo is an Open Eye Theatre puppeteer touring this summer at Minnesota drive-ways, backyards, and churches.

Busy bees Shaun and Claire Mathias are owners of the family-run business Laker Honey.

To submit a nomination for an upcoming episode, email iam.involvd@gmail.com.

View the episodes at [www.vnation.us/involvd/](http://www.vnation.us/involvd/) or [youtube.com/involvd](https://youtube.com/involvd).



## Park Board requests 7.75% increase in tax levy

At its July 21 meeting, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners voted unanimously to support a tax levy increase request to the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) of 7.75 percent to maintain current park service levels and invest \$2.638 million in youth in Minneapolis.

If passed, the levy increase for the MPRB will result in a 1.4 percent increase in city property taxes overall, which amounts to an approximate \$21 annual increase in property taxes - less than \$2 per month - for owners of The additional \$2.6 million investment in youth will be used for several key initiatives, including:

- hiring dedicated professionals to develop programs and engage young people including youth ages 17-22 who have low-level offenses on their records
- building Creation Spaces to allow young people to experience the kind of self-expression,

learning and exposure to careers and industry professionals to fully understand the business and careers behind the art, technology, music, science, and innovation

- expanding hiring for the Teen Teamworks program and green jobs to develop a diverse group of community leaders through deliberate offerings that provide career exploration and pathways to full-time employment
- enhancing intergenerational and nature-based community programs.

Currently, of every dollar homeowner's pay for property taxes, 7.5 cents go to the MPRB. In response to the financial challenges facing the city, the MPRB's 2021 adopted budget was set at the same level as 2020, effectively a 0% increase to MPRB operations. The MPRB proposed and received a 1.18% property tax increase for its 2021 budget. That increase was for operations

of The Commons and the final year of an eight-year plan to address emerald ash borer. Funds to operate The Commons had been transferred to the MPRB by the City of Minneapolis in 2020 but that transfer ceased in 2021, making the 1.18% property tax increase effectively a 0% increase to MPRB operations in 2021.

As required by state law, the BET sets the maximum tax levy for the city of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Municipal Building Commission and the Public Housing Authority on an annual basis. The BET is scheduled to set these maximum property tax levies on Sept. 29, 2021.

If approved by the BET, the Superintendent will present a balanced 2022 recommended based on a 7.75 percent property levy increase on Oct. 20, 2021. The board will consider the superintendent's budget and adopt the 2022 tax levy and 2022 budget on Dec. 8, 2021.



### Project helps vets stay in their homes

On May 25 and May 26, in partnership with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, Rebuilding Together Twin Cities, with support from Republic Services, built wheelchair ramps at veterans' homes and completed other exterior beautification projects in the Morris Park and Minnehaha neighborhoods. With hundreds of homeless veterans and even more veterans in need of assistance, this project helped address a critical community issue. "Our organization has installed nearly 100 ramps as part of our Safe At Home program throughout the Twin Cities community since we began in 1997," said Kathy Greiner, executive director of Rebuilding Together Twin Cities. "Accessibility ramps allow veterans with mobility challenges to stay in their homes longer, adding to their quality of life and well-being, so this support from Republic Services is critical to our ongoing mission."

## League of Women Voters Minneapolis releases non-partisan study on public safety

After a nine-month initiative to define and document reform issues related to public safety, the League of Women Voters Minneapolis (LWVMpls) has published results of its study, "Reimagining Public Safety." The report is available on the League's website at lwvmpls.org.

The objectives of the LWVMpls Reimagining Public Safety committee that produced the re-

port were to: (1) summarize and present these complex issues in a non-partisan manner and accessible format to help voters make informed decisions, and (2) update the League's positions on public safety with the goal of informing voters on these important issues.

"The development and publication of this study on our website aligns perfectly with our

mission to educate the community so they can make informed choices when they vote," said Colleen Moriarty, LWVMpls board president. "Public safety will be a critical consideration in the election this fall, and voters are looking for a balanced understanding of the issues."

### Study approach

Susan Gray, co-chair of the

Reimagining Public Safety committee, said, "There is deep expertise in public safety and there have been rigorous, data-driven studies on this topic, both locally and nationally. There are also pilots, reforms, and legislation happening in multiple organizations and agencies. The League studied this work, engaged with experts, and summarized the history, context, and insight into

reform activity needed and currently underway. Our study also provides an overview of the roles and players in the public safety landscape and shows the public how to engage."

In addition to the study available on the LWVMpls website, there is also a robust list of references related to the study in the Resources section of the Reimagining Public Safety web pages.

## RCV....Easy as one, two, three!

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

Minneapolis residents can say goodbye to voting for the lesser of two evils thanks to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), a unique method for electing local officials that was first implemented in the city in 2013. On Nov. 2, you can vote for your first, second, third choice candidates for the offices of mayor, city council, parks & recreation board and

board of estimate and taxation.

That's right, just like the lottery, you can pick three.

Here's how RCV works: Choose the candidate who best represents your views, and fill in the circle beside their name under the 1st Choice column. You can then proceed to indicate your second and third choice candidates by marking the circles next to their names in the 2nd and 3rd choice columns. There is no Primary election runoff, so no candidates are excluded be-



fore Election Day. You can choose any candidate among every candidate who files to run for office.

You don't have to choose three candidates, but here's why you might want to: After the polls close, all 1st Choice votes will be counted (including absentee and vote-by-mail ballots). If there is a clear winner - that is, if one candidate receives the highest vote count ABOVE the 50 percent thresh-

old - the race is called, and that candidate is declared the winner. If no candidate reaches 50 percent, then the counting moves to round two.

In round two, the candidates with the lowest vote count and no mathematical chance of winning are eliminated, and their voters' votes are shifted to their second choice candidate. If, after round two, no candidate reaches the threshold, the counting moves to round three, four, and five etc. until the candidate with the most votes above 50 percent is declared the winner.

With Ranked Choice Voting,

every candidate is on equal footing, and no candidate is a "spoiler."

The city of Minneapolis website has extensive educational materials explaining RCV, including videos in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. (<https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/ranked-choice-voting/details/>) If you or someone you know has a question or needs assistance, call the city of Minneapolis Help Line: 311.

Remember: your VOTE is your VOICE, and every eligible voter has the right to be heard. Democracy depends on it. Learn more at lwvmpls.org

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## Water wisely during drought

As our unusually dry summer continues in Minnesota, this is a great time to think about smarter ways to water your yard and garden. The same source of water supplies our kitchen taps and our garden hoses, and reducing water use helps protect this vital resource for everyone. At the same time, we've spent months lovingly tending our gardens, and we certainly don't want our plants to die in the late summer heat! How can we conserve water while keeping our prized plants alive?

First, know how much water your plants actually need. Vegetable gardens need about one inch of water per week. If it rains during the week, you only need to water enough to bring the total up to one inch. It's best to water deeply but less often to promote deeper, healthier roots.

Even if the top of the soil looks dry, the soil may still be moist an inch or two down, so take a look before you start watering. A soil moisture meter is a great tool to understand exactly how dry your soil is – or just use your finger to feel the soil below the surface.

It's common to overwater lawns, especially when using automated sprinkler systems. To encourage your lawn to grow deeper roots and become more tolerant to drought, try to irrigate about once per week, just enough to wet the soil to a depth of six inches. This could be as little as a half inch of water, depending on the weather and your soil type. Setting your mower at 2.5 inches or higher can also help shade the soil, reducing the amount of water needed. Additionally, try to position your sprinklers so they don't water impermeable surfaces like sidewalks or driveways.

It's best to irrigate in the early morning to allow water to sink in before it evaporates in the heat of the day. This also gives leaves time to dry before air temperatures cool down at night, reducing the risk of plant diseases.

Using soaker or drip hoses reduces evaporation and targets water at the base of plants, right where they need it. You can even lay out soaker hoses under your mulch to retain even more water. It's also an easier way to water – no need to stand outside and water

### The city gardener

By **LAUREN BETHKE**,  
Master Gardener Intern



by hand, just turn on your soaker hoses (and don't forget to turn them off again)! If you do use a regular hose or watering can, water slowly enough that the water soaks in and doesn't run off to the side or wash away soil.

If you can collect rainwater, this is a great way to water landscape plants while reducing municipal water use. It also reduces runoff into streets and waterways. Keep in mind that water from rain barrels is not considered drinkable because it hasn't been tested for water quality and may contain contaminants from your roof or other sources. Therefore, you should avoid using rainwater to water edible plants. However, rainwater is a great option for ornamental landscape plants! If you're looking to add a rain barrel to your landscape, Hennepin County sells rain barrels



at a discount each spring. Keep an eye out for next year's sale, which is scheduled to start March 1, 2022.

Finally, choose plants that are well-suited to your landscape and can tolerate periods of drought. Many shrubs and trees are drought-resistant once they are established, including sumac, spirea, ninebark, smoke bush, ginkgo, and Kentucky coffeetree. When planting new shrubs and trees, water regularly until they are established. Once established, you only need to water shrubs and trees when the top six to nine inches of soil are

dry and there is no rain predicted for several days.

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.*

## Annual meeting outdoors Aug. 17

NENA Annual Meeting – We will be hosting an in-person event on Aug. 17 at Lake Nokomis Community Center Picnic Shelter (2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway). Learn about neighborhood news, hear from speakers, enjoy treats from Berry Sweet Kitchen, and get involved in planning for NENA's future priorities. For more info, visit [www.nokomiseast.org/nena-annual-meeting/](http://www.nokomiseast.org/nena-annual-meeting/)

### Ward 12 Candidate Forum

On Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m., the League of Women Voters – Minnesota, along with the Ward 12 neighborhood organizations, including NENA, are hosting an online candidate forum with the Ward 12 City Council Candidates. This online live event will be streaming. We welcome questions ahead of time and during the event. More information and where to watch is available at [www.nokomiseast.org/election/](http://www.nokomiseast.org/election/)

The Ward 11 neighborhood organizations will be scheduling a candidate forum in September.

### Fun local events

• 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 Avenue, and sites throughout Nokomis East. Visit [www.nokomiseastba.com](http://www.nokomiseastba.com) to learn more and stop by the NENA table on Friday and Saturday! (Details on pages 8-9 in this Messenger.)

• NENA and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are thrilled to organize the 12th Annual Minneapolis Monarch Festival on Sept. 11, at Lake Nokomis. Visit [www.monarchfestival.org](http://www.monarchfestival.org)

• NENA is hosting a fall Food Truck Rally on Sept. 25. New location at 34th Avenue and 50th Street, more food trucks, and live music. We are raising funds for the Nokomis East Free Food Distribution program.

### Food distributions

• 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

### Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

By **BECKY TIMM**,  
Executive Director  
[becky.timm@nokomiseast.org](mailto:becky.timm@nokomiseast.org)



food options. For more information, visit [www.nokomiseast.org/nokomis-east-free-food-distribution/](http://www.nokomiseast.org/nokomis-east-free-food-distribution/)

• Minnehaha Food Shelf – 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](http://www.minnehaha.org/foodshelf.html)

### Meetings and events:

8/4/2021: Ward 12 Candidate Forum at 6:30 p.m., online  
8/11/2021: Nokomis East Free Food Distribution at 2-4 p.m.  
8/17/2021: NENA Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Lake Nokomis Center Picnic Shelter  
8/19/2021: NENA Green Initiatives Committee at 6:30 p.m., Via Zoom  
8/25/2021: Nokomis East Free Food Distribution at 2-4 p.m.  
8/26/2021: NENA Board of Directors at 6:30 p.m., Via Zoom



Nokomis East  
Neighborhood Association

## Annual Meeting

@NokomisEast

[nokomiseast.org](http://nokomiseast.org)

Facebook

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Lake Nokomis Center - Picnic Shelter  
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Bring a lawn chair. Will move online in case of bad weather.

[nokomiseast.org/nena-annual-meeting/](http://nokomiseast.org/nena-annual-meeting/)



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Upcoming:  
September  
December  
March  
June



## Briefs

## Get a free rain barrel

Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) is giving away free rain barrels and conversion kits this summer in partnership with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO). The barrels hold 55 gallons of water and are 4 feet tall and 1.5 inches diameter. Email [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to reserve your barrel and kit. You'll get access to a virtual workshop that will walk you through the steps of assembling and installing your barrel.

To qualify, you must live in the MWMO watershed (check if you qualify at [mwmo.org](http://mwmo.org)). Black, Indigenous, and People of Color applicants are especially encouraged.

"Using a rain barrel is one of the simplest, high-impact ways to save water and help protect our watershed. The biggest threat to our waters today is polluted runoff: water that runs off our roofs and into our streets and alleys, carrying contaminants into our lakes, streams and rivers. Installing a rain barrel to collect and

store rainwater is a simple but powerful way to make a big difference for our waterways, and to help save water as you care for your lawn and garden," say FMR representatives.

## Holy Trinity Lutheran honored

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) has recognized Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis as the 2021 Servant of Christ Award winner for the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Servant of Christ Award honors congregations that are leaders in social service outreach or have come forward with extraordinary service to address special needs in their community. The award is extended to one or more congregations in each of the six Minnesota synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Lutheran Social Service is recognizing Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for its outreach to the community during the unrest

that followed the death of George Floyd, including emergency first aid and ongoing food support. Holy Trinity organized pop-up food distribution sites and served as a safe zone for volunteer emergency chaplains, clean-up crews and a distributor of financial support from other congregations.

## Sprinkling restrictions

The city of Minneapolis has implemented even-odd water sprinkling restrictions until further notice. Sprinkling lawns is NOT allowed from noon to 6 p.m. on any day. On calendar days that are even numbers, the even side of the street CAN sprinkle lawns. On calendar days that are odd numbers, the odd side of the street CAN sprinkle lawns.

Bushes and flowers may be watered with a hand-held hose as needed. Trees may be watered with a dripping hose, bucket or tree watering bag as needed. Vegetable gardens and new sod (first two weeks from placement) may be watered on any day but not between noon to 6 p.m.



## Rally against environmental racism Aug. 1

A community rally is planned for Aug. 1, 1-3 p.m., in front of the former Roof Depot site at Longfellow Ave. and 28th St. as supporters of the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm talk about the upcoming city council meeting on Aug. 4. The city is planning to tear down the Roof Depot building, which is located in the city's arsenic triangle where residents suffer higher rates of asthma, cardiovascular, and lead-poisoning. Rally planners say, "Called the 'Hiawatha Campus Expansion Project,' Minneapolis is wasting \$75 million of tax dollars to put highly toxic public works maintenance operations into our majority poor, BIPOC neighborhood. This is environmental racism!" They are urging people to contact city staff and council members ahead of the Aug. 4 vote. More at [epni-farm.org](http://epni-farm.org). (Photo submitted)

## Plan It

## Ward 12 forum Aug. 4

Get information on Ward 12 city council candidates during a candidate forum on Aug. 4 from 6:30-8 p.m. The event is a joint effort, brought to you by Longfellow Community Council, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, and Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association. It is being moderated by Minneapolis League of Women Voters. Watch live on MCN Channel 6 or the Minneapolis League of Women Voters' Facebook page.

## Free hoops, hot dogs Aug. 18

Drop by Sibley Park on Aug. 18 from 6-8 p.m. for a hot dog picnic including all-beef franks, chips, beverage and a treat, along with games and more. Vegan and vegetarian hot dog options available. There will be a hoops contest for all ages with prizes. There is a \$100 prize for a half-court shot contest. For more information, to donate a prize or to volunteer, contact Candace@standish-ericsson.org.

## Talk about motherhood Aug. 4

"(Pandemic) Motherhood, Labor and Loss," an event with Shannon Gibney, Kao Kalia Yang, and Catherine Squires will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4, at Dreamsong Art Gallery (1237 4th Street NE, Minneapolis). Register at: <https://dreamsong.art>

The pandemic changed every aspect of our lives, from work, to schooling, to family life. As widely reported, mothers were some of the most challenged during this time, leaving the workforce in record numbers to care for their children with little governmental and societal support. What are the stories and experiences of mothers during this time, and now, as we emerge from it? How does the art from and about pandemic motherhood connect with art on motherhood, labor, and loss?

At this event, visitors will have the opportunity to view Dreamsong Art's inaugural exhibition, A glitter of seas, which explores maternity through painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, and video by contemporary female artists. They will also hear work by writers in the groundbreaking anthology "What God Is Honored Here?: Writings on Miscarriage and Infant Loss by and for Native Women and Women of Color" (University of Minnesota Press, 2019), and other community members, and have the chance to dialogue with them. New work on pandemic mothering will also be shared and discussed. Book sales will be handled by Moon Palace Books and a signing will follow the presentation. Beverages and light snacks will be served.

## Virtual home tour Sept. 10

The 2021 Hennepin County Master Gardener Volunteer Learning Garden Tour is being held virtually this year. The tour will be released on Friday, Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. along with a number of other virtual events happening that weekend. This year the tour will feature four beautiful and unique home gardens of Hennepin County Master Gardener Volunteers along with four focused educational opportunities that include pruning, planting trees, wise watering practice, and when and how to plant spring bulbs. As a part of the video tours, people will also have access to book titles by master gardeners at the Book Nook. Tickets are \$12. Log on anytime you want and as many times as you want. To buy tickets and learn more about the Learning Garden Tour, please visit <https://84402.blackbaudhosting.com/84402/2021-Hennepin-County-Master-Gardener-Volunteer-Virtual-Learning-Garden-Tour-10Sept2021>.

## Prostate Cancer Run/Walk

The ZERO Prostate Cancer Run/Walk Twin Cities will be held on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 at Lake Nokomis. Register for free at [www.zerocancer.run/twincities](http://www.zerocancer.run/twincities). The event benefits prostate cancer patients and families. Host partners are Minnesota Urology, and Minneapolis Radiation Oncology. Prostate Cancer impacts one in 8 men and the risks are much higher for men with a family history, African Americans and veterans. Prostate cancer is nearly 100% treatable if caught early. There will be free screenings at the event.

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

# Jobs

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

LOTTSA TAX & ACCOUNTING SERVICES, INC. is seeking an experienced Tax Manager and an Office Manager. Please see our web site for position details and application instructions! www.lottsa.com

PT Front desk position @ Becketwood Cooperative. This position is for every other Friday and Saturday overnight. Perfect for a reliable night owl or college student. Contact Robin at rob-lillesve77@becketwood.com

Be a professional support friend! Seeking a fun friend to help support adult female with mild disability in being more independent. Cook meals together, help get to social activities, etc. Flexible schedule. Female identifying, age 20s or 30s preferred for peer relationship. Training provided, no experience necessary. Email Sam at samantha.t.grover@gmail.com.

## EASY PEASY

Place your classified ad online at  
**LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com**

# Faith Matters

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

**Bethlehem Covenant Church**  
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768  
www.bethlehemcov.org  
Pastor Colleen Nelson  
(Handicapped Accessible)  
Worship Service - 9:30 AM  
All sermons can be found online at  
www.bethlehemcov.org

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
www.epworthmpls.org  
Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay  
Adult Study 9:30 am via email  
10:30 am - Sunday Worship: Back in Person and livestreamed on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/EpworthUMCMPLS/  
2nd Wednesday: Beer/Bagel & Bible Study via Zoom from 6:30-8:00 pm  
Weed & Water Wednesday's 9:30-11:30am Kids ages 0-8

**Faith Ev. Lutheran Church**  
3430 East 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
www.faithlutheranmpls.org  
Pastor Jesse Davis  
Live Worship - Sundays 9:00 am  
Lutheran Service in Oromo at 11:30

**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.saintalbertthegreat.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.  
Link at http://www.trinityfalls.org  
Schoolhouse Rock Live outdoors Tuesday, August 3, 5pm - free!

## 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

  
sharonscompedium.etsy.com

**Aurora Daybreak**

**Locally Handmade Gifts**

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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**

**Get the word out. GET A CLASSIFIED.**



Want ads must be received by the Messenger by July 19 for the July 29 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com





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.  
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