

# SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • FEBRUARY 3, 2022 • VOL. 1 • NO. 3



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Nan Marie Zosel of Kingfield is energized by dancing with others at the corner of Bde Maka Ska Boulevard and Lake Street. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

## DANCING IN THE STREETS

Since March 2020, they've been gathering to 'feel their feelings' and repair the world through community dance

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

When the world shut down in March 2020, Kingfield resident Nan Marie Zosel knew she couldn't just stay home. So she headed out to the corner of 40th and Nicollet and began to dance.

She was joined by others, and they've continued to gather every Friday night. Currently, chance2dance is at the southwest corner of Bde Mka Ska Boulevard and Lake Street from 4-5 p.m.

"We love the sunset view and fresh energy. In heat, and sleet, on frigid, sub zero days, in the rain, and the soft spring sunshine. COVID-19 restrictions have eased, and yet we find we can't abandon the life giving practice of dancing in the streets," said Zosel.



Artist Jill Waterhouse performs as the Goddess of the Glaciers during the Ice Shanty event on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022. She wove her story with song, blessed seekers of wisdom with her ice wand, and granted wishes to the young at heart. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)



## COMPETITION FOR SPACE ALONG E. HENNEPIN

With limited space, bicycle and bus lanes win out over parking in city's proposal for redoing main street through Uptown

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

In a one-way presentation on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, city staff acknowledged that there are competing desires for E. Hennepin Ave., and they can't all be addressed in the final plan.

In the comments made so far, some want support for better bike lanes. Other are concerned there isn't enough on-street parking. There is support for bus-only lanes. People are concerned about traffic congestion on Hennepin Ave. and also on neighboring streets. There is interest in

pedestrian-friendly streets with greening, sidewalk cafes, and sustainable stormwater features. Some have asked that the project be delayed.

"There is a finite amount of space," stated city senior transportation planner Becca Hughes.

The proposed plan removes 92% of parking, dropping 311 existing spots down to 20 parking/loading spaces. Meters will be added to encourage turnover. It designates



This rendering by architect Marcelo Valdes shows a renovated space at the St. Anthony Main Theater.

## MPS FILM BUYS, RENOVATES ST. ANTHONY MAIN THEATER

All five auditoriums will show MPS Film offerings in April

By **Jan Willms**

A long-time dream of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Film Society (MSP Film) is about to come to fruition. The site of the MSP Film Society at St. Anthony Main Theatre, 115 SE Main in Minneapolis, has closed, but will reopen its doors in April to an expanded film experience for its viewers. It will also be open for the MSP International Film Festival slated for spring,

which was held virtually in 2021.

Instead of the one auditorium available for showings during the year, all five auditoriums will have MSP Film offerings as the organization takes over operation of the entire theater, relaunching it as MSP Film at the Main.

"We have had a lot of theaters close in the last couple years," said Susan Smoluchowski, executive director of MSP Film, "including Edina and the Uptown. The owners came to us and asked if we might think about moving (to those theaters). It seemed very clear to us that we would prefer to stay where we are, on the river."





# HOW TO HANDLE SUMMER CAMP QUESTIONS IN THE PANDEMIC ERA



Choosing a summer camp is not always so easy, and it is especially tricky as the world continues to manage the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The following are some tips for parents as they consider if camp is a good idea this summer.

## Consider your comfort level.

It's understandable if parents are hesitant about sending their children to camp this summer. In fact, some camps may still be closed while others may only offer limited camps. Some are offering mostly outdoor options, while others have set up safety protocols for indoor camps that mimic how schools have managed things. Camp organizers continue to remain flexible and pay attention to latest recommendations from the CDC. Without state or federal mandates, individual protocols can vary greatly. Parents should consider their comfort levels before enrolling kids in camp. Vaccines have proven effective, but COVID-19 hasn't gone away, and vaccines also have yet to be offered to children under 4. Parents can ask themselves how comfortable they are sending kids to camp, and if they're hesitant to do so they can explore their alternatives.

## Ask children if they want to go to camp.

Everyone is experiencing some measure of pandemic-related burnout, and that includes kids. Kids may be sick of wearing masks at school all day and, even if they have loved camp in the past, may not be looking forward to wearing masks all day at camp this summer. Others might not be experiencing such burnout and may see camp as a way to quell boredom at a time when boredom has seemingly lingered over every day. Either way, solicit kids' input and let them know their feelings matter regardless of which side of the fence they're on.



## Inquire about safety protocols.

When researching summer camps, ask about the safety protocols each camp will have in place. Will masks be mandatory for both campers and staff? How much direct interaction will campers have with each other? Have staff members been vaccinated? What measures are being taken to keep kids safe? Camps should have detailed protocols and share those protocols with parents upon request.

## Ask about alternatives.

If parents and/or children are hesitant about attending camp in person, ask camp officials if there will be any virtual events or programs this summer. Some camps may be organizing activities like craft projects online, and that can help kids overcome the boredom of being stuck at home all summer.

Summer camps may not be fully back to normal in 2022. However, families can pick and chose from offerings to find options that work for them.

## BENEFITS OF SUMMER CAMP

### 1 Explore talents

Summer camps help young people explore their unique interests and talents. Under an organized, yet often easygoing, camp schedule, kids can dabble in sports, arts and crafts, leadership, community support, and so many other activities that may not be fully available to them elsewhere.

### 2 Physical activity

Lots of camps build their itineraries around physical activities that takes place outdoors. Campers may spend their time swimming, running, hiking, playing sports, climbing, and so much more. Regular physical activity has many health benefits and can set a foundation for healthy habits as an adult.

### 3 Gain confidence

Day and sleepaway camps offer campers the opportunity to get comfortable in their own skin. Camps can foster activities in self-esteem by removing the academic measures of success and fill in with noncompetitive opportunities to succeed. Campers learn independence and decision-making skills.

### 4 Try new things

Camp gives children the chance to try new things, whether that's learning to cook, exploring new environments or embracing a new sport or leisure activity. Opening oneself up to new opportunities can build character and prove enlightening for children.

### 5 Make new friends

Camp is a great place to meet new people and make lifelong friends. Campers flood in from areas near and far. This provides kids with a chance to expand their social circles beyond their immediate neighborhoods and schools.



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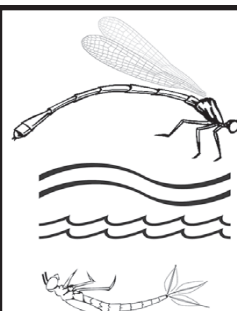
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## GREEN LINE TO OPEN 2027

The METRO Green Line Extension recently provided long-sought clarity regarding the anticipated completion of civil construction and opening day. Civil construction is now anticipated to be complete in 2025, and the project is now scheduled to open for service in 2027. In addition to the contingency funds, project leaders estimate needing an additional \$450 million to \$550 million to finish the project.

“While this news is frustrating for many, we will continue to provide reliable and timely information to make sure the community is informed about ongoing and new construction activities. We will continue to share updates on trail and roadway openings. In addition, we look forward to highlighting and celebrating reaching milestones of significant project elements including LRT stations and bridges this year,” Met Council wrote in an email update.

A number of major elements have been added to this construction phase through change orders since the initial contract:

- Constructing a barrier protection wall between the BNSF freight and LRT tracks, as part of the safety agreement with BNSF
- Changing construction methods to include a secant (retaining) wall for the Kenilworth Tunnel in Minneapolis, due to proximity to and sensitivity of nearby structures
- Adding the construction of the Eden Prairie Town Center station, originally deferred but added back in to meet community priorities



Construction of the corridor protection wall between Bryn Mawr Station and Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis continues throughout the winter. Crews are seen preparing to pour concrete panels that form the wall. (Photo courtesy Met Transit)

These changes are significant elements that add time, cost, and complexity to the project. Project leaders and the contractor have been working to reorder the milestones remaining on the project. This reordering means that the track, stations, and structures phase is anticipated to be completed in 2025, and service would be launched sometime in 2027.

“We learn from each of these unique projects the need to be flexible and responsive, particular to community and funding part-

ners,” said Met Council Chair Charlie Zelle. “In hindsight, we really could have done more to help illustrate and communicate the potential complications that come with a project of this magnitude. While the cost and time needed to finish this project are significant, it’s still more cost-effective than projects in other parts of the country. As we’ve done since this project began 40 years ago, we will work with our project partners to finish this important piece of our system.”

More @ [GreenLineExt.org](https://www.greenlineext.org)

## Minneapolis City Council

# PALMISANO ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

By **Cam Gordon**

On Jan. 10, 2022, the new Minneapolis City Council met for the first time and elected two southwest area council members to lead the council this term. Ward 8 Council Member Andrea Jenkins was elected president and Ward 13 Council Member Linnea Palmisano vice-president.



Linnea Palmisano

At the meeting the council also approved committee assignments, Casey Carl to continue as city clerk, and the council meeting calendar for 2022.

While the election of former Vice President Jenkins, to be president was unanimous, the election of vice-president was contested with both Ward 1 Council Member Eliot Payne, and Palmisano seeking the seat. Council Member Jeremiah Ellison from the 5th Ward nominated Payne, and Council Member Lisa Goodman, from the 7th, nominated Palmisano.

There were also two competing proposals for committee assignments, one offered by Jenkins, who supported Palmisano for vice-president, and one offered by Payne.

After some discussion, the council voted 8 to 5 to approve Palmisano as Vice President and the Jenkins committee structure. The five who voted in the minority were Payne, Rodin Wonsley Worlobah, Jason Chavez, Aisha Chughtai, and Jeremiah Ellison.

One of the big winners, in terms of the number of assignments and likely getting the heaviest workload, is Palmisano. She is now vice-president, chair of the Committee of the Whole, chair of the Government Structure Subcommittee, vice-chair of the Budget Committee and chair of the Audit Committee, which will likely be taking on a bigger role under the government structure charter change. She is also a member of the Public Health and Public Safety Committee.

Another southwest council member, Emily Koski from Ward 11, will chair the Budget Committee. She is only one of two new council members who will be chairing a committee. The other is council member Latrishs Vetaw, who will be chair the Public Health and Safety Committee. Koski will also serve on the Audit Committee.

Almost all matters acted on by city council are reviewed first by a committee, where they may be revised before being considered by the full council. Committee chairs are responsible for both setting the agendas and running the meetings. They tend to work closely with staff and can influence priorities, work plans and timetables of committees.

For more about committee roles, responsibilities, and membership see <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/about-city-council/committees/>.



Emily Koski

## ►1 E. HENNEPIN

24/7 bus-only lanes and leaves one lane for vehicles in each direction instead of the two that are there now. It narrows vehicle lanes so that the crossing distance drops from 60 feet to between 50-54 for pedestrians and bikers.

Medians will be installed to restrict left turns at all intersections except 22nd, 24th, 26th and 28th. Left turns will be restricted at most signals from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Seven driveways will be closed.

Sidewalks ranging from six to eight feet will be added on both sides of the roadway, along with bike-only lanes that are eight to 10-feet wide on the east side.

City staff pointed out that Hennepin Ave. is on the city’s high injury network, and pedestrians and bicyclists are over-re-

resented in crashes. It is also on the city’s pedestrian priority network.

About 200 people attended a virtual open house. City staff gave a presentation, and then picked questions to answer from those submitted anonymously directly to them. Attendees could not see who else was in attendance or hear their statements. There was no chat feature.

City staff observed that this plan follows the city’s transportation action plan which prioritizes transit options over parking, increases transit reliability, and encourages people to use transit. Additionally, “This is an important bicycle corridor in the city,” said Hughes.

“There’s a lot of competition for space.”

Learn more about the project details at [www.swconnector.com](https://www.swconnector.com).



### BUSINESSES SUBMIT LETTER TO CITY

In all, 115 Uptown businesses collectively asked the city to conduct “a more thorough analysis, update studies and ultimately begin to incorporate the views, suggestions, and proposals of the Hennepin Avenue business community into a new plan for Hennepin Avenue that is truly inclusive for all.”

They submitted a letter stating:

- “Pre-2020 assessments and assumptions used to inform the design are no longer valid or should be re-evaluated.
- “Design alternatives were not adequately examined. Eight months ago, we were presented with Options A and B. We made it clear we needed to see additional alternatives; nothing was offered. Specifically, a third option with suggested modifications which led to a compromised design was requested but never considered or presented.
- “The elimination of parking along Hennepin from over 300 stalls down to 20 puts an undue hardship on businesses that are trying to recover from civil unrest, high criminal activity, and the pandemic.

“The design failure of Hennepin Avenue South between Lake Street and 31st Street is a glimpse into what the future holds on the current path. That first phase has led to a blighted urban space in the heart of our neighborhood. It is directly responsible for the exodus of longtime merchants and has created unfortunate vehicular flow and parking issues. Allowing for meaningful participation from the most directly affected stakeholders will ensure a better outcome for all.”

Judy Longbottom of the UPS Store (2801 Hennepin Ave. S.) signed the letter. She recently spent over \$200,000 moving and remodeling for the future. “We are fortunate to have some dedicated parking, and even with that cars are parking illegally in the bus lane daily in front of our store or across the street at the meters and running across Hennepin Avenue traffic to drop packages, pickup sandwiches and run their errands,” said Longbottom. “The need for parking is significant and should not be ignored.” She added, “The amount of space being provided in this corridor for bicycles in our climate just does not make any sense with the finite amount of space on Hennepin Avenue. Some of this space could be used for parking cars. Cars provide necessary customers which sustains commerce which drives our tax dollars which helps keep a vibrant city alive and thriving.”

## PLAN IT

### ‘GICHIGAMI HEARTS’ EVENT



Birchbark Books in Minneapolis will host a virtual event for the new book “Gichigami Hearts: Stories and Histories from Misaabekong” by Duluth author Linda LeGarde Grover on Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. Grover will give a short talk and reading, as well as take questions from the audience. Long before there was a Duluth, Minn., the massive outcropping that divides the city emerged from the ridge of gabbro rock running along the westward shore of Lake Superior. A great westward migration carried the Ojibwe people to this place, the Point of Rocks. Against this backdrop – Misaabekong, the place of the giants – the lives chronicled in Linda LeGarde Grover’s book unfold, some in myth, some in long-ago times, some in an imagined present, and some in the author’s family history, all with a deep and tenacious bond to the land, one another, and the Ojibwe culture.

Within the larger history, Grover tells the story of her ancestors’ arrival at the American Fur Post in far western Duluth more than 200 years ago. Their fortunes and the family’s future are inextricably entwined with tales of marriages to voyageurs, relocations to reservation lands, encounters with the spirits of the lake and wood creatures, the renewal of life—in myth and in art, the search for meaning in the transformations of our day is always vital.

### ECLECTIC ORGAN MUSIC MARCH 27

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents Dr. David Hurd in an organ recital of eclectic music with improvisations. The recital takes place at 4 p.m., on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis. This event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the event if pandemic conditions allow.



# PUBLIC SAFETY STARTS WITH ACCOUNTABILITY

We need a community approach to stop the violence and start the healing in Minneapolis

Minneapolis has a public safety crisis. Violent crime is up, and young people are at the heart of the problem. We need all hands on deck to find a solution.

Tray Pollard is one of those people taking the lead. Pollard is the founder and CEO of We Push for Peace, a nonprofit community organization based in Uptown that is working to reduce and deter crime by providing community-building and work training services to those in need. Pollard grew up in Chicago and turned his life around after spending over a decade in prison. Now, with We Push for Peace, Pollard is working to make a difference in the lives of our youth and community.

"As much as I want to try and reach every kid, I can't. I know that is not realistic," Pollard said at a Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association Talk. "So the ones that I do come in contact with, I want to be most effective with. Honestly, it takes time. In that time is where you are building that relationship. And when you are building relationships, you are building trust. And when you are building trust, then you can effectively get these young men and women that we work with the help that they need."

Pollard shared the story of a 17-year-old young man who had an aggravated assault and weapons charge as a juvenile. He wanted to change his ways after having a baby daughter but said he needed help. He started going to We Push for Peace sessions twice a week. Pollard helped him get an entry-level cashier job at Whole Foods. In under two months, he was a supervisor.



By **Eric Ortiz**

Then he went through their training program to become an assistant manager.

Some kids are harder to reach than others. Pollard told another story of a 14-year-old young man with an extraordinary mother but no consistent male figure in his life. Before Pollard could work with this young man, he had nine felonies in 18 months. After he got out of a juvenile facility, he ran away from home, and within four days after being gone for nine months, he had committed the same crime.

"It's real. It's heartbreaking," said Pollard. "I don't advocate for anyone to be incarcerated or locked up. ... That's just the reality of what we're dealing with. I've had several conversations with this young man, and he was just totally uninterested. So the plan now is to keep him facilitated until he turns 21. I don't advocate for that. But that's the best place for him to be."

Pollard is not giving up on him and plans to visit him after he is incarcerated again. The young man will also need additional help and support behind bars to change his ways when he returns to society.

"That's where we fail at a lot," explained Pollard. "What I mean by that is he's going in at 14. He's coming out when he's 21. What services do we have for him while he's there to try to help him be rehabilitated? ... I want to make sure those services are still provided for him wherever they wind up sending him."

Childhood trauma is one of the biggest contributors to crime and violence. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 64 percent of adults have at least one traumatic childhood experience, compared to 97 percent of the prison population. Early childhood trauma impacts brain development, emo-

tional regulation, impulse control and increases the risk of addiction. If a person is unable to manage anger and impulses, it is very hard to keep a job and be a positive contributor to their community.

We need to find new ways to reach the traumatized to stop the violence and start the healing. This is no easy task. There is no universal fix to break intergenerational cycles of violence and trauma. But the revolving door of justice with no support system for rehabilitation doesn't help anyone.

To break the cycles of violence and trauma, everyone in the public safety puzzle – from community members and parents to police officers, local government leaders, prosecutors, judges and policymakers – has to be accountable. We have to show compassion and wisdom. Community mentorship and support systems can fill the gaps. And they need more resources.

The Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) plans to help. LHENA was chosen as the neighborhood to pilot a Community Public Safety Partnership program. This program is through the Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention and is a partnership of Restorative Justice Community Action, Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute (Peacebuilding), and community leader Manu Lewis. The goal is to create a public safety model that works.

Learn more at [bit.ly/mplspublicsafety](https://bit.ly/mplspublicsafety).

**Eric Ortiz** lives in the Wedge with his family. When he's not community building, he's the director of media for Granite Media and writes bilingual children's books with his kids. Their first book was "How the Zookalex Saved the Village," available in English and Spanish on Amazon.

## GLAD YOU'RE PUBLISHING



LETTERS

It was great to see the *Southwest Connector* hit our front step to start to fill the void left by the *Southwest Journal*... thanks for doing that.

**Robbin Burnham**  
**WACSO (Walkin' Around Checkin' Stuff Out)**  
[www.wascowashere.com](http://www.wascowashere.com)

We saw in the *Star Tribune* that you've started publishing, but haven't seen the *Connector* in our Lowry Hill neighborhood. Will you be delivering in this area? Thank you!

**Jeannine Lee**

## SWC RESPONSE

Yes! Lowry Hill is in the *Southwest Connector* delivery area. However, we are still building up our carrier network and do not currently have all the staff we need to distribute to every front door yet. Until we get to your neighborhood, you can find a bulk drop location in southwest on our website.

**Southwest Connector team**

I find it quite ironic that businesses and residents in the Linden Hills Business District are opposed to the BRT stop in Linden Hills. The fact that there is a Linden Hills Business District is due to the presence of a mass transit line from over 100 years ago. The BRT is today's version of the trolley, providing timely and frequent service through the neighborhood connecting it to Southdale, Uptown, Downtown, and the U of M. The loss of eight parking spots will be offset by the ability that I and others in these connecting areas of line E will have to visit Linden Hills businesses without relying on my car. If we are serious about combatting climate change, we need to focus on other modes of transportation besides personal cars and always prioritizing them over BRT, trains, bikes, and walking. We've prioritized personal cars for the last 80 years, it's time to prioritize the alternatives. If we don't, there will be a lot more than eight trees missing from Linden Hills.

PS - Congratulations on the new paper. I can't wait to see it on my front porch.

**Jonathan Beck**  
**East Isles**

Thank you for starting the southwest newspaper. At our house, we have missed the *Southwest Journal*.

In the *Journal*, the column most commented on in our neighborhood was the one covering business openings and closings. Next most frequent was the column on housing / construction developments in process. It would be great if you could cover those.

Thanks. I'll look forward to the next issue!

**John Keyes**

We want to hear from you.

[news@SWconnector.com](mailto:news@SWconnector.com)

## Anthropoidea

By Stewart Huntington



## SOUTHWEST Connector

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### The *Connector* is for profit and for a purpose

– and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white, both/and. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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# WHAT DOES 'UNBIASED' REALLY MEAN?

What does it mean to be impartial? Unbiased? Credible?

Is a juror unable to be impartial if they have family or personal experience with police brutality?

Or, does having experience with something give them an edge up because they have inside knowledge that others don't? Do they know not only how it should be but how it actually is?

Is a police officer or neighborhood association worker or city employee compromised in their ability to make decisions for the good of all if they live where they work? Are they more prone to bribery or favors? Are they held to a higher standard because their kids go to school with the people they're serving?

These are questions our community is wrestling with.

They are questions I ask myself every day as a community journalist.

What does 'unbiased' really mean?

I was trained that the highest standard a journalist could hold themselves to was reporting the facts without bias. It begs the question: what does 'bias' really mean? And also, is that what our highest standard should be?

We all know that our own thoughts and ideas influence our word choices. It plays into who we opt to talk to for articles and what part of the conversation we choose to include.

We've tried to get past that by saying there are two sides to every story, and so we need to make sure both sides make it



By **Tesha M. Christensen**

into an article. But aren't there actually more than two sides? We do a disservice to ourselves and others by pretending there is merely a pro side and a con side. If we dig in, we actually learn that those in "favor" of a project often share concerns with the "anti" side. And vice versa. It is rare to find whole groups of people that are so much the same that all their reasons are exactly the same. If that happens, we can likely point to a propaganda campaign or a totalitarian government.

These were things we were already thinking about. And then Donald Trump happened. When one source is telling lies, should those mistruths and half truths be part of a news article? Should they be given equal weight? Or is the reporter then perpetuating fake news items?

When one side is backed by power and authority, when they pay lobbyists and staff whole departments of communication staff and information officers, should we give them the same weight as a community member working to get their voice heard?

I've wrestled with these questions for some time, and I've landed on the side of amplifying community members.

I appreciate questions that come to my in-box asking why we've made an editorial decision. Why did we run a story featuring public comments about reopening George Floyd Square to traffic without getting a comment from the mayor's office?

For one, it is pretty easy for them to ignore a small neighborhood operation like us, and to not get back to us when we reach out to them. (Note: this wasn't the case with the public comment article.) We're working on pointing that out in articles so that you know we tried, and they

didn't reciprocate.

Many times (as was the case with the public comment article), you've heard what they have to say because they hold press conferences and have a big pulpit to speak from. This isn't something we all have access to. The folks who live around George Floyd Square don't have their own television stations or the ability to call a press conference that is attended by every media organization in the Twin Cities. But they did send in comments on a comment card to their city with the belief that they would be read and paid attention to.

We believe that those voices are valuable and important, and we're working to amplify them in our pages. We believe in grassroots efforts, and consider them foundational to our democracy. We ignore them at our own peril.

I don't think that makes the story biased or impartial. And it doesn't mean the reporter or the newspaper itself is biased either. We're not stating in the article what our opinion is about the issue. It's not a blog or a commentary (like this piece is). What we are doing is getting the word out there about something we know most people haven't heard about. We are stepping outside the echo chamber to bring you specific local coverage.

We live and work here. We talk to other people who live and work here.

Those are the folks you'll see in our news articles and feature stories, and they are the people writing columns. You can check the bylines because we are transparent.

Recently, the city insisted that to access funding, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association had to agree that they won't hire a person who lives in the neigh-

borhood as their executive director. Becky Timm is leaving, and NENA is looking for a replacement this spring. If there is a high-quality candidate who lives in Nokomis East, they won't be able to apply for the job.

When I talked to all the new executive directors coming into our neighborhood organizations and asked if they lived here, the answer was becoming a common "no." It was something I had been wondering about as it seemed a little strange to me. At the same time that we're having a larger community conversation about whether police might operate in a more ethical manner if they lived and worked in their own communities, our community leaders were increasingly coming from outside the neighborhoods they were managing. Now, I know why. It's a city directive tied to whether they get funding.

But it's not one I agree with.

I believe that the threads that bind us to each other make us stronger. They help us make decisions that build community. I'm going to write respectfully about the people I run into at the grocery store. We ask people to use their names on letters they submit and comments they leave on our social media channels. We seek to point out problems and talk about possible solutions.

And it's all because we strive to be considered credible by the people we live near and work with and care about.

We're part of this community.

Have an opinion about this? I'd love to hear it.



**Tesha M. Christensen** lives in south Minneapolis and owns the *Southwest Connector*, as well as the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger* and *Midway Como Frogtown Monitor*. Drop her a line at [tesha@swconnector.com](mailto:tesha@swconnector.com).

## LET'S TALK MORE ABOUT THE GF SQUARE SURVEY



I was so excited to see my first copy of the new *Southwest Connector* on my doorstep. The hole left behind by the shuttering of the *Southwest Journal* was large – and your publication appears to be helping to fill that in a bit. Excited to see what future issues bring.

That said, I was disturbed by the journalistic integrity of the article about the public input of the 38th and Chicago survey. This story is sham journalism – if you are going to tell a story, tell the WHOLE story, not just the part that fits a particular narrative.

Specifically, I'm referring to the fact that the article is exclusively referencing the March 2021 interim design survey ([https://www.minneapolis.gov/media/-www-content-assets/documents/38th-and-Chicago-Interim-Design-Survey-Summary\\_Minneapolis-Public-Works.pdf](https://www.minneapolis.gov/media/-www-content-assets/documents/38th-and-Chicago-Interim-Design-Survey-Summary_Minneapolis-Public-Works.pdf)), the focus of which was solely to determine what the best option was for a reopened intersection. The March 2021 survey was specifically a follow-up survey to a September 2020 survey that the city took, winter interim design options which asked the neighborhood what they wanted to see happen with the intersection. In that initial survey, 65% of survey respondents expressed a desire for the streets to be reopened (just 19% wanted to keep the streets closed indefinitely). Also of note, the initial September 2020 survey had 929 respondents, while the March 2021 survey had 685 responses (your writer changed the total number to include responses received after the survey deadline so the figures reported in your article are different than those in the engagement summary that was issued by the city).

The fact that many survey respondents in the sec-

ond survey chose to editorialize about a third "option" to keep the intersection closed is irrelevant – the first survey established that a majority wanted the intersection reopened and the stated purpose of the second survey was to determine what the best option for doing so was.

I had a chuckle at your ad "We're Shocked, Simply Shocked!" about the importance of advertising to the 65+ audience because newspapers are a media they trust. Well, I'm not 65 yet, but I adore newspapers and I'm a big fan of reading them – but I also don't hesitate to point out inconsistencies or errors when I see them. Hopefully they will be few and far between in the future.

**Sincerely yours,  
Henrik Nordstrom**

### SWC RESPONSE

It's problematic to cast the fall 2020 questionnaire (called "winter interim design options") as a direct precursor to the spring 2021 interim design survey. According to the city's Oct. 21, 2020 presentation, the questionnaire was "not intended to be scientific." It also covered a much different, broader geographic area. Of 929 respondents, 28% indicated they live farther than a mile away, and fewer than half (40%) indicated that they "regularly travel through 38th and Chicago." By contrast, the spring survey was sent to approximately 4,000 households within a half-mile radius of 38th and Chicago.

In its fall questionnaire engagement summary, the city suggests it was a useful tool for quickly gathering information but acknowledged it "only captured a small portion of the total stakeholder population" (approximately 34,000 people live within a one-mile radius of 38th and Chicago). The summary does not indicate how many total questionnaires were distributed, but based on geography alone, a large number of respondents differed from one survey to the next. Unlike the spring survey summary, the fall summary does

give weight to feedback received. In presenting a percentage in favor of reopening the streets, however, it doesn't indicate how many, exactly, selected which of those options, nor does it give supporting information for its assertion that respondents "generally requested that the street be reopened to traffic." That nearly half of respondents to the spring survey offered additional feedback suggests a strong desire for more public input. It was in the spirit of transparency and painting a bigger picture that all spring surveys, including those returned after the deadline, were counted, and written comments were made available to the public. These are online.

View the story and all the comments online at [www.swconnector.com](http://www.swconnector.com).

**Southwest Connector team**

### A SUGGESTION

Congratulations and thank you for the *Southwest Connector*! Community newspapers, in my mind, are more important now than ever!

As a long time south Minneapolis resident who is now a Northerner, I have found a real need not being addressed by any other south paper ~ a listing of church events. I admit that I am no church goer, but my mother and I simply love church events and festivities.

In the *Northeast* newspaper Margo Ashmore and her excellent staff cover a great many churches. (The NE is littered with them!) And, there is a website specifically announcing events. I think it would be wonderful to have a one-stop spot for the same in the south. Just one woman's opinion.

Thank you for your time and best of luck to you!

**Carin Peterson**  
VP~ Sheridan Neighborhood Organization

## MEET OUR DESIGNER

In his more than 20 years of experience, Mexico City graphic artist Andoni Aldasoro has redesigned



magazines and newspapers in Mexico, Canada and the United States. His desire to collaborate with significant media has led him to seek small newspapers, with deep roots and commitment to community. Aldasoro is a dedicated reader, publications enthusiast, music lover, husband of an excellent photographer and father of a little purple whirlwind. He can be found planning the next redesign and drinking coffee (with cream and no sugar, please). More at [www.andonialdasoro.com](http://www.andonialdasoro.com)

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## 1 DANCING IN THE STREETS

### WHAT INSPIRED THE DANCE GROUP?

Zosel: Since March of 2020, I've been dancing at the intersection of 40th and Nicollet, each week, usually for an hour or so. When the pandemic hit, I headed out. If there was a contagious disease to contend with, I figured I would be needing fresh air, sunshine, and MOVEMENT. The gyms were closed, the clubs were closed, and my living room was too small. People said "We just have to hunker down." I said, "I do not hunker." Gradually I began inviting friends, family, and neighbors to join me in a practice many folks describe as "Silent Disco" although we are dancing to our own individual soundtracks. The corner of 40th and Nicollet is oddly spacious, and allowed us to maintain the safe distances recommended by the CDC.

Most of us use ear buds and phones. One regular attendee struggled with an old iPod. He was a bit older than me, so I said, "I bet you have a boombox in your basement." He said, "How did you know?" "Just guessing." We began to realize that the presence of the boom box or speakers made the practice more accessible to small children and folks without phones or streaming services. Live music is encouraged, as well. We've had a saxophonist and bagpipes. Some of us sing along to our playlists, others add percussion, using construction markers, or tambourines and maracas.

We usually gather Fridays 4-5 p.m. November-March and 5-6 p.m. April-October due to daylight savings time. Recently we've been gathering at the southwest corner of Bde Mka Ska Blvd. and Lake St.

### WHO IS INVOLVED AND HOW HAS YOUR GROUP SHIFTED AND CHANGED?

Zosel: I send a weekly update via email to about 45 "regulars." We chat



Judy Atrubin jams during a chance2dance gathering on Jan. 21, 2022. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

back and forth about time adjustments. We also confer about location changes and "pop-ups" (gatherings in addition to our usual Friday events.). We average 10-12 dancers each Friday, and have had up to 30 at times. I think of myself as "ring-leader" supported and inspired by amazing fellow dancers.

We provide a space for dancing for folks who prefer not to be around drinking, and it's FREE - no gym membership needed. We do want our gatherings to be accessible to all. We have translated some of our signage and invites into Somali and Spanish, and hope to do more of this.

### WHAT FEEDBACK DO YOU RECEIVE?

Zosel: It's overwhelmingly positive. People wave, honk, wiggle their shoulders

as they drive by. Not everyone is called to participate, but most folks love that we are part of the community.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE OTHERS RECEIVE FROM THIS?

Zosel: Our invitation to move and groove on the corner always includes the exhortation to "feel your feelings." If you come upon us you will see joy and quiet contemplation, fierce strength and vulnerable sadness. Some dance in the shade, nearly hidden from view. Others wave and smile, trying to catch the eyes of passing motorists, bikers and pedestrians.

As a lifelong resident of Minneapolis I hope that our energy can witness to the fact that Minneapolis is a place where people can play safely.

### NAN'S TOP 10 DANCE-ABLE SONGS RIGHT NOW

1. "Freedom" by Jon Batiste
2. Disco version of "Sunny" by Boney M
3. "Don't Rain on My Parade" by Barbra Streisand
4. "Never Tear Us Apart" by Paloma Faith (INXS cover)
5. "Bad Guy" by the Interrupters
6. "Hello Hello Hello" by Remi Wolf
7. "Water Me" by Lizzo
8. "Feel It Still" by Portugal the Man
9. "True" by Spandau Ballet
10. "Rattle My Bones" by The Suburbs

### HOW DOES IT BENEFIT YOU?

Zosel: I'm pretty healthy and happy and credit the weekly dancing. And I am so grateful to the fellow dancers who join me, and to the folks who wave and honk. It helps me feel connected to this beloved community. I also get to feel that I am part of the Hebrew exhortation "Tikkun Olam" or "repair the world." We all have a way to be with the world, and this is my way.

### HOW DOES THIS BUILD COMMUNITY?

Zosel: We have participated in many community events, Art Shanties, Open Streets, a bridge opening, and "pole dancing" at election sites to encourage voting. In November 2020, when election results were confirmed, well over 100 neighbors spontaneously gathered at the humble corner of 40th and Nicollet, to wave flags, dance, and celebrate.

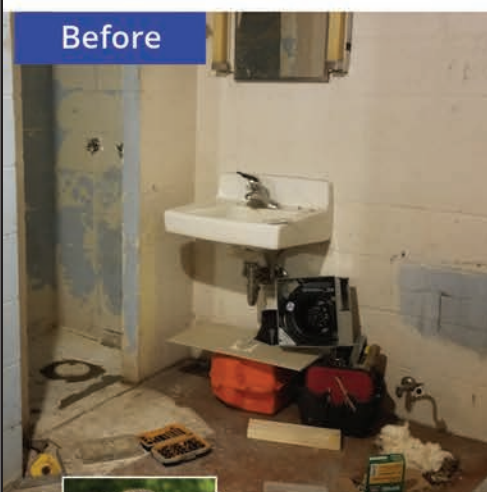
I'm grateful to "Don't You Feel It Too," Minnesota Dancers Collective, Kingfield Neighborhood Association and Dance Church Minneapolis for their support and inspiration.

For more, email [nandancez40@gmail.com](mailto:nandancez40@gmail.com), and check them out on Instagram at [chance2dancemn](https://www.instagram.com/chance2dancemn).

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# TECH DUMP RECYCLES ALMOST ANYTHING WITH A CORD OR BATTERY

Refurbishing electronics reduces e-waste, provides living wage jobs

By Margie O'Loughlin

The non-profit electronics recycler Tech Dump just celebrated its 10th anniversary. With retail outlets now in St. Paul and Golden Valley, they provide an affordable, reliable source of refurbished computers across the metro. Their St. Paul location helps reduce e-waste by repurposing and recycling almost anything with a cord or battery – and they do all this while creating new job opportunities for people facing barriers to employment.



## WORK READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

Tech Dump Director of Advancement Emily Mauter said, "Each year, we provide tens of thousands of employment hours and over a million dollars in wages. Our goal for our two-stage, 18-month program is to address immediate stabilization needs for Work Readiness Employees (WREs). We offer training and paid employment, as WREs strive to become active creators of their own success."

"Our Work Readiness Program hires about 80 people every year. We estimate that 97% of participants have been incarcerated; and many have faced other challenges including homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, and learning disabilities."

"Any one or more of these challenges make it difficult to get a job with most companies. The first phase of our training offers 500 hours of full-time employment, and is usually completed in three months. The program is focused on getting staff used to the work environment, maybe again, or maybe for the first time."

"Our WREs start out in the sorting area, where the electronics go after they've been dropped off. In addition to separating materials into their components and learning our work flow, WREs establish accountability through showing up on time, recording their hours properly, interacting positively with co-workers, responding well to guidance, and more."

## SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

The second phase of the Work Readiness Program is for employees who



Both retail stores carry three main brands of computers: Dell, Hewlett-Packard, and Lenovo. Large quantities of computers are sold to schools and non-profits, but community members are welcome to shop, too. Wil James is the store manager of the St. Paul store. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

demonstrate interest in a longer term commitment, and are interested in other positions at Tech Dump. This phase lasts an additional 15 months.

Mauter said, "There are a lot of jobs out there right now. We offer many supportive services in addition to a paycheck. Because every job is a tech job to some extent now, we offer sessions on foundational computer skills. If you've been out of the workplace for a while, this is critical."

"Our Work Readiness employees start at \$13 an hour and can move up to \$16 an hour. Our supportive work environment includes on-site access to mental health therapy with a licensed social worker, and coaches who can guide employees through work situations like how to tell their story in a job interview."

"We have a goal of hiring 60% of our Work Readiness graduates as permanent employees; 20% of our leadership team graduated from that training program. At Tech Dump, we want everyone to move on to a job that suits them, is open to their circumstances, and provides a living wage."

We help our employees rebuild confidence while developing resume-worthy skills."

## DATA SECURITY, ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Derek Olson is a network engineer who has worked at Tech Dump for nine years. He said, "It's my job to identify what is valuable enough to be refurbished. When you recycle with Tech Dump, we guarantee all data is destroyed and your items will be responsibly refurbished or recycled. We are third-party audited according to strict industry standards."

"Tech Dump is an industry leader in electronics recycling, and one of the largest collectors of e-waste in the state of Minnesota."

"We are also a zero waste facility. We will not send your e-waste overseas. We repurpose and recycle as much as we can in our facility, and what we can't use is sent to a downstream recycler who can."

## WHY TECH RECYCLING MATTERS

The 92,000-square-foot warehouse



Members of the Work Readiness Program work in the tear down area, where electronics are broken down into their basic components. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Olson oversees is packed to the rafters. He said, "It's not apparent always to the eye, but a lot of environmental harm can be done by dealing with electronics irresponsibly. One example is the old style televisions that contain cathode ray tubes. Those are the ones that were common before flat screen TVs were invented."

"If one is left on the alley for solid waste pick-up, scrappers may break the screen in search of copper wire in and around the cathode ray tube. Once the glass is broken, lead dust is released into the air. TVs and monitors containing cathode ray tubes are expensive to recycle – you really have to care about the environmental harm they do. They contain lead in the glass and shielding components that make them unsafe and illegal to dispose of in a landfill. We have the capacity to deal with them responsibly."

Used electronics can be dropped off at St. Paul site, located at 860 Vandalia Street. A second location is in Golden Valley at 825 Boone Avenue North #100.

Excluding appliances, you can drop off almost anything with a cable, cord, or battery to be recycled or refurbished at the St. Paul Tech Dump location. To learn more about how Tech Dump is reducing e-waste while providing living wage jobs for people in the community, visit [www.techdump.org](http://www.techdump.org).

Laptops, notebooks, desktops, towers, servers, iPads, tablets, hard drives, routers, and modems are accepted at Tech Dump at no cost. There is a cost for recycling most other electronic; current cost estimates can be found on their website.

## REBUILD REPAIR RECYCLE

### Monthly section

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# ART IS NEVER GIVING UP ON YOUR DREAM

## THE ART OF...

Courtney Yasminah is a singer and songwriter here in the Twin Cities. She's written and recorded eight albums of original songs that fall into the categories of folk or rock or Americana. Courtney has taken her Minneapolis based backing band all over the U.S., and to Europe on 14 self-booked tours.

She performed her first original song on guitar when she was 10 years old at a big Lutheran church in Chicago where she sang in the choir, and she says she always knew that singing for people was all she ever wanted to do.

In 1978, when she was 17, her life changed dramatically when she fled the chaos of her parents' failing marriage in Chicago and ran away to the north woods of Minnesota to live alone in her grandfather's deserted cabin.

Courtney published a novel that chronicles her challenging and adventurous coming-of-age story through Gibson House Press from Chicago, Ill. "A Girl called Sidney" can be purchased at:



By **Suzie Marty**

<https://gibsonhousepress.com/portfolio/a-girl-called-sidney/>

Many twists and turns in her life took her away for periods of time from her dream, and although she counts being a mother to her three children as her greatest joy, she still had her dream of being a recording and touring singer/songwriter.

In her 40s, with her children off to college and beyond, she began her musical career again in earnest, and now in her 60s she continues to make more of a name for herself with each release of new original music.

"Red Roses And Cowgirl Dreams" made several international lists of best folk albums of 2021.

She's got a new album in the works for 2022 and her newest single, "My New-found Freedom," was just recently debuted in the Twin Cities on The Current radio station by the well respected host Bill DeVillie on his United States of Americana program.

She's got plans for a new album release this summer and for tours in the US and Europe in the coming months.

In her own words, "Fortune favors the brave, and I'm just grateful to be able to keep moving forward doing what I love!"

In recent years Courtney's been living near Minnehaha Creek. She even wrote a song about it that's up for a 2022 interna-



Courtney Yasminah performs at Everett & Charlie art gallery in Linden Hills. She lives near Minnehaha Creek, and wrote a song about it that's up for a songwriting award. "Fortune favors the brave, and I'm just grateful to be able to keep moving forward doing what I love," she said.

tional songwriter award. She loves to ride her bicycle along the creek and make a trip around our beautiful Lake Harriet on nice days.

She started playing her songs on the sidewalk out in front of the Everett & Charlie Art Gallery a couple years ago, and quickly became a favorite among gallery patrons and neighborhood regulars. The Harriet Brasserie being so close to the E&C Art Gallery has made it easy for musicians to find an audience on warm evenings, and Courtney is one of several musicians who are part of the colorful local scene.

During the colder months, Courtney played in the gallery from time to time. The Everett & Charlie gallery enjoyed helping with the online portion of her program, and we have had viewers tune in on her Facebook music page during her live performances in the gallery from all over the world, and from just down the block.

Courtney will be performing Feb. 17 from 5-7 p.m. in the Everett & Charlie Gallery with a live stream from her Courtney Yasminah Facebook music page, as well.

More at: [www.courtneyyasmineh.com](http://www.courtneyyasmineh.com)



**Suzie Marty** is an artist and curator at Everett & Charlie art gallery in Linden Hills. She is also an avid supporter of buying local, and a sales representative for the *Southwest Connector*. Contact her at [ads@swconnector.com](mailto:ads@swconnector.com).

## ►1 MSP FILM BUYS, RENOVATES THEATER

"So we started on making this happen in earnest. It came as the result of many factors. We wanted to create a real foothold for ourselves in Minneapolis."

The fact that 2022 is MSP Film's 60th birthday as an organization was an added inspiration, according to Jesse Bishop, director of programming.

"This helped give us the drive to continue to do the type of things we do in a broader and more intentional way," he said.

"The renovation is just beginning," Smoluchowski said. "We want to refurbish in phases. The first phase entails cleaning, spiffing it up, painting and getting rid of the old carpeting. No structural changes will be made just yet." She said they also want to address any technical updates that are needed to make viewers' experiences that much better.

While the theater is closed for the cleaning and painting, MSP Film will continue to offer films virtually for its film fans. "We are going to meet our audience where they are," Bishop said. "We have found many enjoy the virtual option, but of course we believe when it is safe to use the big screen, people will want to see films in person and react with friends, families and other film lovers."

He said the expansion is a really exciting opportunity. "There is no shortage of good cinema out there, and we've done a good job bringing it to audiences. We

can look at the love of film from all new different angles, show retrospectives and delve into the culture of movies." Bishop said the expansion will provide far more opportunities for MSP Film to gather together with local cultural artists and activism organizations.

"We have had such great responses to our announcement from some of the groups we have long partnered with and also those we want to partner with in the future," said Smoluchowski. "We definitely need help from our community to make it work."

More staff will be hired as plans progress for the re-opening of the theater. "The experience of going to movies at the Main will be completely controlled by the Film Society staff," explained Bishop. "We will be hiring and training staff and gearing up for the festival."

Smoluchowski said MSP Film wants its staff to be diverse and "reflect the many cultures that our films present each year. This is a real opportunity to hire from the BIPOC and international communities. That is something we are very excited about, as well."

### Collaborations

The various smaller festivals will continue to be shown at MSP on the Main, such as Cine Latino. "One of the benefits of having five auditoriums is that we can do things in a more deliberate way," Smoluchowski noted.

"We will see more voices and more perspectives throughout the year," added Bishop. "We'll be developing both educa-



This rendering by architect Marcelo Valdes shows a renovated lobby at the St. Anthony Main Theater.

tional and valued encounters similar to what we have done at the festival. There will be many more opportunities throughout the year for us to Zoom in directors and also do more with local filmmakers."

Current films scheduled virtually as of this interview include "Hives" from Kosovo and "France" from France. "Those were two of the best films of 2021," Bishop said. MSP Film will also continue its collaboration with the Capri and the Min-

nesota Historical Society to present films followed by discussion the first Thursday of every month at the Capri Theater.

"With the Great Northern Festival coming up, we are showing 'After Antarctica' at the Science Museum with Will Steeger in attendance," Bishop continued. He said MSP Film will also be showing "Hockeyland" and "Breaking Trail" at the Parkway Theater in February. "Breaking Trail" tells the story of Emily Ford, the first woman and first person of color to hike the Ice Age Trail in winter.

Bishop said MSP Film is also working with the Italian Film Festival, which will be held at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. "This will be our first year working with the Landmark Center," Smoluchowski said. "We had an agreement in 2020, but then had to cancel because of the pandemic. This year it will happen."

"This move is a great thing for our organization and our audiences, but also a great thing for the city," Smoluchowski said. "Most major cities have a film center, and we have an opportunity to bring this to this city in the 21st century to make a real splash on that side of the river." She said it would have both a cultural and economic impact for Minneapolis.

Bishop said that underlying the excitement is the chance for film viewers to come back into the theater. "I think of the movies as like going to a concert; it's something you're yearning to do. Once people get back out there and try it, they will realize what they've been missing."



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# THE ROCKIN’-EST FUNDRAISER IN TOWN

## TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

As I noted in my first column, I love it when people join to together to do good things. I also mentioned that I love live music, so today I want to tell you about one of Southwest’s coolest “People-Connecting-and-Doing-Good-Deeds-with-Live-Music” events of the year. (And yes, this is a thing.)



By **Larry LaVercombe**

Imagine this: arguably the most versatile cover band in town, performing with more than 20 well-known guest singers, at one of Southwest’s most excellent beer venues... All for a charity that gives 100 percent – YES, 100% – of donations directly to people in need.

The place is the Driftwood Char Bar at 44th and Nicollet, where the burgers are excellent, the pool table’s level, and the dance floor is big enough. The band is The Belfast Cowboys, and if you’ve had the pleasure of seeing them in the past few years, you probably already know that every time they perform, they raise funds for Foothold Twin Cities.

Foothold Twin Cities was started by friend-of-the-band Amber Lampron. Here is their mission statement: “To help families remain stable by providing a one-time payment to assist with an urgent need. Every dollar donated goes directly to families in crisis.”

As it says on their website: “You’ve worked hard to get back on your feet; we’re here to help you keep your Foothold.”

The Belfast Cowboys began as a Van Morrison cover band, and lead singer Terry Walsh can still belt it out like Van the Man all night long... A stripped-down version of the band, St. Dominick’s Trio, plays the Driftwood every Tuesday night. Last year I caught them right after Rick Ocasek of The Cars died, a night when they proceeded to play every Cars song, impromptu and unrehearsed, that anyone in the audience could name. One hit after another: someone would start humming a tune, and within seconds the band was figuring it out and playing it live... making up lyrics only when necessary.

But this last month was something else entirely...

Emceed by Hi Fi Hair & Records owner Jon Clifford (yep, you’ve seen him, he’s the guy who looks like Ronny Wood), the fundraiser started at seven o’clock and the music didn’t stop until midnight. This



The Belfast Cowboys perform during a benefit for Foothold Twin Cities. (Photo by Larry LaVercombe)

year, in honor of rock & roll great Charlie Watts, the set list was from the canons of both Van Morrison and The Rolling Stones.

Lolo’s Ghost singer Colleen Martin Oake started it off with “Beast of Burden.” Minneapolis Sound pioneer Robert Wilkinson of The Flamin’ Ohs! ripped out a version of “Street Fightin’ Man.” Fine-dressing Doug Collins came in from Wisconsin (yes, Wisconsin!) to drop a few bombs before his rendition of Van’s “I Will Be There.”

It went on and gloriously on. Dan Israel sang “Paint it Black.” Chanteuse Marie Strand sang “La Vie en Rose” in French. Aaron Seymour, from The Widgets, sang “Here Comes the Night.” All the while, Driftwood music manager Larry Sahagian, who you may remember as singer/songwriter/bassist of The Urban Guerillas, did his best to help people find seats.

And then somewhere during a break, Foothold Board Member Laura Poehlman told the latest Foothold story. “Last week, one family of six couldn’t pay their rent... so we paid it for them. A single mom with two kids, she had a car accident, and then she got COVID. Her teenage kids were going to drop out of school to pay the bills, but we were able to stop that by helping them out. And that’s just what we did this week.”

She went on to explain how they do it. “We have no processing fees. If all you can do is throw five dollars in the basket, that’s fine, because all five of your dollars will go to someone in need.”

**Question: How does this kind of**

**thing happen?** My answer is Faith: People believing in their own goodness, and the goodness of others, risking their time and energy in faith that it will help.

It was a faith-filled evening, and there seemed to be no end to the number of players that wanted to be part it. My own personal favorite was Katie Vernon singing a unique and genuine version of “Wild Horses.” Terry’s brother, local writer Jim Walsh, sang “Jumpin’ Jack Flash.” And as the finale, the legendary Curtiss A ended the parade of stars with a song from Van’s early band Them, “I Can Only Give You Everything.” If you’ve been to the annual John Lennon Tribute at First Avenue every Dec. 8, you know Curtiss gives everything every time he sings... On this night, the rest of us gave what we could, too.

In the end, Foothold raised a total of \$7,900.18 that week – all of which will likely go to help people get their foothold during Minnesota’s coldest month of the year.

And then, next week, and every Tuesday, they’ll raise some more... You can still contribute now at [www.Footholdtwincities.org](http://www.Footholdtwincities.org). Go ahead: Keep the Faith. And come by some Tuesday!



**Larry LaVercombe** is a writer, filmmaker, and activist, born in Detroit and arrived in Minneapolis in 1975. He lived in a treehouse in San Diego before getting an MFA from the USC Film School. He writes most days, and as Team Larry he has been selling residential real estate in Minneapolis for 26 years..

## BRIEFS

### VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FOR CEDAR-ISLES PLAN

Attend a virtual open house on he Cedar-Isles Master Plan on Monday, Feb. 7, 6-7:30 p.m. Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles are part of Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, connecting to Bde Maka Ska on the southern border and Brownie Lake and Theodore Wirth Regional Park to the north. The regional park as a whole sees more than 7 million annual visits. It is the most visited park site in the state. The Cedar Lake/Lake of the Isles Master Plan will direct policy and design implementation for the park land around both lakes for the next 20+ years.

### CLOSURE CEDAR LAKE PARKWAY

The long-term closure of Cedar Lake Parkway is currently anticipated to begin as early as mid-February. This closure is needed to construct the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel that will extend under Cedar Lake Parkway.

Pumps and generators will run overnight periodically through winter in various parts of the construction corridor, especially at the Kenilworth LRT tunnel site. Pumps are used to manage water, and generators are used to power the pumps as well as heaters to keep materials and equipment from freezing.

Construction of the secant wall adjacent to the Cedar Isles Condos continues. Activities include drilling three-foot diameter holes and pumping concrete into the holes to form columns. Noise will result primarily from equipment engines and pumps, as well as the drill rig. Vibration levels are noticeable from this work but remain within allowable limits.

The Kenilworth LRT tunnel site is active. Concrete work and excavation activities are constant between West Lake Street and Cedar Lake Parkway. Associated equipment and truck traffic within this area and extending to the Bryn Mawr Station is ongoing.

Extended hours from 6 to 8 p.m. are expected at the Kenilworth tunnel near Depot Street as drivers inspect the tunnel excavation below the water table. This work will continue intermittently as excavation progresses.

LRT bridge construction over the Cedar Lake Channel is paused until the spring.

Construction near Bryn Mawr Station is continuing with excavation and pile installation for the pedestrian bridge. Retaining wall work on the bluff south of Wayzata Boulevard and Penn Avenue is underway. Expect pile-driving activity in the area.

## SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR DEADLINES

Publication typically 1st and 3rd Thursdays. * Some exceptions	Deadlines typically 2nd and 4th Mondays.		
Publication date	Deadline date		
Dec. 2	Nov. 19 (Friday)	June 2	May 23
Break	Break	June 16	June 6
Jan. 6	Dec. 20	July 7	June 20
Feb. 3	Jan. 24	July 21	July 11
Feb. 17	Feb. 7	Aug. 4	July 25
March 3	Feb. 18 (Friday)	Break	Break
March 17	March 7	Sept. 1	Aug. 8
April 7	March 28	Sept. 22	Sept. 12
April 21	April 11	Oct. 6	Sept. 26
May 5	April 25	Oct. 20	Oct. 10
May 19	May 9	Nov. 3	Oct. 24
		Nov. 17	Nov. 7
		Dec. 1	Nov. 21
		Dec. 15	Dec. 5
		Break	Break

## SPECIAL SECTIONS CALENDAR

### JANUARY

Health & Wellness due Dec. 20  
School Guide due Dec. 20

### FEBRUARY

Summer Camp Guide due Jan. 24  
Wedding due Feb. 7

### MARCH

Home Improvement due Feb. 18  
CSA Guide due Mar 7

### APRIL

Home & Garden due Mar 28  
Drive & Ride due Apr 11

### MAY

Home & Garden due Apr 25  
Summer in the City due May 9

### JUNE

Summer in the City due May 23  
@ Lake & Hennepin due June 6

### JULY

Summer in the City due June 20  
Back to School due July 11

### AUGUST

Summer in the City due July 25

### SEPTEMBER

Back to School due Sept. 12  
- Health focus

### OCTOBER

Home Improvement due Sep. 26  
Domestic Violence due Oct. 10  
Awareness Month

### NOVEMBER

Food & Drink due Oct. 24  
Shop Small/Buy Local due Nov. 7

### DECEMBER

Shop Small/  
Buy Local due Nov. 21  
Paws and Claws due Dec. 5

## QUARTERLY

### AGING WELL/LIVING 50+

March - Housing | June - Activities  
Sept. - Medical | Dec. - Money

## MONTHLY

### REBUILD REPAIR RECYCLE

### MINDFUL CREATIVITY

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# AN EMPTY BOWLS STORY

Ten Januarys ago, I was invited to participate in the first Empty Bowls event, a soup dinner hosted at Nicollet Square through the Kingfield Neighborhood Association. Here's how the initial event was described -

"We are collecting handmade bowls and inviting the community to join us for a soup dinner. For a suggested donation... community members can eat soup, and take the bowl home as a reminder of our many neighbors that are in need of food and shelter. All proceeds from this event will benefit Nicollet Square, which is a partnership between Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, YouthLink, and HIRED. Nicollet Square provides affordable housing and a supportive environment for young adults (ages 16 - 21) who have experienced homelessness or been in the foster care system. We believe that by helping youth in our community find stable housing and employment, we address the root causes of hunger."

The letter acknowledged that as a business we cared about both "food and community" and the connections made between them. What the organizers hadn't known at the time was that I had just begun conversations with Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (now known as Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative) to discuss a potential move to Nicollet Square's corner retail site that had remained empty since the opening in 2010.

They did perhaps remember that I had been a vocal advocate during the Nicollet Square design and construction process, countering concerns being raised by some neighborhood residents about the "who" whom might be living in the building. My years of alternative school teaching across the metro area gave me a conviction that "those kids" (as objectors would label) weren't always the outsiders



residents imagined them to be. Yes, even in Kingfield and Lyndale, youth within the foster care system and those who could and did experience homelessness for short or longer times were present and living among them already.

Events like Empty Bowls - meant to generate community connections, lift up food insecurity issues, and call on neighbors to step out of their comfort zone for an evening - are just one tool in building community. The ongoing work of introducing Nicollet Square's residents to our neighborhood through mentoring and volunteer connections would become other tools. And the partnership that would grow between Butter Bakery Cafe and Nicollet Square to provide a supportive internship program and worksite became my calling. This January we welcomed our 52nd intern, and at the same

time celebrated hiring our 13th intern as a member of the staff of Butter Bakery Cafe.

That first Empty Bowls event in 2012 started me on this journey, much like a good soup course sets the stage for lovely feast. That night, as I brought some of our own bakery bread, and entered Nicollet Square for the first time, I passed the empty corner retail space in a new way. Then in March of 2012, when I ventured inside the grey box which would become my cafe's next home, I already could imagine what a delight it would be to make soup for the 2013 Empty Bowls in that new kitchen with help from residents who lived in this very building, and how that event might grow to include even more ways in which food insecurity and root causes of hunger are addressed.

Hundreds of gallons of lentil brown rice soup later, this year Empty Bowls returns to the Nicollet Square building, with pandemic impacts removing the option to return to the Martin Luther King Park Building. So, on Sunday, Feb. 13, Butter Bakery Cafe will host Empty Bowls from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A creative use of our patio and sidewalk, as well as take out and limited indoor dining for those who can show a vaccination card or negative antigen test, will likely make this a one-of-a-kind event.

This is, as always, a community-supported event. Soup is being provided by several local restaurants and community kitchens including SIMPLS Soups, Clancy's Meats, and Butter Bakery Cafe. We're also thankful for treat donations from the kitchens of The Lowbrow, Open Arms MN and Metro Meals on Wheels. We'll have bread donations from Sun Street Bread and Royal Grounds Cafe. Finally, a big shout out also goes to neighbors Lori Olson, Aliva Kistler, Alex Kern and Brenda Johnson and other many volunteers for their talents and efforts to produce and promote the event!

Please plan to attend this 10th year event, enjoy a lovely soup meal, and share your support for Nicollet Square!

## BRIEFS

### BRYN MAWR STUDENTS GRATEFUL

"We would like to give a big thank you to the Bryn Mawr Community School PTA, the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association (BMNA), and our Bryn Mawr neighbors for partnering with our school media center to sponsor a book drive that added over 20 books written by Native American authors," said Desiree and Heather of the Bryn Mawr Community School Library. "We really appreciate the community's investment and are excited for students to start checking out these new books. Thank you Bryn Mawr families and community for your continued support."

### BRYN MAWR SEWER PIPE WORK

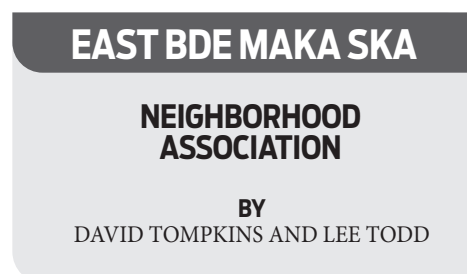
The city of Minneapolis is reconstructing a segment of aging (1933) sanitary sewer pipe that runs from the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood northeasterly through Bryn Mawr Meadows Park to Irving Avenue North. This work protects the park property from contamination. The reconstructed pipe under the park will connect to the pipe under Irving Avenue North, just north of the park, which the city has already reconstructed. Construction on this project will begin this winter and run through spring 2022. The affected areas of the park include the northern third of the parking lot; the western half of the open field on the park's north side; and the Luce Line Trail. Upon completion of the City's sewer project, construction will begin on the larger project, including park improvements and a stormwater pond, managed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) in partnership with the City and the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission. Construction is planned to be complete in spring 2023, with new fields open for play in summer 2023.

## A WINDING JOURNEY TO EAST BDE MAKASKA AND A NEW LOGO

Lake Calhoun was, of course, a landmark for generations of Minneapolitans. Most likely had only a vague notion of its namesake, John C. Calhoun, an American politician active in the first half of the 19th century. Calhoun was, however, a notorious racist who pursued cruel policies towards Black and Indigenous people, and in recent years efforts were made to change the lake name. These culminated in 2017, when the park board voted unanimously to change the name back to Bde Maka Ska and then the Minnesota DNR made it the official name, although legal disputes didn't fully establish it until 2020.

Beginning in 2018, several residents of the neighborhood formerly known both as East Calhoun and ECCO launched a community conversation to discuss whether East Calhoun was an appropriate name for that neighborhood. The formerly-named East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO) in 2019 then engaged in an extensive, consultative process to change the neighborhood name. This effort involved significant community outreach and three rounds of voting, resulting in a narrow majority for the non-acronym ECCO over East Bde Maka Ska.

Since that vote in late 2019, much took place. The state Supreme Court ruled that the name Bde Maka Ska could indeed replace Lake Calhoun. Many area businesses and organizations removed Calhoun from their names. Perhaps most



importantly, the murder of George Floyd occasioned a national and local reckoning over the issue of racial inequality. Many neighbors and board members felt that ECCO still contained an implicit reference to Calhoun, and thus the neighborhood board began a new name change process that included another round of neighborhood outreach and discussion in early 2021. This resulted in a new vote on the neighborhood name in the spring of 2021, where three-quarters of residents voted yes to change the neighborhood name, with East Bde Maka Ska receiving a large plurality of the votes as the replacement. For more information, please see eastbde-makaska.org/neighborhood-name.

East Bde Maka Ska is now voting on a new logo for the neighborhood as the final step in celebrating the new name. The two options are depicted at right. Residents can vote for their preferred option until Feb. 25 at eastbde-makaska.org/logo.



Option 1 above and option 2 below. Vote online.



### TENANT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACT

Are you interested in empowering renters, creating a more equitable housing landscape, preserving affordable housing, and diversifying ownership structures in Minneapolis? There's currently a coalition organizing to pass a policy to do just that - the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act "would give all renters the first right to purchase their building when it goes for sale, or transfer that right to a buyer of their choosing." If this sounds like something you'd like to be a part of, email [erinw@homelinemn.org](mailto:erinw@homelinemn.org).

### SERVICES FOR SENIORS

TRUST, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides services to South Minneapolis seniors, including Meals on Wheels, grocery transportation and a chore program (including snow shoveling) to help seniors and residents in South Minneapolis stay in their homes.

Do you know someone who needs these services?

- Meals on Wheels: (612) 822-6040, [MOWDirector@trustinc.org](mailto:MOWDirector@trustinc.org)
- Chore Program: (612) 827-6150, [ChoreCoordinator@trustinc.org](mailto:ChoreCoordinator@trustinc.org)
- Grocery Transportation Program: (612) 721-5786, [GroceryCoordinator@trustinc.org](mailto:GroceryCoordinator@trustinc.org)

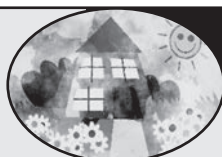
TRUST is also looking for volunteers. Contact them at: [TRUST@trustinc.org](mailto:TRUST@trustinc.org) or 612-827-6159.

### 'NUTSHELLS' NOMINATED FOR AWARD

In March 2020, Linden Hills Poet Laureate Doug Wilhide began writing and sending out brief mini-essays. The first 210 were published by Linden Hills-based Trolley Car Press. Nutshells: Diversions in a Time of Pandemic has been nominated for a Minnesota Book Award. To request a copy, contact [wilhide@skypoint.com](mailto:wilhide@skypoint.com).

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## HOME

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**NEXT DEADLINE**  
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Publication:  
Thursday, Feb. 10

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For southwest Minneapolis residents Derek Ahlberg, Jeff Berg, and Paul Owen (not pictured), this was their fifth shanty to be picked for the festival. Work began on their creation mid-summer. Visitors entered the shanty and turned a star-shaped wheel. This action rotated triangular mirrors, which sent colored light bouncing around the interior. When this photographer stopped by, there was a long line of fest-goers waiting to try it out. (Photos by Terry Faust)



Tadas Kosciuska paints on-ice at Bde Unma /Lake Harriet for the first time on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022. He's a member of the Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, which arranges group paint-outs at scenic locations. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

CENTER Artist Daniel Demarco entertains festival-goers with one of several larger-than-life bird puppets featuring species that winter in Minnesota. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

This year's Ice Shanty program adjusted to become an exterior-only experience for visitors with a greater emphasis on the social aspect of the outdoor village life. "Art Shanty Projects has grown and shifted significantly over the years," Artistic Director Erin Lavelle comments. "While we maintain the essential spirit of our intrepid beginnings on Medicine Lake in 2004, we are now grounded within an urban community and wider public network. It's important to honor these changes with updated language that will inform our creative offerings and engagement."



Aaron and Lorelie King, from northeast Minneapolis flew a kite they had made in New Zealand. It was composed of three astronauts and a manta ray. Aaron has been hooked on kites since he was a kid. (Photo by Terry Faust)



(Photo by Terry Faust)



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