



U.S. BANK DONATES 2800 E. LAKE ST. FOR REDEVELOPMENT

Affordable housing, commercial and outdoor retail, non profit and arts part of new mix by Seward Redesign

U.S. Bank is donating its branch property at 2800 E. Lake Street to nonprofit community development corporation Seward Redesign.

Seward Redesign will partner with 4RM+ULA, an architectural design firm, to redevelop the property into up to four sub-divided parcels to include affordable housing, commercial and outdoor retail spaces, nonprofit services and arts and cultural destinations. The partnership with 4RM+ULA represents an innovative model that will focus on design and aesthetics, community input and activation and will be inclusive of multiple people of color partners.

"In response to the civil unrest that followed the death of George Floyd, our communities invested significant effort to first stabilize, and now rebuild Lake Street in a more equitable fashion," said Taylor Smrikárova, project leader from Seward Redesign.

U.S. BANK DONATES >> 2



"Our team is intently committed to ensuring that the U.S. Bank property is lifted up as a demonstration site for wealth creation for communities of color. When this shared vision is achieved, the result will be that each parcel will be owned by BIPOC-led businesses or community organizations."

~ Taylor Smrikárova

Taylor Smrikárova of Seward Redesign (at left) and 4RM+ULA Managing Partner James Garret, Jr. are part of team working to create wealth for communities of color, and make 2800 E. Lake St. a demonstration site. An intensive community input process will begin soon. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Encampment offered safe place for homeless women fleeing domestic violence, trafficking

CAMP NENOCCAASI

By JAN WILLMS

Sunshine breaks through the clouds of a brisk fall day in Minneapolis as people walk around the Camp Nenooaasi encampment designed for Indigenous women at Bloomington and 25th in South Minneapolis.

Flames flicker in a fire pit set out on the sidewalk, as women and a few men sit and talk. Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts, a slender yet wiry woman with a quiet demeanor but a strong sense of purpose, is talking about the camp, which opened on Sept. 19, 2021.

"Getting it started was kind of a group effort," she explains.

"AIM was part of it, and some of the folks over at Little Earth, and some of it was other outreach groups. I'm a street medic, and I live in the neighborhood, so when they told me there would be an encampment here I came the first night, when the first resident arrived."

Tents for the women are set up behind a link fence in a space once occupied by a gas station. Starting with seven residents, Youngbear-Tibbetts said she counted 45 occupants a day ago. Many of them are fleeing domestic violence and sex trafficking.

CAMP NENOCCAASI >> 3



Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts stands in front of the sign at Camp Nenooaasi. As the Messenger went to press on Monday, Nov. 22, the city public health department disbanded the camp at the request of the property owner, Northern Tier Retail of St. Paul. The 45 women at the camp (who are dealing with trauma from domestic abuse) sought to avoid confrontation with police officers and were seeking a way to stay together, said Youngbear-Tibbetts. (Photo by Jan Willms)

ANALYSIS

Did city mislead, downplay public input on 38th & Chicago survey?

By JILL BOOGREN

Since late 2020 Mayor Jacob Frey has made known his intent to reopen the intersection at 38th St. E and Chicago Ave. S. When interim design surveys were returned in spring 2021, he and city leaders were quick to announce public support for doing so. But a close analysis of the postcards shows the city's announcement and report misrepresented survey results and significantly downplayed calls to keep the intersection closed.

The survey, which was sent to 4,000 households in a half-mile radius of the intersection, asked residents to select between one of two options. One, to move the fist sculpture out of the intersection and onto Chicago Ave. Two, to create a roundabout around the fist at the center (as it now is). Each would reopen the intersection to two-way traffic, and no other option was given – a point that was roundly criticized.

DID CITY MISLEAD >> 5

COMMUNITY HUB WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Angry Catfish evolves into multi-pronged business venue but is still firmly rooted in Standish-Ericsson

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

As Ericsson resident Josh Klauck tells it, he and a few friends were drinking beer at Buster's on 28th, wondering what was going on with the old hardware store space next door at 4208 S. 28th Ave.

They hatched a plan to launch their business concept.

The group of friends were working at Freewheel Bicycle on the West Bank, and dreamed of pairing bicycles with coffee.

Angry Catfish was born. "Once we acquired the space, we worked tirelessly to gut the building and rework it into a purpose-built bike shop and cafe," recalled Klauck, who had moved

from Linden Hills to 40th St. and 18th Ave. S. in 2005. He grew up in the Nisswa/Brainerd area.

A cafe and bike shop opened in the old hardware shop on Jan. 16, 2010. Fast forward 10 years, and Klauck found himself once more renovating an old hardware store for an expansion.

COMMUNITY HUB >> 6



AGING WELL
Becketwood celebrates
35th anniversary

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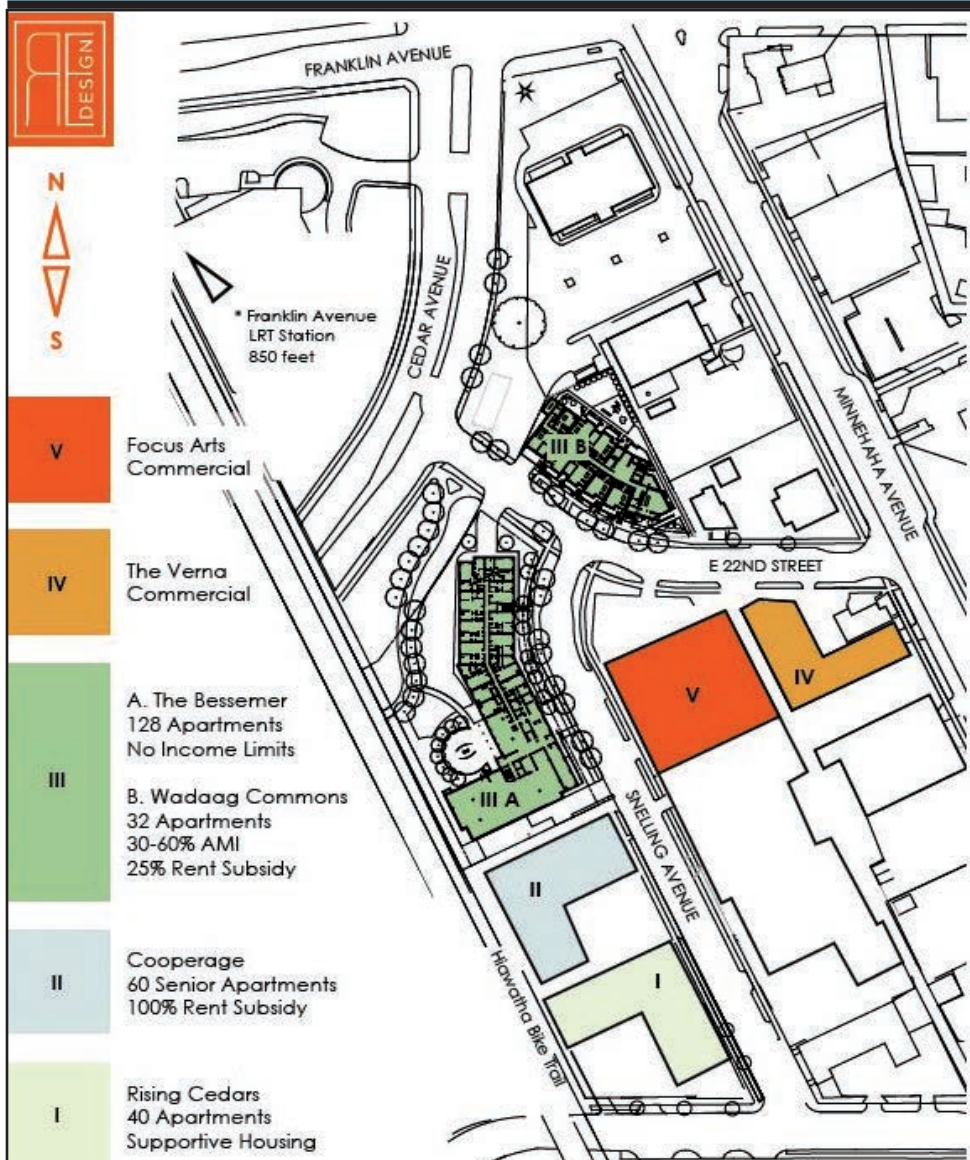
Kid getting harmed by
domestic violence –
how you can help

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B Line bus rapid
transit moves ahead
along Lake Street

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Less than a mile from the Lake Street site, Seward Redesign is nearing completion of the construction of the Seward Commons masterplan, a transit-oriented, mixed-use, mixed-income, multi-phase redevelopment. The future masterplan for the redevelopment of the Lake Street property will be part of a larger vision for equitable development within the Seward/Longfellow neighborhoods.

U.S. BANK DONATES 2800 E. LAKE ST.

>> From 1

"Our team is intently committed to ensuring that the U.S. Bank property is lifted up as a demonstration site for wealth creation for communities of color. When this shared vision is achieved, the result will be that each parcel will be owned by BIPOC-led businesses or community organizations."

Seward Redesign recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary and is the only community development corporation with an exclusive focus in the Seward and greater Longfellow neighborhoods of South Minneapolis. 4RM+ULA is a nationally renowned, award winning firm with an extensive portfolio in the Twin Cities.

"We are both humbled and honored to be awarded the opportunity to help facilitate this innovative process," said James Garrett, Jr., partner at 4RM+ULA. "Our goal is to create a new model for equitable development and demonstrate new ways in which architects can engage and partner with community."

Foundational to the winning proposal submitted by Seward Redesign and 4RM+ULA were strategic partnerships with both Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) and National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). Both CLUES and NABS have been invited to own and co-develop specific site parcels. Preliminary project concepts include:

- An intensive community engagement and activation process to ensure broad and diverse participation.
- Creative interim uses and site activation strategies including pop-up retail facilities, public art installations, and community events/gathering spaces.
- CLUES ownership to ensure long-term service to Latino communities in South Minneapolis inclusive of affordable housing, client services and arts and technology center
- NABS ownership inclusive of a na-

tional center for truth and healing, affordable housing and retail locations.

- A development owned and operated by 4RM+ULA inclusive of affordable housing and commercial/retail spaces.

- The opportunity for an additional people of color developer/owner to co-develop a remaining land parcel.

"After listening and learning alongside community partners through an extensive RFP process, we are excited to announce our plan to donate this property to Seward Redesign," said Reba Dominski, chief social responsibility officer for U.S. Bank. "We were looking for a community-focused developer who was aligned with our commitment to racial equity throughout the entire property donation process – in the interim and after the redevelopment of the location. Seward Redesign knows and understands the Seward and Longfellow neighborhoods deeply and will bring strong relationships, credibility to navigate community engagement and technical capacity to the project."

The development will be consistent with community input and will include a combination of affordable housing, commercial and retail locations and outdoor community spaces. Seward Redesign and 4RM+ULA are exploring a range of interim uses for the property to engage the neighborhood through arts and culture, while also creatively soliciting community feedback regarding permanent uses for the site. A community engagement process will begin in the next couple of months.

The Lake Street property was damaged during the civil unrest in May 2020. Shortly thereafter, U.S. Bank set-up a mobile banking unit in the parking lot that will continue to provide banking services to the community on-site until it completes its redevelopment of a former commercial building at 3600 E. Lake Street in 2022. U.S. Bank is also building a new branch location at 919 E. Lake Street set to open in 2022.



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AN INTERGENERATIONAL APPROACH TO SOLVING HOUSING SHORTAGE

Ecumen breaks ground on senior living community – 11 units designated for veterans experiencing homelessness

Ecumen is constructing a 100-unit senior housing community that will include 11 units designated for veterans who are experiencing homelessness. The aim of the Hillock project at Snelling and 45th St. is to address the need for affordable se-

nior housing near transit, jobs and services.

The Hillock is scheduled to open in fall of 2022 and is the first phase in creating an intergenerational campus at Snelling Yards.

"This is an exciting day for

us because this type of project is so central to our mission and vision that every older adult has a home with innovative services to live the life they choose," said Ecumen president and CEO Shelley Kendrick during the groundbreaking on Oct. 26, 2021.

"There is such a need for more affordable options for seniors, and we're delighted to be part of the solution."

The nonprofit, which is celebrating 160 years in 2022, has a long history of serving those in need – serving widows and orphans after the Civil War in its earliest days. It now provides many housing and service options for seniors.

"Our mission compels us to honor and serve those who need it most. Certainly, many of our veterans are in need, and this is one way we can make a difference – by designating some of these beautiful apartments for our veterans."

Total development costs for The Hillock are \$24 million. Rents are expected to range from \$816 to \$1,339 for studio, one-bedroom or two-bedroom units. Units are available to qualifying seniors at various income levels earning from, at, or below 30 percent to 60 percent of Hennepin County Area Median Income (AMI). Other aspects of this project include a community garden and onsite clinic, which will be open to a rotation of medical providers.

Phase two will be a 89-unit affordable family housing building with 13 units reserved



to support veterans experiencing homelessness. The campus is co-developed by Ecumen and Snelling Yards Development, a joint venture between Lupe Development Partners and the Wall Companies. The two new communities will sit on a three-acre parcel that formerly housed the city of Minneapolis Public Works maintenance yard.

The intergenerational approach that will come to life with the second phase of the project has many benefits, including creating connectedness and community among different age groups. This approach also can decrease isolation and depression among seniors and helps young people understand and appreciate the aging process.

"We love being part of an intergenerational community that will give people the option to stay in their same community and neighborhood as they age," said Kendrick.



Community and project leaders officially break ground for The Hillock on Oct. 26. The project is located at the former Snelling Yards, a three-acre public works maintenance yard. (Photos submitted)

CAMP NENOCCAASI

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"A lot of different people and groups worked together to start this place because of the missing and murdered indigenous women," she said. "There have been several deaths on the Greenway of young Native women, but the news has not been covering it."

"Some were listed as suicides, even though a 19-year-old girl doesn't stab herself in the stomach and throw herself off a bridge; that isn't typical. Now there have been five." She said one of the first women in the encampment to receive treatment had been pistol-whipped in the face.

"It's important to have a spot out here, especially now, for women only, where we can bring in help that is really specific," Youngbear-Tibbetts continued. She said all women are accepted at the encampment, but it is geared toward Indigenous women.

"Some are as young as 18, others are elders," she continued. "Some have been on the streets a couple years, and others for 20. Some are chronically homeless."

She pauses, then says "I hate the word 'homeless!' We were never homeless before 1492, before the Europeans came here. People talk about how we can't camp outside during the winter, but we were living in tipis in winter for a long time, and it is

very possible."

She explained that when you come from living in the woods to living in a one-bedroom apartment, it is so restrictive and some of that is against the Indigenous people's ethics and blood history. "Some consider it a step down."

"It's hard enough to get sober, and with rules saying you can't do this or that, it drives people away from housing," Youngbear-Tibbetts said. "If you don't have an ID but need one to check into housing, or you have to call your parole officer but someone has stolen your phone, it can be difficult."

No overdoses

Youngbear-Tibbetts said the location in South Minneapolis is not a typical encampment, and its standards are high. "We have not had one single overdose, and we have dealt with a lot of trauma that has been inflicted on our residents from the outside," she said.

She noted that St. Stephens and Health Care for the Homeless have been organizations that have helped provide services. "We get regular COVID-19 testing and HIV testing," she added. "The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center opened up 30 hotel rooms, and we thought it would be enough. They took all



Street medic Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts stands in the medic tent. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

the women, and I immediately had 12 more. For every one we place, we get two more."

The encampment also receives reverse intakes, according to Youngbear-Tibbetts. "Homeless shelters call us, saying they don't have space, and would we take someone in?"

She said all of the people helping operate the camp are volunteers, several from the George Floyd Square group. "We have had a lot of support from the community and neighbors," she stated.

Youngbear-Tibbetts said that after the George Floyd protests, people got really organized. The camp has a little storage shed, a rack with clothing and a kitchen where the women residents can

CITY DISBANDS CAMP

During Thanksgiving week, on Monday, Nov. 22, the city of Minneapolis disbanded the camp for women at Bloomington and 25th, at the request of the property owners, Northern Tier Retail (7800 3rd St. N, Ste. 920 in St. Paul). The women decided to tear the camp down themselves rather than have a confrontation with police officers, according to Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts. Their desire is to stay together. The Messenger will post updates at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

fix a snack or cook something when they are hungry. "We get hot meals delivered, also, from the Sisters of Camelot and F12 Loaves and Fishes Kitchens."

The group has a wish list, which includes warmer and sturdier tents for the winter, such as military or Boy Scout tents.

Need in Minneapolis

The need for the encampment and the services to help the women is real and required in the city of Minneapolis, according to Youngbear-Tibbetts. "All the services are here and not available out in the suburbs," she said. She noted that the women face huge problems, including jobs that pay low wages and some of the highest rents in the country.

"We need affordable housing and access to education," she stressed. "And on top of everything else, there is COVID-19, which has escalated all the problems."

Youngbear-Tibbetts said the encampment has a group of women who wake up early in the morning, and a group who sleeps until later in the day. "It has been a learning experience for me," she claimed. "In the last 30 days, I have taken a crash course in social services. I knew a lot of medical providers, but have not worked with certain other providers. Now if I have a question, I have people I can call, and they usually will come."

Camps for adults and for men as well as women are needed, Youngbear-Tibbetts believes. She said the problems the Indigenous women encounter have to be in everyone's face.

"I hope the city can actually improve the problems," she said, "and provide access to health care and employment."

A community

And again, Youngbear-Tibbetts stresses the importance of community.

"The other day, there was a gunshot nearby, and one of the neighbors called us to see if we were all okay. And we asked them if they were okay."

She said that is the kind of caring among people that is needed.

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NEVER FORGET THE POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

A longtime reader and community activist reached out to me last month to say hello, and in the course of our catching up, she shared a snapshot of a column I had written 20 years ago which she had saved among her collection of newspaper clippings. While I was touched with the fact that she had considered my column to be worth saving all these years, it also struck me how the power of the written word can be, at times, so enduring.

In my own family, we have a host of written treasures that my siblings and I have saved as tributes to our parents and relatives and the life and times that they experienced. My Mom was a longtime member of the Eastside Writers Club and loved to write poetry. We once published a seasonal poem she wrote under the byline "Sue Donym" (for pseudonym), a byline which she sometimes used in a show of modesty to not call attention to herself. She would often write poetry featuring the people in her life and she would also write poetry as an outlet for stress relief from life's daily challenges.

Another cherished piece of

writing was the typewritten letter that my Uncle Bob from Milwaukee wrote to my Dad when my Dad was being inducted into the Korean War. My Dad was the baby of his family, with his three half-brothers much older than him as my grandfather's first wife, who had given birth to the three half-brothers, had passed away. Uncle Bob, the closest to my Dad in age, was still 15 years older than my Dad and very much of a father figure to him.

Uncle Bob's letter was just a page long. Short, poignant, and to the heart. He wrote about my father's faith, his dedication to family and country, and how he knew that my Dad would emerge from this challenging time with his principles and integrity intact. It was such a moving and well-written letter that still brings an emotional response decades later, that it is one of the pieces of my family's history that has been preserved over time. Each time I have read Uncle Bob's letter to my Dad I have always thought that my only wish was that I would be able to find just the right words of inspiration to impart to my own kids

View from the Messenger

By DENIS WOULFE
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when they needed support, encouragement, or perhaps just a few words of praise for a job well done.

A good friend from high school that I've known since third grade called me a few months ago after his father had passed away as he was sorting through some of his personal effects and keepsakes. He was reading a few lines from postcards that I had sent to him when he was away at Carleton College at Northfield and I was at Hamline University in St. Paul. I was a little embarrassed, as I had completely forgotten that I had even sent him postcards during our college years, but again, also amazed that he found them worth keeping.

I've also saved a few letters and cards over the years myself. English professor Quay Grigg was my English advisor at Hamline University while I was a student there back in the 70s. He also led an interim trip to the Rio Grande Valley back in May 1977 of which I was a part. Upon my return, I wrote a freelance piece for the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* on our trip to the Rio Grande and Georgia O'Keefe country. Grigg was kind enough to provide a photograph that I could submit, along my manuscript, to the *Pioneer Press*. He also sent along a short, typewritten note which read, in part: "Congratulations on your Pioneer Press budding career. I hope it does indeed bud."

I never pursued a full-time job with the *Pioneer Press* after that other than writing a freelance theatre review on assignment, but shortly after our trip I became the editor of our student newspaper at Hamline and eventually became editor of our sister newspaper, the *Midway Como Frogtown Monitor* in 1979 with Grigg's encouragement. I've saved that short note from Grigg ever since.

I think it's true today that fewer and fewer of us are writing letters and postcards as we did years ago. We are more likely to send a text or write something on Facebook than send a letter to a friend or family member. I know that I'm as guilty of this as anyone. I'm much more likely to send off a text or write an email to someone than to spend the time to write an actual letter or postcard, put a stamp on it, and send it off in the mail.

I know that times have changed. That it's a different world than it was 10 or 20 years ago. But my wish for all of us is to not abandon the seemingly outdated notions of handwritten or typed letters and postcards. Not everything can be expressed adequately in emojis and cryptic text messages. Sometimes the best felt emotions and thoughts can best be expressed in old-fashioned written communications.

In short, don't forget to write!

And in addition to writing to your friends, family and other people in your life, don't forget to write to your favorite community newspaper, the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*. Just like your friends and family we would like to hear what's on your mind. We know it's worth sharing.

Advancing pay equity through registered apprenticeships in nontraditional occupations

By GINA RODRIGUEZ

This year, we commemorated National Apprenticeship Week from Nov. 15 to 21. NAW was first observed in 2015 at a time when women made up just 9 percent of all Registered Apprentices, despite making up 47 percent of the U.S. labor force. We have seen the percentage of women in apprenticeships continue to grow since 2015, but not quickly enough. Apprenticeships are a critical earn-while-you-learn models, providing pathways to good jobs for women and enabling them to gain new skills while earning wages.

Registered Apprenticeships combine paid on-the-job training under the direction of an experienced mentor with classroom instruction resulting in an industry-recognized credential that certifies occupational proficiency. They have been a reliable pathway to the middle class for

decades. With federal economic investments underway, the time to empower marginalized communities and women through greater access to apprenticeships is now.

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered an economic crisis. In the early part of the pandemic, the unemployment rate for adult women was 15.5 percent – the highest rate ever recorded since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began its data collection in 1948. Women's disproportionate responsibilities at home coupled with our nation's lack of care infrastructure forced three million women out of the labor force – with women of color bearing the brunt of job losses. Today, as more people return to work and schools reopen, there are 1.3 million fewer mothers who are employed than before the pandemic started, a loss of about 5.6 percent of working mothers in the

labor market.

Apprenticeships can serve as the pathway back to work outside the home for millions of women. They can provide the opportunity for women to learn new skills in high-paying jobs such as the construction industry, public administration, utilities, manufacturing, transportation and technology. Apprentices are paid as they embark on new career paths, further their education, and gain industry credentials in fields that are in demand.

Perhaps not surprisingly, female-dominated industries are more likely to be associated with lower wages, a fact that analysis controlling for education, experience and other human capital factors cannot fully explain. The U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau is working hard to expand access to registered apprenticeship programs and provide the support women need

to flourish in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. This year, the Women's Bureau awarded \$3.3 million through its Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations grant program to five community-based organizations working to expand pathways for women to enter and lead in historically male-dominated industries.

Since 2017, the Women's Bureau has awarded nearly \$12 million through WANTO to 22 community-based organizations. The grantees use funds to offer skills training programs to prepare women for careers in nontraditional fields; coach employers, unions, and workers on creating a successful environment for women to succeed in these careers; and set up support groups, peer-networks, and support services to improve retention.

WANTO grants support women's inclusion in fields in

which they have traditionally been underrepresented, including finance, technology, construction, manufacturing, energy and transportation. A portion of the grants provides funding for child-care, transportation, tuition costs and work-related equipment, the lack of which can all too often hinder a woman's reentry into and advancement in the workforce.

To close the gender wage gap and better ensure economic security for families, it is imperative we remove barriers to high-pay, good quality jobs for women and build pathways through pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.

Gina Rodriguez is the Midwest Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau.

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Analysis shows city disregarded comments and downplayed calls to keep intersection closed

Did city mislead, downplay public input on 38th & Chicago survey?

» From 1

"I did not choose either of the design options, one or two, because neither of them gave the option to continue the street closures and to have any type of option for not allowing regular through traffic, which was a pretty big sticking point," said Katie Dillon, a resident of the 3800 block of Chicago.

Dillon was not alone; some 21% of respondents didn't select an option, with many calling it a false choice or creating and checking a box and calling it a third option.

The city's announcement was based on the total number of responses that had selected one of the two options – 81%, which the city declared as support. But according to Rossana Armson, senior project manager with the University of Minnesota's Office of Measurement Services, combining results in this way was a misrepresentation of the survey and indicative of bad questionnaire design.

"Because you didn't give them any options on the other side. And you're supposed to have balanced choices," said Armson, who was given only the survey structure and generic results, not specific details, for this conversation.

In other words, if the goal was to determine whether there was support for reopening the streets – the outcome announced by the city – then an alternative needed to have been presented. For Dillon, framing the question as they did was by design.

"They got responses back that they could interpret to align with their agenda, and that's the information that they published," said Dillon.

An overlooked Option 3

What the city failed to mention – and which is not reflected in their survey summary – is that nearly half (49%) of the postcards contained comments on the optional feedback lines. It shows either that choices were not clear or that something else was on people's minds, according to Armson.

"Wow. HALF of them. That's really a lot," said Armson, who as a survey designer would not expect to have more than 10 or 15% of respondents offer extra feedback, and even that would be a pretty big number. "Once it gets up into the 30 to 50%... 50% is ridiculously high. Anything over 30 is really high."

And if those comments included a "write-in" Option 3 that was frequently volunteered?

"That's also an indication that something should have been included as a choice," said Armson. "Because if everybody had an opportunity to respond to that Option 3, who knows what the results might have been."

In this case, Option 3 was clear: comments that favored keeping the streets closed outnumbered those in favor of reopening them by more than two and a half times. Still, despite limitations with the survey, the

city chose to combine two of two options and claim it as support.

"I would like to say I think the responses overall indicated a strong two options and good support in the area for reopening the intersection," said Interim Public Works Director Brette Hjelle at an Apr. 1 briefing. The original announced result, that "Eighty-one percent of respondents supported the City's proposed interim design options to reopen the intersection," is still posted on city's 38th & Chicago web page.

"I think it's really telling that they left out that other, that very different – and I would say very critical – piece of information," said Dillon.

Fresh tally

Adjusted to include postcards that arrived after the initial two-week deadline, of 821 total surveys, the percentages of those that had selected Option 1 or Option 2 lowered slightly but remained roughly even.

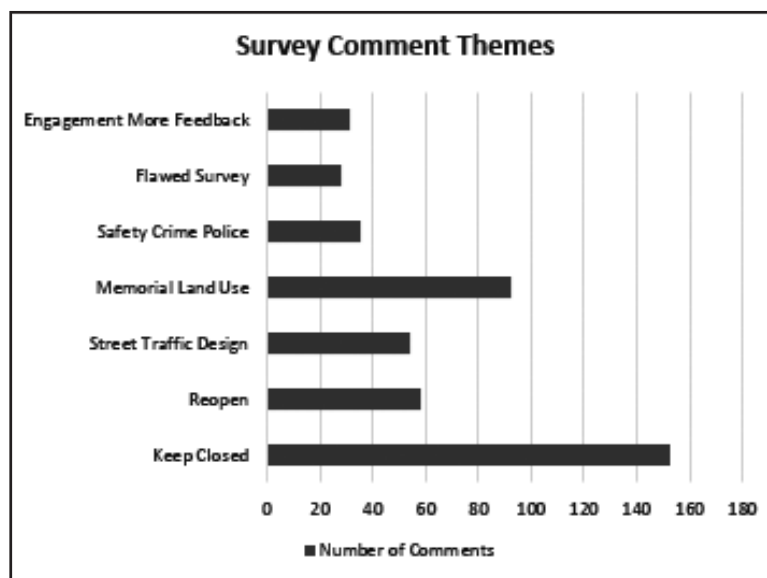
A key finding, though, is that 405 of 821 postcards contained additional feedback. Of these comments, 153 explicitly favored keeping the streets closed (even on some surveys with an Option 1 or Option 2 selected), while 58 favored reopening them.

The city's report, "Interim Design Survey Engagement Summary," contains a page of themes from the feedback provided by respondents, but none are sorted by frequency. The theme, "Do not implement any design changes until the 24 demands for justice are met," which appeared as a comment in some form more than 100 times, is given similar weight to "Integrate memorial planning efforts into the 38th Street Thrive, Cultural District Plan," which is not written on a single survey card.

Likewise, "Concerns of over-policing occurring in the area" appears alongside "Desire to see an increased police presence in the intersection." Yet of 22 specific references to police, 17 called for police accountability or less police presence while five wanted a greater police presence.

It is noteworthy that relatively few respondents mentioned crime as a reason to reopen the streets, despite repeated assertions by the mayor that the streets must reopen for safety reasons (the idea that crime was going up in George Floyd Square before the city doubled down on its calls to reopen the streets is not supported by MPD crime data, as was reported in the July 2021 *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*).

"Restore vehicle access, especially for public transit and emergency response vehicles" is listed as a theme. There are eight total mentions of transit or buses and five mentions of safety vehicles. Fifty-four comments addressed street/traffic design, including the viability of a roundabout and pedestrian access to the fist sculpture. Ninety-two gave feedback on the memorial itself and offered suggestions for use of



space, including using the church parking lot, the former Speedway (Peoples' Way) and nearby parks.

See "Summary" sidebar at right for the new tally of results. All comments are online at LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

A pattern of exclusion

If the survey comments indicate a hunger for participation, keeping them under wraps demonstrates the city's pattern of keeping residents of 38th and Chicago at bay.

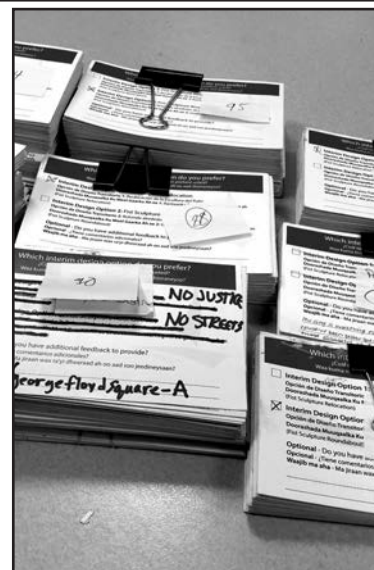
In the April 1 media briefing, Hjelle said their next step is to refine both of the interim options and work "closely with community and city leaders to determine the best option moving forward." The survey summary states under Next Steps that "Public Works will utilize the feedback received to further the interim design."

But as of mid-November – eight months past the survey deadline and five months after the streets were reopened – there has yet to be a single meeting with residents about how to design the space. This is extremely frustrating to Dillon, who has lived on the block for 10 years and has been asking for over a year for a meeting.

"It's really disappointing. We know that the postcards are not at all indicative of comprehensive community engagement, we know that those fell short. If that's the only mechanism the city has used to try to communicate with us, that's definitely lacking. It just feels like they've left us completely out in the cold," she said. "It just feels like no one is making it a point to listen to the folks that actually live here in the community, and are ready and willing to have a conversation."

Denny Thoreson, general foreman in the public works department who is frequently on site, said in September that meetings would take place by the end of that month. Now Sarah McKenzie, media relations coordinator responding on behalf of 38th and Chicago Project Contact Alexander Kado, said by email, "The city is planning on holding listening sessions with community stakeholders later this year. A full community engagement process will begin in early 2022." (Oddly, the Capitol Improvement Project PV177 page names Phillips but not Bryant as one of four affected neighborhoods; Bryant meets Bancroft, Powderhorn and Central at 38th and Chicago).

City continues opening Square



Meantime, with neither community input nor notice, work plows ahead at 38th and Chicago. The reopening took place in June without notifying the George Floyd Global Memorial, the board of which is co-chaired by family members of George Floyd. On Sept. 14, residents of the 3800 block of Chicago were suddenly given warnings via leaflets on vehicle windshields to begin parallel parking again or they would be issued citations (for the past year they had been parking at an angle to create space).

Asked why now, Thoreson said the traffic division wanted to get the road back to its original width. But whether that's what it should be hinges on plans for the road, which have yet to be shared or discussed with residents. As of 2016, Minneapolis follows a "complete streets" policy, which "prioritizes pedestrians first, followed by bicycling and transit use, and lastly, motor vehicle use" – which impacts street width and design. Though the policy is mentioned on the project page, no details are given as to how this might be implemented at 38th and Chicago.

Work continues incrementally, and – as evidenced by the two-way traffic in every direction – is seemingly designed to put cars first. Asked what directive he is operating under, Thoreson said, "Right now my directive is keep traffic flowin' through here in a safe manner." He said he's also trying to move pedestrians to the sidewalks and keep crosswalks clear.

Murphy Ranks memorial

On Oct. 28, city crews began attempted to dismantle the on-street memorial for Dameon "Murphy Ranks" Chambers, who was killed there in June 2020

SUMMARY

821 total surveys were returned, a 20.5% response rate. 405 (49.3%) of survey respondents submitted comments. Key findings:

- 153 comments stated a clear preference for keeping the intersection closed.

- 116 of the 153 comments expressed No Justice, No Streets and/or Meet the 24 Demands.

- 26 included a link to the document: bit.ly/georgefloydsquare-a.

- 58 comments stated a clear preference for reopening the streets.

- 54 comments were street/traffic design considerations, including viability of the roundabout and pedestrian access.

- 92 comments were general remarks about the memorial and/or suggestions for use of space, e.g.:

- 29 suggested moving the memorial to Phelps Park, Powderhorn Park, Say Their Names Cemetery or other location.

- 15 suggested removing the gas station and/or using the church parking lot for the memorial.

- 16 suggested repurposing Cup Foods or closing it down.

- 35 comments mentioned community safety, crime and/or or police.

- Of 22 specific references to police, 17 called for accountability and/or less police presence; 5 wanted more.

- 8 comments mentioned public transit/buses/drivers. 5 mentioned EMS/safety vehicles.

- Of 14 mentions of businesses, 7 suggested reopening the intersection.

- 7 comments suggested waiting to reopen until after the Chauvin trial and/or all four trials.

- 28 commented on the survey as unacceptable or a false choice.

- 31 comments included calls to engage the community plus more feedback.

All survey comments can be found online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

(calls for an investigation continue to go unmet). A video shared on the 38th and Chicago social media page shows Thoreson telling a resident that the family gave approval, as an audibly distraught person (described as the "family matriarch") is heard off camera saying "No, no I did not. I did not." And later, "LIES!"

The same video includes a clip of the mayor at an Oct. 16 "Mayor on your Block" gathering saying he had no plans to remove the memorial for Murphy Ranks. In another segment he tells the group he shouldn't dictate the look or the feel of the memorial.

"I think we very much should engage with community," said Frey. Yet Dillon said she doesn't feel informed or like she has any input.

"I feel like that's intentional. Because I feel like the city... [has] an idea of what they want to do, and they're going to do it... they'll just come in and do a thing or make a change or what have you," she said. "Even though... they've heard from us DID CITY MISLEAD » 12

COMMUNITY HUB WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

>> From 1

This time it was at the larger building the Hudson family had constructed at 2900 E. 42nd St., a block and a half away. The Hudson family closed the hardware store in 2020.

"It was more or less a complete refresh in both instances," according to Klauck. "This time we had a lot more help from a great neighborhood contractor, Blue Construction, versus the 4208 space where we did nearly everything ourselves. There was still a lot of demo work we managed ourselves – including removing about 6,000 square feet of nasty old linoleum tiles."

The new space dedicated to bicycles opened in October 2021. The larger location for bikes means there's room for Northern Frameworks, the spin-off that builds bicycle frames. If you're looking for coffee (or specifically the popular smoked sea salt mocha), head over to the original location which is sporting a new name: Northern Coffeeworks.

A few doors down and around the corner at 2719 42nd St. is Mend Provisions, a fly-fishing shop with gear, apparel and outdoor supplies.

The family of businesses is an evolution of the original idea, pointed out Klauck.

"With Northern Coffeeworks we wanted to further our cafe concept with a greater breadth of offerings as well as to own our supply chain and end product of high quality coffee beans," he explained. "Northern Frameworks is similar in that we were already selling customer bikes from other wonderful brands, but there were deficiencies in process and communication between all of those involved. Now that we are 100% in house we can control the experience and end product from start to finish."

"Mend was really a passion project that was headed up by my business partner Michael Fischer (Fish). Fish was the person that got me into fly fishing, which became my outlet for stress and to get away from bikes when they felt a little too much like work."

Klauck owns Angry Catfish with silent partner Jeff Hilligoss, and new partner and chief marketing officer Andy Tesch. Klauck and Hilligoss together own Northern Coffeeworks. Northern Frameworks is owned solely by Klauck, while Mend Provisions is owned by Klauck and Fischer.

In all, they employ about 25 people, most of whom live nearby.

"Mostly I like to believe they all go hand-in-hand to create a community hub that has a little something for everyone," said Klauck. "You might not be into coffee, bikes, fishing, and the outdoors, but you probably connect with one of them and there's conversations that can be shared from there."

Mend Provisions

Like its sibling businesses, Mend Provisions is a small shop focused on its own backyard. The full-on fly shop carries rods, reels, waders, flies and a large assortment of fly tying materials. There is a tie-your-own area at the front of the store.

It opened in April 2013.

You could say that with a



TOP LEFT Standish resident Josh Klauck owns or co-owns Angry Catfish, Northern Coffeeworks, Mend Provisions, and Northern Frameworks. He said, "Mostly I like to believe they all go hand-in-hand to create a community hub that has a little something for everyone. You might not be into coffee, bikes, fishing and the outdoors, but you probably connect with one of them and there's conversations that can be shared from there." TOP RIGHT Naomi Vaughan puts the finishing touches on a latte at Northern Coffeeworks, the new name of the coffee shop at 4208 28th. BOTTOM The catfish mural at the original location of Angry Catfish Coffee and Bicycle Shop. (4208 28th Ave.). (Photos by Andrew Nepsund)

name like Fischer, owner Mike Fischer was born to fish. And he did, growing up like every Minnesota kid spin rod fishing for walleye and bass. But he didn't find fly fishing, his real passion, until his mid-20s.

"Fly fishing is a sport that tends to captivate its followers and they want to be part of the process of catching their fish in every aspect that they can," Fischer observed. "Often this means creating localized variations of the insects that the fish feed on. By tying your own flies you get that added satisfaction and extra sense of self-accomplishment. Most fly tiers also become better fishermen as they are usually more acutely studying the water and bugs looking for answers than the casual fly angler that is using a general variation of fly."

Fischer has been in retail his whole life, mostly in the clothing business. "I've learned over those many years that I'm not that interested in fashion and trends. I like nice classic things that are made well and that don't require replacing next year because of a shift in trends," observed Fischer, who lives in South Minneapolis.

He had thought about owning his own shop for most of his adult life, and finally made the leap when he couldn't stand working for anyone else.

"I'd like to encourage more people to enjoy and respect the outdoors," said Fischer. "It seems there's been a bit of a trend away from that, especially with kids, and it bums me out."

Northern Coffeeworks

For a time, Klauck and his business partners were operating a coffee shop at 4208 S. 28th Ave. and a sister shop, Northern Coffeeworks in the Mill District down-



town that opened in August 2017.

"All the businesses in the Mill District were really hit hard by COVID-19," observed Sensory and Quality Manager Naomi Vaughan, who started at Northern in November 2020. "We loved that space, but foot traffic was very low. Our lease downtown expired in August 2020, and earlier in the year Angry Catfish had acquired the building at 2900 42nd. The bike shop's business had expanded a lot and they really needed the space. So we had the opportunity to move Northern into the original Catfish location, back in the Standish neighborhood that we know loves its coffee, and all the pieces just fell into place."

She added, "This location really feels like coming home. We have customers that have been with us for nearly a decade, as well as folks who've followed us from downtown, or are new to the area and just discovering us. It's the perfect spot to grab a coffee and go for a walk around Nokomis, stop by Baker's Wife for a donut, hit the tennis courts, go for a ski at Hiawatha in the winter, or hop on the LRT Trail. It's a neighborhood with so much potential, too. Especially as we remodel and expand offerings, we hope to seize the moment as an institution and continue to offer a 'third place' (i.e., not home, not work) for the community."

When COVID-19 hit, the coffee shop closed but it reopened in the summer of 2021 as it transitioned to Northern Coffeeworks and the bike shop moved out.

There's an expanded seating area in the building where the bikes used to be, with space for the coffee roaster in the back.

Right now, there's also space for pop-up events for local vendors with vintage clothing, artists and artisans, and small food vendors. A Crafts Market Pop-Up is set for Saturday, Dec. 11.

In 2022, the plan is to remodel the space to add a prep kitchen and roastery, and refurbish the espresso bar.

Fruit & Grain, run by Emily Lauer, will move into the new prep kitchen that will occupy the former bicycle workshop space next to the espresso bar. Lauer specializes in homemade pop-tarts, hand pies, galettes, quiche, anything-you-can-bake-in-a-pie-crust, plus cakes and other sweets. Lauer's cottage bakery outgrew her own kitchen last fall, and she approached Northern Coffeeworks about renting space downtown after it suspended its own food program.

"It turned out to be a great match!" said Vaughan. "We'll be continuing our collaboration after the remodel. In the meantime, she'll have a few pop-ups with us, and she's just signed a lease with a kitchen in Saint Paul so we will hopefully be serving her pastries again very soon. You can also order from her online!"

Being a part of things

Klauck appreciates the variety of his work. "I get to work with so many fun and unique people from so many different industries," he said. "There's so much to learn and experience throughout the various brands, it feels like I'll never run out of work, for better or worse."

He added, "I would just like to thank all of our customers and staff for the help and support over the past 12 years. The entire group of businesses is a collaboration and a small family owned

Meet Naomi Vaughan, Sensory & Quality Manager

WHAT DREW YOU TO THIS JOB? I've been at Northern since November 2020. My official title is Sensory & Quality Manager, but we all wear a lot of hats. I run our quality control program, roast coffee and update our roasting profiles, train staff, oversee the flow and organization of service in the cafe, and work with the other two managers on external collaborations and menu development, among other things. I finished a PhD in 2020, decided to leave academia, and moved to Minneapolis. When I realized I wanted to return to coffee I was drawn to this job because it resonated so much with me. Northern and I were both in periods of transition brought to a head by COVID-19. I've known Josh Klauck since 2010, and I knew the success he'd had with his other businesses and the relationships he's built with his staff and customer base. I felt this job would give me the opportunity to work with people who really cared about what they were doing in their community and the quality of what they were producing, and afford me a lot of creative freedom and the chance to help foster growth in a bunch of different areas. Plus I love great coffee – I'm on a personal mission to abolish gatekeeping in the industry and make sure everyone feels welcome to enjoy the pure, human pleasure that good-tasting things can bring us.

WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?

For regular coffee drinkers, I recommend our flagships: the Boundary Waters, a delicious Guatemala sold in partnership with Save the Boundary Waters; the Cabin Vibes Colombia, we use it for cold brew; and the Juniper, a tasty, balanced all Africa blend we use for standard espresso. Right now I also love our natural processed Columbia from Manos Juntas – a great single origin coffee and a component in our fabulous, funky Lady's Slipper blend. For milky drinks, we have a pretty maple-heavy menu right now. We use maple in our Pumpkin Spice Latte and Spice in my Veins, two drinks on our seasonal 'Spooky Menu.' Our smoked sea salt mocha is very popular year round and delicious!

and operated 'conglomerate,'" said Klauck.

"For me, personally, it's really gratifying to work with so many people who have chosen to pursue their passions through a career in the service industry – we all clearly love to connect and chat with customers, and to share and indulge in our interests, and act as ambassadors to the public," said Vaughan. "The constellation of businesses really reflect and have grown out of our owners' passions for the lifestyles that each of the offerings target."

"Coffee, bikes, and fly fishing are, for them, natural and complimentary catalysts for adventure and community. Each business is its own stand alone enterprise and collaboration is organic for the most part, with some sibling businesses collaborating to a greater or lesser degree depending on the season and needs."

"I like to think of us here at Northern as the break or living room for the others, a space to meet up and sip some coffee and get energized for the next adventure or relax from the last one!"



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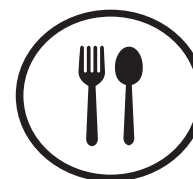
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Becketwood celebrates 35th anniversary with walk down parkway



This year, anniversary activities were complicated by COVID-19 that restricted indoor gatherings. The banquet was postponed, but a walk was organized. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Co-op living for 55+ members who enjoy community and Mississippi River location

By IRIC NATHANSON

3 founding members from 1986

A month earlier, the West River Parkway had been filled with throngs of runners during the Twin Cities Marathon. But on a breezy November morning, another group of outdoor enthusiasts moved down the parkway at a much more leisurely pace. They were members of the Becketwood Cooperative on a 1 K walk to celebrate their co-op's 35th anniversary.

"The walk gave us a way to mark our milestone anniversary with a fun event that brought us together as a community. It also reminded us that while we live in a 55+ building, we are active and independent seniors," noted Carla Mortensen, who organized the walk with her Becketwood neighbor, Elaine Kirk.

"Planning an outdoor event in November was something of a risk," added Kirk. "But we knew our members would come out for it even if they had to bundle up in their winter parkas. We are so lucky to live here along the river, so the walk was our way of celebrating this lovely piece of nature right at our doorstep."

This year, Becketwood's anniversary activities were complicated by the cooperative's COVID-19 restrictions that limited the size of indoor gatherings. Becketwood had hoped to have a celebratory banquet to mark its 35th year, but the banquet had to be postponed, according to Phyllis Kromer, who chaired 35th anniversary planning committee.

"While the pandemic created a special challenge for carrying out of our wide-ranging plans, we were able to come up with ways to recognize the spirit of Becketwood's special place in our lives through our anniversary theme: Honor the Past - Embrace the Future," Kromer said.

The theme provided the focus for a special anniversary publication produced by Kromer's group that drew on the talents of Becketwood's writers, poets and photographers. An introductory essay by Ann Lovrien and Pat Cummings linked cooperative's founders in the 1980s, who were part of the Greatest and Silent Generations, with the Baby Boomers and Gen Xers who are now following them.

The founders "brought with them their generational values inspired by a shared national experience," Lovrien and Cummings explained. "Their optimism, work ethic, resilience, financial prudence built the foundation on which Becketwood stands today. In the last few years, a significant number of Baby Boomers have joined the generational mix. Boomers are known for rejecting and redefining traditional values,

as well as for being self-assured and goal centered. They frequently ask questions about why we do the things we do, and they are comfortable offering suggestions for improving our practices. Like any living organism, Becketwood is both challenged and nourished by these new perspectives."

Becketwood's foundation was established with the help of its "founding mothers" an all-women committee that helped oversee the co-op's development in the 1980s. Gloria Delano, one of the founding mothers and a current Becketwood member received special recognition in the 35th anniversary publication. Along with Delano, the publication honored Becketwood's two remaining "pioneers," Vera Watson and Nancy Schultz, current members who moved into the co-op when it opened in 1986.

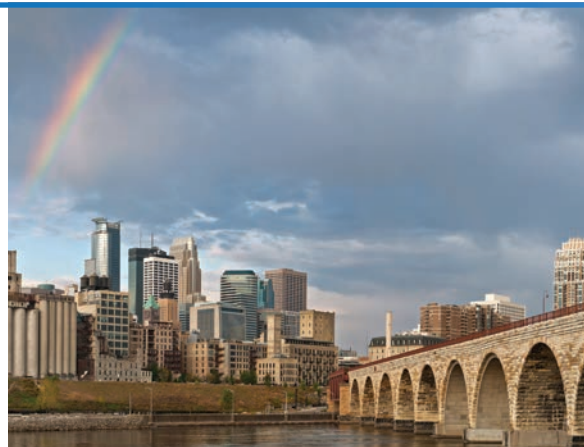
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An anniversary report tells the history of the property that Becketwood sits on. (Photo by Terry Faust)

BECKETWOOD >> From 8

From orphanage to senior housing

The anniversary report also included a timeline intended to help educate the co-op's newer members about Becketwood's history. That history extends back to the 19th century, when an early Minnesota settler named Richard Martin bequeathed 130 acres of undeveloped property along the Mississippi river bluffs to an Episcopal orphanage, Sheltering Arms, then located in downtown Minneapolis. The bequest enabled Sheltering Arms to build a new facility on the Martin property in 1910. With changing times, the orphanage was converted to a rehabilitation center for polio victims and, later, to a school for young people with development disabilities. In 1982, after closing its school, Sheltering Arms sold its 13-acre site to the St. Paul-based Episcopal Church Home (ECH), Becketwood's developer. ECH guaranteed the initial financing for the new senior housing facility that replaced the original 1910 orphanage building. Becketwood has retained its ties to ECH but operates today an independent entity with its own board of directors.

Always planning ahead

A key milestone during Becketwood's 35-year history occurred in 1988, when Becketwood's board established a capital long range planning committee to help the cooperative deal with its future capital needs. The committee laid the groundwork for a repair and replacement reserve fund that now totals more than \$3 million.

"When our building first opened 35 years ago our early leaders may have been tempted to ignore the co-op's long-term needs, since everything was so shiny and new," said Loren Flicker, who now chairs the Reserve and Replacement Long Range Planning Committee. "Fortunately, our founders did not heed this 'siren song'. Guided by the principle of starting to save for a replacement as soon as any new item was acquired, they put in place the process that continues to serve us so well today."

COVID-19 affects co-op

In its anniversary publication, the Becketwood timeline concludes with the board action in the spring of 2020, suspending most group activities in face of the COVID-19 pandemic. David Liddle, who served as board president in 2020, said his year

"We are so lucky to live here along the river, so the walk was our way of celebrating this lovely piece of nature right at our doorstep." ~ Elaine Kirk

in office was a challenging time for the board. "We had to find a way to preserve a sense of community – one of Becketwood's defining characteristics – at the same time that we were doing everything we could to keep everyone safe by following CDC and Minnesota Health Department guidelines," Liddle said. "Complying with the guidelines meant that we needed to impose restrictions and disrupt familiar routines. Those restrictions and disruptions were necessary, but they made life more difficult for all of us."

"Zoom has given us a way to keep some of our activities going, even with COVID-19," explained David McKay who chairs Becketwood's program committee. "But some of our members are not online or are not comfortable with Zoom, so we have come up with a hybrid arrangement. Most of us stay in our own apartments and use Zoom to access our online programs. But we are able to let a limited number of people watch the Zooms on the big screen in our large community room. That lets us provide a broader community reach for our activities."

Becketwood used the hybrid plan for a variety show that concluded Becketwood's 35th anniversary celebration on Nov. 6, 2021. The hour-long show on Zoom showcased Becketwood's humorists, musicians, storytellers and poets.

With a nod to the Gen Xers who will soon start moving into Becketwood, the show included an original rap performed by Joel Mortensen and Debbie Richman, Becketwood's general manager. The show also included Ole and Lena jokes told by Howard Bergstrom, a World War II vet and a member of the Greatest Generation.

"We really did honor the past and embrace the future," Mortensen said.

Editor's note: Local historian and writer Iric Nathanson is a member of the Becketwood Cooperative.



Becketwood has held some events in person such as the anniversary walk if they meet CDC guidelines, and has done a hybrid approach for other activities using Zoom video calls. (Photo by Terry Faust)





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About 270 people who identify as active and independent seniors currently live at Becketwood. (Photo by Terry Faust)

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- 5) Offer to help with yard chores, or feed and exercise the pets.

- 6) Write notes of encouragement and support, and help with "thank you" notes.
- 7) Offer to drive or accompany him/her to the cemetery regularly.
- 8) Make a weekly run to the grocery store, laundry or cleaners.
- 9) Anticipate difficult periods such as birthday, anniversaries and holidays.
- 10) Always mention the deceased by name and encourage reminiscing.

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It takes about 2,000 gallons of water to produce one pair of jeans. RETHINK offers Visible Mending classes that will extend the life of a well-loved pair of jeans. Honor the most used part of your jeans (shown at left). Learn to use a running stitch over and over again, and graft the stitches together with visible mending techniques (shown at right). (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

RETHINK upcycles old clothes with style

"In a world of fast fashion, we offer a different option for shopping: mend your wardrobe, shop your closet, shop the consignment/vintage stores, don't give up on those family hand-me-downs, and build your wardrobe with pieces that will stand the test of time."

~ RETHINK founder/owner Kristen McCoy

enormous carbon footprint, and the increasing ill health of people who work in this industry. On average, a piece of clothing is worn only 4-7 times before it is discarded."

A long thread

McCoy grew up on a Minnesota pig farm and started sewing when she was eight. She taught herself how to use her grandmother's old Singer sewing machine. Because the nearest fabric store was 20 miles away, she figured out how to repurpose her worn clothes into purses. She said, "I learned my work ethic growing up on the farm, and I learned how to make money stretch."

Eventually she enrolled in the Apparel Technologies Program at Minneapolis Community and Technical College where she studied garment construction, draping, pattern-making, alterations, and how to work with specialty fabrics.

In textiles classes, McCoy learned that polyester fabric has the same chemical make-up as plastic water bottles. She thought, "We recycle plastic water bottles, why can't we find a way to recycle plastic fabrics?"

"The discarded clothes sit in landfills where they don't decompose for generations, or they are burned in incinerators. Many garments aren't made to last on purpose. The clothing industry has developed a disposable mentality because it pays."

McCoy made a decision early on in her training: moving forward, she would make all her clothes out of pre-used or dead-stock fabrics.



RETHINK owner Kristen McCoy in an upcycled denim blazer. She explained, "To upcycle is to add value to something in the processing. We're able to take a worn garment and turn it into something new. We take jeans that are no longer wearable and cut them into denim squares. The result is a reversible blazer that still has a lot of wear. It's on sale at the shop, and is size fluid (small to large)." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Keep calm and sew on

In 2015, McCoy launched RETHINK Tailoring from her home with the goal of making recycled clothing a legitimate shopping option. After her daughter was born that year, Kristen took a pause from tailoring to develop a new concept: resizable baby clothing. A second child was born three years later and in 2019, McCoy began the buildout of her storefront at 3449 Bloomington Ave.

She said, "We had our grand opening on March 14, 2020, and closed the next day due to the COVID-19 lock down. My design and tailoring philosophy has always been to get creative when a project seems impossible. Opening and closing in one day was crushing, but once I got out of the fog, we sewed masks, and

made tutorials to help with the community mask-making efforts. We donated hundreds of masks to hospitals, shelters, and other organizations in need. We also took on an emergency project upcycling 200+ hospital gowns for a nursing home facility hit hard by COVID-19.

"Our focus had to change many times to best meet the needs of the community. We are still building our business back to our original vision, but it takes time. We are currently hosting daily classes (following CDC guidelines for health and safety), and upcycling more designs for sale."

Classes are the focus

McCoy is reflective about the times. She said, "These last couple of years have been strange and challenging, but I feel hopeful. In this polarized world,



Laura Poehlman teaches the "Meet your Machine" class at RETHINK. She said, "I research your machine ahead of time and customize your session to make sure you cover what you want to learn." Poehlman is also a graduate of the Apparel Technologies Program at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and has decades of sewing, design, and teaching experience. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

there's value in having safe places to gather. Our shop is a place where people can get together and do something creative – we can all use a bit of that."

There are classes on Visible Mending, Invisible Mending, and Reweaving (where you learn to repair holes in t-shirts and other knit garments). There are Learn to Sew machine classes, and classes for more experienced sewists on alterations, design, and upcycling. Private lessons are available, as well as small group lessons. There are options to learn from home with virtual classes, Q&A sessions, tutorials, private lessons via Zoom, and more.

The regularly scheduled Feminist Stitch and Gab is a pay-what-you-can meet up. Anyone can come who is feminist-minded, as long as they wear a mask and practice social distancing. Email info@rethinktailoring.com with questions about any of the classes or gatherings. Holiday gift cards are also available for purchase. They can be applied toward class tuition, or upcycled clothing and jewelry for sale in the onsite Green Boutique. Visit the RETHINK website at www.rethinktailoring.com for more information.

McCoy concluded, "People can get overwhelmed by the challenges of being environmentally conscious. As far as clothing goes, I like to say that any change in the right direction is positive change. Go to clothing swaps, shop for used clothes, and repair what's already in your closet."

"A starting point is something to build from – you don't have to do everything at once."

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THE PEOPLE'S CLOSET MAKES FASHION, POLITICAL STATEMENT

By JILL BOOGREN

Sometimes a revolutionary act is quiet, unseen. Sometimes it's loud and worn on a shirt-sleeve. At The People's Closet at George Floyd Square, it's a little bit of both.

Born out of the 2020 Uprising, The People's Closet sprang from a need for clothing as well as a need to organize an outpour of donations. The closet grew organically, ultimately using resources that became available during a time of upheaval and transformation – bus shelters for a transit route on hiatus as people filled the streets to mourn, pray and stand in solidarity. Now, some 18 months after the murder that took place at this intersection shook the world, neighbors still stop by daily to see if there's something they can take to a friend or their own closet.

It is yet another example of mutual aid rising out of the movement for racial justice – and the staying power of giving as folks continue to wade through COVID-19 and economic disparities. Clothing is donated and taken freely, without obligation. There are no transactions, and it's always open.

"It's all about helping people. Clothes are a necessity," said Jennie Leenay, who is one of at least a dozen GFS community members who care for the clothing and space, tidying it up, making sure items are accessible – or covering them up when it rains. "The people in this neighborhood have been immensely helpful. They love this closet, and they prove it with how much they help to maintain it."

In addition to being a resource for neighbors, The People's Closet also works with certain encampment groups, ensuring they have the right gear for the weather. As winter approaches and cold temperatures roll in, keeping people warm and preventing hypothermia is a matter of public safety.

Needs aside, fashion is also a presentation of self. And to that end, the closet's caretakers follow what they call the "no dignity" rule, discarding items that are just too tattered to pass along.

"If I personally wouldn't feel comfortable wearing that out in society in public, I wouldn't put it here for somebody else to wear. This isn't about charity, it's about mutual aid," said Leenay. "It's about 'Hey, I have this cool jacket that I just don't wear any more, someone can have use of it,' and it doesn't have to be about selling it or trying to make a profit. Not everything has to be for profit or monetizing something. Sometimes it's just like, 'Hey, I saw you needed this. Here it is.'"

A natural fit

For Leenay, a fashion designer with an associate degree in apparel technologies, caring for The People's Closet was a natural fit. Leenay lives near GFS, and like many, first came to 38th and Chicago to join protests after seeing the video of Minneapolis Police officers killing George Floyd.

"There was nowhere else in the world I really felt I should be," they said. They helped where they could – with the firekeepers, cleaning up, going to meet-



Jennie Leenay, GFS community member and caretaker of The People's Closet, with their pup Joyoncé. It's important to Leenay that fashion reaches everyday people, and that people feel connected to themselves and their community. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

ings, being in community, and "Bein' Black and takin' space." Among other donations, clothes kept coming in, and eventually community members decided to begin hanging stuff up so people could have it.

"It [was] also in the midst of a pandemic, a lot of people [were] out of work. The whole world was just turned on its head with the uprising and everything, and we all were just like 'How are we gonna come together and heal?'" Leenay recalled. What eventually came to be known as The People's Closet was a way to provide, and as some community members got involved in other work, Leenay began taking the lead in its care.

"I was like, I have a fashion background, I'm a fashion student, I know how to handle clothes. I know what needs to be maintained, what can be washed out, what can't be washed out –

and so I started helping out more when they were having big asks," they said. "As we say here, 'Bring your gift to the Square,' and this was the gift I had."

Fashion as political statement

Leenay describes her personal design style as afrofuturistic, inspired by the idea of taking Black culture and pushing it towards the future. Afrofuturism arose in the 1990s as a response, in part, to the exclusion of Black authors and Black stories in the science fiction world.

"[It gave the] impression that that they don't really see Black people in the future," said Leenay. "We're all like... uh uh. No. We gonna be there. And our skin will be glowing." She wore one of her outfits at a fashion show held on Chicago Ave. in September.

With an eye to the future, Leenay is also honoring tradi-

"If I personally wouldn't feel comfortable wearing that out in public, I wouldn't put it here for somebody else to wear. This isn't about charity, it's about mutual aid."

~ Jennie Leenay

tion. Her great-grandfather was a tailor, and her grandmother instilled in her the importance of maintaining clothes. In these days of "fast fashion" – mass producing the hot new trend then moving on to the next thing – this has become a lost art.

"Fashion is something that should be passed down, and we notice that from a lot of our cultures is that's something the Black community kind of lost through the struggle, through the African slave trade," said Leenay, quickly correcting: "British slave trade, realistically speaking."

She wants her fashion to honor and uplift the Black community, especially Black women, in a very politically charged fashion.

Fashion as communal act

It's also important to Leenay that fashion reaches everyday people – not just the rich and famous – and that people feel connected to themselves and their community. It was a community member who gave them the boots and jacket Leenay wears, and it's great to return the gesture – setting aside a shirt they know a specific someone will love.

"It becomes this very communal sense of understanding a person and understanding of how they wish to be seen and how they identify," said Leenay. They've received a lot of donations from people in transition, for example, who are trying to get rid of all these clothes that no longer fit with their gender identity, and Leenay is happy to help. Sometimes it's as simple as knowing someone's favorite color, like the yellow fabric sewn into another community member's birthday dress.

"The people I've spent a year and a half getting to know, I live next to them, I talk to them pretty much every single day. And there's just something very... fashion should be communal. It's a communal act."

The People's Closet embodies all of the above – the political and the communal, the reason for its existence in full view. The shelters themselves wear it every day as body art – sentiments from the Uprising spray painted on their windowed walls: No justice No [peace symbol]; White Silence is Violence; Floyd Square; We Have Power. They are accessorized by the rods and hangers holding clothing, the cabinet with a drawer marked "undies," benches lined with shoes, a wooden pallet to lift cardboard boxes off the ground. A flyer affixed to an outside wall reads in faded ink, "This space matters. And the people who work here.

Accepting winter donations

The People's Closet is now requesting winter donations – wool socks, hats, gloves, jackets, blankets and boots. Donors are asked to follow the "no dignity" rule – bring items that are freshly cleaned, have no stains and are in wearable condition. No donation is too much, but for large amounts they do appreciate a heads up so they can be sure someone is on hand to sort and display things properly. For an extra large haul, dropping off in installments is helpful. The People's Closet asks that any donations of food be brought to Calvary Lutheran Church, the Baha'i Center or Sabathani Community Center.

The People's Closet is located on 38th St., just west of Chicago Ave. Find the [peoplescloset](#) and [jeml_fashions](#) on Instagram.



Full text on the flyer taped above this rack of children's clothes reads, "Justice does not rain down from heaven. We must build it brick by brick. Let's get to work!" (Photo by Jill Boogren)

And their families." Taped to an inside wall positioned just above a rack of children's clothes is another that reads, "Justice does not rain down from heaven. We must build it brick by brick. Let's get to work!"

These sentiments form the threads which bind the GFS community and continued calls for justice.

"This space was built out of pain and grief, and it has become something beautiful. But let's not forget that we're out here because a man was summarily executed by... police, and they wanted to brush it under the rug," said Leenay. "It's through the act of us coming together and protesting, not [letting up], bein' here for 18 months, is how we got the first ever [White] officer in the state convicted and actually sent to jail."

The work isn't done, added Leenay, who listed off other injustices: the three officers charged with aiding and abetting Derek Chauvin in George Floyd's murder; the murders of Winston Smith and Daunte Wright; the lack of investigation into Murphy Ranks' killer.

"We're here fighting for Black and Indigenous lives on stolen Indigenous land. We've done a lot, and it's amazing what we've done to join and heal together, but the work isn't done yet," they said, inviting people to stop by. "Come on through... we're here fighting just to say, 'Hey, my life matters. Black lives matter...' Read the 24 demands. No Justice, No Streets. And we meant that."



The People's Closet at George Floyd Square is always open. They are now accepting winter donations of coats, hats, scarves, gloves, wool socks and boots. Follow the [peoplescloset](#) on Instagram. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

Professor gives tips to helpers on how to help families affected Kids getting harmed by domestic violence

By JAN WILLMS

Like many issues, domestic abuse situations have only been heightened by COVID-19.

Jerrold Brown, a professor at Concordia University and program director for the Master of Arts degree in human services with an emphasis in forensic behavioral health, can offer insight on these situations. Brown has also been a part of developing a new graduate certification program currently being taught online at Concordia, "Trauma, Resilience and Self-Care Strategy."

Part of the eight-week course concentrates on research looking at trauma kids are exposed to early in life. "The more trauma, the more likely a child will have physical and mental health problems, issues at work, broken bones or diseases throughout life," Brown said. He noted that the longterm ACEs study examines household dysfunction, parent abuse of each other, child abuse, incarceration, racism, witnessing violence at school and its effects.

"The more trauma, the more problems growing up," Brown said. "Most of us have had varying levels of trauma, but this study looks at younger kids. The younger the child, the greater the impact."

"The research looks at in utero, as well," Brown contin-

ued. "Was Mom in a domestic violence situation while she was pregnant? This can also affect the child. Drug or alcohol use and a lack of adequate health care can also affect the mother and developing baby."

Brown stated that domestic violence and spousal abuse were around long before COVID-19, but the pandemic has "put gas on the fire." He said COVID-19 has amplified stress and substance abuse, and people are not sleeping well. "It's a recipe for disaster," he said. He noted that factors have changed.

"Prior to COVID-19, people were not at home as much," Brown said. "Now there is a lack of access (to outlets and resources), especially for people in rural areas. There are health care disparities, and many people are on the edge of financial disaster. Where is their next paycheck coming from? Are their work hours being cut? They may be dealing with infidelity."

He said the rates of domestic violence are going up, considering all these factors that are being aggravated by COVID-19.

Arguments without good coping skills

Brown explained that every issue of domestic violence is different. Any type of disagree-

ment can lead to problems when parents don't have good coping skills.

"Should we wear masks? One parent wants the child vaccinated, and the other parent may not. One parent thinks the other is not doing anything to help," Brown said. "Teaching coping skills and problem solving skills is important. COVID-19 is chipping away at our resilience, and if we don't have resilience it is difficult to bounce back from stress."

Brown emphasized the importance of finding outlets. "Talk to other people, go for a walk, unplug from the screen at bedtime, monitor your news information and social media," he recommended. "Try to be around positive people, exercise, create boundaries. It is okay to ask for help from your primary care doctor or a counselor." He added that if one parent wants therapy and the other doesn't, that is a whole other can of worms.

"Some like to brush these problems under the rug, but they can build up over time and come out sideways," Brown said.

"I talk to parents who are assuming if their kids are in school, they will be back home in a week or so. We need to develop cognitive flexibility, and go with the flow. Being adaptable can be very helpful." Brown also said that sleep, nutrition and exercise, in



If a child grows up in a home with domestic violence, others may not see that anything is going on. "But the emotional scars can carry on throughout that child's entire life," said Jerrold Brown, a professor at Concordia University. "Prevention is the key. Providing support early on to stop the circle of violence is really helpful." The university has started a program for an online graduate certificate in trauma, resilience and self-care strategies. (Photo submitted)

that order, are important.

He said another problem is the digital divide, and some in rural areas may not have the access they need. People also may have lost health insurance. Brown suggested reaching out to a local church or help group.

Helpers need to seek out training on domestic violence

He said it is essential for those in the helping professions to recognize that domestic violence is a public health issue, amplified by COVID-19, and to seek out training, education and research on the issue. "We will work with some clients at some point with a history or current situation of domestic violence. It affects not just the survivor, but others."

Brown noted that if a child grows up in a home with domestic violence, others may not see that anything is going on. "But the emotional scars can carry on throughout that child's entire life," he stated. "Prevention is the key. Providing support early on to stop the circle of violence is really helpful."

He reiterated that the more exposure to domestic violence a child has early in life, the more likely he or she will grow up with some challenges.

"For some, the violence may be a lifelong process. For others, a one-time thing," Brown said. "It can happen to all kinds of people, no matter the gender or background, whether rural or city."

Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series with professor Jerrold Brown on the psychological impacts and trauma associated with COVID-19 that are affecting members of the helping profession. Coming up are tips for those dealing with children with special needs. Find part one on our web site.

B Line plan moves ahead

By JANE McCLURE

B Line bus rapid transit service is to start in 2024, providing a faster connection between St. Paul's Union Depot and Uptown Minneapolis.

The \$65 million project's final corridor and station plans won a unanimous Oct. 13, 2021 vote of support from Metropolitan Council. The B Line route will follow Minneapolis' Lake Street and Selby and Marshall avenues in St. Paul. It will largely replace Route 21, Metro Transit's second-highest ridership bus route.

The B Line will provide connections to Green and Blue Line light rail, and five other current and future bus rapid transit routes.

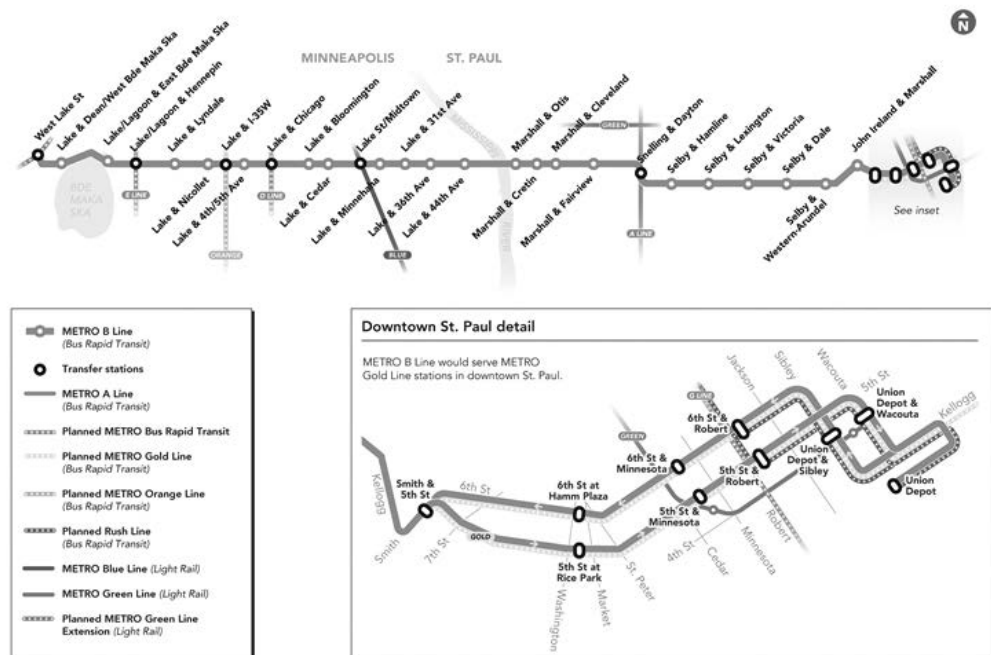
Engineering can get underway and continue until late 2022. Construction starts in 2023 and ends in 2024.

Bus rapid transit has fewer stops than regular route bus ser-

vice. The B Line will have a total of 33 stops. Buses will run every 10 minutes. Stations or platforms have amenities including real-time schedule information, lighting, heat and emergency contact capability.

Metro Transit will replace some regular route bus service along Route 21 in Minneapolis, but with less frequency at buses every 30 minutes. A new Route 60 is planned to operate along Selby and provide access to Midway shopping destinations once the B Line starts operations.

Not everyone is on board the B Line, including a group of residents in Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. They question using Selby and not Marshall for the route between Hamline Avenue and Lexington Parkway, mounting an unsuccessful petition drive for a route change. One family has already put its house up for sale, not wanting to live next to a transit station.



The Lexington-Hamline group contends there was a lack of involvement for their neighborhood and its neighborhood association, Lexington-Hamline Community Council. Their objections include having large, lit bus platforms close to homes,

Selby's narrow winter driving conditions when snow isn't cleared to the curb, and more traffic. They also question how buses will make the turns at busy Selby and Snelling avenues. Buses will use the A Line bus rapid transit stations at Snelling

and Dayton avenues. Metro Transit staff said those issues have been studied, and that test bus runs show the buses can make the corner.

Council Member Kris Fredson, whose district includes area neighborhoods, praised the B Line project. "The B Line will be the next game-changer for transit in Saint Paul, providing faster and more reliable service from the Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul to Uptown Minneapolis, along Selby, Marshall and Lake Street."

Did city mislead, downplay public input on 38th & Chicago survey?

>> From 5

enough times, that we want to speak with them. It's incredibly frustrating. Decisions are being made on our behalf for things that affect us literally 24/7, because we literally live here."

Asked who authorized clearing the Murphy Ranks memorial and how the decision aligns with planning underway for the road project, McKenzie wrote: "The city continues to refine the interim design of the roadway facilitating access for the public,

emergency vehicles, and transit. Preparing for winter is a priority and we will continue working with the community to respectfully maintain access and ensure snowplows can consistently clear the streets." A planter that was taken from the memorial has yet to be returned.

According to the 38th St. and Chicago Ave. project page, "Public works anticipates preliminary design and public involvement to begin two years prior to the start of project construction." It

also lists a project completion date of November 2023. So far, the survey constitutes the most complete gathering of information from neighbors. Yet as of Oct. 7, the postcards were sitting unscanned in paper clipped bundles in file folders inside City Hall.

"I recognize that none of this is easy. But my biggest point is, there's no way that we can go back to May 24, 2020. It's not possible. The city made that not possible when they allowed [For-



Public Works General Foreman Denny Thoreson (left) tells Resident Katie Dillon Sept. 14 that he is leaf-letting car windshields that warn vehicle owners that they will be issued citations within a few days if they don't resume parallel parking on Chicago Ave. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

mer Officer Derek Chauvin] to kill a person half a block from my house. We can't go back," said Dillon. "And it seems like the city wants to. They need to figure out a different way."

Editor's note: Katie Dillon co-chairs the Bryant Neighborhood Organization Board, but she was not speaking in an official capacity for this article.

>> See all the comments online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Tierra Encantada owner releases Christmas book

'An Elf's Journey Home' is geared towards helping other parents make the holidays special for their kids

By CHLOE PETER

From starting her own childcare business to writing a children's book, Kristen Denzer's ideas have been inspired by the ups and downs of parenthood.

Denzer looked around for childcare for her kids in the Twin Cities area and felt disappointed in her options. Many were expensive and waitlists were long. She wanted something that taught her kids about different cultures and languages. Time after time, she came up empty handed. Denzer decided to start her own childcare company.

"There's nothing wrong with [the places I looked at], but if I was going to spend this money and time away from my kids, I wanted it to be something more," Denzer said.

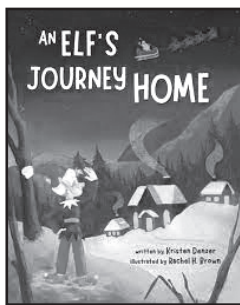
Now, Denzer runs her own childcare company called Tierra Encantada, located at both 411 E. 38 St. and 4012 Minnehaha Ave. The company has grown to 11 locations since opening in 2013, and has more locations coming soon in North Carolina, Alabama, and Texas. Denzer remarked that the focus of this Spanish immersion childcare is to serve both the parents and the students with a fully rounded education. While teaching their students a second language, Tierra Encantada staff members also aim to expose them to many different aspects of culture. Books with all different family types and toys of all different races are present in the classrooms. Denzer wants to make sure that all children feel represented.

"When you read these books to children, you expose them to the differences that make humanity special," Denzer said.

With a lot of pressure on parents from the media, Denzer wants parents to feel like they can spend quality time with their children after getting home from work without needing to worry about what their child learned



Tierra Encantada owner Kristen Denzer believes books expose children to the differences that make humanity special. (Photo submitted)



or ate that day. Denzer stated that she even felt incredibly pressured as a parent when she saw a video online of a three-year-old helping do tasks in the kitchen like making her own scrambled eggs and cutting vegetables.

"I think there is a lot of guilt and pressure on parents these days and so I think we are doing our part to help relieve a little bit of that," Denzer said, "We focus on creating a safe space for our families."

'An Elf's Journey Home'

Denzer describes herself as a person who goes all in on her projects and ideas. So when she wanted to find a way to phase out her children's Elf on the Shelf (a Christmas tradition where a parent moves a stuffed elf around the house each night as though it went back to Santa and told him if the kids were being good) without ruining the magic for her children, she decided to write a book.

"Everything ties back to what I see I need," Denzer said. "I needed childcare... so I opened Tierra; this book [is also] just something that will relieve the pressure and make it easier for parents."

Because of her background in childcare ownership, she saw the gaps in the market for certain books and toys. She wanted a rhyming scheme that would

also have advanced language and vocabulary. For months, Denzer crafted the general themes and characters for her book. As a self-publishing author, she hired a copy editor, illustrator, and layout designer to help her go over the story over and over again.

"I was going to rush it out last Christmas, but that would've been last minute and I didn't want it to be poor quality, so I decided to do it right," Denzer said.

This Christmas season, Denzer's book, "An Elf's Journey Home," is available for purchase. It can be found through Barnes and Noble, Google Books, Amazon, and more.

Even though Denzer created this book around the Elf on the Shelf tradition, the book itself can be read independently. The brief about the book on Amazon states, "'An Elf's Journey Home' shares one elf's story about his love for his family and how all he really wants is to stay with his family forever. Get a rare glimpse inside the mind of an elf. Learn about his excitement as he waits to be promoted to scout, his feelings on being apart from his family most of the year, and how all he really wants for Christmas is to stay with them year-round."

"As a parent who wants the best for their kids, you can't help but judge yourself a bit from the pressures, but at the centers and through this book, it gives parents the experience that they want their children to have, but may not have the time or energy for," Denzer said.

Restart for Hennepin County Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team

The Hennepin County Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team (SMART) hosted and coordinated by the Sexual Violence Center, is Hennepin County's tool to find systemic solutions to the problem of sexual violence. Since 2009 experts from all disciplines responding to sexual violence have sent representative to the SMART where, together, the team researches the needs of the diverse communities in Hennepin County to provide solutions that generate long-term changes in how folks interact with and receive services from the different organizations and agencies.

"At the SMART we develop

guidelines and trainings to improve how institutions like the police, doctors and nurses, lawyers, attorneys, and advocates deal with victims and survivors who come to them to ask for help finding justice and healing after they have suffered from sexual violence," say representatives.

"Often times victims and survivors distrust the systems for multiple and very valid reasons. Communities don't often have the best relationship with the agencies that are supposed to serve them. Understanding this and the causes helps us develop real solutions that have a positive impact on how the people in our communities are treated by the

folks who are supposed to serve them."

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the services provider agencies hard and for some time the Hennepin SMART's duties took a pause in the face a public safety emergency. Since March, the SMART has resumed its meetings, and is hard at work to make sure trainings can resume, as well. It is currently updating its Sexual Assault Response Protocol to ensure it is up to date with the new laws and court decisions of 2020. They are also designing new trainings for different community partners and preparing to engage with the community once more to make sure they keep in touch with the needs they are meant to address and provide solutions for.



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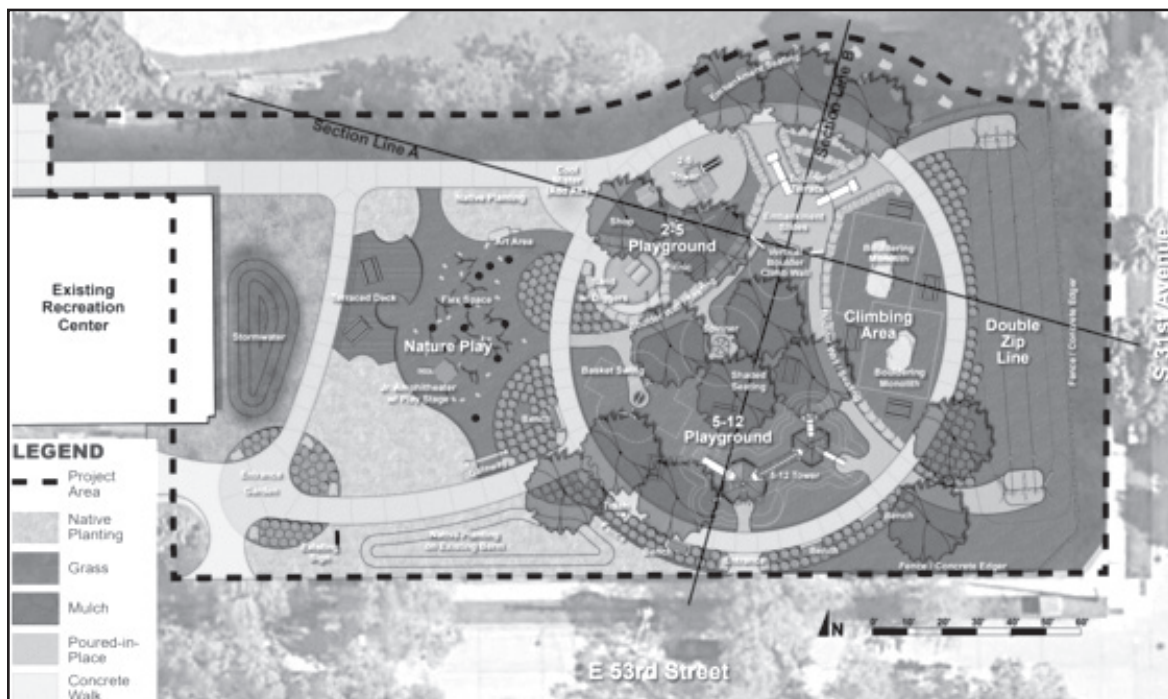
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For the Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, and Wenonah neighborhoods

Visit nokomiseast.org/staying-in-place or call Rebuilding Together Twin Cities at (651) 776-4273 to learn more



NENA losing 60% of its funds

Help NENA plan for future

Starting this year, the city of Minneapolis changed its funding structure for neighborhood associations like NENA. We have a 40% cut this year, 60% in 2022, and an 80% cut after that.

The board of directors is spending the next few months collecting feedback from our community on how to right-size our organization and priorities. We hope you interacted with us at in-person events, and we will be offering online ways to engage this fall and winter. NENA will roll out the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan at our annual meeting in April 2022. For more information and updates, visit nokomiseast.org/planning/

Keewaydin park planning

Over the summer, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) has been collecting community feedback on an improvements project at Keewaydin Park, based on the park's master plan that was adopted in 2016. For more information, visit www.minneapolis-parks.org and search for 'keewaydin.'

Improvements will focus on constructing nature play, an adventure playground with a climbing/bouldering element – the first of its kind in the Minneapolis park system – and decommissioning the existing wading pool. The final

plan is expected in December, and construction is planned for 2022.

Staying in Place grants

NENA is pleased to offer our Staying in Place grant program through its nonprofit partner, Rebuilding Together Twin Cities.

Staying in Place Grants help vulnerable adults (lower-income households, seniors, residents living with a disability, and/or veterans) address outstanding housing maintenance issues. Rebuilding Together Twin Cities will provide access to needed funds to help these property owners living on fixed incomes make repairs to live safely in place with economic stability.

Offered Services:

- Safe at Home: Provide home safety and fall prevention modifications and ramps for older adults and individuals living with a disability.
- Home Repair: Provide volunteer-delivered repairs, including weatherizing, cleaning, installing flooring, patching and painting, siding, and landscaping, and timely contractor-delivered repair or replacement of essential systems, such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, outer envelope, and roofs.

For more information, call Rebuilding Together Twin Cities at (651) 776-4273.

Home security rebates

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

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



NENA's Home Security Rebates are for homeowners, renters, and residential property owners in the four Nokomis East neighborhoods of Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, and Wenonah.

Eligible participants can apply for up to \$500 in matching grant funds. This is a one-to-one matching grant and a rebate project. Examples of eligible improvements may include but are not limited to doors, motion lights for your home, garage, and alley, alarm, and camera systems. Ineligible expenses include window bars, ongoing maintenance and cost of security systems, and landscaping. Visit NENA's website at nokomiseast.org/homesecurity/ for more program information and to apply.

Upcoming online meetings

12/7/2021: NENA Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee at 6:30 p.m.

12/9/2021: NENA Green Initiatives Committee at 6:30 p.m.

12/16/2021: NENA Board of Directors at 6:30 p.m.

More at www.nokomiseast.org.

LCC HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rachel Boeke is the new executive director of the Longfellow Community Council. She follows interim director Amy Brugh. Longtime executive director Melanie Majors left in June 2021. The LCC has moved out of its offices at 2727 26th Ave S. and is operating remotely. Learn more about Boeke in an upcoming feature story in the Messenger. Citizens can help guide the work of LCC's new Equitable Housing Committee. The EHC is working to identify what issues related to housing in Greater Longfellow to focus on. Talk about the housing issues you have experienced or witnessed in the neighborhood, and be given a link to enter a drawing to win a \$25 Holiday Gas Station gift card.

English: <https://forms.gle/ZiZVHi33SkN8WY7G7>

Spanish: <https://forms.gle/ZHQ8ksZXJnDK9ahL6>

Somali: <https://forms.gle/xJ4fmvk2RqN3jX9eA>



SHOP NOKOMIS 2021: #NokomisTreasures Contest

We're excited to announce our next initiative to support our vibrant Nokomis East business community! This winter, we're kicking off THREE special efforts.

Nokomis East Shopping Guide

We created a special promotional insert for the December issue of the *Messenger*! This flyer will reach 10,000 people in the Nokomis neighborhood and remind them that their Nokomis businesses have it all, whether they need something for the holiday season or all year long.

#NokomisTreasures Contest

Do you love #NokomisLife? It's time to share pics of your favorite #NokomisTreasures and tell the world #NokomisRocks!

From now through Dec. 31, visit your favorite Nokomis business and share pics of your favorite #NokomisTreasures on IG for a chance to win prizes! We'll have FOUR themed prize packs featuring what Nokomis East has to offer, including: Outdoors & Health, Arts & Culture, Home & Family, and Food & Drink.

Want a chance to win? Just use our favorite hashtags: #Nokomis-

Nokomis East Business Association

By PATRICK JENSON, co-chair
www.nokomiseastba.com



Life #NokomisRocks #ShopNokomis #NokomisTreasures OR tag @NokomisEastBA to get entered into our drawing. The more you post, the more chances to win! We'll announce the lucky winners the week of Jan. 3.

Are you a business with a prize you want to include? Contact amy@bullshornfoodanddrink.com.

@NokomisEastBA Instagram Rebrand

We recently rebranded our IG account so it's easier than ever to share how much #NokomisRocks!

Does your business have classes, specials, gift recommendations, or other #NokomisTreasures to share? Just TAG us at @Nokomis-EastBA so we can help spread the word!

Plan It

Seward Winter Frolic

It's a holiday tradition! In the Seward neighborhood (from Highway 94 to 27th Street, and West River Parkway to Hiawatha), artists have been celebrated as part of the Seward Winter Frolic for the past 22 years. It started as a neighborhood art crawl in the autumn with a few artists and has grown into an event in 2021 that virtually and live showcases a variety of artists, galleries, theater, dance and music venues located throughout the Seward neighborhood in Minneapolis. This holiday cele-

bration Dec. 1-31, 2021 is a great way to connect with and support the amazing array of Seward Artists, Galleries and performance venues.

For a detailed listing of artists and venues or for information on how to register to be part of the Seward Winter Frolic, visit www.sewardarts.org.

Fire & Ice Caroling

Join a festive time singing outdoors around firepits and luminaries. Gather at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19 on the circle drive at Trinity of Minnehaha

Falls (corner of 40th Avenue and 52nd Street) for Fire & Ice Caroling. "Bundle up and enjoy singing favorite Christmas carols along with a sharing of the Christmas story while sipping a warm beverage. Everyone is welcome!" say organizers.

No Coast Craft-o-Rama

The 2021 Holiday No Coast Craft-o-Rama is set for Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Midtown Global Market. Enjoy 45 great local artists for a handmade holiday shopping fest.



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CRISIS HOTLINE

Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a dangerous relationship or needs to create a safety plan.

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HOME DESIGN

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SERVICES

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www.bethlehemcov.org
Pastor Colleen Nelson
(Handicapped Accessible)
Worship Service - 9:30 AM
All sermons can be found online

Senior Pastor Gregg Taylor, Minister of Preaching Steven Belton
Reaching & rebuilding in the Central Neighborhood. 100+ years of lively worship and diverse congregation.
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Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthmpls.org
Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay
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In-person, or Live-Streaming on FB @ EpworthUMCMPLS
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- Email for zoom link!

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

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 am
Bible class at 10:15 am Sunday

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Pastor Matt Oxendale
10:30 Sunday worship in person & online
Dec. 19 - Outdoor caroling 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve 4:00 & 10:00 p.m.
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 p.m.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.org
Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom
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Get the word out. GET A CLASSIFIED.



Want ads must be received by the Messenger by Dec. 13 for the Tuesday, Dec. 28 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

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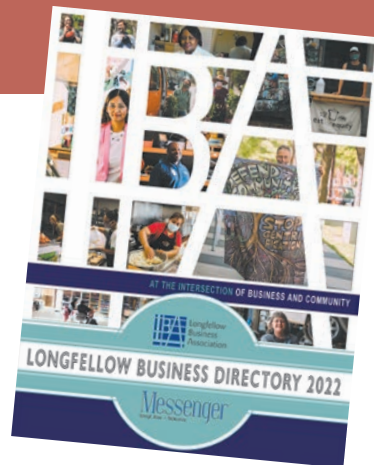
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IT IS THE SEASON TO SHOP SMALL!
Longfellow guide for local giving, gifting & getting out!

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WHY SHOP SMALL THIS SEASON?

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- ✓ Find unique and customizable gifts or gift an experience
- ✓ Our businesses are still recovering from the pandemic
- ✓ Local businesses create local jobs
- ✓ Turn your transaction into a conversation



The holiday season is the perfect time to spread cheer and offer good tidings to your local businesses. When you Shop Small, you're not just supporting neighborhood favorites – you're investing in your community.

Shop Small by using the local coupon flyer sent in November or snag a copy of the 2022 Longfellow Business Directory in this Messenger edition and enjoy an introduction to all of the small business in the neighborhood.



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