



Dozens gather at City Hall on Feb. 11 as neighbors announce ethics complaints against Mayor Jacob Frey and Interim Police Chief Amelia Huffman following the police killing of Amir Locke on Feb. 2. Protesters have taken to Minneapolis city streets multiple times, and Minnesota Teen Activists organized a statewide walkout and rally on Feb. 8. >> Story on page 10. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

CSAs enhance farmer/eater relationship

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Just what is a CSA?
“A CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is a direct partnership between consumers and local producers,” explained Abby Rogosheske of Seward Co-op. “A consumer becomes a member of a CSA by purchasing a share in a farm’s harvest, which helps cover that farm’s yearly operating costs. In return for that investment, members receive fresh produce or other goods – delivered to specific drop sites in the Twin Cities (including Seward Co-op locations).”

Harmony Valley Farm in Viroqua, Wis. is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. “While CSA stands for ‘Community Supported Agriculture,’ it could also stand for ‘Community Sustained Agriculture,’” observed Andrea Yoder of Harmony Valley Farm.



Andrea Yoder

“It truly is a way for a farmer and an eater to form a mutually beneficial relationship in which both parties reap the benefits. Plus, learning to eat with the seasons, spending time preparing food and sharing it with others helps to feed not only the body but the soul, as well.”

“It’s simply a more meaningful way to eat.”

In addition to providing food, some CSAs offer training programs and are incubators for small farmers, like Big River Farms in Marine on St. Croix. Through its Farmer Education Program, participants are exposed to the realities of running an independent farm; not just the work of producing food, but the details of running a successful business. It is a primary goal of the program to encourage farmers to think realistically about the feasibility of running and owning their own farm operation, and ultimately build the skills necessary to run successful small farm enterprises upon graduation, according to their website. These farmers contribute to the Big River Farms CSA program, offer their own CSAs, and sell produce at farmers markets.

Big River Farms focuses its land-based training program on supporting immigrant and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) farmers, populations that generally have difficulty accessing the resources needed to establish a successful farm business.

Big River Farms is a program of the Food Group, which hosts the annual Emerging Farmers Conference.

WHAT IS A CSA? >> 2

Family, community demand justice

By JILL BOOGREN

When family members of Amir Locke and community members gathered in the rotunda of Minneapolis City Hall on Feb. 4, 2022, his mother, Karen Wells, said in no uncertain terms: “I believe that he was executed by the MPD and I want the police officer that murdered my son to be prosecuted and fired.”

Officer Mark Hanneman killed Locke in the early morning of Feb. 2 when a Minneapolis

Police Department (MPD) SWAT Team entered the apartment where he was sleeping and within nine seconds fatally shot him. The team was executing a search warrant in which Locke was not named as a suspect.

Wells described her son as a law-abiding citizen who did everything he was supposed to do, who was raised with morals and values and loved by so many.

“Everybody that came in contact with him, he had a beautiful, COMMUNITY >> 12

Lawmakers respond following police killing of Amir Locke

By CAM GORDON

While people throughout Minneapolis continue to be devastated and shaken by the police killing of Amir Locke on Feb. 2, lawmakers have been working to respond.

The formal investigation of the shooting is being done by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The results of that investigation will be shared with Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman and State Attorney General Keith Ellison, who will determine if there will be any charges and prosecution of the officers involved, including officer Mark Hanneman who has been identified as the officer who shot Locke.

LAWMAKERS >> 11



Amir Locke’s father, Andre Locke, said, “We believe that [the police] executed him... And we definitely want to prosecute to the fullest.” To the left of him is Amir’s mother, Karen Wells. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

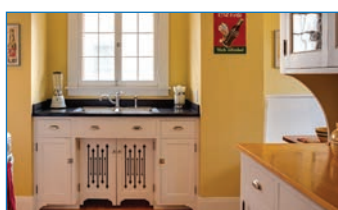


Teens from Roosevelt and South High were among those who walked out of classes on Feb. 8, gathered at Central High School in St. Paul and marched to the Governor’s Mansion. (Photo by Tesham. Christensen)



Amber Apartments offers a place to reset for low-wage workers

PAGE 3



Q&A with Twin Cities Bungalow Club President Tim Counts

PAGE 9



Felines find ‘forever’ homes courtesy of rescue, foster families

PAGE 16

WHAT IS A CSA? >> from 1

Q&A WITH A FARMER

Harmony Valley is a family farm run by co-owners Richard de Wilde, Andrea Yoder and Rafael Morales, along with a crew that varies with the seasons from 15-60 team members. The home farm consists of 200 acres of woods, pastures and crop land lying along Spring Creek in Viroqua, Wis. They sell produce and meat through a 1,500-member CSA, a weekly stall at the Dane County Farmers Market, retail grocers and wholesale distributors.

Their CSA membership more than

doubled in the spring of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and their retention remained strong in 2021. Yoder isn't sure what 2022 will look like yet but know they remain committed to delicious, organic food.

WHY GET A CSA?

Yoder: The thing that varies with CSA versus buying your vegetables at a grocery store or food co-op is that you get more than just a box of vegetables. You also get connection to the place where your food is grown and the people who grow it. This type of connection allows for transparency and a more secure supply of food as there are no middle men or a long and complicated supply chain to get the food from its origin to your table. Eating from a CSA box is a great way to support regional/local producers and keep your food dollars in the local economy. Short of growing your own food, it's one of the best ways to get fresh, nutrient dense vegetables. Plus, it's a lot of fun to eat with the seasons and many of our customers tell us it's like Christmas every time they open a box!

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A CSA?

Yoder: In addition to the points I mentioned above, many people find they eat more vegetables when they participate in CSA simply because they are in their refrigerator! Many of our customers also appreciate the wide diversity of vegetables they eat during the CSA season and find there are things they maybe wouldn't select on their own but when they try it, they find out they really like it. We've had some of our customers tell us they consider their CSA box to be their health insurance policy. They'd rather invest in healthy vegetables and reap the health benefits of eating high quality, nutritious food than invest their money in healthcare when they get sick. CSA is also a great way to introduce children to the way real



"Having a CSA is a way to commit to eating fresh, locally produced vegetables (and other offerings) and to have the opportunity to know and support the farmers growing your food," remarked Josh Bryceson of Turnip Rock, which offers a 22-week session with the option of setting holds on deliveries for vacations. "Think about what's most important to you as an eater. Is it farming practices? Is it social and food justice concerns? Is it convenience? Check out the delivery day, drop site locations, share size options, prices, and see if the farm's offerings match your preferences for veggies. Most importantly, don't hesitate to ask questions of the farm before signing up! Most farmers want potential CSA members to find a good match and will be honest if they believe their farm won't be the best option for you." (Photo submitted)

food tastes, expand their palates and allow them to experience a wide variety of flavors and textures while also connecting them to nature.

CSA is a way that each individual can be part of creating a sustainable local food supply chain. Every time we make a purchase, we're supporting something. When you choose to purchase a CSA your dollars stay in the local community, but your purchase also allows you to support practices that are in alignment with your personal beliefs and values. Some of these values may include supporting a food system where workers are respected and are paid a fair and living wage. Perhaps you want to support regenerative farming practices that contribute in positive ways to mitigating climate change or you want your food dollars to support farms that invest in providing habitat in their growing areas for pollinators.

WHAT SETS YOUR CSA APART?

Yoder: There are several things that set our CSA apart from others. First, we are experienced growers and 2022 will be our 30th year of growing for CSA. We have learned a lot over the years and are able to

reliably grow a wide variety of vegetables over the course of a 30-week delivery season from May-December. We also provide our customers with a variety of resources with each delivery to help them find success with every box. These resources include a weekly newsletter that highlights new vegetables, offers storage and preparation information, and updates from the farm. I am also a professional chef, and provide feature recipes every week that are simple and delicious. Additionally, we post a "Cooking With the Box" article on our blog every week that provides links to recipes from a wide variety of sources to help guide members/customers in finding ways to use their vegetables.

Q&A WITH CSA FAIR ORGANIZER

For the past 21 years, Seward Co-op has hosted a CSA Fair in the spring. Attendees online and in person learn about a variety of different CSAs, which offer vegetables and fruit, meat, cheese, bread, mushrooms, herbs and more. Some farms also offer add-ons like honey, maple

WHAT IS A CSA? >> 3

cheese
vegetables
meat

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a program of the food group

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www.bigriverfarms.org

WHAT IS A CSA? >> from 2

symp, eggs and flowers. Others allow CSA shares to be customized with various options to fit your needs, including half shares, and weekly purchase options.

This year's CSA Fair will be held Saturday, April 23, 2022, and include a celebration of the co-op's 50th anniversary.

"Hear from farmers, producers and other community partners about Seward Co-op's impact over the past decades," said organizer Abby Rogosheske. "And like always, you'll have the opportunity to learn about our local farms and speak directly with nearly 30 farmers to choose a CSA share that is right for you and your family. We'll have treats, prizes, and kids activities with Midwest Food Connection as we celebrate."

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A CSA?

Rogosheske: Some people choose to purchase a CSA because it's a great value for the amount of produce you receive. Others appreciate the direct relationship with a grower, the fun variety of produce or the chance to support our local food system.

WHY MIGHT A CO-OP MEMBER ALSO WANT A CSA?

Rogosheske: In some ways we might be taking business away from the co-op by promoting CSA membership. But as a community cooperative, we understand that co-ops and small-scale CSAs are working toward the same goal: a food system grounded in our local economy that truly nourishes and meets the needs of everyone in our community. And on a practical level, a CSA is a great excuse to introduce yourself to new ingredients and recipes that might inspire your shopping trips at the co-op year-round! And even if all of your needs are met at the co-op, many farms these past few years have added a mutual aid option, allowing you to donate funds or a CSA share to community members in need.

HOW DO CSAS CONTRIBUTE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM?

Rogosheske: Becoming a member of a CSA is a great way to support small, local growers because you are purchasing the harvest upfront. Many farmers share that this provides needed capital investment as the growing season starts. In other words, when you purchase a CSA, you're not just a consumer of local food – you are an investor in our local food system. In some ways, this is similar to becoming a member-owner of Seward Co-op – when you do this, you are investing in the co-op; you're an owner, not just a shopper.

WHAT TIPS DO YOU OFFER FOLKS?

Rogosheske: These last few years, we've added a virtual component to our annual CSA Fair (at first it was out of necessity, due to the pandemic, but it's been so popular that we are continuing the "virtual fair" even though we are also planning an in-person event). As part of this, we offer a really helpful guide that includes our full list of CSA Fair participants, with information on the type of CSA, drop-off locations, and price range. Farmers also share video introductions. This is a great way to "shop around" ahead of time – and then you'll have a chance to chat face-to-face with farmers at the in-person event on April 23!

Amber Apartments offers very affordable housing at \$600/month for single workers

A PLACE TO RESET

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The residents of Amber Apartments are ready for the next step.

They don't need a homeless shelter, sober house or other intensive supports. They just need affordable housing.

That's exactly what Amber Apartments was built to offer.

It's a "very affordable" apartment building at 4527 Hiawatha Ave. for low-wage earners who cannot afford market rate rents.

Those who qualify for rental assistance through the Minnesota Housing Support program will pay only \$566 plus \$30 in utilities for a studio unit at the recently opened Amber Apartments.

Over 800 people have applied for 80 units.

Residents are being picked through a lottery process and are moving in on a staggered schedule as the site gets fully up and running. The first residents moved in on Nov. 28, with another batch each month after. The building is expected to be full by the end of March 2022.

"When there are 10 people applying for one available unit, I think that really speaks to the intensive need," observed RS Eden Development and Communication Manager Jim Seas. "In Minnesota, 21,000 people are homeless on any given night. It really speaks to the lack of affordable housing."

There are 22 subsidized apartments in the five-story, 52,178-square-foot building that is operated by RS Eden. Three are market-rate at \$900, and the others are on a sliding scale based on the tenant's income. This compares to an average rate of \$1,650 in Minneapolis and \$1,400 in St. Paul, pointed out Seas.

The current definition of "affordable" (30% of a person's income) can be out of reach for many people. To afford rent payments of \$700-\$900 a person must make between \$2,100-2,800 a month.

Amber Apartments offers low barrier housing, is felony friendly, and provides a place for people who can't pass a background check. "It offers a way to build rental history, have stability and not live in a car," explained Jessie Johnson, who supervises eight RS Eden buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul. She appreciates the people she comes in contact with through her job. "These are some of the best folks to know," Johnson said. "They're very appreciative of where they're at."

The facility offers supportive housing services aimed at the problems that contribute to homelessness, including addiction, mental health issues, lack of education, and more.

'I LIKE IT'

Joel Olmeda looked around his new



Joel Olmeda surveys his new studio unit at Amber Apartments, with its view of the 46th Street Light Rail station. He moved in the day before his 41st birthday. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

apartment for the first time on Jan. 19, 2022, and said, "I like it." Most recently he lived in Burnsville, staying with various people and sometimes in a hotel. He has a part-time job at the business he's been working at for five years. At 40, he told himself he was ready to live on his own for the first time in his life. He moved into Amber Apartments the day before his 41st birthday.

Most rents are pretty high for a single person, he pointed out. "This building is a good opportunity for people who want to move and not be concerned about the high prices."

He hopes to buy a house of his own in the future.

Ricky Rains signed the lease agreement on Jan. 19, and planned to start moving stuff in the next day before his weekend night shifts began. He's coming from a sober house in Minneapolis, and has lived in the Longfellow area before. He's been sober for 12 years.

"I'd like to offer an AA group here," remarked Rains, who works full-time.

Like Olmeda, he's grateful for the lower rental rates at Amber Apartments.

His favorite things about his new apartment? The large walk-in closet and sliding barn door.

A PLACE TO RESET

Although she's worked at RS Eden for nearly 16 years, Kristin Quinlan says Amber Apartments is a new challenge for her. It will offer a different level of support for residents than the other RS buildings, as it is geared towards bridging the gap for people who are working, but still don't make enough to afford a standard rent payment.

"We see so many different walks of life," she remarked. Some folks who live at Amber Apartments might need the front desk, while others don't need accountability but just need affordable rent. RS Eden seeks to give each individual the services they need, and cater things as needs change. Some have family connections and others don't. Some have a support network. Others don't. Some have outside case managers.

Some residents come in with a mindset that they're not good enough, observed Seas. At Amber Apartments, they can reset.

INTENTIONAL PROJECT

Ground officially broke on Oct. 21, 2020 at the former Bell Laboratory building site. Frerichs Construction oversaw the \$18 million project. Amber Apartments is being named after former RS Eden CEO Dan Cain's daughter as a legacy project to honor the 46 years he was with the organization. Amber Cain lives near Diamond Lake in South Minneapolis.

RS Eden plans to hold a grand opening in April 2022. There are 20 units on each floor. The main level houses offices, meeting rooms, laundry, bike storage, and a caretaker's apartment.

Each level has an area near the stairwell and elevator that is currently undesignated space. The plan is to ask residents what they want, which may be exercise equipment, library shelves, foosball tables, or seating areas.

The 418 to 462-square-foot units have a kitchen space with a stove and refrigerator, walk-in closet, bathroom with an ample closet and sliding barn door, easy-clean laminate flooring, and their own heating and cooling unit.

Planners were intentional about the location of Amber Apartments, knowing that most of the residents would not own cars. The building sits across Hiawatha from the 46th street Light Rail and bus stop, which connects to the BRT A Line into St. Paul. It is next to the Walgreen's pharmacy and near a Cub grocery store. There's a plan to develop the Min Hi Line trail in the rear of the building along the railroad tracks, and existing trails around Minnehaha Park.

For those in the 22 subsidized units, they get a little extra – courtesy of donations from a dozen local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint congregations. They purchased beds, tables and chairs to fill the studio apartments. Plus, they donated welcome baskets with items such as a shower curtain and bed sheets.

"Imagine if you're come from having nothing," said Seas. "All of these things are here waiting for them when they come. It shows a level of respect. They can start with brand new things incurring a sense of pride."

He added, "We're excited about what the future holds for RS Eden. We continue to evolve not only for the needs of our clients but for what the community needs."

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Let's build a better Minneapolis together

Ward 11 community – for those of you who I haven't had the opportunity to connect with yet, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Emily Koski, and I am your new council member. I am honored to serve our community – and I look forward to representing your values and voices on the Minneapolis City Council.

This new Minneapolis City Council is historic in a multitude of ways – we are a female majority city council and we are the most diverse city council yet. We are being led by council president Andrea Jenkins – the first Black and transgender council president in the city of Minneapolis, and council vice President Linea Palmisano, the council member for our neighboring ward.

I am incredibly proud to be a part of this city council – I am proud to be a part of a body that embodies diversity in age, gender, race, and ideology. This city council is a step forward in creating a more representative government – one that exemplifies unique experiences, differing opinions, and diverse perspectives. Already, I have learned so much from my fellow council members and have been developing meaningful relationships with them.

I am also proud to be a part of a body that embodies diversity, because we as council members and as the city council, are role models to children throughout the city of Minneapolis; and, it's so important that they see role models that they can relate to in leadership positions, in positions they might aspire to have one day.

Our community, and the city of Minneapolis as a whole, has been through so much these past several years – a global pandemic that upended our lives, the murder of George Floyd and the unrest

WARD 11 COUNCIL MEMBER

BY EMILY KOSKI
emily.koski@minneapolismn.gov



that followed, and our city has been the epicenter of a global reckoning on race. When put together these events have left many in our community feeling divided and disconnected. I believe that it is incredibly important for us to find ways to come together and create connections.

During the first 100 days of my term as your council member, I will be holding a multitude of meetings throughout our community; each of these meetings will provide opportunities for you to engage with me directly about what's important to you. I will be holding Neighborhood Meetings, Ward 11 Monthly Meetings, and Ward 11 Triannual Public Safety Meetings.

As your council member, I will be working hard to communicate with Ward 11 through as many platforms as possible – through the Ward 11 Newsletter, through social media channels, through community groups and neighborhood organizations. In my communications, I will keep you updated on my work, and the happenings of city hall, but I will also highlight local businesses, and let you know about activities and events in our neighborhoods. And I encourage each and every one of you to stay connected.

So far, I've had the opportunity to meet with constituents, neighborhood associations, organizations, city staff, department heads, and experts on a variety of issues. From affordable housing, to public

CORINNE HOROWITZ – POLICY ASSOCIATE

Corinne Horowitz, originally from Homewood, Ill., has been a resident of Minneapolis for eight years. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and religious studies from Arizona State University, and a master's degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago. Horowitz's previous work experience includes serving as a research director for Central Arizonans for a Sustainable Economy, an organizer for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 99, an organizer for Main Street Alliance in N.J., a political organizer for SEIU Local 284, and the Founder & State Director of Main Street Alliance MN. She helped start a nonprofit food truck serving free halal meals to South Minneapolis families during the pandemic.



MELISSA HILL – POLICY AIDE

Melissa Hill, originally from Aurora, Ill., has been a resident of Minneapolis for seven years. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and global studies from the University of Minnesota, where she graduated with Cum Laude Latin honors. Hill's previous work experience includes serving as a research assistant for the University's Political Science Department, a legal assistant working on pro-bono asylum cases, a political coordinator for a city council campaign, a field organizer for a congressional campaign and attorney general campaign, a community relations executive for a non-profit organization, a Deputy Political and Candidate Services Director for the DFL Senate Caucus, and campaign manager for Council Member Emily Koski, who's office she currently works in.



safety, and from infrastructure to basic city services – I am working hard to get the job done.

Over this term, I will be serving as the Chair of the Budget Committee, the Vice Chair of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, as a member of the Policy and Government Oversight Committee, and as a member of the Audit Committee, in addition to serving as a member of the committees which all council members serve on.

Lastly, the tragic police shooting of Amir Locke is weighing on all our hearts and minds. This is a painful time for the community – and we must do everything within our power to prevent future loss of

life and keep everyone in our community safe. That is why I am collaborating with my colleagues on the city council and our city staff to take action to increase transparency and create long-lasting solutions. I appreciate those who have reached out to me to voice your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. I encourage you to continue to hold myself, the city council, and the mayor accountable.

I thank you for the opportunity you have given me, to serve as your council member on the Minneapolis City Council. I look forward to working with you, and to working for you, so that together we can create solutions and build a better city of Minneapolis for all of us.

A new era of neighborhood/city relations

Imagine for a moment that you are a spiritual guide and poet. You share your Celtic heritage and love for your native landscape of west Ireland. Your name is John O'Donohue. Now back to reality. Into the river of life experience, you have joined me in taking the plunge, by reading *Stories and Journeys*. The following words from John O'Donohue, in his poem called "Fluent," captures for me (and I hope for you) the essence of this experience. Just as I do, he uses the river as a metaphor for the flow of life. He writes:

*I would love to live
Like a river flows,
Carried by the surprise
Of its own unfolding.*

Unfolding for me in the river of life experience this time is a column, inspired largely, by an article written by Tesha M. Christensen, called "What does 'unbiased' really mean." Upon reading Tesha's commentary, I found my awareness raised. I was engaged to the point of underlining a lot of it and writing in the margins. Typically I don't do this with newspaper articles. I even found myself engaged in conversation with Tesha, even though she

STORIES AND JOURNEYS

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN



was not in the room. Again, not typical! Getting my attention were the following words:

"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 neighborhood as their executive director."

Back in the day, this elder served several terms, on the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) Board of Directors. During most of that time, if not all of it, Melanie Majors was executive director. Melanie did not live in Greater Longfellow. IT WAS THE CHOICE OF LCC THAT MELANIE MAJORS BE OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOT THE INSISTENCE OF THE CITY. Melanie served us for 14 years.

For about five years of my life, I did

what I could to be part of an effort called Save NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program). For about 20 years, thanks to NRP, the city had what I call empowered neighborhood organizations. Apparently, in the eyes of the city, too much empowerment. Now as NRP is allowed to go by the wayside, we have something that appears to be more like city engagement with neighborhood organizations. And what does city engagement get us? The kind of scenario playing out in Nokomis East for one thing.

I am clear in my own view, that what is playing out where the city and its neighborhood organizations are concerned is about power and control. Who wins? Who losses? Who gets to decide? Power and control is THE CONTEXT where the city in relation to its neighborhood organizations plays out. It is a context with a story and a lengthy history. A context that created the need for NRP in the first place. And what enabled NRP to come into existence? It was not at the insistence of the city. Far from it! It was neighborhood leadership going to the state legislature that enabled NRP to come into being.

Today we appear to be entering into a new era of city/neighborhood relations. This is why I appreciated the article by Eric Ortiz in the Dec. 2, 2022 *Southwest Con-*

necter called "Time to build bridges with the whole community: Neighborhood associations are helping bring people together to create solutions for Minneapolis." In this article, he writes: "Now more than ever, Minneapolis needs connectors for our communities. Neighborhood associations can be leaders in connecting neighbors and helping the city meet the challenges of this moment. Whatever neighborhood you call home, we are all interconnected. That is why we all need to work together to help build bridges, restore trust and find solutions." (*Find columns mentioned on our websites.*) If we find ways to collaborate and as appropriate have each others backs, this might work.

There are three times when I have been featured in the *Messenger* in ways not likely in any other media outlet. Today I am learning and growing as a columnist writing *Stories and Journeys*. Community journalism in south Minneapolis has become an integral part of my life.

Where do you find yourself on this unfolding river of life experience called city/neighborhood relations are concerned? Tell yourself, share with others or tell me at news@longfellownokomisessenger.com.

In gratitude. Stay tuned.

Messenger

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News for you!

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

Story ideas always welcome.

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

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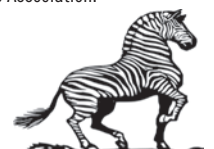
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'SEPARATE NOT EQUAL' EXHIBIT MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALE-FIELD PAIRING PROJECT

Hennepin History Museum exhibit opens in March

by guest columnist Cara Letofsky
The Fair Economy Project Director

Of all my identities, being a Field-Hale-Field kid is one of the most formative.

Let me explain. I grew up on First Avenue in south Minneapolis, a stable block of Tudor and Craftsman-style homes that housed Black and White families right next to each other. Our local public school was Field Elementary, which is where I followed my older siblings when it was time for me to start kindergarten in 1969.

A few years later, Field became part of a ground-breaking school integration program. The program was conceived and promoted by area parents who wanted to see Minneapolis Public Schools take meaningful steps towards racially integrating the schools that their children attended. At the time, Field's student body was over 50 percent Black, whereas the adjacent Hale School was 98 percent white. The parents' advocacy resulted in the pairing of Field School and Hale School in an inventive yet cautious approach: the two schools' attendance areas would combine, with the K-3 students attending Hale, and the 4th-6th grade students attending Field. The resulting racial make-up of both schools was 30 percent students of color, 70 percent White. The plan also brought innovative educational programming, including multi-grade and open classrooms, Black and White teachers, and additional resources to meet students' needs.

The plan had its opponents, including Hale neighbors that filed a lawsuit alleging the pairing deprived them of an inherent property right to decide where their children went to school based on their choice of where they bought their home. The lawsuit was dismissed. The pairing plan went into effect in the fall of 1971.

In the middle of a flurry of media coverage, I started second grade at Hale School. In 1973, I reentered Field, this time in Mr. Andrew's multi-grade classroom in the Green Unit, where I spent the next three years. I don't remember any of the adult chatter at the time about concerns or worries about White and Black kids going to school together, and only later did I realize how unique, and lucky, it was for me to have a Black male teacher for three years.

Fifty years have passed since the school pairing experiment began. Its story is now the topic of "Separate Not Equal: The Hale-Field Pairing," a new exhibit opening at the Hennepin History Museum on Thursday, March 17, 2022.

The exhibit – which is part of a multi-faceted collaboration among the museum, the University of Minnesota, Augsburg, TPT Executive Producer Daniel Bergin, and Hale-Field pairing alumni Heidi Adelman and Cindy Booker – covers the legal pre-

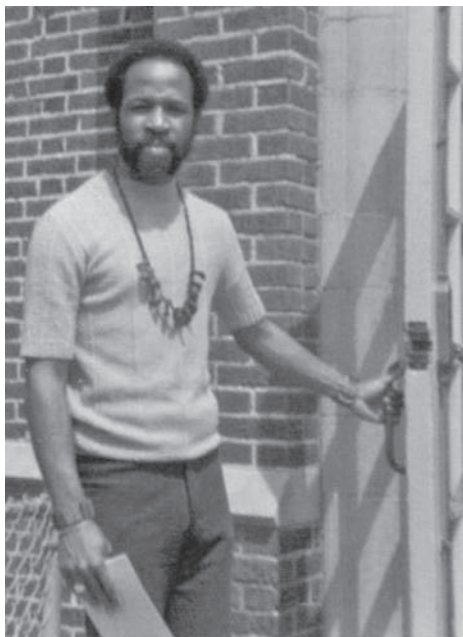


Hale and Field schools were combined in a unique pairing in 1971 designed to take meaningful steps towards racially integrating one school that had more White students and one that had more Black. (Photo submitted)

cedents and landmark rulings that led up to the 1971 pairing, community support and opposition to the plan, and what it means for today. It is based on material that comes straight from the lived experiences of students, parents, and teachers, and is paired with programs and activities that focus on the themes of school segregation past and present. There will be opportunities for community members and Hale-Field graduates to share their stories and artifacts, to help build out the historical record of the time.

For the Hennepin History Museum, "Separate Not Equal" represents part three of the story of how exclusionary public policies impacted how our cities were built, and how the legacy of those decisions continue to impact our communities today. In 2018, the museum hosted "Owning Up: Racism and Housing" in Minneapolis, the award winning student-curated exhibit on how racial covenants, red-lining, and White violence created a racially segregated Minneapolis. The museum continued its partnership with the University of Minnesota's Heritage Studies and Public History Program on "Human Toll: A Public History of 35W." Currently on display until Oct. 1, 2022, "Human Toll" tells the story of how the construction of 35W through south Minneapolis uprooted and divided neighborhoods – mirroring the experience of Black communities across the country, and amplifying the effects of systemic racism that are still felt today.

"Separate Not Equal" continues the storyline. It makes the connection between the racial housing patterns in Minneapolis at the time, and how it led to "separate not equal" racial segregation in



Mr. Andrew's welcomes students to Hale School in 1973, where he taught a multi-grade classroom in the Green Unit. One of his students was Cara Letofsky. (Photo submitted)

schools, and how the community fought to address it.

I consider it a gift to have been raised in a community with parent-supported public schools that embraced multiculturalism. Being exposed to people of races and religions different than mine has enriched my life. Telling this story now, as our communities' schools and housing patterns continue to struggle with the legacy of systemic racism, is an important step in learning how to address it.

Hennepin History Museum is located at 2303 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Phone: 612-870-1329, email: info@hennepinhistory.org, website: www.hennepinhistory.org

HHM's building is not fully accessible and does require climbing stairs.

untrue, it is harmful and hurtful.

I hope you'll be able to receive this message with an open heart and mind. Thank you and happy New Year.
Matt Diaz
Ericsson

Editor's note: We are grateful that Matt Diaz reached out. Language is changing to be more sensitive, and we need to stay current. It is regrettable that an article meant to help instead hurt. We asked Matt to review our article, and then made changes to our online version. We also plan to incorporate his input in future editions.

Newspaper gives us hope

Just finished reading the latest issue of Longfellow Nokomis Messenger. Great job!

Amir Locke: 'When A Heart Stops'

STOP
THINK
FEEL



BY ABHA KARNICK

The door was locked.

It was always locked.

He laid there, blinds down blocking the world around him

Blocking a tiresome, exhausting world.

They didn't even knock.

The door flew open, hitting the back wall with a force that surely sent a shiver down his spine

Nine seconds; The world suddenly forcing itself into his house, unannounced

Everything that once was will no longer be

Everything he was no longer is

His future plans, endeavors, successes

Now floating silently like friendly ghosts amidst a reality void of him

Tears cannot wash away the stains the blue coats left

Their error after error after error, taking lives that were not theirs

When the day was done

A society would mourn

When the day was done

A heart had stopped



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LETTERS

It's not 'special needs kids,' it is 'kids with special needs'

I am writing regarding the article titled "Special Needs Kids and COVID-19" on page 9 of the January issue. As a parent of three children with special needs I want to let you know the article was difficult to read. The reason for this was the lack of 'people first' language. The article reads 'special needs kids' and 'special needs children'. The right way to say it, write it, and think it is 'children, kids, or people with special needs'. Identifying people by a condition of their being suggests they are defined by that condition. This is not only

Thanks for the thoughtful and thorough reportage – your contribution to the community gives us hope for an ever-improving future!!

Best wishes,
Brad Thompson
Ericsson

CORRECTION

In the February Messenger, we incorrectly stated that MSP Film purchased the St. Anthony Main Theater. They actually have secured a long-term lease. We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is a health club for the aging brain

A conversation with the new director, Kate Schaefers

UNDER THE HOOD

BY SUSAN SCHAEFER

Something under the hood is not immediately apparent or obvious. This column will uncover stories that span the neighborhoods covered by TMC Publications.



HERE'S A LITTLE HISTORY:

In 1977, business executive and philanthropist, Bernard Osher, founded his self-named Bernard Osher Foundation to improve the quality of life through support for higher education and the arts, funding colleges and universities across the nation, with special attention to re-entry students. Investing significant funds through generous endowments, the foundation supports 125 lifelong learning programs on university and college campuses across the country, with at least one grantee in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Founded in 1995, UMN's OLLI has been recognized as an "exemplary lifelong learning program" by the foundation.

Despite the upheavals caused by the pandemic during the past years, OLLI has managed to pivot and cope. There have been a few changes. The main office recently moved from its former location in the McNamara Alumni Center on UMN's East Bank to its new home in Coffey Hall on the St. Paul Campus.

Also new is OLLI director, Dr. Kathleen (Kate) Schaefers, who brings a wealth of experience, leadership, vision, and passion to the role. We met virtually with Schaefers, who is a licensed psychologist, leadership coach, and educator, who has served as the AARP-MN Volunteer State President, and is a founding member of

It is widely known that aging is accompanied by varying rates and degrees of cognitive decline. However, neuroscience research has revealed that by keeping physically, socially, and mentally active and engaged, we are able to mitigate, and even reverse decline.

Here in the Twin Cities, we are fortunate to have a resource that offers highly participatory lifelong learning, and solid camaraderie and engagement. Best of all, accessing it is convenient from all corners of our metro area.

The University of Minnesota's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, better known as OLLI, is a respected and vital part of the University's College of Continuing and Professional Studies. Geared toward those over 55, anyone is welcome to join and participate.



During the pandemic outside OLLI classes continued to be popular, which included a drumming circle. (Photo courtesy of OLLI)

the Nexel Collaborative, a higher education consortium of institutions exploring ways to bring older adults back to campus. Schaefers graciously answered our questions:

OLLI has been referred to as a "health club for the aging brain," with much research dedicated to how intellectual and social enrichment help counteract cognitive decline. What are your thoughts about this

as the new, incoming executive director?

Healthy aging is more than physical. It is about staying active and engaged, from a physical, mental, and social perspective. Staying curious, and being open to new learning opportunities, is good for our brains, but also for our well-being as we age.

OLLI offers opportunities to learn and stay mentally sharp, but it's much more

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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING

>> From 6

than that. As a learning community, OLLI members develop deep connections with others who share a passion for learning. OLLI members actively participate in discussions, explore shared interests, volunteer their talents, and plan joint travel experiences. The bottom line: When we are part of learning activities that fully engage us, that invite us to actively participate and engage with others, we benefit on all levels.

What attracted you to taking the OLLI position? What do you bring to the table?

I am inspired by people in my life who approached their later years with a sense of curiosity, purpose, generosity, and joy. Every one of them embraced life as learners and teachers, mentors, and novices. They are my role models for living life fully at any age. I find kindred spirits within the OLLI community, and I am honored to play a role in helping this community thrive.

I have spent the last decade of my career focusing on ways to tap the talents of an aging population for the greater good. As an educator, program administrator, researcher, and writer, I centered my efforts on engaged aging, lifelong learning, and building community. Also, I am part of a network of people and organizations that see potential in our aging population.

How have the past years of pandemic and quarantine impacted our OLLI program?

Like everyone, OLLI had to pivot on a dime to convert our programming to virtual. We went from delivering 100% of our programming in person to delivering 100% online. With 60+ courses each term, this was no small task! We needed to train our instructors on how to teach this way, and help our members get comfortable with using Zoom.

We were all so isolated, especially in



Dr. Kate Schaefer is OLLI's new director. (Photo by Jessica Mealey)

those early days of the pandemic. For our members, who were in a high-risk group, this was particularly true for them. We had to creatively explore new ways to connect our members. We are proud of how OLLI helped our members during these troubling and lonely times. We were a lifeline for our OLLI community.

During my time as an OLLI instructor there was much discussion that the membership fee, now up to \$300/year, is prohibitive for some Minnesota seniors. Is there anything being proposed to help defray the cost and/or to subsidize less well-off citizens?

I'm so glad you asked! OLLI offers scholarships to help defray the costs for people in need, through the Miriam B.

Seltzer Scholarship Fund. We welcome applications for this scholarship and will help make OLLI accessible and affordable for all who want to join.

It is also important to look at what you get for that yearly membership fee. With four terms, and 60+ courses offered each term, members have access to a plethora of learning opportunities. Plus, members can join special interest groups and take advantage of other offerings. There is a lot of value that comes with an OLLI membership.

Please tell us a little about yourself: Childhood. School years. Education. Profession. Personal life.

I grew up in a tight knit community on the south side of Chicago. With seven children and a disabled father unable to work, money was scarce. Yet despite those hardships, we thrived, due in large part to the support of our neighbors and community. That early life experience grounded me and taught me the value of being part of a community.

In college, I had two majors: mathematics (because I thought it was practical) and psychology (because I was fascinated with the field). On a whim, I applied to graduate school at the University of Minnesota, and by some miracle was accepted, so that is what brought me to Minnesota. I fell in love with Minnesota, and soon fell in love with my husband, so the rest is history. We have been married 34 years and raised our two daughters here.

I'm trained as a psychologist (my Ph.D. is in counseling psychology), with much of my career in higher education: developing curriculum, launching programs, and coaching employees as they navigate leadership and career transitions. I have expertise in encore careers and the intergenerational workplace.

My career isn't a straight line, and I'm grateful for that. I have made career choices along the way that have taken me in directions I could not have anticipated ear-

lier in my career. I followed my heart and instincts at times, and it opened a world of opportunities.

As OLLI enters its spring session, what would you like our readership to know that we haven't covered?

OLLI offers something for everyone – we have courses in the arts, science and technology, social sciences, and interdisciplinary fields. From Art of Ancient Greece to The Stories Hidden in Our Genes, we offer a range of options each term (you can find our full OLLI Course Guide on our website). Our courses are taught by an outstanding cadre of instructors who bring topics to life for OLLI learners.

The OLLI community is welcoming! We have special interest groups that allow members to connect around their passions, like movie appreciation, sharing music or games, or even memoir writing. There are ample opportunities to meet people and develop new friendships through OLLI.

You can join OLLI at any time. We host four terms per year, with the spring 2022 term beginning on March 21. Our website is <https://ccaps.umn.edu/olli>

Author's Note: Classes and events always have been held throughout the metro area, but due to COVID-19 protocols most offerings are now online. With spring 2022 courses just beginning, there's no better time to feed our hungry brains. Again, everything you need to know is found in the course guide: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oRnzZtY_IzsuxJuf-cp5U196aEVs9TTBnt/view.

Happy learning!

Susan Schaefer is a widely published independent journalist, creative writer, and poet. Her articles appear in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, PBS' online magazine, Next Avenue, Next Tribe, and beyond. She was columnist and features writer for Minneapolis' Southwest Journal and Minnesota Good Age magazine.



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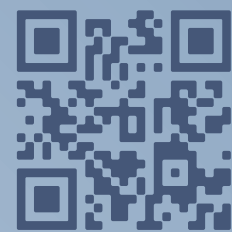
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PASSIONATE ABOUT BUNGALOWS

Q&A with Twin Cities Bungalow Club President Tim Counts



By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE BUNGALOW CLUB?

Longtime Bungalow Club President Tim Counts: The Twin Cities Bungalow Club was started in 1995 by Kristi Johnson, who lived with her husband in a Longfellow neighborhood bungalow. (They now live in a bungalow in Duluth). The Longfellow neighborhood association hired a contractor to survey the neighborhood's housing stock. The contractor reported that a majority of houses were bungalows, and labeled them as a liability – small and outmoded, “starter houses” or “grandma’s houses.”

Kristi was livid. Contrary to the prevailing view at the time, Kristi saw bungalows as high-quality housing stock built with sturdy, old-growth wood. Many were stucco-sided (the original maintenance-free siding) and boasted real plaster-and-lath walls. They were also loaded with character – rich oak woodwork, windows with divided lights, built-in bookcases and dining room buffets, and sometimes a brick fireplace or a breakfast nook. You simply couldn't afford to build houses with such high quality materials and workmanship at today's prices. Bungalows also had manageable front and back yards, with plenty of room for flower and vegetable gardens. In an era where suburban house and lot sizes were growing exponentially, bungalows were compact, charming and affordable.

Kristi started the Twin Cities Bungalow Club singlehandedly, and ran it largely by herself for about five years. By that time, the Longfellow neighborhood was putting up metal street signs that read: Longfellow – A Traditional Bungalow Community. The birth of the Twin Cities Bungalow Club coincided with a nationwide revival of the Arts & Crafts style and movement (which originally ran during the first decades of the 20th century), and a renewed appreciation of bungalows. For example, American Bungalow magazine (www.americanbungalow.com) began publication in the early 1990s.

Mission statement: The Twin Cities Bungalow Club is dedicated to fostering an appreciation for these charming and livable early 20th century homes. We are committed to preserving bungalows and other Arts & Crafts style homes of the era along with the neighborhoods they occupy; to learning their history; and to exploring the furnishings and decorative objects that filled them.

HOW CAN PEOPLE BECOME MEMBERS?

Counts: Memberships start at \$15 per year for an individual membership, or \$25 for a household (two people). Discounts are available if signing up for two years. Members receive an information-packed newsletter four times a year, plus free access to quarterly events on Arts & Crafts and bungalow topics, including our annual house tour. Website: www.bungalowclub.org.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE CLUB?

Counts: In 1994, I was looking to purchase a house. I didn't have much money, so my primary criteria was “cheap.” I

looked at quite a few houses in my price range, but they were all disappointing. Then my Realtor and I pulled up in front of the bungalow I would end up purchasing. We both said, “Oooh.” Inside, it just felt right. Even though the walls were painted a harsh white that clashed with the dark woodwork, and the floors were covered with orange and green shag carpeting, the house spoke to me.

After my purchase bid was accepted, I took the home's real estate flyer to work. A coworker looked at the photo on the flyer and said, “That's a bungalow.” I said, “What's a bungalow?” She said, “I'm not sure, but I think there's a magazine about them.” I asked her to pick up a copy for me if she ran across it. A few days later she brought in a copy of American Bungalow magazine (www.americanbungalow.com), and I fell down the bungalow rabbit hole.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUNGALOW.

Counts: My bungalow is modest – just over 1,000 square feet of living space on one level (two bedrooms and one bathroom), plus a full unfinished basement. But I love it. It doesn't have a fireplace, but it does have a beautiful, useful breakfast nook in the kitchen and a handsome built-in buffet in the dining room.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT BUNGALOWS?

Counts: Bungalows have loads of charm and coziness. They're small enough to be manageable, yet are fully functional. They can be small, but with a few minor tweaks they still work well for modern living.

WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHERS?

Counts: Don't work against your bun-

galow's aesthetic by painting its interior white, especially the oak woodwork. Today's fashion is bright, white and airy, but painting your bungalow's interior white will not make it cheery, it will just make it look tired. Work with the bungalow's character, using a warm color for the walls, which will bring out the red and gold tones in the woodwork.

PLEASE GIVE US DETAILS ON THE UPCOMING BUNGALOW HOME TOUR.

Counts: The 2022 Twin Cities Bungalow Club tour will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2022. It will last from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. We're still putting the details in place, so watch www.bungalowclub.org for updates.

BUNGALOW BOOK COLLECTION

Several years ago, Kristi Johnson, the Bungalow Club's founder, established a collection of bungalow, mission, and Arts & Crafts books and journals at the Merriam Park branch of the Saint Paul Public Library (1831 Marshall Avenue). Club members donated many of the first books. Over the years, the Bungalow Club has provided the library with funds for additional purchases. The collection numbers over 160 books.

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1,250 Minneapolis residents file ethics complaints against Mayor Frey

By JILL BOOGREN

On the inside steps of Minneapolis City Hall in front of a huge banner that read "FREY LIED AMIR DIED," community members announced that more than 1,250 Minneapolis residents had signed ethics complaints against Mayor Jacob Frey related to the police killing of Amir Locke. These were hand delivered to a city staff person after a press conference on Feb. 11, 2022.

Three ethics code violations are cited in "The Residents' Complaint:" first, that the mayor and Interim Minneapolis Police Chief Amelia Huffman "intentionally and recklessly misrepresented the facts" to the public and press when they erroneously referred to Amir Locke as a suspect four times in a press release and failed to correct the record; next, that the mayor, who has authority over the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), has violated his duty by "allowing this murder to go without discipline and discharge;" and last, that "there was a massive failure to exercise judgment" when the MPD requested a no-knock warrant on behalf of the Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD), which the SPPD did not request.

"We, the residents, of Minneapolis deserve better. We deserve to feel safe in our homes and in our streets. We deserve leadership that is trustworthy, fair and accountable," said Jeanelle Austin, a neighbor and community member of George Floyd Square. "Many of us as residents have reviewed the body camera footage and followed the official statements by the city in the wake of Amir's death. We continue to be deeply concerned and outraged with the lies, immoral decisions and actions we have witnessed from our local officials that violate our city's code of ethics."

Community outreach on the complaints is being undertaken by a loosely aligned group of residents, not any organization. As they began the process, Austin said, one resident asked how many complaints they were seeking to collect.

"The answer was one. It should only take one complaint of our mayor violating the code of ethics for the Ethical Practices Board to open and complete a thorough investigation," she said. But in 48 hours they collected more than 1,250 uniquely signed complaints, with some signed on the spot during the press conference.

Valentina McKenzie, a Black woman



Rev. Jia Starr Brown carries the bin of signed ethics complaints to the upstairs offices at Minneapolis City Hall on Feb. 11, 2022. Following a press conference, demonstrators marched upstairs chanting Amir Locke's name and "Frey Lied, Amir Died" and singing in the hallway until the signed complaint forms could be hand-delivered to a city staff person. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

with Black kids and community member of George Floyd Square, said the mayor has allowed MPD to abuse their power while refusing to use any of his own.

"Jacob's lies and failure has caused our city even deeper trauma by allowing his cops to do what they want and murder us freely. How can we heal as a city when every time we look up it's happening again and again and again," said McKenzie. "Not in some other city. Right here in Minneapolis. We're tired of being continuously lied to about everything from if [Mr. Locke] was a suspect or not to are the no-knock warrants banned or not."

The mayor has come under fire for allowing no-knock warrants despite having claimed during his reelection campaign last year to have already banned them. At a Feb. 7 City Council Policy & Government Oversight Committee meeting discussion, committee chair Jeremiah Elli-

son asked the mayor what accounts for the gulf between what people believed the policy (which was modified but not banned in November 2020) did, versus what it actually did. The mayor responded, "Throughout a campaign, certainly as more and more people and outside groups began weighing in, language became more casual, including my own, which did not reflect the necessary precision or nuance, and I own that."

Following Locke's death, the mayor announced a moratorium on requesting and executing no-knock warrants, although they are still allowed in limited circumstances.

Youth organizer Semhar Solomon said the citizens of Minneapolis, through The Residents' Complaint, are asking for transparency, accountability and safety.

"These ethics violations – these 'mistakes' – are costing lives, and the com-

munity of Minneapolis has continued to say, 'Enough is enough,'" said Solomon, who urged youth to raise the importance of doing their part to the adult coaches, teachers and mentors in their lives. "Each and every one of us has power – when you speak up for what is right – to make change. And right now, the citizens of Minneapolis and the families of all stolen lives are asking all of us as our duty to stand up and use our voices. So, will you?"

Southwest Minneapolis resident and mom Kristin Ingall told the crowd assembled in the rotunda that for too long it has been the inactions of "ordinary people, like me," that has kept a harmful system running. She called for all residents of Minneapolis to hold city leaders accountable.

"Amir Locke was executed by the Minneapolis Police Department and the negligence and inaction of Mayor Frey. And yet there has been no accountability. Why do we accept that as residents of Minneapolis?" she asked. "This is not outside agitation. This is local aggravation. Enough is enough."

Resident Rod Adams said he lives directly across the street from where Locke was killed and can't get the image out of his mind from the body-worn camera video of that key going in that door.

"They snuck in on this brother. They woke him. He didn't even have an opportunity to know where he was at," said Adams. "And now his life is gone, and our lives are forever changed."

He said the city needs to heal but cannot do so without transparency, banning no-knock warrants and transforming what public safety looks like in the city.

In addition to residents' remarks, those in attendance heard violin music by Racurt Johnson and song by Jayanthi Kyle. After a full reading of the ethics code violations, the group marched upstairs, chanting and singing, and delivered the complaints to a city staff person. Rev. Jia Starr Brown, who carried the box of complaint forms, handed it to the employee with assurances they would be given to the proper city officials.

The effort to gather complaint forms is ongoing, with more information available @TheResidentsComplaint on Instagram. To bring a complaint before the Ethical Practices Board, complainants must be residents of Minneapolis and 18 years of age or older.

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Lawmakers respond

>> From 1

All this is happening while the police department is under ongoing investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, while three officers involved in the George Floyd murder are currently on trial in federal court, and there is a new leader at the Minneapolis Police Department.

Since Feb. 2, ethics complaints against the mayor have been filed and some, including Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley Worlobah, have called for his resignation. "I am standing with my constituents," she said at the last council meeting, "who are calling on the strong mayor who has sole authority over MPD to resign."

Locke's death occurred during an unannounced entry, or no-knock, search warrant and this took many by surprise because both the mayor and the state legislature had tried to impose stiffer restrictions on their use in 2020, following the death of Breonna Taylor in Atlanta, Ga., that also happened during such a search warrant.

Within days of Locke's death, Mayor Frey clarified that the officers in this case were following the policy that was updated in November 2020. That policy, despite being referred to as a "ban" on no-knock warrants on the mayor's campaign website, still allowed officers to request and execute the so-called no-knock warrants without knocking but did require them to announce their presence as they entered the threshold of a residence, which these officers appear to have done on the body camera video that has been released.

On Feb. 4, the mayor placed a moratorium on requesting or executing no-knock warrants unless there is "an imminent threat of harm to an individual or the public and then the warrant must be approved by the chief." During the moratorium, the mayor will work with DeRay McKesson of Campaign Zero and Dr. Pete Kras-



Protesters hold signs at a Feb. 5 rally. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

ka of Eastern Kentucky University to review and suggest revisions to the department's policy.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the invitation of Ward 5 Council Member Jeremiah Ellison, chair of the Policy & Government Oversight Committee, St. Thomas associate professor Rachel Moran, and law student Sarah Murtada, along with attorneys Ben Crump, Jeff Storms, and Antonio Romanucci, as well as Mayor Frey, spoke before the committee.

"They are dangerous," said Moran, about the unannounced entry/ no-knock search warrants. "Between 2010 and 2016 at least 94 people were killed in the United States as a result of no-knock warrants." Thirteen of those were police officers.

Murtada informed the committee that St. Paul has not used these types of search warrants since 2016, and it did not seem to reduce arrest rates or police safety. "We're looking at these two cities - one that uses no knock warrants, one that doesn't - and we're not seeing any difference in officer's safety," she said. "And we're also not seeing that no-knock warrants create a higher clearance rate or solve more crimes." Several cities, she informed the committee, including Santa Fe, Indianapolis and Louisville have outright bans.

Council President Andrea Jenkins expressed her "commitment, at the bare minimum, in this conversation, on banning no knock warrants in the city of Minneapo-

lis... We need to learn from these events so we can prevent them in the future."

Within days of the committee meeting, the Interim Minneapolis Civil Rights Director, Alberder Gillespie, announced that the department's Office of Police Conduct Review will conduct a special review of the city's no-knock search warrant policy. Gillespie said that "they will have the authority to request unrestricted access to the records of the Minneapolis Police Department for that purpose, to the extent authorized by law." The special review will focus on identifying and recommending specific changes and improvements to current policy and procedures.

STATE RESPONSE

Meanwhile, on Feb. 8, several DFL state legislatures announced that they were introducing legislation to add restrictions on the use of no-knock warrants. The bill's sponsor, Representative Athena Hollins from St. Paul, said, "No-knock warrants are a tool in a toolbox, but it's a tool that should only be used in the tiniest sliver of cases: kidnapping, hostage situations and human trafficking. No-knock warrants are bound to kill more innocent people, which is why we need to stop using them." The specific language is expected soon with a public hearing likely to be scheduled by the end of the month.

DFLers in the House have also introduced a \$100 million public safety plan that would fund local violence prevention efforts, community policing, crime investigations, opiate abuse and addiction prevention, police cameras and more.

"No knock warrants are an unreasonable violation of the fourth amendment and should be banned. I hope we will have bipartisan support for this effort," said Representative Aisha Gomez (62B) about the proposal. Representative Esther Agabje (59B) also supports the effort, and said, "This is a step in the direction towards transformational change."

CITY OVERSIGHT

At the city level, additional avenues for improving safety and policing have recently emerged.

On Feb. 10, the city council approved Ward 13 council member Linea Palmisano's motion to introduce ordinance amendments related to the police department and police oversight. Palmisano also said that she is working on the establishment of an Office of Independent Monitor to review policies and practices of the police department.

Abigail Cerra and Jordan Sparks, Chair and Vice Chair of the Minneapolis Police Conduct Oversight Commission, have recommended moving Police Oversight to the Independent City Auditor's Office. They wrote in a letter shared at the commission's last meeting, "In this way the council, acting under the authority of the newly passed Charter Amendment, can set up a police oversight system with the two essential elements of oversight: independence and access to non-public data." The commission is expected to continue discussion of the recommendation at its meeting on March 8.

During the most recent Audit Committee Council Ward 11 council member Emily Koski introduced the idea of creating a Police Accountability Auditor and team that could "create the proper checks and balances between the police department, mayor, and city council."

Finally, on Feb. 10, Ward 1 council member Elliot Payne gave notice that he will be introducing a new ordinance for the council to consider that would amend the charter and create a new Department of Public Safety. His intention is to pursue passage of the charter amendment by unanimous approval of the city council and mayor rather than put it before Minneapolis voters in November. "I will be working with my colleagues in city hall in the coming days to draft this ordinance and gain the unanimous support of all 13 city council members and the mayor," he wrote in a recent email, "in an effort to create a department of public safety as soon as possible." The council will vote on whether or not to refer this to a committee at their next meeting on Feb. 24.

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University of Minnesota researchers in the Department of Dermatology are seeking participants for a research study. We are interested in testing alternatives to dark hair dye for individuals who are allergic to the common hair dye ingredients p-phenylenediamine (PPD) and p-toluenediamine (PTD). Participation in the research will take approximately 2 hours. Participants will be compensated up to \$75 for their time.

The alternatives being tested in this study will be safe for all hair types including black and textured hair.

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- ✓ Are 18-90 years of age
- ✓ Have a diagnosed allergy to PPD and/or PTD
- ✓ Are NOT pregnant or immunocompromised

THIS STUDY INVOLVES: 3 study visits in one week (2 in-person visits and 1 virtual visit), skin patch tests on your upper arms, a brief physical exam, and sharing your allergy history

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS STUDY, CONTACT:

Study Coordinator: [Irmina Wallander, wall0396@umn.edu](mailto:Irmina.Wallander@umn.edu) or 612-624-5721

Family, community demand justice

>> From 1

tiful spirit and a beautiful smile," she said. "Never would I have imagined that I would be standing up here talking about the execution of my son by the Minneapolis Police Department."

Locke's father, Andre Locke, asked members of the press how many have sons of their own. Seeing some hands raised, he said, "Put yourselves in our shoes... How does that feel, to know that your son is sleeping comfortably, in a safe place, peacefully, and someone takes it upon themselves to choose who lives and who dies?"

"Amir was a bright light. He deserves to be able to shine," he said.

Nine seconds of body-worn camera footage shows officers using a key to enter the apartment. After the door opens, they begin shouting, "Police search warrant" and "Get on the ground" as they move through the unit. An officer kicks the couch, Locke begins to emerge from beneath his blanket, and he is fatally shot. A still image shows a gun, which Locke was licensed to own, in his hand. His index finger is extended along the barrel, not on the trigger. The gun is pointed to the side, not toward the body camera.

Both of his parents knew their son as a deep sleeper.

"What we saw when the officer kicked the couch... [Amir] wasn't even moving before then. The officer startled him. When he kicked the couch, when he aggravated Amir, when he forced Amir to respond to protect himself, as any law-abiding citizen would do and has the right to do..." said Andre Locke. "We believe that [the police] executed him, our son Amir. We believe it. And we definitely want to prosecute to the fullest."

Family members spoke of being very close to one another, with several saying they were present at the hospital when Locke was born.

"You should be outraged," said his aunt, Linda Tyler. "Not because he's African American. You should be outraged just because one of your citizens died at the hands of another citizen."

She said they raise their kids with a certain creed when encountering police: "Do this. Put your hands on the wheel. Make sure you look at 'em eye to eye. Don't move too soon. Don't go into your pockets. Just sit still. We train our kids up like that because we want them to live just another day."

To the question of why Locke would have his gun by his side, Tyler said it's because at home you keep your gun near you, at your bedside.

"That's what I would do. And so if any intruder comes in, I'm gonna reach for my gun to protect my house and my home," she said. "Amir was at his cousin's house, in the sanctity of his house... of course he had his gun by his side, because where else is he gonna put it?"

Community member Marques Armstrong, a licensed gun owner, said Locke showed discipline in handling his gun.



Nneka Constantino, Amir Locke's cousin, said, "No-knock warrants systematically impact Black families and Black people... It hits Black families in a different way than it hits the White community, and we all need to be outraged about that." (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Some protesters attend the rally on Feb. 5 outside Police Precinct 1 wrapped in blankets. One holds up a pillow that reads "Amir Locke / Murdered / Sleeping while / Black." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

"It took discipline to be startled out of your sleep, dead sleep, with screamin' and yellin' and lights and guns and men standing over you," he said. Armstrong demonstrated with his own hand to show how Locke's index finger, the trigger finger, was extended along the barrel, not on the trigger. It's how you draw your gun safely, he explained, until you assess the situation and acquire the target. And only then does the finger drop onto the trigger and squeeze.

"Amir wasn't in a position to shoot anybody," said Armstrong. "He was properly trained."

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus issued a statement on Feb. 4 about the incident.

"Mr. Locke did what many of us might do in the same confusing circumstances. He reached for a legal means of self-defense while he sought to understand what was happening," said Rob Doar, senior vice president of government-

tal affairs.

Nneka Constantino, Locke's cousin, called attention to the harm done when authorities advance a narrative that too often criminalizes Black victims. In this case, the initial press release put out by the MPD included a picture of a gun without mentioning that Locke was a licensed gun owner. He was also referred to as a "suspect" four times in the MPD press release, even though he was not named in the search warrant (see "The anatomy of a coverup"). It has the effect of hardening the hearts of those who might be empathetic, said Constantino, but who might write a victim off as "just another thug," if reclining in the thought that police don't raid a house for no reason.

"But what we have to reconcile is the fact that no-knock warrants systematically impact Black families and Black people. They do not walk into the families of our White brothers and sisters this carelessly," said Constantino. "This is a systemic issue."

'THE ANATOMY OF A COVERUP'

Citizens dispute statements made by police department

By JILL BOOGREN

The day after Minneapolis Police Officer Mark Hanneman shot and killed Amir Locke while executing a search warrant raid of a downtown apartment on behalf of the St. Paul Police Department, mayor Jacob Frey and Interim Minneapolis Police Chief Amelia Huffman released the body-worn camera footage and held a press conference. Community members confronted the mayor and chief, exposing several contradictions between the press release that had been issued by the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) the previous day, Chief Huffman's own statements and the body-worn camera video footage itself.

One of the questions asked was whether Locke was considered a suspect in any crime. Chief Huffman said she couldn't speak to the St. Paul investigation which led to the Minneapolis search warrant, in which Locke was not named. The MPD, however, referred to Locke as a "suspect" four times in its press release.

A voice off camera asked, "Why would you refer to him as a suspect in a press release if you didn't know?" This went unanswered.

Community members also took issue with MPD's account of how the police alerted the victim to their presence. The press release stated:

"Officers gained entry to the target apartment on the seventh floor, loudly and repeatedly announced their presence, crossed the threshold of the apartment, and advanced with continued loud announcements of their presence."

The implication is officers yelled first, entered next. But the footage shows a door that is open before officers are heard shouting. When asked to clarify, the chief replied, "Right, so in the video, they open the door with a key and announce

'police search warrant' before they enter the apartment." Voices off camera called, "That's not true," "It's just not true."

Likewise, the press release claimed:

"Approximately 9 seconds into the entry, officers encountered a male who was armed with a handgun pointed in the direction of officers."

The claim was also made by Chief Huffman, who asserted that the involved officer was just outside the frame in the direction that the barrel is emerging from the blanket. A voice off camera said, "It looked to me as if that gun and Amir Locke's hand was pointed toward the floor."

Both of these points were heavily disputed by family members and activists, including licensed gun owners, after viewing the video.

Michelle Gross, president of Citizens United Against Police Brutality, asked repeatedly why the MPD released pictures of Locke's gun, even though he never fired his weapon, and not a picture of the gun used by the officer to kill him.

"It was sensationalistic demonization of a victim of police murder. Plain and simple," she said. "There was not one legitimate reason for releasing that picture. It was about associating a man with a gun to try to create a narrative to justify what the police did."

After many questions went unanswered, Nekima Levy Armstrong, of Racial Justice Network, walked to the podium.

"This is what I would call the anatomy of a coverup," she said. Levy Armstrong, who co-chairs the city's Community Safety Workgroup, said it was unacceptable to hide behind the St. Paul Police Department, "the deadliest police force in the State of Minnesota," and that the MPD had no business agreeing to carry out a warrant if they were going to claim they didn't know the details.

"We don't want to see coverups. We don't want to see whitewashing," she said. "People are asking very simple questions that are still not being answered."

It hits Black families in a different way than it hits the White community, and we all need to be outraged about that."

The hardest part, said Constantino, is that at press conferences like this, the first thing you hear a Black mother say is, "He was a good kid... He was this. He was that... Because we have to humanize him, and we have to overcome what the Minneapolis Police Department has deposited in you day one, day two."

Nekima Levy Armstrong of Racial Justice Network said the family's presence alone dismantles racial stereotypes.

"They always say, 'Where's the Black family'?" Gesturing to the extensive family gathered behind her, she said, "Here's the Black family."

PROTESTERS TAKE TO THE STREETS

Protesters took to the streets with a loud car caravan in downtown Minneapolis the evening of Feb. 4, horns blaring, people leaning out of car windows chanting for justice. The next day 1,000 people poured onto the plaza of the Hennepin County Government Center, many carrying signs that read "Frey Lied. Amir Died." Family members spoke to the tightly packed crowd who then marched through downtown streets. Some demonstrators were wrapped in blankets; one held a pillow that read: "Amir Locke Murdered Sleeping while Black."

Activists called for the officer and Minneapolis Interim Police Chief Amelia Huffman to be fired and for the mayor to resign.

On Feb. 6, a car caravan rolled up to Chief Huffman's residence, where demonstrators placed in the snowbanks small crosses bearing Amir Locke's name and small red hearts. Live video coverage showed headlights extending the full length of the street as more cars kept coming.

On Feb. 8 thousands of students in the Twin Cities took part in walkout, which included a march from St. Paul Central High School to the Governor's Residence.

At George Floyd Square, each of the five fist sculptures at the center of and entrances to the intersection have been wrapped in white comforters. AMIR LOCKE WAS LYNCHED! JUSTICE NOW!! is spelled out on the marquee of the former Speedway; AMIR LOCKE is painted on blankets draped over the concrete barriers in front of the black and white "Icon of a Revolution" portrait of George Floyd.

The killing of Amir Locke happened in the midst of the federal trial of J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao, the former officers accused of violating Floyd's civil rights when they failed to intervene during George Floyd's murder.

"We're here again in a wholly avoidable situation," said attorney Jeff Storms, who along with Ben Crump is representing Amir Locke's family. "Once again, like we've seen before, George Floyd should not have been murdered. Daunte Wright should not have been killed by Kim Potter... Everyone knows about the dangers of no-knock warrants. From Breonna Taylor and so many others who have died that way. What's it gonna take for the lesson to be learned? How many more people have to die before we not only enforce policies but implement them?"



Teens rally in protest of the police killing of Amir Locke, who was 22 years old. The statewide walkout and rally was organized by Minnesota Teen Activists on Feb. 8, 2022. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

LCC conducts housing survey



**LONGFELLOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

BY JUSTIN GAARDER,
communications
justin@longfellow.org

In fall 2021, The Longfellow Community Council's new Equitable Housing and Development Committee (EHDC) set out to identify the challenges that current and potential residents are facing when it comes to housing in Greater Longfellow. The results of the survey, which was launched at the Minnehaha Open Streets event last October, show a clear need for affordable rental housing, homeownership opportunities and a wider variety of housing options. EHDC is now in the process of using these results to set priorities and outlines goals for their future work.

Want to be a part of the conversation and work towards eliminating barriers to equitable housing, development, and transportation in Greater Longfellow? Visit longfellow.org/committees to learn more.

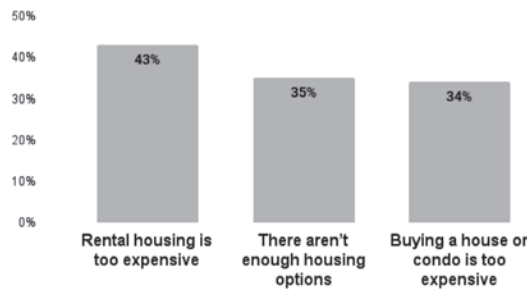
Top Survey Responses

Number of Responses

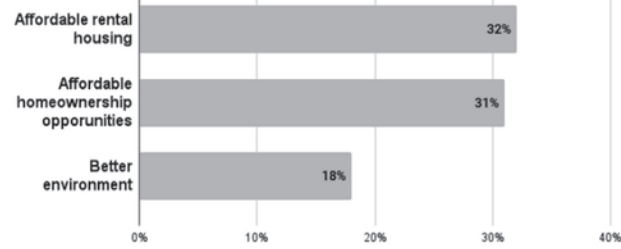
Overall, 124 community members completed the survey.



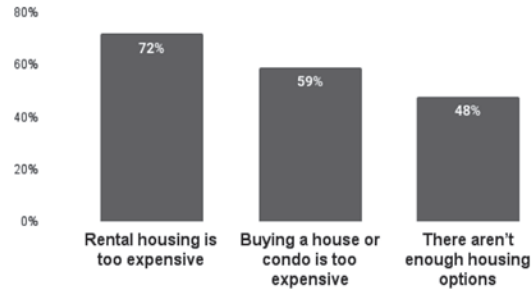
Which of the following housing challenges have YOU have faced recently?



What, if anything, would make the Greater Longfellow neighborhood feel more welcoming to you?



What do you think are the biggest housing challenges currently facing Greater Longfellow?



I like volunteering for Longfellow Community Council (LCC) because it is a way to work with other Longfellow residents on issues that have been identified as important to the neighborhood. Volunteering and working together is a powerful way to keep the neighborhood vibrant and welcoming."

Beverly Conerton

WANT TO BE PART OF NENA GIVING GARDEN?

Are you interested in gardening, building community, and raising food for good local causes? You should get involved with the NENA Giving Garden at Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls (5212 41st Ave. S). Planning meetings on February 22 and March 15. All are welcome!

ANNUAL MEETING & COMMUNITY MEAL

NENA's popular event returns in person, and we will be serving one of our community's favorite hot spots - Dominique Family Restaurant! Join us on April 28, 2022, at Crosstown Covenant Church (5540 30th Ave. S.) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for our community meal, vote for board candidates, hear about the new strategic plan, and get involved in your community! Learn more online at www.nokomiseast.org/planning

RUN FOR A SEAT ON NENA'S BOARD

You can run for a seat on the NENA Board. Serving on the board is a great volunteering opportunity to connect to your community and build leadership skills. Board candidate information and the online application are now available at nokomiseast.org/run-for-a-board-seat/. Online, telephone, and in-person voting at the Annual meeting will be offered for Nokomis East to elect its NENA leaders.

STRATEGIC PLAN AND NRP PLAN MODIFICATION

The NENA Board will present our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, including a multi-year strategy for funding housing, commercial, streetscape, environmental, diversity, safety and livability, and community engagement projects initiated by the neighborhood.

To implement the next strategy plan, NENA's board also recommends a NRP Plan Modification to reposition city funding allocated to Nokomis East. The board will share details with our community about the updated community priorities and funding

**NOKOMIS EAST
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

BY BECKY TIMM,
executive director
becky.timm@nokomiseast.org



strategies and ask for a vote of approval from the community at the annual meeting.

NENA FOOD TRUCK RALLY

Save April 23 for the spring Food Truck Rally and join your neighbors for great food, live music, lots of mingling, and raising funds for NENA's community programming. More info at www.facebook.com/events/902734037017979

START PLANNING YOUR SPRING PROJECTS

Check out the housing resources available through NENA for homeowners, renters, and residential property owners in the four Nokomis East neighborhoods of Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, and Wenonah. We offer small matching grants for Curb Appeal and Home Security projects. NENA offers up to \$7,500 through our Staying in Place grant program. And we also have a home improvement loan program with competitive rates and the home emergency repair forgivable home loans for income-qualified residents. Visit www.nokomiseast.org for more information.

UPCOMING ONLINE MEETINGS 6:30 P.M.

03/01/2022: NENA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
3/15/2022: Giving Garden planning meeting
03/24/2022: NENA Board of Directors
More at www.nokomiseast.org.



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Environment and River Gorge

Meets over Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm

Equitable Housing and Development

Meets over Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm

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Meets over Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm

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Spring Home Projects

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Housing resources available through NENA for homeowners, renters, and residential property owners in the four Nokomis East neighborhoods of Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, and Wenonah

- Curb Appeal & Home Security Matching Grants
- Staying in Place Grant Program
- Home Emergency Repair Forgivable Loans
- Home Improvement Loans

Visit www.nokomiseast.org for more information

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In Brief

NEW LEADER FOR THE 3RD POLICE PRECINCT

In January, Interim Police Chief Amelia Huffman appointed Jose Gomez to be the new inspector of the Third Precinct to replace Sean McGinty who will be moving to lead the Second Precinct. Gomez's parents were born in Mexico. They migrated to Nebraska where he was raised before coming to Minneapolis, where he went through his police training. He started in the Explorer program and joined the department in 1994. Gomez, who owns a home in the precinct, has worked as lieutenant in the juvenile outreach division, gun violence response and Third Precinct, which covers all of the greater Longfellow and Nokomis area. The headquarters for the Third Precinct is currently in the City of Lakes building downtown. When asked about a future location for the precinct he said, "The priority is finding a location in the precinct. I know it will be a delicate conversation, but I think we need to be in the neighborhood."

EMERGENCY SHELTER TO OPEN IN LONGFELLOW

Catholic Charities has a purchase agreement to buy the the Hiawatha Suites senior housing building located at 4140 Cheatham (formerly Dight) Ave. in the Hiawatha neighborhood to relocate their Hope Shelter for young adults. They are seeking a letter from Longfellow Community Council (LCC) supporting their application for a conditional use permit. The Hope Shelter is currently operating at the old St Joseph's Home for Children campus at 1121 East 46th Street. The facility would have 25 bedrooms for up to 30 residents. It would be staffed 24 hours a day seven days a week and, in addition to fully furnished rooms and community areas, Catholic Charities would provide crisis counseling and support, case management, mental health and chemical dependency counseling, on-site medical care, independent living skills training, and one-to-one educational assistance for the residents.

REDISTRICTING CHANGES

State and local governments are working to meet deadlines for determining new boundaries for districts and wards this spring based on the 2020 census. Once approved, the city will then have until March 29 to approve a map that includes the new ward and park district boundaries. In Minneapolis, The Charter Commission sets the boundaries and recently put forward recommended maps of ward and park district boundaries. On Feb. 24, they will hold a public hearing on their redistricting plan. For more information see <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/redistricting/>

HIAWATHA-LAKE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

The Hiawatha Avenue and Lake Street intersection (Hi-Lake) is being redesigned with construction set to begin in 2024. Plans include redesigned intersections, improved pedestrian crossings and widened sidewalks. The public is being invited to share ideas about how added pedestrian area under the bridge and around the intersection could be used. Hennepin County, city of Minneapolis, MnDOT, and Metro Transit said they intend to work with community representatives, serving on a Community Advisory Council, to incorporate public feedback into the final design and identify potential community partners to implement space uses after construction is complete. https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/download/Agenda/3297/Hi_Lake_Mpls_BAC_PAC.pdf/66131/3023/Hi-Lake%20Presentation

HIGHWAY 55 RESURFACING

Starting this spring the Minnesota Department of Transportation will resurface Hiawatha Ave. between I-35W and Highway 62, repair three bridges, and update accessibility at intersections. Motorists and pedestrians can expect road, lane, and bridge closures with possible closures of side street access and detours for the duration of the project starting in April and going throughout the summer. Southbound traffic on Highway 55 will be closed for four months between downtown Minneapolis and Cedar Ave. and for

two weeks between Cedar Ave. and 32nd St. and northbound traffic will be closed for two weeks between Lake St. and 26th St. For more details. see <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy55minneapolis/index.html>.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE NETWORK

On Feb. 3, Saint Paul and Minneapolis started a new network of on-street electric vehicle charging stations. The network covers a 35-square-mile service area in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and offers the public access to electric vehicle charging places and a new carshare service called Evie Carshare that is operated by the local nonprofit HOURCAR. Each charging location will have two dedicated parking spaces for personal vehicles and two spaces for carshare vehicles. The first locations available for public use are at Sherburne and Dale Street (Saint Paul), Margaret Street and E. 7th Street (Saint Paul), Colfax and Hennepin Avenue (Minneapolis), Chicago and Franklin Avenue (Minneapolis) and 13th Avenue SE and 4th Street SE (Minneapolis). They plan to add 65 more charging locations in the months ahead and be fully operational by fall. Initially, Evie Carshare plans to operate with 101 cars and adding cars to eventually operate 171 vehicles. To learn more, visit www.EVSpotNetwork.com.

SEWARD VACCINE EQUITY PROJECT

Volunteers in the Seward neighborhood have been working for the past year to bring more vaccinations to the community. They have partnered with Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice as their fiscal sponsor which has allowed them to get funding from the Minnesota Department of Health and Hennepin County Public Health. They use funds for incentives, food for volunteers and medical staff, and activities to keep children relaxed during a potentially anxious time. It costs about \$3,000 for each clinic, where they are vaccinating between 45 and 60 people. The funding they receive does not cover all of their expenses. You can support this effort through a tax-deductible donation at <https://slrj.networkforgood.com>.

~ Compiled by Cam Gordon

Plan It

'THE MISER' AUDITIONS COMING UP

Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater Company is pleased to announce a 2022 Season where everything old is new again. It will be highlighted by four productions of new scripts, including a new adaptation of a classic French farce; an outdoor summer show; as well as new Fall and Holiday productions at their performance space, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, on 17th Ave and 46th St. in South Minneapolis, two blocks east of Bloomington Avenue, in the south Minneapolis Nokomis neighborhood. In the spring, the company will present a new and updated version of "The Miser" by Jean-Baptiste Moliere.

This production to be adapted and directed by Steven LaVigne will hold auditions, March 7 and 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact lavignebiz1952@gmail.com or Classicsloststandfound@gmail.com. "The Miser" plays April 29-30 and May 6-7 at 7 p.m., with a matinee on April 29 at 2 p.m.

CHARD YOUR YARD SIGNUP OPENS APRIL 1

In 2022, the Chard Your Yard program will provide raised garden beds and gardening soil to residents of the greater Longfellow area. Gardens and soil are provided at cost, so they are affordable. The program is run by Transition Longfellow, a neighborhood sustainability and resilience group. Over the last 10 years approximately 240 Chard Your Yard garden beds have been installed. Garden beds will cost approximately \$90 each due to higher material costs. There are a limited number of subsidized beds available for low income households and a limited number of double high beds for gardeners with physical disabilities. Garden bed signup opens April 1. Garden installations planned in early May. To sign up, visit <https://chardyouryard.com>



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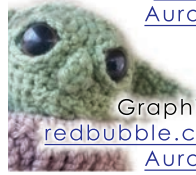
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By PENNY FULLER

FELINES FIND 'FOREVER' HOMES

Longtime Feline Rescue volunteer Nancy Miller writes monthly newsletters and works as a shift lead. "I love this work because I see first-hand the difference that volunteering makes in the lives of so many cats," said Miller.

She and other leads oversee and coordinate daily shifts of volunteers that help with feeding, cleaning and enrichment activities. There are special adoption rooms set aside for interacting with the cats outside of the kennels. The shelter allows for easy access during open hours where visitors may meet a variety of individuals. Visiting hours (currently only by appointment) are posted on the website where there is an interactive scheduling process listing available times and dates. "The cats do enjoy having visitors!" said Miller.

Feline Rescue is staffed with individuals at all levels including a veterinarian that provides on-site care. Much of the day-to-day tasks are completed by volunteers. There are also many other ways to get involved.

According to Miller, volunteers and staff have a having real passion for their work and for the cats in their care. She also noted how the organization has expanded to work alongside numerous animal welfare organizations and individuals, even participating in national initiatives such as Shelter Animals Count. She is fond of this saying: "Saving one cat won't change the world, but it will surely change the world for that cat."

Gail Frethem is a newer volunteer. Although she is more of a "dog person," Frethem said she greatly enjoys her role and connects with the cats. "It's relaxing," she said, "without the challenges of working with people and politics."

EVERY CAT IS WANTED

Founded in 1997 by 23 people who wanted to continue shelter services from



Volunteer Gail Frethem plays with Tupelo at the shelter. (Photo by Penny Fuller)

a predecessor organization, Feline Rescue has been operating out of its present location at 593 Fairview Avenue North since 2006, remarked Feline Rescue Executive Director Phil Manz. They are a limited admission, no-kill organization providing safe shelter, veterinary care and socialization for stray, abandoned or abused cats. Feline Rescue has also provided outreach services for people helping cats in their neighborhood. This past year the Coolers4Cats program retrofitted and distributed over 150 coolers for sheltering homeless cats throughout Minnesota.

"Our vision guides our efforts," commented Manz. "A community where every cat is wanted."

FINDING THE RIGHT HOME

Jenni Charrier began her work with Feline Rescue 20 years ago as a donor because she loved the premise of a positive organization that puts cats first. "It's about finding the right home for each cat and it's essential to rise above human issues to make that happen," she said.

Charrier is involved in many aspects of Feline Rescue, most recently joining their board in January 2022. She helps to connect Feline Rescue with the public through her media skills including videography, Facebook management and start-up initiatives such as Coolers4Cats, the Cat Claw Clipping Clinic in Wayzata and many shelter improvements. She is also a

foster mom.

Charrier said, "Foster caregivers are very important to the organization. The private setting provides tailored care, particularly for cats with special needs. Pregnant cats or those with kittens prior to being weaned, as well as those in need of socialization or special medical care are included in this array. When a cat is ready for adoption, Feline Rescue arranges an opportunity for potential adopters to meet at the foster cat home or the Feline Rescue administration building."

WORKING FROM HOME

Stephanie Carver, a foster mom since 2020, realized that working from home during the pandemic provided an ideal opportunity for this role. "Making observations on each cat's personality and preferences is key to ultimately matching them to the right home," she explained. She pointed out that food and medical care is supplied for fosters so those with a limited budget or who can't have a long-term pet commitment may find fostering provides an ideal opportunity to enjoy feline companionship.

"Feline Rescue also provides training for individuals, if needed," she said. "I never imagined I could administer subcutaneous fluids to a cat, but I did and I'm very proud of myself for going outside of my comfort zone. It allowed me to care for a cat with special needs."

She described the role of foster as being flexible and well supported, and added, "Volunteers are very helpful with one another."

She is impressed in general with Feline Rescue's leadership and vision. "As a lawyer I am very fussy about what charities I give support to. They really get my stamp of approval!" said Carver. "I'm impressed, too, that their employee assistance program is available to volunteers."

For more, visit www.felinerescue.org.

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