



Local pride surrounds release of documentary

'39 Seconds' tells story of little-known African American baseball great

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

John Wesley Donaldson may be the greatest American baseball player you've never heard of.

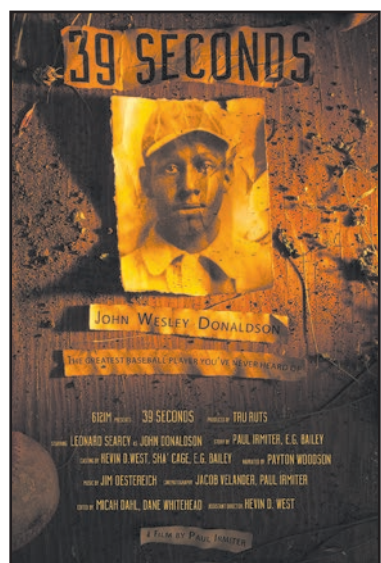
Born in 1892 in the tiny town of Glasgow, Mo., the young African American ball player went on to become a pitching sensation in the Negro Leagues and beyond. His active baseball career spanned more than three decades.

Longfellow film maker Paul Irmiter took a deep dive into this little known story three years ago. When he learned of Donaldson's athleticism and prowess on the baseball field, coupled with the courage he showed in facing the unrelenting racism of the Jim Crow era, Irmiter was intrigued.

He wondered, "How is it that John Donaldson's story has never been told? How could an athlete of such distinction end up buried in an unmarked grave?"

Irmiter recently finished a feature length documentary about Donaldson. The film premiered at the Riverview Theatre on July 29, 2021. "39 Seconds" will be screened again at the 2021 Twin Cities Film Festival in October, and at the Capri Theater in north Minneapolis later this fall.

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"You really put yourself out there when you make public art," remarked Longfellow resident Taylor Tinkham. "Mostly people are great, but I've been hassled by the police. I've been yelled at by passersby, I've had people comment on my body when I'm drawing. As I approach a space where I'm going to chalk, I'm anxious – but as soon as I start chalking, I feel good." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Longfellow chalk artist creates mindfulness messages on pavement

Take a CeMental break

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Taylor Tinkham has been chalking on neighborhood sidewalks for the last two and a half years. She said, "The idea came out of a mindfulness meditation class I was taking as part of my masters program in Holistic Health Studies at St. Kate's. I started chalking every day that it was nice out. I drew pictures with messages on sidewalks all over my Longfellow neighborhood."

"The first drawing I did was just around the corner from our house. The message said, 'Bring to mind someone you love.' A couple was walking toward me as I finished it. I was so unused to doing art in public that I ran away."

"It took me a long time to acknowledge that I was a public artist. This kind of spontaneous drawing, it's all about experiencing something in the moment. I feel like that's what art is."

What's in the name?

Tinkham described her chalking practice, which she calls CeMental Break. She said, "It's a quick way to invite people into mindful awareness, a practice of living in the present moment without criticism or evaluation."

"At its simplest level, drawing with chalk is fun and makes you feel good. By making a CeMental Break, you get to be creative and give something positive back to your community. By taking a CeMental Break, it just means you pause to take in the art on the pavement – and give your mind a chance to rest."

"I intentionally post drawings on my Instagram site that aren't my best work, or where I've misspelled words. I want people to get that this doesn't have to be perfect. The thing that makes me happiest is hearing that people have made their own drawings. When I was tagged on Instagram by someone in New Zealand who had made a CeMental Break, I was super happy."

Self-care is more important than ever

Despite months of acclimating to the societal upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans are struggling to cope with the disruption it has caused. According to the American Psychological Association, nearly 8 of 10 adults (78%) say COVID-19 is a significant source of stress in their daily life.

Tinkham said, "I have a longstanding meditation practice, but I wouldn't call it a traditional practice. I think a person can have a 30-second mindfulness experience that's very powerful. I have micro-wave moments sometimes, when I'm heating food up in the microwave and I'm just standing still."

"In small ways, my life has been changed by chalking. Sometimes when I don't feel like sitting with myself during meditation, I go out and chalk instead. That can be my form of meditation for the day."

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Bikeway extension?

New study outlines economic benefits of extending the Midtown Greenway into St. Paul

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Extending the Midtown Greenway into St. Paul could generate \$3 billion in economic development, according to a recent study, and the supporters say the route will help fight climate change.

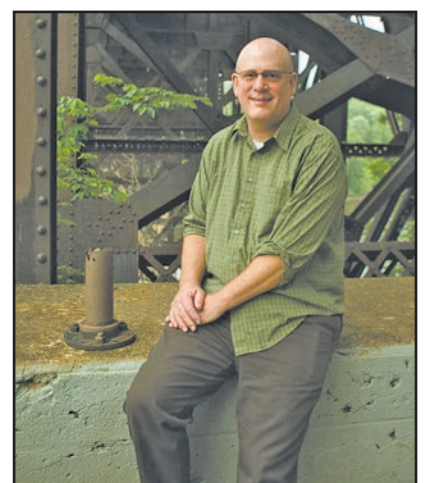
Midtown Greenway Coalition Executive Director Soren Jensen said, "It would take 5-10 years, of course, but economic development would likely start as soon as the new trail is under construction. There is a lot of underdeveloped industrial land along that corridor."

"It would surely become known as the best inner-city bikeway in the country, and be a game changer for our whole region."

The Midtown Greenway Coalition hired Damon Farber and Visible City to create a report benchmarking how much economic development the Midtown Greenway has generated in Minneapolis. "Using that data, they projected how much revenue would likely be generated if the Greenway extended into St. Paul," explained Jensen.

"Within 500 feet of the existing Greenway in Minneapolis, nearly two billion worth of economic development has been created since its inception, with restaurants, real estate development, and retail businesses springing up adjacent to the bike corridor. In addition, the Greenway has generated tens of mil-

BIKEWAY EXTENSION >> 5

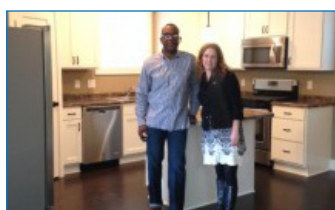


Soren Jensen of the Midtown Greenway Coalition. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Barebones Extravaganza returns Oct. 31 to South Minneapolis

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HOME IMPROVEMENT PRG is fighting the racial home ownership gap

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Ladies of the Lake bring joy, lending hand to Twin Cities

By JAN WILLMS

You might see them in a walkabout at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, at a Pride-fest in rural Minnesota, Dining Out for Life, cleaning up litter at Augsburg Park or mingling with other customers at a farmers market in West St. Paul.

Faces painted white, wearing nuns' habits and coronets, they are the Ladies of the Lakes, a 501c3 charity that promotes joy and equality for everyone. Formed in the Old Catholic tradition, the group of LGBTQ and straights is a fully professed order under the umbrella of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, which started in San Francisco in 1979.

Rob Warmboe, whose identity in the Sisterhood is Sister Tammy Gaye-Bakery, said the San Francisco house was created by an individual who had just moved to the California city and

brought with him four nuns' habits. "They were borrowed for the Sound of Music, and they had never been returned," Warmboe said.

So with four costumes to start with, the group grew organically from protests to fundraising and activism. Warmboe said the idea of dressing as nuns developed from the idea that the members did not need a hierarchical order to tell them what to do and not do. He said queers were not really welcomed by Christianity, and the habits looked really ridiculous and made people giggle.

"That's where the joy aspect comes in," he said. "If people can forget for just a moment what is wrong with the world and forget about all the ephemeral drama, it guides where we spend our emotion."

The Ladies of the Lakes

(LOL) began on Valentine's Day in 2014 in the Twin Cities. "It started with people coming here who were loosely connected to the Sisters in San Francisco," Warmboe said. "They started a house here because while the Twin Cities has a large queer community, there were little pockets all over. They wanted to bring people in, connect and spread out."

"A lot of what we do is hands on and based on community," Warmboe continued. He said the houses in North America are based on what their communities need. Orders of sisters have sprung up internationally, as well.

"For us, a lot of what we do is to help queers, especially people of color who are queer," Warmboe said. "We all do our own little things."

He added that the Pride In-

stitute is America's oldest treatment center that is queer-focused. A lot of people come here by way of the Pride Institute, and they are drawn to the Twin Cities and stay here.

The LOL has done a number of activities with the Pride Institute, including calling bingo and applying tattoos at events. They work with the Aliveness Project and hold candlelight vigils, donate socks to the homeless and do fund-raisers.

"Our services focus on the queer community, but we know it's not just queers who need joy in their lives," Warmboe said. "We try our best to meet people where they are at. We know there is an aspect of trauma in coming out, whether it is to one's family, community or city. We offer the gay community structure, but we realize a lot of straight people and allies have some of the



Rob Warmboe, whose identity in the Ladies of the Lakes sisterhood is Sister Tammy Gaye-Bakery, said, "Our service focuses on the queer community, but we know it's not just queers who need joy in their lives. We try our best to meet people where they are at." (Photo submitted)

LADIES OF THE LAKE >> 12

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Local pride surrounds release of documentary

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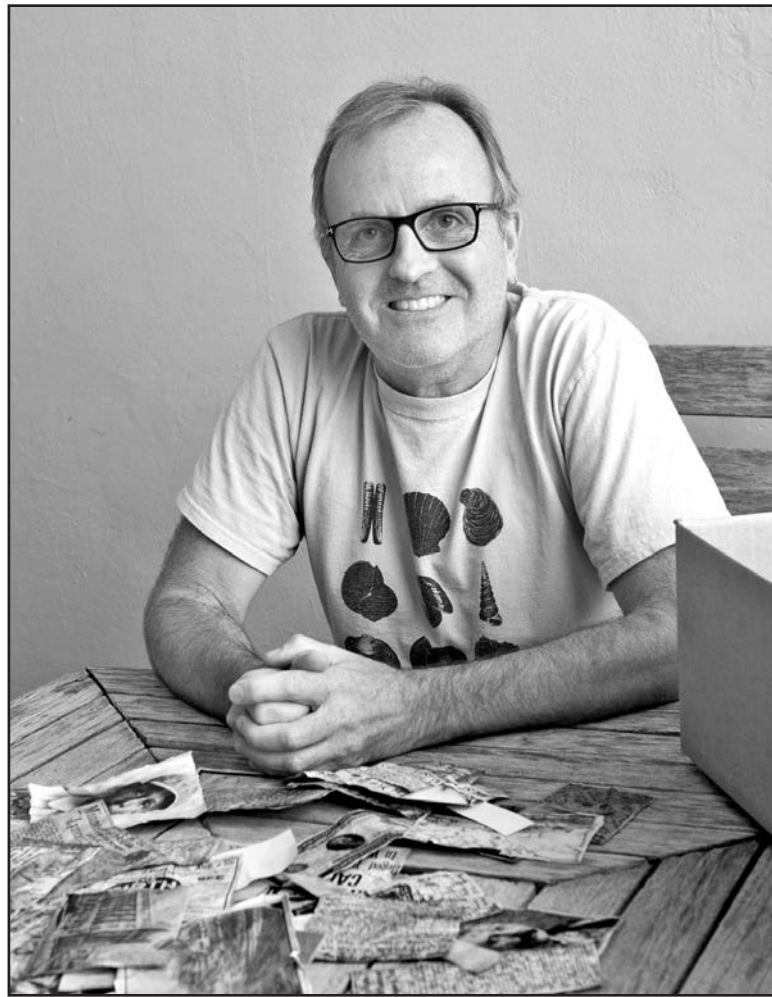
Irmiter said, "From the outset, I knew this story had to be told. I was fortunate to be able to partner with some of the Twin Cities' most experienced Black actors, producers, and crew. I got to be the director, but I couldn't have done any part of the film without our team. One of the best things that came out of this project was these new, strong relationships."

The "39 Seconds" team included Leonard Searcy in the title role, narrator Payton Woodson, line producer Bianca Rhodes, assistant director/voice director Kevin D. West, with casting by Sha'Cage and E.G. Bailey.

Rewind the reel of time

Donaldson had a long, successful career in baseball. Between 1912-1924, he pitched for nine different teams across the country. He averaged 20 strikeouts per game as a star pitcher for J.L. Wilkinson's multi-racial All Nations team from 1913-1917. New York Giants' manager John McGraw assessed Donaldson's value at \$50,000 – if he had been White.

During the summer of 1924, Donaldson's career took a new turn. He started barnstorming across the Midwest with semi-independent Black teams, playing against White semi-pro ball clubs. Some of the games



Film maker Paul Irmiter in his Longfellow studio, surrounded by photos and news clips of John Wesley Donaldson. Irmiter said, "From the outset, I knew this story had to be told. I was fortunate to be able to partner with some of the Twin Cities' most experienced Black actors, producers, and crew. I got to be the director, but I couldn't have done any part of the film without our team. One of the best things that came out of this project was these new, strong relationships." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

were played in small Minnesota towns: places like Bertha, Lismore, St. Cloud, and Fergus Falls.

As Irmiter said, "It's impossible to over-estimate what baseball meant to America in the early and mid-20th century. In big cities and small towns, there was nothing else like it."

On a warm summer's night

At a game played in Fergus Falls in the summer of 1924, a fan stood in the grass with a hand held movie camera. He shot 39 seconds of film that captured Donaldson on the pitcher's mound. It is the only known footage of Donaldson in action, serving up a rapid-fire series of

pitches with pinpoint accuracy.

Decades later, Richard Oxley of White Bear Lake found the silent, black-and-white film reel in his grandfather's house in Fergus Falls – and gave it to Irmiter.

A string of connections

Irmiter was immediately drawn into the story of John Donaldson, but wrestled with how to tell it. He said, "I was waiting for my kids in the South High School parking lot a few weeks later. I scrolled through some social media posts, and noticed one from local actor Leonard Searcy. When I saw his face, I thought, he'd make a great John Donaldson."

Searcy agreed to play the role of John Donaldson, and introduced Irmiter to Kevin D. West, general manager of the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis. The web of connections was starting to grow. Immersed in the world of theater and theater people, Irmiter decided to interweave elements of theater and storytelling into his documentary film.

All of the live action scenes were filmed in October of 2018 at Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul.

Irmiter said, "We started this project before COVID-19 hit. Weirdly, the pandemic gave me the time and space to finish it. I had to clear everyone out of the studio, and all my work in advertising crashed. I was able to spend time downloading a lot of photos from Donaldson's era, including all the pictures and articles I could find on Donaldson himself. I printed them on paper that looks and feels like newspaper, and figured out an aging process for the paper by immersing it in coffee, among other things."

By March of 2021, Irmiter said, "The bones of the film were all in place. We had 350+ Kickstarter supporters who raised more than \$30,000. People were

taping money to my door, along with notes of encouragement to get this story told."

How the story ends

After his long career in baseball ended, Donaldson moved to Chicago and worked various jobs, including five years as a scout for the Chicago White Sox (breaking the color barrier as a scout) and as a clerk for the U.S. Post Office. He died in 1970 at age 79 and was buried in an unmarked grave in Chicago's Burr Oak Cemetery, where many other notable African Americans have been laid to rest.

In 2004, money for a headstone for Donaldson was raised in collaboration with the Negro League's Baseball Grave Marker Project. This project has placed over 50 grave markers on previously unmarked graves for players of the Negro Leagues – to honor their contributions to history and the game of baseball.

And how it begins again

Irmiter said, "When we had the July 29 premiere at the River-view, I wanted to say thank you to everyone who had worked on this project. It turned out, I was so nervous that I had to leave the theater right after the film started to run. I drove to my studio a few blocks away, swept the floors and bit my nails. I returned to the theater just in time for the closing credits, and invited the cast and crew to come up on the stage. There were so many of us, we filled it – and the theater responded with a standing ovation."

In the end, the only thing that matters is, "Does the audience connect with the film?"

Find more information about future screenings of "39 Seconds" at www.39secondsfilm.com.



Dancing together through a pandemic

On Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021, Ballare Teatro dance instructor Molly Breen (at left) and her Cardio Funk dancers gave a live performance every 15 minutes through the early evening. They danced against a backdrop of railroad cars in the old Amtrak parking lot on St. Paul's Transfer Road. A recording of local superstar Lizzo belting out, "This is Exactly How I Feel" was their accompaniment. Before each performance, Breen offered these thoughts on the value of dancing through really hard times.

"About 17 months ago, our dance class took a break from in-person classes for what we thought would be a brief COVID-19 pause. Little did we know that our resilient and compassionate group of dancers would become a consistent source of hope during the long months of the pandemic – and the pain of the Uprising following George Floyd's murder.

"Tonight we celebrate another year of dancing together in the midst of global grief, political strife, and continuing pandemic isolation and constraints. We dance for YOU because dance is a performing art, the joy of which is amplified when there is an audience to see it. Thank you for supporting us out here in a weird place, doing a weird thing. We are happy to be doing it together. This is exactly how we feel."

Ballare Teatro is located at 4259 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis, 55406. Check out their fall schedule at www.ballareteatro.com.



>> Photo series by Margie O'Loughlin

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FREE THE DEEDS TO SHOW THAT BLACK LIVES DO MATTER HERE

The greater Longfellow neighborhood is one of the most progressive communities in Minnesota. Black Lives Matter and All Are Welcome Here signs are on practically every block. Yet, even as White neighborhood progressives joined racial justice groups in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd to learn more about historic and existing systemic racism, Longfellow remains one of the Whitest neighborhoods in the city.

In fact, the racial concentration of White people in our neighborhoods was by design. For decades in the mid-20th century, White homeowners and housing developers inserted language into property deeds barring the sale of the home to people of color, primarily Blacks. The Mapping Prejudice Project at the University of Minnesota dug into the history of these racial covenants in Minneapolis (and later to Hennepin County and other communities). Their research discovered the first recorded racial covenant in the Longfellow neighborhood in 1910. It read in part that "the premises shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian or African blood or descent."

After 1910, the use of racial covenants in Minneapolis proliferated, along with other cities throughout the country. Early housing developers applied racial covenants to entire blocks, even before the homes were built and sold. This strategy effectively built neighborhoods exclusively

for White people for generations, long after racial covenants were declared illegal. In Minneapolis, Edmund Walton was one of the city's early developers to use racial covenants on his Longfellow neighborhood projects. Edmund Boulevard is named after him.

This history of the legal discrimination underlying our neighborhood was largely invisible until the Mapping Prejudice Project began to reveal it. In 2019, Longfellow's State Representative Jim Davnie authored legislation that streamlined the process by which property owners could discharge racial covenant language from their deeds. In response to the new legislation, Minneapolis joined 10 other Hennepin County cities to form the Just Deeds coalition to "provide free legal and title services to help property owners find discriminatory covenants and discharge them from their property titles."

Enter Free The Deeds.

Free The Deeds is a public art project in Minneapolis that invites people to engage with the history of racial covenants, confront their harmful legacy, and begin to repair the harm left in their wake. The project builds on the work of the Mapping Prejudice Project and Just Deeds through public art in the form of lawn signs. Their goal is to have every racially restrictive covenant in the city discharged so that every community is a truly welcoming one for people of all races. Their lawn signs draw attention to the existence of ra-

Guest column

By CARA LETOFSKY,
Director, The Fair Economy Project,
and Longfellow resident



cial covenants and act as an invitation for more awareness and conversation about the discrimination underlying our communities.

Free The Deeds also moves the conversation around racial covenants from awareness to beginning to repair the harm by inviting people to make donations to the emerging African American Community Land Trust (AACL). The AACL is a project of the City of Lakes Community Land Trust, which provides affordable homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income families. The AACL helps Black families get into homeownership and start to build generational wealth of their own.

Of course racial covenants were not the only factor in creating racially segregated neighborhoods. Along with covenants, bank redlining, racial intimidation and violence, federal policies, realtor practices, and zoning codes all cooperated to build the segregated housing patterns that still impact where people live today.

Yet, revealing the existence of racial covenants is a powerful place to start the conversa-



tion about the discriminatory rules and legal structures that denied economic stability and wealth-building opportunities for Blacks and other people of color, even as Whites were able to use the system to build wealth for themselves and their families over generations.

Some may question whether it really matters if a racial covenant that was made illegal over 50 years ago is removed or not, or if putting a lawn sign in your yard will really make a difference. To that, Free The Deeds organizers would say yes. Even if covenants are no longer enforceable, their legacy of harm still remains, as evidenced by what our neighborhoods still look like, who has access to good schools, safe and healthy homes, and economic opportunities. That, along with the tremendous gap in homeownership and wealth between Whites and Blacks, shows us that

racial discrimination in housing is not only historic, but contemporary.

Racial covenants remind us that our neighborhood was built on the idea of White exclusiveness. Discharging your covenant, and posting a Free The Deeds lawn sign tells your current and future neighbors that you cared enough to help build a welcoming place. It is a small step to live out one's belief that Black lives do indeed matter, and that yes, all really are welcome here.

For more information on Free The Deeds, go to freethedeeds.org

To sign up to get a racial covenant discharged, search "Just Deeds Minneapolis."

To learn more about the Longfellow Community Council's Equitable Housing Committee work, contact Justin Gaarder at Justin@longfellow.org.

Letters

Dear Seward neighbors

As many of you know, Seward Neighborhood Group has been experiencing a difficult and trying time. At the end of March, 2021, our Executive Director resigned citing difficulties working with the board leadership. In April, a majority of the board was blocked in its attempt to change board leadership, after which eight board members resigned, including several women of color.

This left the board with fewer than the minimum of twelve members required under SNG's bylaws. The board essentially ceased to function, hindering its ability to hire new staff, oversee current projects, take on new initiatives, or generally do the things that a community-based nonprofit like SNG needs and wants to do.

A special board election was held on July 28, 2021 in which approximately 180 SNG members participated. They elected eight new members to the SNG board. Upon being elected, the new board members discovered that the organization had fallen into deep disarray. Normal, routine administrative tasks had been neglected. Bills were not paid. Urgent correspondence was not read and was not responded to. SNG committees had largely ceased to function or report their activities. There was virtually no communication from the board's leadership with the community-at-large explaining the situation or evidence of any plan to correct it. In addition, the city of Minneapolis' Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) initiated a special policy review of SNG, in part in response to its organizational

turmoil.

Having discovered this situation, on Aug. 20, 2021 the new Executive Committee asked Tiger Worku to resign as President of SNG due to a loss of confidence in his ability to lead. Tiger did subsequently resign as President, and from the board. Several other board members also resigned, some for personal reasons, others in protest of the Executive Committee asking for Tiger's resignation. This again left the board with fewer than the minimum 12 members. Consequently, SNG held another election on September 22, 2021, and an additional five members were elected to the board, bringing the current board total to 14.

In the meantime, board members have been working to sort through and correct organizational issues. Check signing responsibilities have been brought into order. Overdue bills have been paid. Financial records have

been brought up to date. Office keys have been accounted for. Some committee meetings are once again being held. A draft community engagement plan required for continued city funding has been completed and submitted to NCR.

Also, after a search and interviewing three candidates, the board hired Michael Jon Olson as Interim Executive Director to help manage the organization until long-term staffing issues can be addressed. Michael Jon is familiar with neighborhood organizations in general and SNG in particular, and is helping to bring its affairs into order.

The board has also received a written report from an organizational consultant who was engaged in March, 2021 to evaluate concerns expressed by the former Executive Director over board-staff relationships and other organizational dysfunction. The board has discussed the re-

port with the consultant and will begin to carry out many of its recommendations.

We understand that formal communication from SNG has been sporadic, inconsistent, and unsatisfactory for many months. We pledge to do our best to keep the community apprised via several channels of the progress we are making. Look for updates on the SNG website, NextDoor, and the e-democracy listserv.

The work of rebuilding our neighborhood organization will be slow, and there will likely be setbacks as well as forward progress. But we are committed to doing the hard work and we invite your support and assistance – as committee members, board members, financial contributors, and in other ways – as we move forward. Thank you for your patience and support.

**The Board of Directors,
Seward Neighborhood Group**

Messenger

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News for you!

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Story ideas always welcome.

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

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

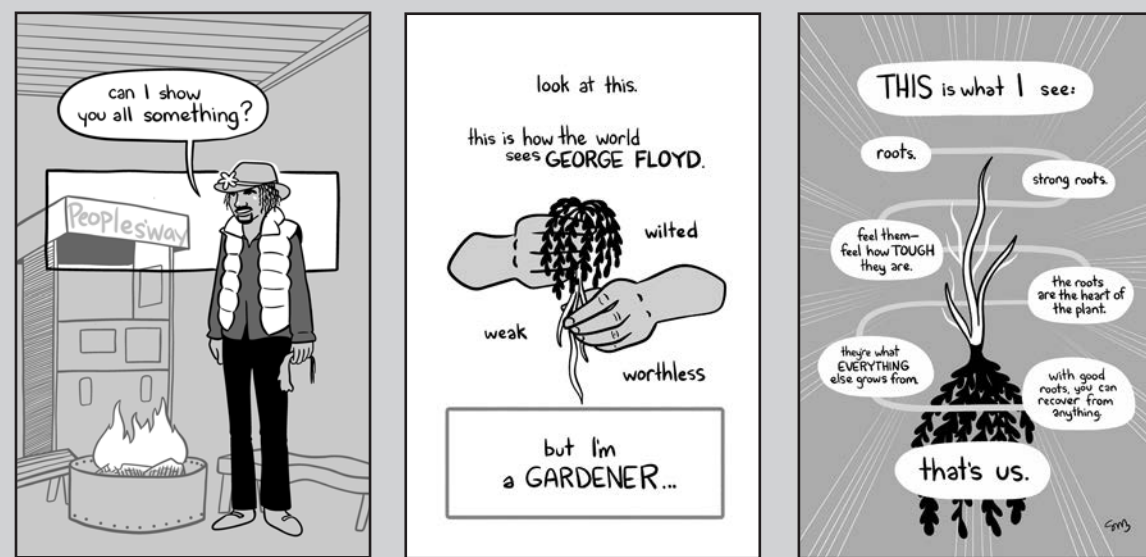
ers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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Art by Sarajea "Star" Martin,
George Floyd Square community member, foundbysara@gmail.com featuring Jay Webb, aka The Gardener.



Be a Leader: PPGJLI 5th Annual Community Celebration

Youth can make a difference in the world. They can lift their voice for justice and build a vision for the future of the betterment of society. Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute ("PPGJLI") is committed to providing young scholars with the tools to become leaders who build a more just and inclusive global community. In furtherance of this goal, we are excited to announce our 5th Annual Community Celebration will be held virtually on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, from 2-3 p.m. This year's theme is "Be A Leader" and celebrates service and community.

PPGJLI's mission is to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach has experienced immense success over the past five years. The organization has achieved several milestones – donating over 7,000 books to children, inspiring over 5,000 children with visits to schools, and 30,000 participating in PPGJLI virtual readings.

2021 programs and initiatives

This year marked the beginning of exciting new programs and initiatives. We are excited to announce the launch of Aya's Place, our new nurturing and creative space for artists. AYA (pronounced as "eye-ah") is part of adinkra – visual symbols linked to the (former) Gyaman kingdom and Ashanti culture. Aya translates as "fern," and symbolizes endurance, resourcefulness, and defiance against oppression.

At Aya's Place, those passionate about racial justice and healing can pause, reflect and grow. They can have the space they need to connect with their inner artist and reimagine themselves and the world with clarity. This initiative was created in partner-

Planting seeds

By DR. ARTIKA TYNER,
dr.artikatyner@gmail.com



ship LiLu Interiors.

We also will provide updates on our Black Doll Project which focuses on helping children to discover their beauty and unveil their limitless potential. We are seeking to create opportunities for Black children to see a reflection of themselves in the world around them through their toys. This visual inclusion will foster positive self-esteem and promote self-respect in our future emerging leaders.

We will feature a special book reading from our PPGJLI Youth Writing Competition winner Zephaniah Martin. This talented 10-year-old author wrote "Jaheem's First Kwanzaa." His book has been recognized as an Amazon bestseller.

2021 Excellence in Education honorees

We will be honoring four outstanding community leaders with the Excellence in Education Award:

Sheletta Brundidge is an author, autism advocate, podcaster, radio host, and Emmy Award-winning comedian. Brundidge is the founder of the online podcasting platform SHElettaMakesMeLaugh.com. Three of her four children have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and she works to educate and inspire parents with special needs children.

Jules Porter is a leader, law-

yer, game developer, and founder of Seraph 7 Studios. Seraph 7 Studios is a changemaker and among the top social venture companies dedicated to empowering and compelling change in gaming, education, and underestimated communities. She is developing a three-year work-study program for the Twin Cities area for high school students to teach them how to create video games.

Bella Sawyer started her own book club on Facebook, Bella's Book Club. Bella is an avid reader and shares that passion with others. She highlights and reads some of her favorite books each week. Through this learning experience, she inspires her peers to discover the joy of reading.

Crown Shepherd is the author of the book "Black Boy, Black Boy" for ages 7-10, a social entrepreneur, and a diversity advocate. The book enables African-American boys to see themselves in a positive light in a variety of roles. She is the author of fiction, picture books, and comic books. Her books feature Black protagonists and she is focused on sharing stories that give a voice to the voiceless.

We value you as a member of the community and invite you to join us in this milestone celebration. Your support allows us to continue the path forward to making a positive impact on the world around us. Together, we can continue moving towards achieving our goal of inspiring 100,000 youth to become leaders.

For more information, please visit: www.ppgjli.org

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.

Bikeway extension?

>> From 1

lions in tax revenue dollars for the city of Minneapolis. With this recent study, our goal was to show the economic benefits of investing in green transportation for the city of Saint Paul."

History of the Greenway

The Midtown Greenway is a 5.5-mile long bicycle and walking trail in a former railroad corridor in south Minneapolis. The trail is built on land owned by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and is maintained by Minneapolis.

The Greenway was developed in four phases, moving from west to east. To the west, the Greenway connects with paths around the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes and the Southwest LRT Trail extending to the western suburbs. To the east, the Greenway connects with paths along the Mississippi River.

Phase I was completed in 2000, Phase II in 2004, Phase III on 2006, and the last phase (the construction of the Sabo Bridge over Hiawatha Ave.) was finished in 2007. The trail runs through neighborhoods that are racially, ethnically, and economically diverse. According to Jensen, "It cost about \$34 million to build, and I like to say that it's paid for itself 10 times over."

An estimated 5,000 people use the trail each day, and over one million bike trips are made on it each year.

For most of its distance, the corridor is separated from the street, either in a gorge passing under bridges carrying streets overhead, or on a levy with traffic passing under it. This offers barrier-free bicycling that can make cross-town trips faster than going by car.

The Greenway is plowed in the winter, lit at night, and always open. The county's long-term plan for the corridor includes an express rail transit service operating alongside the trails, serving as part of a regional rail transit system.

River crossing is feasible

In 2006, Hennepin County funded a study that evaluated the feasibility of extending the Midtown Greenway across the Mississippi River. The focus was on using the existing Short Line Railroad Bridge over the river, as well as options for building a new bridge.

The county ultimately decided not to pursue the project due to the unknown condition of the Short Line Bridge, and community objections to building a new bridge.

In 2019, the Midtown Greenway Coalition funded another study that focused on the projected costs of rehabbing the Short Line Bridge for bicycle and pedestrian use. This study determined the bridge could be safely rehabbed, and presented options and associated costs for placing a bike-pedestrian trail on the bridge. Jensen said, "Half the bridge doesn't even have rail on it. The railroad can run their one train per day in and out. You put a bike trail on one half, and a protective barrier between the two to separate them."

Both the 2006 and 2019 studies concluded that there are feasible solutions to crossing the Mississippi River and establishing a more regionally significant multi-use trail with connections

to the University of Minnesota, Allianz Field, downtown Saint Paul, and points in between.

Through the equity lens

Extending the Greenway into Saint Paul would better connect people to jobs, schools, and homes between the two cities. According to research collected by the trail advocacy group American Trails, these factors negatively influence a community's level of physical activity: higher crime, lack of access to public parks and play areas, and poor bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Expanding the Midtown Greenway would not only improve connectivity between Minneapolis and St. Paul, but promote exercise and better health for all Greenway users – including those who live in under-resourced neighborhoods along the route, pointed out Jensen.

What a climate crisis requires

According to Jensen, "We are facing a climate crisis. We have to figure out a way to get more people biking. Even if we'll never be like European cities where half the people bike to work, we can do much better than we're doing now by improving our infrastructure. E-bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, walkers, and bikes are all welcome on the Greenway, and, of course, pedestrians."

"The main point of building any bike path is to fight climate change."

"We're advocating for protected bikeways, by building in a physical barrier between cars and bikes. There are a lot of people out there who feel comfortable riding in painted bike lanes, but there are plenty of people who don't."

Partners needed

Jensen concluded, "We're hoping this latest report will encourage government agencies to partner with us at the Midtown Greenway Coalition. We're hoping that Hennepin County, Ramsey County, MnDOT, and the Met Council will see what a great investment opportunity this would be. Who will take the lead and sit down with the Canadian Pacific Railroad to discuss how to move forward? We have a lot of elected officials (including Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter III) who are supportive, but they have to allocate time, funding, and staff to take the extension of the Midtown Greenway to the next level."



About the Midtown Greenway Coalition

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is the grassroots organization that successfully advocated for installation of the Midtown Greenway by public agencies. The coalition also engages community members in protecting, improving, and using the Greenway. The coalition formed in the late 1980s and became a non-profit organization in 1995. Coalition members have worked with Hennepin County and other public agencies throughout the planning and construction process. The Midtown Greenway opened in 2000 and is now considered one of the most vital features of the city's bike trail network. Want to join? Contact soren@midtown-greenway.org

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BAREBONES EXTRAVAGANZA 2021 RETURNS OCT. 31

Day-long event to feature puppets, procession, festival, concert and cabaret

By JILL BOOGREN

Shaped from sticks, torn pieces of brown paper bags, newspaper, and paste, bones were in the making at Powderhorn Park in September as artists and community members gathered to prepare for BareBones Extravaganza 2021.

In partnership with Festival de Las Calaveras, the outdoor puppetry and performance art spectacle BareBones will return to the southside for a day-long event on Oct. 31. It will include a community pageant procession from Powderhorn Park to the festival at Chicago Ave. and Lake St., followed by an evening concert and cabaret. Although it will be a different format from their annual event, some of the event regulars will be back: puppets, stilts, skeletons, music – and opportunities to honor and grieve departed loved ones.

Its theme, “El Grito de los Ancestros” / “the Cry of the Ancestors,” which came to several people in different forms – for example, a Peruvian BareBones community member wishing to acknowledge a recent discovery of an ancient mummy in Peru and a Native American youth wishing to represent the children whose remains had been found at boarding schools – resonates strongly with event leaders.

“I feel the ancestors are watching over us right now,” said co-director Mina Leierwood. “The racial reckoning that we’re going through right now is a chance for us to do the work that our ancestors couldn’t do. We’re carrying on the work for justice and righteousness, equity, community so it’s our job to keep trying. And we have this opportunity in this moment right now in Minneapolis to really step forward in this work. It’s an opportunity to heal. And so giving people a space to grieve publicly in whatever cultural way they know how is important to healing our city.”

The theme touches on grief, loss and death, and in this COVID-19 has made for an exceptionally hard year.

As a Minneapolis schoolteacher, Leierwood thinks this is especially true for teenagers coming of age during the pandemic. Distance learning cut them off from their friends and some of their favorite activities. Some adapted well enough, but others are, in Leierwood’s word, “floundering.”

“We have a lot of kids that have lost an entire year of academics, and it’s not their fault,” said Leierwood. “The kids are kids. How can we be there for our kids at this time when they’re coming of age, at the most difficult time?”

And losses from COVID-19 are widely felt.

“Everyone that I know has lost someone important to them. And not only have we lost persons, but we’ve lost places, businesses, the arts organizations, music, musicians. So the last year and a half has been filled with sorrow and pain,” said Leierwood. With the Extravaganza, “we’re giving people a place to express that publicly together.



BareBones Extravaganza 2021 Co-Directors (left to right) Xochi de la Luna, Adriana Cerrillo and Mina Leierwood at Powderhorn Park in September. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Returning artist and former BareBones Board Member Marian Lucas attends the community gathering at Powderhorn Park. “It’s been hard being the only deaf person, but people make me feel welcome. We try to communicate. We can create life together. It’s been a fun experience for me.” (Photo by Jill Boogren)

And I hope safely.”

As the show’s director of procession, Leierwood thinks an outdoor procession is about the safest way a group can be together. Young people will be strongly featured, and one of the stops along the route will be near the Say Their Names Cemetery at the northern end of George Floyd Square.

“It’s sacred ground... We’re in uncharted territory. But people in the area feel like we don’t want it to ever go back to the same corner that it was. Ever. We want it to stay sacred,” she said.

Leierwood, an artist who has been part of BareBones for 10-15 years, is one of three co-directors for the event. Uproar Performing Arts Founder Xochi de la Luna, a longtime fan of BareBones who has also volunteered as usher, and Minneapolis School Board Member Adriana Cerrillo, who is new to BareBones, are also co-directors.

Art and political oppression

What got Cerrillo, the show’s director of culture, excited to lead was the opportunity to come together as one community.

“This is what community



Community members of all ages try on masks at a Sunday BareBones gathering at Powderhorn Park. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

looks like,” she said. “It doesn’t matter what ethnicity, what is your cultural background, religion – regardless of all of these things, at the end of the day we are one human family.”

The event is also a natural extension of her personal and community work.

“I’ve been incorporating art into the way that I work with my Latino community when it comes to talking about all the political oppression that we live under on a daily basis, especially when it comes to separation of families because of the lack of comprehensive immigration reform,” she said.

Kids will be engaged at the event through workshops that will be set up in an empty lot at Chicago Ave. and Lake St. One station might be to make papier-mâché, another to make cards, as Cerrillo describes, to “bring together the names of people that have passed through to a better life that have influenced our life.”

“It’s an opportunity for young children, especially when we don’t talk about death, for them to understand that death is part of life. Therefore, we must live every single moment,” she said.

Xochi de la Luna sees a lot of crossover in what BareBones does with its pagan-inspired performance and ancestry, with Dia de los Muertos. Their role, as director of performance, is to oversee

the Ancestors Concert, which will offer the traditional BareBones calling of the names, and the cabaret.

Additionally, the directors are collaborating with Deborah Ramos, the director of Festival de las Calaveras.

Cultural exchange

To the directors’ knowledge, this is the first year that Brown people are forming the leadership of BareBones, and they embrace the opportunity to deepen cultural understanding.

“I wanted a space for Latinos that wanted to be involved... but also were interested in doing like a cross-cultural exchange with the BareBones community... [and] the Minneapolis community at large, to offer up how they grieve and celebrate life,” said de la Luna.

They see hesitation from non-Latino folk being plugged into Dia de los Muertos-focused programming but welcome the exchange and people’s questions. “Because how else are you going to know about our practices? And we can tell you boundaries and what not, so that you’re able to do it with respect,” said de la Luna.

“I feel like a... misconception folks have is that Dia de los Muertos is a Spanish Halloween. It is not. It’s a sacred holiday about celebrating life and about grief, and we want folks to get a

Join BareBones community

At the time of this writing, jobs are still being posted for BareBones Extravaganza 2021 for multi-day and day-of-event positions.

Volunteers are needed to fill a number of roles. BareBones is using non-police alternatives and will need people to provide safety for the event, as one example. This list is still being finalized.

“Everyone is invited. If anybody has any questions, don’t be afraid to reach out,” said Co-Director Adriana Cerrillo. “We are in need of volunteers. If people wanna come and be part of it, we have a position for anybody.”

Community workshops are open to the public and are held every Sunday from 1-3 p.m. near the 10th Ave. and 33rd St. playground entrance, until the Extravaganza. For more information, find BareBones puppets and the Festival de las Calaveras on Facebook, or visit their websites at BareBonespuppets.org and Festival-Calaveras.com.

hang of that,” they said. “Hopefully this helps people understand that a little bit more.”

De la Luna is taking care to ensure that even the cabaret is not simply “performative.”

“There’s ways to celebrate it without appropriating it,” she said. She’s hiring four artists for the cabaret, to fit within the theme, El Grito de los Ancestros, and focus on “pieces that have to do with life and grief or pain.”

After years of billing it as a “Halloween” event, BareBones has dropped the word in order to honor all traditions.

COVID-19 Impacts

BareBones has been around since the mid-1990s, performing in various parks, including Minnehaha Regional Park, before settling into Hidden Falls in St. Paul in 2003. Last year, the pandemic forced them to do a completely different type of event. Facilitated by Lelis Brito and Harry Waters, Jr., it was called “Offerings” and featured installations by 40 artists along Lake St.

“We couldn’t even announce performances by Masanari Kawahara, because we didn’t want crowds to gather,” said Leierwood. Kawahara is an award-winning dancer, who created and performed a Japanese Butoh piece titled “8’46” (Movement for Healing).”

This is just one representation of the toll COVID-19 has taken on artists.

“It’s been terrible,” said Leierwood, who lost a musician friend to suicide during the pandemic. “My heart is with the musicians and artists and art organizations and venues that have lost funding and have been devastated by the pandemic... If your income was dependent on your music or your art, it’s been a really tough time. People are still struggling along as best they can. Holding out for a brighter day.”

Leierwood mentioned the Powderhorn Porchfest, which had just taken place in the neighborhood and seemed to have brought a needed release. “It felt like New Orleans – people playing music on their porches and



Community members create bones and other sculptures together at Powderhorn Park on Sept. 19. Gatherings are open to the public and are held every Sunday, from 1-3 pm near the 10th Ave. and 33rd St. playground entrance, until the Extravaganza. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

bones. Fahey was excited to be able to work together a little bit more, saying "It was sticky with COVID." She was also excited about collaborating with the Festival de las Calaveras, "Stretching in new ways, and learning. We all have ancestors and we all have grief."

Mantz, who moved to the

area in June, was participating for the first time.

"It's super cool it's open to all community members. Theater can be tight knit," she said. "I'll come back."

Returning artist and former BareBones Board Member Marian Lucas also attended the community gathering at Powderhorn

Park. Lucas, who is deaf, created an installation for the 2020 event called "MN Ice," which featured embroidery on a window screen with the words "Equal Justice" and moving ASL elements.

"I'm a lady of leisure. I can get involved in stuff. It's been hard being the only deaf person, but people make me feel welcome," she said through an interpreter. "We try to communicate. We can create life together. It's been a fun experience for me."

BAREBONES >> From 6

people dancing in the streets. They did have some COVID protocols. That's what BareBones has to do, too."

Artist krewes at work

As of now, plans are to return to Hidden Falls in 2022. This year, though, will see another reimagined event in South Minneapolis. In part to keep working groups small, BareBones is adopting the New Orleans approach used for Mardi Gras and other carnivals: Artist "krewes" have been formed to work at separate sites developing specific puppets, floats and other features they will bring to the pageant procession. At the time of this writing, an Indigenous krewe, Latina/Latino krewe, Afro Black krewe, Asian krewe, East African krewe, Stirling krewe, Bicycle Contraption krewe and Justice krewe were already established, with more to be added.

As community-based theater, BareBones is trying to be together as much as possible. Meeting outdoors at the park is a lower risk way to do that, and it's a space where they can do community building exercises, theater games and more.

At the gathering on Sept. 19, Tara Fahey and Mariah Mantz sat on the lawn, creating

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Fighting racial homeownership gap one family at a time

PRG, Inc. stays true to mission for 45 years

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Nearly 50 years ago, PRG, Inc. was created to serve residents of the Powderhorn Park community in South Minneapolis. The acronym stood for Powderhorn Residents Group. They were originally a group of diverse neighbors concerned about affordable, resident-controlled housing in a changing neighborhood – and they still are.

Executive director Kathy Wetzel-Mastel said, "Early in our history, PRG began applying our expertise to housing problems beyond the borders of our founding community, and today

we serve many neighborhoods across the Twin Cities."

PRG's mission is to combine community-based affordable housing development with education and advising to help all people and neighborhoods thrive.

The non-profit organization is one of the state's largest providers of homeowner education workshops, and one-on-one advising for first-time home buyers. Wetzel-Mastel said, "We work primarily with BIPOC households to become homeowners. We help our clients find homes that fit their families, and we



PRG has focused its real estate developments in neighborhoods hardest hit with high numbers of foreclosures since the foreclosure crisis following the 2008-09 recession. "We've been able to keep 125 properties out of the hands of absentee landlords or developers. At the core of our work is narrowing the racial homeownership gap one family at a time," said executive director Kathy Wetzel-Mastel. (Photo submitted)

About PRG Inc.

"Whether you're looking to buy a home, struggling to keep the one you've got, or planning housing to strengthen your community, we can help. Based in Minneapolis, PRG has been a resource and trusted community partner since 1976. At the invitation of neighborhoods and cultural groups, we work to turn foreclosed homes and vacant lots into beautiful, affordable places to live." From www.prginc.org

PRG has focused its real estate development in neighborhoods hardest hit with high numbers of foreclosures. Wetzel-Mastel said, "We've built or rehabbed 125 homes in that time, and the majority are located in Phillips and North Minneapolis neighborhoods."

"We've been able to keep 125 properties out of the hands of absentee landlords or developers. At the core of our work is narrowing the racial homeownership gap – one family at a time."

Racial Homeownership Gap

Research shows that Minnesota has the fourth largest racial homeownership gap in the country. Measuring the gap of African American home owners relative to White home owners, Minneapolis comes in last for the 50 largest cities in the U.S.

Wetzel-Mastel continued, "Despite fair housing and lending laws, there are huge disparities in mortgage lending around race, which can't be attributed to factors such as credit score or income. Higher income African American are rejected more often for loans than lower income Whites. We're pretty good at locating programs/products to help lower income households. Sometimes we can layer on five or six different types of down payment assistance programs."

ONE FAMILY AT A TIME >> 12

help them stay in their homes through our foreclosure prevention program.

"Most of the people we work with are on a 1-3 year horizon to being mortgage ready. We teach prospective homebuyers (often the first in their extended families to own homes) to make decisions about whether, when, and how to buy a home."

Myth busting 101

Wetzel-Mastel described the PRG staff this way. She said, "We work as trusted advisors alongside our clients. Of the BIPOC clients we serve, approximately 50% are African American families, 25% are African immigrant families, and 25% are Asian American or Native American."

"There are a few organizations doing the same work as

us, but geared toward the Latino population. CLUES in Minneapolis and the NeDA (Neighborhood Development Alliance) in St. Paul are two examples. They do great work."

"Everybody talks about needing to put 20% down to purchase a home, which can keep many people from ever thinking about themselves as home owners. A more worthwhile question is, 'Have you ever thought about home ownership?' We want to make sure that prospective BIPOC homeowners have the same advantages as everyone else."

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Non-profit sends medical supplies to Bolivia - and shares surplus at home

Mano a Mano keeps medical supplies out of landfills

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Joan and Segundo Velasquez founded Mano a Mano in 1994 with the goal of saving surplus medical supplies from the landfill in Minnesota and shipping them to Bolivia, where those supplies were desperately needed.

Joan served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia. Segundo was born there, and moved to Minnesota as an adult. His brother Jose, a pediatrician working in Bolivia, asked Segundo to bring medical supplies back home whenever he came to visit. Over the years, the amount of supplies grew from a few items in a suitcase to multiple shipping containers each year.

Twenty-seven years after it began, Mano a Mano (925 Pierce Butler Route in St. Paul) is a well-established nonprofit organization that has built more than 300 infrastructure projects across Bolivia - from clinics and schools to roads and water reservoirs. All of these projects were done in collaboration with local communities, and all of them continue to operate today.

Nate Knatterud-Hubinger has been Mano a Mano's executive director for the past six years. He said, "The majority of the donated supplies and equipment Mano a Mano receives are shipped to Bolivia. Our core mission is to help communities in Bolivia, but we are happy to partner with local organizations when we have more than we can use. We want to keep medical supplies out of landfills and incinerators in Minnesota, and get them to people who can use them."

He continued, "Access to medical care is limited in many rural Bolivian communities. Medical supplies and equipment are prohibitively expensive, with non-profit and government-operated health programs often lacking the most basic items. The lack of supplies compromises their ability to care for those with limited resources. Mano a Ma-



Segundo Velasquez, co-founder of Mano a Mano. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Operations manager Carmen Paredes Dockry near the medical supply drop-box. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

no's medical supply distribution and community clinic programs help address these problems."

Wednesday is Donation Day

Orthopedic supplies like wheel-chairs, walkers, and crutches are in especially high demand. Mano a Mano staff and volunteers visit the Goodwill Store at Fairview and University avenues in St. Paul every Wednesday afternoon, and cull through the bins looking for these mobility items.

Individuals can also drop off gently used medical supplies and mobility items at Mano a Mano's office on Wednesdays. There is a well-marked drop off box in the parking lot. Unopened medical gloves, gauze, braces, crutches, and wheelchairs are welcome. Items are stored at their St. Paul warehouse until there is sufficient volume (and funding) to fill a shipping container.

A long voyage

Once filled, each container is trucked from St. Paul to the



Social work and public health students from local colleges volunteer in the St. Paul warehouse each week. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

east coast, and shipped down the eastern seaboard and through the Panama Canal. The sea voyage ends in a harbor in Chile, as Bolivia is a land-locked country. The container is back on a truck to La Paz, Bolivia, where the shipment has to clear customs, before reaching its final destination in Cochabamba, Bolivia. From beginning to end, the voyage takes three to five months.

According to Knatterud-Hubinger, "It costs nearly \$25,000 to ship a 40-foot container. Because the commercial value of each container would be at least \$300,000-\$500,000 on average, the shipments are absolutely worthwhile. But there are some items, like bath chairs and commodes, that are more useful state-side than in rural Bolivia."

Distributing mobility aids

Last year a physical therapist approached Mano a Mano with an idea. She told staff about her Twin Cities' patients who either lack health insurance, or whose insurance does not cover equipment needed to live with independence and dignity. For example, a patient who needs a wheelchair might be able to get a wheelchair - but not a commode or a bath chair.

The physical therapist's ques-

tion to Mano a Mano was, "Could Twin Cities' therapists and other health care professionals access Mano a Mano's surplus medical equipment for their patients?"

Knatterud-Hubinger said, "We embarked on a pilot project. Physical therapists, occupational therapists, and social workers identify their patients with unmet needs. They check with Mano a Mano to see if we have the items needed, and come to our warehouse on a scheduled Saturday morning to pick them up."

"Physical therapist Sharon Kimble shared this story of the difference our pilot project made for one of her patients. Ikran, a 26-year-old recently arrived Ethiopian refugee, had paraplegia. She lived with her family in Minneapolis, where her younger brother assisted with all of her care: carrying her from one place to another in their house, lifting her onto the toilet, and bringing water to her bedside for sponge bathing."

Kimble located a sliding chair in the Mano a Mano warehouse that could help Ikran become more independent. Once Ikran was lifted onto the sliding chair, she could manage much of her own personal care. Kimble said, "This is an expensive piece

About Mano a Mano

Mano a Mano is Spanish for "hand in hand." The organization works hand in hand with communities to improve lives in rural Bolivia - and beyond. Because of the work of Mano a Mano, 800,000 Bolivians have access to health care for the first time; 3,500+ Bolivians have received emergency air rescues; 4,000,000+ million pounds of medical, school, and construction supplies have been collected, sorted and shipped; and 1,200 miles of roads have been built or improved.

of equipment, one that Medical Assistance would never have paid for. The sliding chair transformed the lives of my patient and her family."

Moving forward

Reaching rural communities can be challenging because of elevation: many of the communities Mano a Mano serves are in the Andes mountains 8,000-14,000' above sea level. The roads are typically poor, and the weather is unpredictable. Rural communities are often ignored because they are so difficult to access.

The impact of poverty falls hardest on Bolivia's mothers and children. The maternal mortality rate in Bolivia is among the highest in Latin America.

Knatterud-Hubinger said, "We are always looking for volunteers to help sort medical supplies. It's very satisfying to see the volume of usable equipment and supplies we divert from landfills and incinerators: materials that are in perfectly good condition, like a prepackaged surgery kit with one item missing. We currently require masks indoors and proof of vaccination for volunteers."

To learn more about giving or receiving donated medical equipment and supplies, visit the Mano a Mano website at www.manoamano.org. Contact operations manager Carmen Paredes Dockry at carmen@manoamano.org with questions about volunteering or making an in-kind donation.

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* Candidates are listed in alphabetical order below.

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters – Minneapolis asked candidates seven questions and compiled an online voters guide. View it at <https://lwvmpls.org/city-council-candidate-questionnaire-responses/>

Questions included opinions on public safety, government structure, the Yes4Mpls department of public safety petition, Minneapolis 2040 plan, affordable housing, climate energy goals and public/mass transit. Find the link via our online elections page.



Re-elect ANDREW JOHNSON
MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL WARD 12

Make Andrew your first choice for City Council

ANDREW IS PROUD TO BE ENDORSED BY:

DFL MINNEAPOLIS, SEIU, MN 350 ACTION, AFSCME, Council 5, LCA UNION 292, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Senator Patricia Torres Ray, Rep. Jim Davnie, & Rep. Emma Greenman

Visit AndrewMPLS.com to learn more and see a complete list of endorsements.

VOTE YES



City Question 1 Executive Mayor- Legislative Council



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Ward 12

Nancy Ford

The current city council is ignoring the voice of the residents and listening to developers. Let's listen to the residents that have worked hard to make this the wonderful city that Minneapolis is. Let's listen to the small independent business owners and give them the support they need to succeed.

I want to see a city council that puts city business first, not personal agendas. Time spent arguing is time that could have been spent getting work done. Minneapolis can do better and I want to help it do better. Let's see more and better job opportunities within our city limits. Let's see vocational training in our high schools. Let's increase youth programming in our parks. Let's build purchasable homes instead of rental units, increase the opportunities to build wealth through home ownership.

As a small business owner, I bring a different and much needed perspective to the city council that has been lacking for quite some time. I am running as an independent, nonpartisan candidate because I believe your city council should represent first and foremost, the residents, not a political party. Let's put pragmatism before activism.

Residents of Ward 12, thank you for considering and supporting a small, independent candidate. Residents of Minneapolis, I encourage you to read up on all the candidates and charter amendments. Do your homework, be prepared and head to the polls on or before Nov. 2.

Andrew Johnson, incumbent

I am a pragmatic progressive who brings a voice of reason to

City Hall and am proud to be your DFL and LABOR endorsed candidate. I put our residents first, am accessible and responsive, listen with an open mind, carefully weigh decisions, seek compromise, and don't ignore the basics. Before serving, I was a small business owner, IT systems engineer, and proved myself as a leader through Longfellow Community Council.

Since being elected, I have made our city better in many ways, including co-authoring the paid safe and sick leave ordinance, which has protected 100,000+ workers during this pandemic, and establishing the Small Business Office.

On public safety, I believe we need police and have supported funding for hiring more officers, while also leading efforts to establish alternative responses where safe and appropriate, investing in violence prevention, and supporting creation of a broader Department of Public Safety. I've been leading work to assist rebuilding from civil unrest, including waiving fees, expediting clean-up, and securing aid.

I'm the only Ward 12 candidate with detailed positions on affordable housing, climate change, racial equity, transit, homelessness, and more. I have earned broad support from more than a dozen organizations, including Minneapolis Firefighters, Teamsters, AFSCME, SEIU, Sierra Club, MN350 Action, and Stonewall DFL. I'm also supported by Representative Omar, State Senator Torres Ray, and State Representatives Davnie and Greenman. I'm running for re-election because I am committed to getting our city through the challenges before us. I ask for your support. Thank you.

DID NOT RESPOND:

• David Rosenfeld

LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Visit website for info and results



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Paid & prepared for by Alicia for Parks, P O BOX 7661, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407 & Meg Forney for Parks, 3201 Zenith Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416

Ward 11**Dillon Gherna**

I'm Dillon Gherna, and I'm running for Minneapolis City Council to represent Ward 11. As an openly gay man, I place a high value on equity and inclusion – I believe these principles build the strongest communities. I am a public safety professional, serving the over 1.2 million residents of Hennepin County as the Public Initiatives Coordinator for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. I am focused everyday on identifying and developing initiatives to help prevent crime, build trust, increase public safety, and expand community education. We are at a cross-roads in our city, with my experience in leadership of complex organizations, I will bring a balanced focus to city hall that is pragmatic and future forward. I want Minneapolis to be the beacon of hope for others as it was for me many years ago.

**Emily Koski**

My name is Emily Koski and I am running to represent you on the Minneapolis City Council. I'm here to listen, to learn, and to work together to build a better future for all of us. I am running for Minneapolis City Council because I believe in this community and I have decided to put my values into action. I am a connector, I am a strategic problem



solver, and I bring a balanced approach. Now is the time for us to unite – to work together to build a Minneapolis we are all proud of. It's time for us to work together to make our communities safe, fight for justice and equity, support our businesses, create affordable housing, and sustain our environment. Our community doesn't just want a representative on the Minneapolis City Council, we want a voice on the Minneapolis City Council. Our leadership should not be operating in a vacuum. No one person, no one city council member, can single handedly solve every challenge, and address every issue that faces our city. Our best chance, our best path forward – is one that brings all of us together. It is my personal goal, as a candidate, and as a city council member – to have each member of this community seen and heard. I will continue to immerse myself in our community, engage in open conversations, earn your trust, and bring your voices to the table. I am running to represent you on the Minneapolis City Council, and I'm asking for your support.

Albert Ross

Crime is at an all time high in our community. Business are boarding up because of fear that they will be looted, robbed or worse. Police all over the state are leaving their post or retiring, which means less police to respond to emergency calls in our community and on top of that there are prominent leaders in our city council calling for the disbursement of our police department in the midst of rising crime.



I am running for Minneapolis City Council to take back our community from the crooked politicians and to save our Minneapolis Police Department.

Jeremy Schroeder, incumbent

After spending almost 20 years doing community advocacy, I ran for public office in 2017 to make sure every resident in Ward 11 could make their voice heard in city hall. I am seeking re-election to continue to represent my district in a way that listens to the community and builds a city that works for everybody. I believe in the value of every single person and think we can only solve the complex problems of our time if everyone is empowered to participate freely and effectively in our government. Building on my successful policy experience as an attorney, as the executive director at multiple nonprofits and now as a City Councilmember, I have authored numerous new programs and policies to accomplish these goals. I have successfully increased the affordable housing in the city, substantially increased the work the city does to fight climate change, and have worked to transform our public safety system into something that keeps everyone safe. While I'm proud of the advances Minneapolis has made in these areas, our work is far from done. I am passionate about continuing this work and believe I can help guide Minneapolis to a safer, more equitable future.

**DID NOT RESPOND:**

- Kurt Michael Anderson

Ward 9**Mickey Moore**

I am born and raised in South Minneapolis. I have lived here my whole life and like many people from here, I am passionate about my hometown. As the single son of a single mom, my family was supported by government services like housing assistance and food stamps, as well as city programs like latchkey and park and recreation sports, not to mention nonprofits and organizations such as The Boys Club, YMCA, and Pillsbury House. I came from extremely humble beginnings, but my mother instilled in me the core democratic values of tolerance, equality, and justice as well as a strong work ethic and the value of a good education.

I opened The Braid Factory in 1996, and for years I had to battle the state of Minnesota's racist policies to legitimize our natural hair care industry. Today, this industry is thriving, with hundreds of people, especially black and African Immigrant women, gainfully employed in this field, many owning their own companies.



In 2020, I was motivated by the tragic murder of George Floyd to run for Congress and received more votes than any other independent candidate in the country. When I saw the choices that Ward 9 was facing for city council, I felt compelled to offer my leadership, my experience and my history of professional success to the people and the area that means so much to me and has done so much for me.

I know this community, I love this community, and I will work harder for this community than anyone else. I know what we need, and how to achieve our shared goals. Unlike any other candidate, I will be donating much of my salary directly to the neighborhood, because more than anything, I believe we all deserve our chance at the American dream.

I know this community, I love this community, and I will work harder for this community than anyone else. I know what we need, and how to achieve our shared goals. Unlike any other candidate, I will be donating much of my salary directly to the neighborhood, because more than anything, I believe we all deserve our chance at the American dream.

DID NOT RESPOND:

- Jason Chavez
- Jon Randall Denison
- Alfred 'AJ' Flowers Jr.
- Yussuf Haji
- Carmen Means
- Brenda Short
- Ross Tenneson

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked voting allows voters to rank multiple candidates for the same office in order of preference.

Winning the election:

A candidate wins the election by getting an absolute majority of first-choice votes – 50% plus one. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes on Election Day, round-by-round ranked choice voting tabulation will begin the day after Election Day. Results are unofficial until certified by the City Canvassing Board.

1st choice Select one	2nd choice (if any) Select one	3rd choice (if any) Select one
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candidate 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candidate 5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candidate 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 7

4th choice (if any) Select one	5th choice (if any) Select one	6th choice (if any) Select one
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candidate 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate 7

Instructions: Pick your first choice by completely filling in the box next to that candidate's name. If you have a second choice, fill in the box next to that candidate. Continue this process to pick your remaining choices, if you have any. Note: marking a candidate means that you would like them to receive your vote; there is a chance that any candidate you mark will have that vote counted toward their total. Minneapolis has been using the Ranked Choice Voting method since 2009. To learn more about the legal process for counting votes in the ranked voting method, visit <https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/ranked-choice-voting/>.

Ward 2**Yusra Arab**

My name is Yusra Arab, and I'm running to represent all of the diverse residents and vibrant communities in Ward 2 on the Minneapolis City Council. When elected, I plan to apply a unique perspective to the challenges our city faces, informed by my experiences as a 24-year resident of our ward, a mental health practitioner, and as a former policy advisor to the Minneapolis City Council where I focused on issues such as affordable housing, economic inclusion, and community-police relations.



I am running to serve our ward because our city is at a critical crossroads. We are experiencing some of the most consequential, urgent, and complex challenges in our city's history. From transforming our public safety systems to recovering from a global pandemic, we need to come together in order to move Minneapolis forward. The state and the nation's eyes are on Minneapolis in hopes that we rise to meet these challenges. Yet, at this critical moment when our communities are calling for meaningful change, our current city council seems too caught up in political grandstanding to answer that call. We need leaders who are prepared to meet this moment with collaboration, transparency, and the political will to get things done. I believe that I have the vision, the experience – both professional and lived – and the commitment to do just that. I hope that I will be given the opportunity to earn your support.

For information on myself or my positions, please visit yusraarab.com, or email me directly at Yusra@neighborsforyusra.com.

Robin Wonsley Worlobah

I am running for City Council in Ward 2 of Minneapolis to be a voice for working people and bring social movements into city hall. Minneapolis has some of the grossest racial and economic disparities in the country. These

disparities are most clearly exemplified at the local level in our housing crisis, which displaced our neighbors in tents along Highway 55 and in our parks in Ward 2, and the systemic racism that resulted in the murder of George Floyd and subsequent uprising.



For decades, our local leadership has failed to enact the bold changes required to eliminate these inequities, and meanwhile grassroots social movements have worked tirelessly to make Minneapolis a more equitable and just place. As a council member I will bring the energy and demands of those movements into city hall to fight for the policies we so desperately need, such as rent control, community safety beyond policing, and affordable housing.

DID NOT RESPOND:

- Tom Anderson
- Guy Gaskin
- Cam Gordon, incumbent



Let's keep working together to make sure our city works better for everyone.

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- Safe, Healthy Communities
- A Fair, Resilient Economy
- A Green New Deal for Minneapolis

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To learn more visit
camgordon.org.
Contact Cam at
612 296-0579 or
cam@camgordon.org.

Cam Gordon
FOR CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

Prepared and paid for by Neighbors for Cam Gordon
Ruth Hvidston Treasurer 2744 41st Ave. So Mpls. MN 55406

advertisement

Legal Marijuana Now Party Endorses Minneapolis Candidates

Nancy Ford
City Council Ward 12

Nate Atkins
Mayor

Mickey Moore
City Council Ward 9

Strong advocates for their communities
legalizing marijuana...NOW • Ending the war on drugs
Building local marijuana economies • Social justice

Prepared and paid for by Legal Marijuana Now Party

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

Election Day is Nov. 2, 2021. Do you have your plan to vote?

You want to vote in the November Minneapolis local election. Your city is important to you. You care about racial justice, housing, police reform, education, the environment, public transportation, parks and who is elected mayor. Did you know that you are more likely to actually cast a ballot if you make a concrete plan to vote?

How do you make a plan? Follow these simple steps:

1) Be sure you are registered at your current address. In Minnesota, you can register to vote online, by mail or in person at your polling site. Pre-registering online and by mail must be done by Oct. 12. Or you can register in person at a local early voting center or Election Day polling place. If you are registered to vote at your current address, you do not need to bring an ID. If you need

Pledge to vote: make your plan today



to register at your polling place site, you'll need to bring an ID or other proof of residence to vote <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-election-day/>. Not sure if you're currently registered or want to register online? Visit mnvotes.org.

2) Decide when you want to vote. Minnesotans have been voting absentee for over 75 years. Since 2014, Minnesotans have been able to cast an absentee ballot without a specific reason. The popularity of early voting in Minnesota has grown in each election since this change took effect. To vote early by mail: Request your absentee ballot no later than Oct. 19, fill it out and return it right away, either through the mail or to your local election office. Ballots must be received by Nov. 2. Request and track your ballot at mnvotes.org.

To vote early go to Minneapolis Election & Voter Services, 980 Hennepin Ave. E. Early in-person voting began Sept. 17 and is open through 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 1. To vote on Election Day, Nov. 2, find your polling place <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> and cast your ballot. Most polling sites are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you can't easily leave your vehicle or are not

comfortable voting inside, you can opt for curbside voting.

3) Decide if you need to make special arrangements. Perhaps you need a ride to the polls, childcare (though children can come to the polls with you) or finding time during or around your work schedule to vote. (Remember, Minnesota law requires employees to allow workers time off to vote without losing pay or taking time off.)

4) Prepare for your vote. Consider looking up a sample ballot to review more information on the candidates you will be voting for. Sample ballots are available through the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. This local Minneapolis election will have ranked choice voting. Go to <https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/ranked-choice-voting/> to find out more. At the polls, you can receive help if needed <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/get-help-voting/>.

Make 2021 the year you vote with confidence. Take the time to map out and write down a concrete voting plan and review it before you vote. Encourage friends and family to do the same. Support each other this election season and help someone you care about get involved as a voter. CALL THREE FRIENDS AND MAKE A PLAN TODAY!

Please note: If voting in person, follow all current public health guidelines to keep yourself and poll workers safe. Questions? Much more information is available in 11 languages at www.mnvotes.org and at the Minneapolis Elections Office <https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/> – or call them by dialing 311. Check out the other articles in this series brought to you by the League of Women Voters Minneapolis at www.lwvmppls.org. Your vote can make a difference!

Ladies of the Lake bring joy ➤ From 2

same issues and trauma and are impacted, also."

Warmboe said LOL want to do their best to go where they are wanted, and they partner with a lot of other charities and organizations. He said the Sisters are doing a lot of fundraising these days, because a number of organizations have seen their funding cut, which has resulted in HIV infections on the rise.

Although the Sisterhood is filled with humor and joy, the steps to join are taken seriously. Anyone is welcome to be a Sister, but the process takes time. One begins as a volunteer, moves to a postulant, then a novice and finally a fully professed sister. There is a lot of study and participation along the way. And the potential sister is voted upon at every step.

"You learn how to initiate small talk, how to be an active listener and how to tell little jokes that can break the ice and make everyone giggle," Warmboe said. He said the LOL is the only fully professed house in Minnesota, and the largest in the Midwest. Members are active in the Twin Cities, but also travel to events in rural Minnesota and nearby states.

"We have in the past run into hostility locally," Warmboe added, "but it has been awhile. It

depends on what we have been invited for. People who see us online feel the power to say anything anonymously. But in person, there is generally not a lot of bashing."

Warmboe said that does change, however, once he leaves the Twin Cities. "In places like Bemidji, for example, there are only a couple bars where my husband and I can sit on the same side of the table. And in Hibbing, we got a lot of dirty looks. I have been called faggot a couple of times."

However, the strongest reaction Warmboe received was during an anti-gun protest at the State Capitol with Moms Demand Action. "I grew up where gun drills at school were common. I am not anti-gun, but I am anti being shot by them."

Warmboe said someone took his photo, as he was dressed as a nun at the protest. "I got turned into a meme and it was shared by Ted Nugent. I received a massive number of death threats, but it was empowering. If a photo of me, an adult wearing a dress drew the focus off queer kids who get targeted because I am considered a bigger threat, that's okay by me."

"I have a job, a home and insurance. I am okay. Just leave the



Ladies of the Lake members gather for fun and fundraising. The steps to join begin as volunteer, move to postulant, then novice and finally a fully professed sister. There is a lot of study and participation along the way. (Photo submitted)

kids out of it," Warmboe said. He did say his mother, husband and nieces were all concerned about his safety in the face of all the death threats, but he considered the distraction to be a good thing.

As far as the focus of LOL being on queers of color, Warmboe described the challenges they face with a metaphor of a game of blackjack. "You need to get to 21, and the deck is dealt for you," he explained. "Privilege, scarcity and a whole slew of things dic-

tate how well someone can do in life. If you are given a deck with no kings, getting to 21 is hard. Add on that you're queer, face generational poverty, all things that affect the deck. It is possible to reach 21, but it takes more intentional effort."

Warmboe said that just because one is queer does not mean he is not racist. "You see someone as the other, and it is so easy to treat them as the other" he said. Living by Paul Wellstone's motto, "We all do better

when we all do better," has been important to Warmboe.

Warmboe became a fully professed sister in 2017, taking his vows. He said he is Mistress of Novices and Mistress of Archives. He is also vice president for the 501c3. As Mistress of Archives, he keeps track of banners, signage and "all the weird things" the Sisters have acquired. He said his basement is full of banners, rocks from Lake Superior and other items collected at different events or given as gifts by other houses.

LOL has no specific location but meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in downtown Minneapolis. The 27 members come from all over the Metro: Minneapolis and St. Paul, White Bear Lake, Eagan and other suburbs.

"We plan our events, discuss grants and scholarships and make sure the bills are paid," Warmboe said. "One percent of our fund-raising pays for our mailbox. Everything else goes back into the organization."

"I know for myself, I have seen the results of our work," Warmboe said. "I have seen people becoming more comfortable in their own skin."

Anyone interested in finding out more about LOL and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence can go to <https://www.lolsisters.org/>

One family at a time

➤ From 8

"We hope that the foreclosure crisis won't be repeated. The moratoria on evictions and foreclosures have expired. We expect that federal mortgage assistance will be available by the end of the year for people who have had a COVID-19-related income loss, but it has been slow in coming."

"Our success stories are looking at the people who bought those 125 homes. The macro look at the racial homeownership gap is discouraging, but if we can continue to tell the impact of our work to policy makers – there is a way to change the trajectory. We make sure that low-income community members, residents of the neighbor-

hoods we serve, and people of color are powerful participants in each step of our work."

Take action

When asked what readers could do about the closing the racial homeownership gap, Wetzel-Mastel said, "Consider supporting programs that will stabilize rents and welcome affordable housing to your neighborhood. If things keep going the way they're going, the diversity of Minneapolis home renters will keep declining, which will ultimately play out in the diversity of people owning homes."

Visit the PRG website at www.prginc.org to learn more about individual homeowner advising or group homeowner education classes. PRG's HUD-ap-



New homeowners display a SOLD sign. (Photo submitted)

proved advisors also offer refinancing and foreclosure prevention advising. Their offices remain closed to the public due to

COVID-19; call 612.721.7556 to schedule an online or telephone appointment.



PRG's Executive Director, Kathy Wetzel-Mastel, with General Contractor, Anderson Mitchell of Mitchell Construction, inside 1811 Girard, a PRG Green Homes North project on the 2015 MSP Home Tour. (Photo submitted)

Tips as you clean up the garden

The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting cooler, and it's just about time for fall garden cleanup. But is it better to rake leaves or mulch them? Clean up garden beds now or in the spring? Wrap shrubs tightly or let them breathe? Read on for some research-based tips for commonly-asked questions.

Our South Minneapolis neighborhoods have lots of beautiful mature trees, so fall means dealing with leaves. But whether you should rake or mulch (i.e. shred leaves and keep them on your lawn) depends on several factors. First, it's overall preferred to mulch when possible. Tree leaves have a good amount of nitrogen, which is a very important nutrient for grass. So leaving shredded tree leaves on your lawn to decompose over the winter is essentially a free fertilizer application! Keeping leaves in place can also provide helpful winter habitat for pollinators, including some butterflies.

The problem with leaving leaves where they are is that if the layer is too thick, they can shade the lawn, reduce air flow, and re-

duce soil temperatures, slowing growth in the spring. So, if your lawn is more than 50% covered with leaves, it's better to rake and bag them. If it looks like less than 50%, try shredding them with your lawn mower. After that, if the lawn is more than 20% covered with shredded leaves, rake some up and remove them.

Another thing you can do with shredded leaves is spread them on your garden beds (or you can purchase straw or other mulch for this purpose). Mulching beds over the winter suppresses weeds in the spring and reduces erosion from fall and spring rains.

Also, go a bit past your boulevard and remove leaves from storm drains near your house. Storm drains often become clogged with leaves, which can cause localized flooding during fall and spring rains. And if leaves flow down a storm drain and end up in the river, they can overload the water with nutrients, promoting excess algae growth and disrupting the ecosystem.

When cleaning up garden beds, it's good to leave some



The city gardener

By LAUREN BETHKE,
Master Gardener Intern

healthy plant stalks, seed heads, and ornamental grasses in place over the winter. Pollinators and other wildlife will appreciate this food and shelter, and it adds winter interest to your yard. But make sure to check carefully for plant diseases and remove any spotted, rotted, or wilted plant parts so the problem doesn't spread. Diseased plant material can be included with your yard waste pickup, since the temperatures reached at a municipal compost facility will kill the majority of plant pathogens.

When you mow your lawn for the last time in the fall, set the mower height a bit lower than usual, at about two inches. This will help air circulate around the grass blades, discouraging the growth of snow mold. Snow mold is a fungal disease that looks like



patches of matted greyish or pinkish grass. If you see this in the spring, lightly rake the area to fluff up the matted leaves. But don't worry – although snow mold does damage grass blades, the grass will generally recover as temperatures rise.

To avoid winter damage, consider protecting trees and shrubs. Deciduous trees (which lose their leaves in the fall) are susceptible to sunscald, which happens when the sun heats up the tree bark during the day, stimulating growth, but cold temperatures rapidly return at

night, damaging the active tissue. To prevent this, wrap the trunk of new or sensitive trees with white plastic tree guards.

Evergreen trees and shrubs can be damaged by dry winter winds. Consider propping pine boughs or branches against evergreens, or constructing a barrier of burlap or other similar material. However, do not wrap evergreens too tightly – they need airflow and light to survive. Also, consider protecting small trees and shrubs with hardware cloth so rabbits and mice can't eat them. Make sure the hardware cloth is high enough that when snow piles up, animals won't be able to climb over the top.

Finally, fall is a great time to sit back and think about how your gardening season went. Did you plant any annual flowers or vegetables that you particularly liked (or didn't like)? Gardening involves a lot of trial and error, so take notes on anything you want to remember for next season.

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!

Purchase smarter

During the pandemic, we all became well-acquainted with our stuff. Perhaps you purged a lot of things to make more room for ... well, living. Or maybe you acquired more things to make staying home more conducive to the "new normal." Either way, it's likely that the past year-and-a-half has made you think differently about stuff.

The World Resources Institute says that 50-75% of the stuff we buy ends up in a landfill within a year. In Hennepin County, if you add up all of the waste created in just one year, it would fill Target Field ... more than 11 times.

So, how can we reduce our waste? There are many ways to approach this question and endless areas where we can all improve, but the most important first step is



Every little bit helps

By JESSIE ROELOFS

to do something you can stick to. It's tempting to feel that little actions don't really matter, but every little bit counts, and the more we can all swim in the direction of waste reduction, the better off we'll be. Let's take a look at how we might implement the "Five R's" into our daily lives.

REFUSE

Find ways in your daily life to refuse packaging and "add ons" you don't need. Do you need a bag for the two items you bought? Do

you need a straw? Can you unsubscribe from junk mail? Are you really going to wear that free T-shirt? Remember, there's no judgement here. Finding what items you personally can live without is key.

REDUCE

Doing an audit of what you throw in the trash each week may be helpful in finding areas where you can reduce your consumption. For our family, packaging was a big share of what was in our trash, so we began paying closer attention to this. For us, this meant using containers from home to buy in bulk, prioritizing purchasing things in-store instead of online, choosing products in compostable or easily-recyclable packaging, etc.

REUSE/REPURPOSE

Did you know that half of the emissions for electronics and nearly all of the emissions for clothing and furniture happen before they

even arrive at a store? Reusemn.org is a great resource for finding used or rentable items – everything from electronics and building materials to clothing and furniture. It also resources for repairing your items. Our neighborhood Buy Nothing Facebook group is another great way to reuse (and meet your neighbors while you're at it!). If you are planning a big house renovation, check out Hennepin County's Deconstruction Grants.

RECYCLE

In the hierarchy of most-environmentally-friendly "R's", recycling falls at the bottom. It's certainly better than throwing recyclable items away, but it still requires additional energy and emissions to turn materials into something new. When recycling, just ensure that you are not "wish-cycling" (throwing something in the trash without knowing for sure that it can be re-

cycled). hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide has a great searchable database you can use to decide which bin your items belong in.

I would add an additional item to this list: Smart Purchasing. Because we know that the best thing we can do is consume less, it becomes even more important that the new items we bring into our lives are high quality, repairable, efficient, and durable so that they last as long as possible. This may cost more up front, but will save time, resources, and money (no longer having to replace items every few years) in the long run.

Remember, we're all in this together! Every little bit we can do to waste less is a win for our community.

Cooper resident Jessie Roelofs recently completed Hennepin County's Master Composter/Recycler program.

Clean up Minnehaha Creek Oct. 9

On Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon, NENA and the Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) are hosting a fall neighborhood clean-up event at Minnehaha Creek. For more information and to reserve your spot, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/225960032870995>

Now is a great time to adopt a drain near you! This year's drought has stressed our trees, which could make for an early leaf drop. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, forming a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. By adopting a drain, you can help keep Lake Nokomis, Lake Hiawatha, and Minnehaha Creek clean! Visit www.adopt-a-drain.org.

Free food distributions

- Nokomis East Free Food Distributions – NENA hosts a free food distribution from 2-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Crosstown Covenant Church (5540 30th Ave S.). Visit 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. Visit www.minnehaha.org/foodshelf.html

Support programs

1. Minnesota Energy Assistance Program - More Minnesotans are eligible for energy assistance than ever before. Get up to \$1,600 to help pay your energy bills. With one application to Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program, households can get help with energy bills, weatherization to cut energy costs, and NEW in 2021 - help paying water bills. Visit mn.gov/commerce/eap.jsp
2. Home Foreclosure Prevention - The city of Minneapolis, is partnering with Hennepin County and Minnesota Homeownership Center to create and administer the Hennepin Homeownership Preservation Program (HHPP). HHPP promotes foreclosure prevention advice to residents of Hennepin County, including the City of Minneapolis. Limited financial assistance for past-due mortgage and utility payments will be available to homeowners who are below 50% of area median income (AMI), were economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and have completed foreclosure counseling. Learn more about full program guidelines at <https://www.hocmn.org/HennepinHPP/>. Or call 651-236-8952 for more information.

3. Sustaining Your Home's Affordability - The City also supports the City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) with their Project: Sustained Legacy (P:SL), which focuses on assisting existing homeowners with the potential loss of housing while remaining in their home. CLCLT invests in debt restructuring for a sustainable housing payment and/or significant rehabilitation in exchange for the homeowner enrolling in a perpetually affordable housing model that will sustain a home's affordability to future purchasers. More Info at <https://www.clclt.org/copy-of-partnership-developments>
4. NENA's Home Programs – NENA offers several programs, including low-interest home improvement loans, the Staying in Place grants, and the very popular Curb Appeal grants and Home Security rebates. Visit www.nokomiseast.org.



Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

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



**Nokomis East
Neighborhood Association**

Staying in Place Grants

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(651) 776-4273 to learn more**

Plan It

**'HUMAN TOLL: A public history of 35W' opens Oct. 2**

A new exhibit at Hennepin History Museum (HHM) explores community resistance and resilience and illustrates how freeway construction destroyed and divided Black communities across the United States, amplifying the effects of systemic racism still felt today. With photographs, maps, oral histories, and archival documents, "HUMAN TOLL: A Public History of 35W" foregrounds the experiences of Black residents of South Minneapolis by exploring stories about displacement, housing discrimination, neighborhood division and environmental justice.

"The frustration and the anger that older South Minneapolis residents who lived through watching their friends and neighbors sell their homes, watching the houses being torn down, those are experiences and memories that the older people never forgot," said Sharon Sayles Belton, activist, community leader, and former mayor of Minneapolis, who was interviewed for the project.

The public is invited to an opening reception on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are requested: <https://hennepinhistory.org/event/human-toll-opening-celebration/>

HUMAN TOLL was researched and developed over a period of two years by a diverse team of South Minneapolis community members and advisers working in collaboration with students and faculty of the University of Minnesota Heritage Studies and Public History program.

The exhibit runs through Oct. 1, 2022. Throughout its duration, HHM will offer in-person and online events to deepen the understanding of systemic racism in Hennepin County.

Latino Film festival opens

The MSP Film Society is pleased to announce the complete lineup for the 2021 CINE LATINO Film Festival, which returns Oct. 8 – 14 as a hybrid festival to present an selection of films from the world's most acclaimed and up-and-coming filmmakers from U.S. LatinX, Latin American, and Iberian communities and regions.

More at MSPfilm.org.

'The Hound of the Baskervilles'

Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater Company will return to their artistic home, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E 46th Street in the South Minneapolis Nokomis neighborhood.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed for four

performances, Oct. 15-16 and Oct. 22-23. All performances are at 7 p.m. Audiences are required to follow the Protocols in place for the COVID-19, which include using hand sanitizer, wearing face masks and practicing social distancing. The cast includes Stephen Greenhalgh as Sherlock Holmes, Hazen Markoe as Dr. John Watson, Eni Ogundipe as Beryl Stapleton, Dean Hardland as Sir Henry Baskerville, Coral Bastien as Mrs Hudson and Lydia Lyons, Don Larsson as Dr. Mortimer, Maureen Trepp as Mrs. Mortimer, Tony Gillen as Mr. Barrymore and Charles, Candy Dyke as Mrs. Barrymore, Alex Renshaw as Jack Stapleton, Greg Bastien as Mr. Frankland, Merwin Gomes as the Coroner and the Train Conductor, Noreen Brandt as Clayton and Adam Fox as the Carriage Driver and Selden. For more information, contact lavignebiz1952@gmail.com or Clasicslostandfound@gmail.com.

Trunk or Treat Oct. 31

Children and families are invited to a Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m. at Trinity of Minnehaha Falls. Put on those festive costumes and come for treats handed out from decorated vehicles on our circle drive (corner of 52nd Street and 40th Avenue). Call 612-724-3691 with questions.

Lutefisk dinner Nov. 6

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church at 4101 37th Avenue South is hosting its Lutefisk Dinner on Nov. 6 with seating at 3 p.m., 4:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and children 10 and under are \$10. There will be lutefisk with white sauce and butter, meatballs, potatoes, gravy, rutabagas, coleslaw, cranberries, lefse and angel food cake with lemon topping along with (of course) coffee. Reservations are a must, so please call the

**Pipe organ renewed at Bethlehem Covenant**

After over 70 years of faithful use, the Moller pipe organ at Bethlehem Covenant Church in the Longfellow neighborhood of South Minneapolis needed major renovation and updating. A Pipe Organ Committee was formed and selected Grandall and Engen Organ Builders to complete this project in December 2018. It was decided unanimously to not only renovate but expand this well-loved instrument from 9 to 14 ranks and the work of fundraising began. "We were blessed to have raised not only enough to have this work completed, but to add extra enhancements that will be used in worship, as well," said Dick Sundberg. Work began in December of 2020 and was completed in September 2021.

The church will celebrate the completion of this project with a dedication recital on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. Dr. Stephen Self, Minister of Music at Grace University Lutheran Church and retired Professor of Music at Bethel University will be the guest recitalist. The public is invited to attend this event and celebrate the majesty of this pipe organ. Light refreshments will follow the recital. The organ will be dedicated to the glory of God on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 31 at the 9:30 a.m. worship. Bethlehem Covenant Church is located at 3141 43rd Ave. South. (Photo submitted)

church at 612-722-9527 to reserve your time.

Holiday Bazaar Nov. 20

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church at 4101 37th Avenue South will be holding its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be a lunch of flotegröt and ham sandwiches along with cake and coffee. Enjoy raffles and a large bake sale with a variety of cakes, cookies, pies, candy and home canned items available for sale. And Lefse, too. Grandma's Attic, the outside vendors and our large Silent Auction are always a hit.

Advent Procession Service

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts (3045 Chicago Ave. S.) presents its annual Advent Procession Service. Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent, and enter this season of hope in the darkest time of the year. Candles, incense and beautiful music all invite the listener to engage in this profound liturgical season.

The free event takes place at 4 p.m. This is the first event in the 2021-2022 Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts season. For further information, contact Dr. Chervien at 612-827-5919, cantor@mountolivechurch.org, or online at www.mountolivechurch.org.

**City reverses course, proceeds with demo of Roof Depot**

Despite more public comment than ever before, the city council is proceeding with its plan

to expand its public works facility at the former Roof Depot site. Earlier this spring, the city received over 1,000 comments from residents supporting the EPNI plan for an indoor urban farm.

The comments also expressed concern about adding to the pollution already in the area and pointed to the structural, environmental racism involved in city politics.



(Photos by Terry Faust)

At a POGO (policy and government committee) committee meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, council members voted to continue with its plan to add more trucks and pollution to the area, ignoring a neighborhood plan that has been in place since before the city purchased the property.

Citizens gathered on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 5 p.m. to rally at Cedar Field in support of the community plan created by the East Phillips Neighborhood institute. At left is Ward 9 council member Alondra Cano and above is Andy Pearson of MN350.org.

Voting against the neighborhood plan and in favor of the public works expansion were Ellison, Bender, Cunningham, Fletcher, Goodman, Osman, and Reich – council members whose wards will not be affected by this decision and the increased pollution covering South Minneapolis, with the exception of Osman, whose ward include portions of Phillips and Seward.

A vote at the Friday, Sept. 24 city council meeting was pushed out two weeks to complete a required Racial Equity Impact Analysis.

"This move kills the alternative community-based, community-led East Phillips Neighborhood's proposed Urban Farm Project and allows the city to demolish the Roof Depot building. That would expose the East Phillips Community to more toxic pollution such as the arsenic underneath the building. Health experts agree that the best mitigating plan for this highly toxic arsenic is to leave it undisturbed! Their plan also increases toxic traffic congestion—a major source of life threatening asthma and heart disease in Phillips," pointed out Joe Vital of EPNI.

"The community feels blindsided by this unexpected council action."

He added, "East Phillips Neighborhood organizers have worked incredibly hard during the last six years to put together a plan to redevelop the former Roof Depot site into an indoor urban farm with affordable housing, cultural markets, and incubators for our small businesses (some destroyed during the 2020 uprising), all near accessible public transit."

More at www.eastphillipsneighborhoodinstitute.org.

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TRANSLATION

Translation, Norwegian to English: letters, documents, family histories. Denise Logeland, 612-669-4055, deniselogeland@gmail.com.

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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

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthmpls.org
Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay
9:00 AM - Faith Formation for all ages
10:00 Worship in Sanctuary (masks mandated) or Facebook
We are a Community Church in the Heart of Longfellow. You - your questions and humanity - are welcome!

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
Bible class at 10:15 am Sunday and 10 am on Wednesdays
MOCA Rummage Sale - Oct. 8, 9, 9am-3pm
Reformation music aired in neighborhood - October 31 - 5 pm
Hand out Halloween Candy Oct. 31, 6 pm

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommun.org
Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom
9:45 am Sunday Worship in person & online. Go to church website for info.
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Park Avenue United Methodist Church
3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863
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Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
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Trunk or Treat Oct. 31, 4:00 p.m.

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Chalk artist >> From 1

Partnership with LSC

Tinkham's background is in studio arts, and she is currently transitioning her career to digital illustration. She just finished collaborating with the Lake Street Council on their new grant-funded program: Be Well Lake Street (see sidebar). Tinkham's role was to help announce the program by chalking messages in front of 10 Lake Street businesses to get the word out, one piece of pavement at a time.

Rounding out the chalk season

Tinkham and half a dozen of her fellow chalk artists will end the 2021 chalk season with the Misfit Chalk Party on Oct. 10 at the Lake Harriet Band Shell from 2-4 p.m. All are welcome to attend this free event.

She explained, "The artists have agreed to only use nubs for our drawings, which means pieces of chalk that are 1-inch or shorter, or colors that we rarely use. We'll make something beautiful together out of our misfit chalk."

"This is the era of things splitting open. It's so important to tap into our creativity right now: to be an encouragement to someone we might never meet."

"Chalk drawings wash away in the rain, and teach a valuable lesson in non-attachment. Something doesn't need to be bought and sold to be considered art."

~ Taylor Tinkham



Be Well Lake Street

The Lake Street Council is launching a new program to help Lake Street business owners access mental health counseling services at no cost.

Small business owners have faced immense personal and professional challenges brought on by the pandemic and the Uprising. Counseling can be a valuable tool for working through personal challenges. Through this program, eligible small business owners can access confidential mental health counseling services at one of the partner providers at no cost. This program is supported by a donation from UnitedHealth Group. Each listed provider has received grant funding to offer free, short-term services to eligible participants. Eligible participants must own and operate a business or lead a nonprofit organization located in the Lake Street corridor (the area bounded by West River Parkway on the east, 26th Street on the north, the border of Minneapolis and St. Louis Park on the west, and 34th Street on the south). Participants do not need to be members of Lake Street Council to receive services. Immigration status does not impact eligibility,

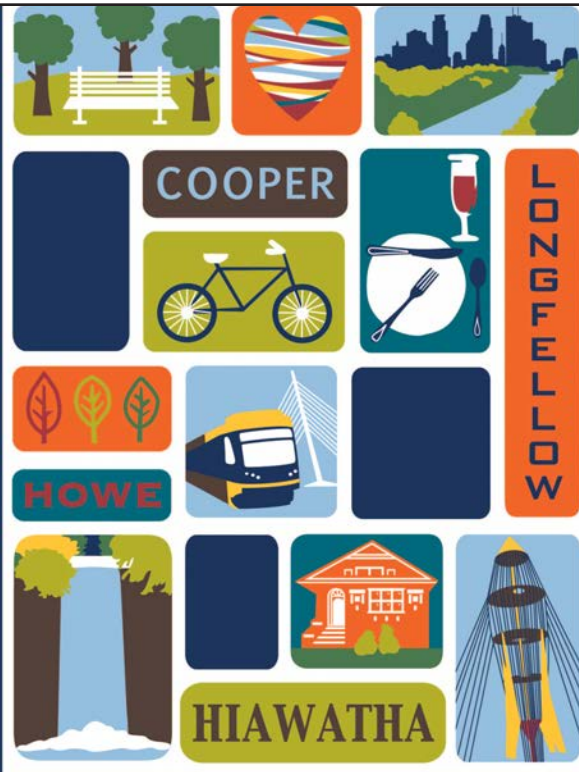
and services will be offered at no cost regardless of health insurance status.

This program is intended to help participants enter into a new relationship with a mental health care provider. However, if an eligible participant has already begun receiving services from an approved provider but is struggling to pay, they may also ask their provider to accept payment from this grant.

If interested in participating in Be Well Lake Street, contact one of the providers below. Providers are contracted to provide 10-12 sessions at no charge.

1. Healing Path Wellness: 115 E Lake Street, 612.345.4850. English and Swahili spoken, Somali (via interpretation).
2. Lyn-Lake Psychotherapy & Wellness: 621 W. Lake Street, 612.979.2276. Spanish, Somali, Portuguese, and English spoken.
3. The Family Partnership: 1527 E Lake Street, 612.728.2061. Spanish, Hmong, and English spoken.
4. Walk In Counseling Center: 2421 Chicago Ave, 612.870.0565. Spanish and English spoken.

Taylor Tinkham is a chalk artist and illustrator living in Longfellow. Her chalk and mindfulness project, called CeMental Break, has been featured nationally in print media and online. Her illustrations encourage living mindfully in the present moment. View her work at www.taylortinkham.com. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



LONGFELLOW
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General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 26

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

via Zoom

Go to www.longfellow.org for the link

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Our mission is to improve the well-being of our diverse community through engagement, involvement and empowerment.

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