



Will Lake Hiawatha be reduced to a holding pond?



Nicole Cavender, who is Dakota, with Weston, 6, and Becket, 2.5 years, along with Ali Mailander and Hap (not shown) clean up trash along Lake Hiawatha on April 16, 2022. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Some residents are concerned about latest plan to save 18-hole golf course and say it will come at expense of lake and creek

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Community members concerned that Lake Hiawatha may be reduced to nothing more than a holding pond gathered at Lake Hiawatha Park on April 16, 2022.

They were there in response to a proposal from the Bronze Group, an enti-

ty hoping to save the 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course and stop it from becoming a 9-hole course. Their plan over the last two months has, by turns, proposed draining the lake, cutting it off from the creek, and building a seven-foot berm on the east side of the lake.

"Golfers have presented their alternative plan. Their first plan was to drain the

lake. It would disappear. They realized that was a terrible idea so now their proposal would disconnect the creek from the lake. It would turn it into what Commissioner Abene described as a holding pond. It would not serve as a floodplain anymore," said Chris Meyer. "So that means it would have to be addressed somewhere else. I really doubt that the DNR would give a permit for that. That's just one of many problems with the golfer's plan."

LAKE HIAWATHA >> 12

Market values on the rise again

Minneapolis values jump an average of 10% with some as much as 19%

By CAM GORDON

By now, all property owners in Minneapolis should have received their estimated market value statements from the city's assessor's office. These estimated values will be used to calculate 2023 property taxes after city, county, park and school district budgets are set late this year.

These mailings reflect the assessment of nearly 131,000 properties and are based on sales that occurred between October 2020 and September 2021.

Minneapolis City Assessor Rebecca Malmquist reported to the city council in

March that the total assessed value for all properties in the city has risen again for the 10th year in a row. The total for this year is \$64.3 billion dollars, compared to \$33.4 billion in 2013 and \$60.3 billion in 2021. The 10% increase in Minneapolis, however, was lower than other metro areas, including St. Paul, that rose over 13%, and suburban Hennepin County, that rose over 17%. City residential, commercial, and industrial property values all saw increases, although the subcategory of condominiums went down in value by 1.4%.

The increases were not shared evenly across wards or neighborhoods in the city.

After the presentation to the council on March 22, Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman said, "It is coming to

MARKET VALUES >> 2

FAILED BY FAMILY COURT



By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Kelsey Kruse fought to protect her children from abusive father, stepmother but they weren't held accountable until 8-year-old Autumn was murdered

Helpless and hopeless.

That's how Kelsey Kruse felt for years as she tried to co-parent with her ex and his wife, Brett and Sarah Hallow.

And then one day, she got the call she was scared of.

Eight-year-old Autumn was found dead in the bathtub at her dad's apartment in Elk River, Minn.

"I knew this was going to happen," Kelsey said to the police when they told her Autumn was dead. "I tried to get help."

CONSTANTLY ACCUSED OF HARASSING THEM

Kelsey was 17 when she met Brett. They were both attending Ivan Sand ALC in Elk River. Brett was known as "the player," but Kelsey ignored what everyone said about him. He was unfaithful the four years they were together.

But he was charming. He could convince her that she was crazy, nothing happened, and he wasn't being unfaithful. He could cry instantly if he wanted to, she recalled.

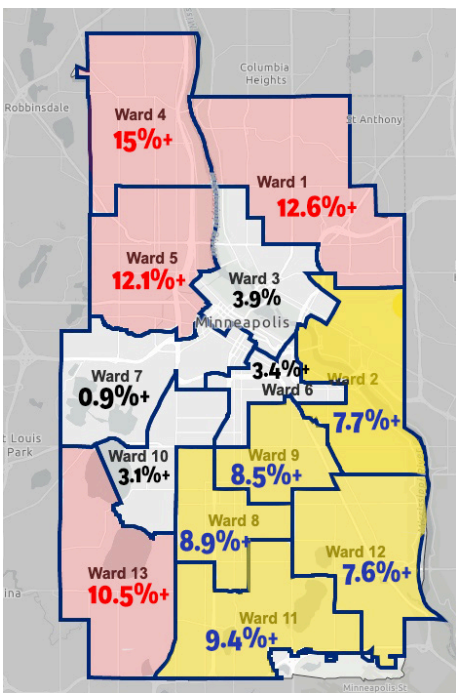
"I feel bad for the person that was me when I was younger," Kelsey remarked. "I feel bad for the me that was pregnant and watching him walk out the door and not coming back for days."

She gave birth to Noah when she was

FAILED >> 16

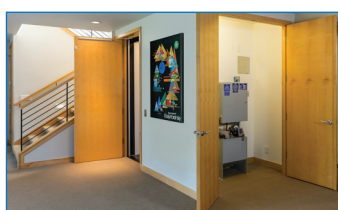


Autumn, Kelsey and Noah



Uncle's bookstore finds new home at former Glass Endeavors building

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HOME & GARDEN
Consider how to renovate so you can age in place

PAGES 8-9



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MARKET VALUES >> from 1

be especially harsh in the 1st, 4th and 5th wards where values have increased by huge numbers." Ward 4 saw the greatest growth in total estimated market value, with a 15% increase. Ward 1 went up 12.6% and ward 5 saw a 12.1% increase. Ward 13 saw the fourth largest increase with 10.5%. All wards saw increases, with the smallest being wards 3 (3.9%), 6 (3.4%), 10 (3.1%) and 7, with the lowest increase at 0.9%.

The neighborhoods with the largest increases are Shingle Creek and Folwell, with 19.1% increases each in median estimated value of single-family homes, followed by St. Anthony West, Victory, and Marshall Terrace with increases around 17%. "I worry about people who want to stay in their houses and be able to stay in the city," Goodman said, "who are pretty much being valued out."

In southwest, Tangletown, Kenny and Windom all saw increases over 10% in median single-family home values.

"There has been great demand for homes in those areas," said Malmquist, noting that the Camden Community, along the river in Northeast, and along the southern edge of the city have been especially popular. "It is a sellers' market," she said. "We have had bidding wars."

Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins (Ward 8) noted that renters could be impacted by resulting property tax increases, as well. She said that landlords will "pass those increases on to the renters of those single-family homes and that exacerbates our affordability crisis."

Goodman and Jenkins agreed that more housing could be helpful in reducing future increases in valuation. "This screams to me 'we need more housing of all types,'" said Goodman. "So, this should be a wake-up call to all of us."

The affordability problem gets worse

for owner-occupant taxpayers who have been benefitting from the state's homestead tax credit system. The current tax credit formula favors lower-valued properties, with the full benefit going to properties valued at \$76,000 or less. Properties valued at \$76,000 have 40% of their market value excluded from property taxes. For properties valued over \$76,000, the exclusion is calculated at 40% of the first \$76,000 in value minus 9% of the value over \$76,000. As your property value goes up, the homestead market value exclusion goes down until it disappears completely at a value of about \$414,000.

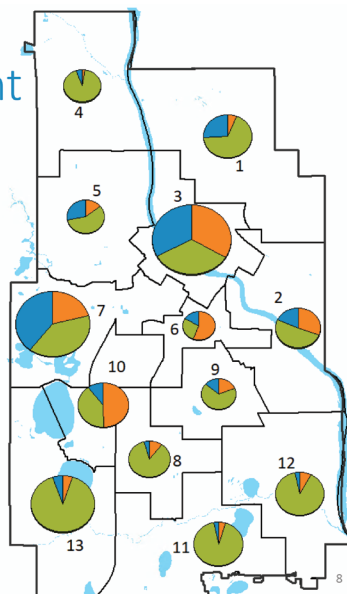
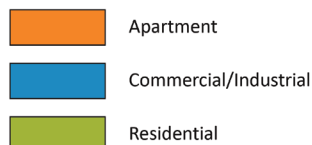
HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT REFORM?

Stephanie Gruver, a realtor with RE/MAX Results who works extensively in north Minneapolis, advocates for homestead tax credit reform. Following this year's valuations, she looked at the seven neighborhoods of Camden. Using the statistics for Camden provided by the Minneapolis Area Association of Realtors she found the average sale price in September 2014 was \$115,735 compared to \$231,741 in 2021. Using the current homestead tax credit formula, she found that in 2014 the taxable value for the \$115,735 home was \$88,911, but in 2021 for the \$231,741 home, it was \$215,358.

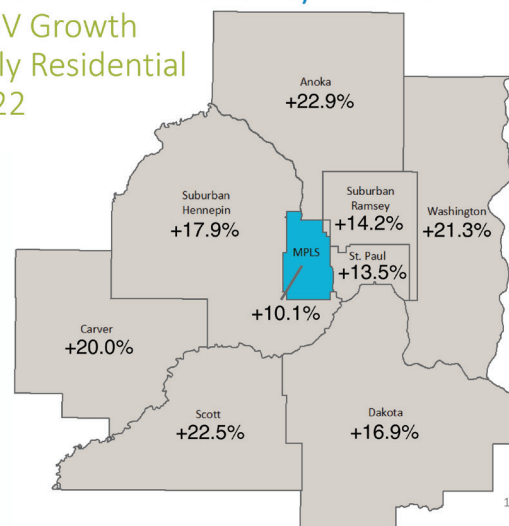
"When you look at these numbers the most dramatic changes in housing values are in communities with homeowners who are not seeing dramatic increases in their

2022 Assessment EMV by Ward

Property Type:



Comparison with 7-County Metro Median EMV Growth Single Family Residential 2021 vs 2022



Erin Sjoquist, a local realtor with Keller Williams Integrity who own three properties in south Minneapolis, recommends moving carefully before making a formal appeal. "I had neighbors a few years ago tell me they thought their property taxes were high," she said. "So they reached out to the assessor and the assessor thought the value should be higher and their taxes went up."

While home prices have clearly gone up in recent years, Sjoquist notes, "Just because housing prices have gone up, doesn't mean the city's valuation of your property is accurate." But this year she noted that her valuations seemed reasonable. Two of the values on her properties went down and one went up "only a little bit."

Contacting the assessor and appealing can sometimes yield good results. "It has been many years," Sjoquist added, "but I have contested two of my property's values, and both times they lowered the values and the taxes."

incomes," Gruver said. "The system needs an overhaul on that lower end value." With the median sale price in the Twin Cities market now over \$330,000, fewer homeowners will be able to rely on this to keep their housing more affordable.

DO RESEARCH BEFORE APPEALING

If you are thinking about appealing your valuation, you may want to do some research first.

To determine the value of your home, the assessors are required by state law to compare your property to recent sales of similar properties based on location, size, age, and, for commercial, industrial and apartment properties, the income and expenses generated by the property.

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Uncle's bookstore finds new home in Longfellow

Don Blyly is moving science fiction and mystery bookstore to Glass Endeavors building

By IRIC NATHANSON

The civil unrest following George Floyd's murder in 2020 delivered a double blow to Don Blyly, the longtime owner of the Chicago Avenue business with the double name: Uncle Edgar's Mystery Book Store and Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Book Store.

During those traumatic days in late May Blyly stood by, watching his store, a Chicago-Lake fixture for nearly 40 years, burn to the ground. Then came a bureaucratic snafu in city hall that blocked him, at least temporarily, from clearing the charred remains of his business.

Now, two years later, Blyly's store, known collectively as the Uncles, has found a new home in the former Glass Endeavors building at 31st and Minnehaha. It is the only building on that block that wasn't destroyed in May 2020. Blyly is using insurance proceeds and a grant from the Lake Street Council to restart the Uncles. Blyly had expected to relocate in Richfield or another close-in suburb to serve his long-time customers, half of whom live outside the 394-694 ring. "Some of them may be unsure about coming into the city to do their shopping, but this in-town property was a perfect fit for me, so I decided to give Minneapolis another chance," he explained.

BOOK STORE TO REOPEN IN JUNE

These days, the long-time local bookseller is busy working with contractors to renovate the Lake Street area building, dating to 1924 when it was built to house the original East Lake Post Office. Once the wooden floors of the 96-year-old building are refinished, Blyly will start installing the shelves that will hold his rebuilt science fiction and mystery collection.

Blyly estimates that he lost about a million dollars in inventory during the



Two years after a fire destroyed Uncle Edgar's Mystery Book Store and Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Book Store at 2864 Chicago Ave., owner Don Blyly is reopening. He has purchased the former Glass Endeavors building at 31st and Minnehaha Ave., and will open in June. (Photo by Terry Faust)

2020 fire that destroyed his Chicago Avenue building, but he was able to preserve his personal collection of about 20,000 books that were stored in his south Minneapolis home. Blyly has spent the last two years selling off his personal collection to generate the cash flow needed to restart his business. He is hoping to reopen the Uncles sometime in June.

FROM LAW SCHOOL TO BOOK SALES

The store's proprietor, who started reading science fiction in the third grade, came to Minneapolis in the early 1970s to attend law school.

"I was bored out of my mind reading constitutional law, and I decided that I wanted to do something fun with my life," he recalled.

Given his passion for science fiction, Blyly started looking for a job in a book store specializing in that field. When no one would hire him, he decided to open his own store. "All the pieces came together, and within a few weeks I opened for

business," he recalled. "I found a wholesaler who was willing to provide the book shelves for free if I bought the books. The same landlord I was renting my apartment from had this very small space just a block from my apartment building. He was willing to rent that space to me for \$50 a month.

Blyly opened his first store in 1974 in the building on 4th Avenue, now occupied by the Electric Fetus. In 1980, he added mystery titles. Four years later, he moved to Chicago Avenue. Initially, his new building consisted of adjoining store fronts separated by a common wall, so he devoted one space to mysteries and the other to science fiction. Uncle Edgar's was named for the famous American writer Edgar Allan Poe, considered the father of the modern mystery. Uncle Hugo's was a reference to the less well-known Hugo Gernsback, an early 20th century inventor and magazine publisher who helped popularize science fiction.

"It was all one business," Blyly ex-

plained. "But, because we had two store fronts, we were able to have two phone numbers. People could call Uncle Edgar's if they were looking for a mystery, or they could call Uncle Hugo's if they were looking science fiction. That way, it took less time for us to help customers find the books they wanted."

'ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST COLLECTIONS'

Blyly will keep both names on his new store, but it will be organized as one space, with separate shelves for each genre. In a nod to the building's history, he will retain a small stained glass dragonfly embedded in the store's entryway, along with a WPA mural depicting Minnehaha Falls, created for the post office.

The Uncles' owner realizes that he is bucking a trend by opening a stand-alone retail business in 2022, but he maintains that bricks and mortar book stores still have a role to play during the current digital age. "You can do browsing easier in a physical book store – particularly if it is well curated. Right now, there are about a half million new books each year that are self-published. Most of those books are self-published because no self-respecting publisher would publish them. You have to dig through all of them to find a smaller sub-set of books that are worth reading. If you go to a store like ours, you can also get advice from other shoppers."

The new Uncles will be located just a block away from another well-known south Minneapolis bookstore, Moon Palace. Blyly thinks that both businesses will benefit from their proximity to one another. "We each have our own customer base, but we are hoping that people who come to Moon Palace will wander across Minnehaha Avenue to our store, and our folks will cross the street to browse at Moon Palace."

Jon Marble, a longtime Uncle Hugo's customer, is looking forward to the opening of Blyly's new store in June. "That's great news for science fiction fans like me. It may be hard to believe, but right here in south Minneapolis we will have one of the world's best collections of new and used science fiction books. I am looking forward to bringing in the books I have just finished reading, and trading them in for a new set at Uncle Hugo's."

BRIEFS

FUTURE OF 3RD PRECINCT SITE

The Longfellow Community Council will be hosting two community conversation sessions, one virtual and one in-person, on the future of the 3rd precinct site. People can join the virtual meeting Monday, May 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. and attend an in-person meeting Monday, May 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Squirrel Haus Arts, 3450 Snelling Ave., to discuss the possible futures of the 3rd Precinct site. Registration is not required, but recommended. This in-person event is open to everyone. Registration is not required, but there is a capacity limit and masks are strongly encouraged. This event is sponsored by Longfellow Community Council, Seward Redesign, Lake Street Council, Longfellow Business Association and Longfellow Rising. For more information, see <https://longfellow.org/event/3rd-precinct-community-conversations/>.

2022 SHARED BIKE AND SCOOTER PROGRAM

The city's bike and scooter sharing programs will begin this month. This year the city, working in cooperation with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the University of Minnesota and the city of Saint Paul, has entered into license agreements with three companies. An exclusive bike sharing license went to Lyft to continue operating the Nice Ride system with both classic pedal bicycles and electric-assisted bicycles. Lyft, Lime and Spin all received licenses to operate motorized foot scooters programs. For more information about motorized foot scooters, visit the city's website or call 311.

STREET SWEEPING

Spring street sweeping has begun in Minneapolis and drivers should watch for temporary "no parking" signs to avoid a ticket and tow. Temporary "no parking" signs should be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets are clear of parked vehicles. Drivers need to follow street sweeping parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the

Minneapolis Impound Lot. In addition to signs, the city will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. You can also use the interactive street sweeping map (found at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/getting-around/parking-driving/street-sweep/street-sweep-map/>) to see when your street is scheduled to be swept.

RENT STABILIZATION WORK GROUP

In April, following lengthy debate, the defeat of an alternative proposal that could have brought forward a ballot initiative this year, and a number of amendments, the city council passed council president Andrea Jenkin's motion to create a Housing/Rent Stabilization Work Group. The work group will consist of 25 people, 12 appointed by the city council and mayor and 13 by the community planning and economic development director, Andrea Brennan. Six of the council appointed positions are reserved for renters, three for rental property owners, and three for housing developers. Ward 10 Council Member Aisha Chughtai made a substitute

motion that would have brought a rent stabilization policy for voters to decide this election instead of 2023 that was defeated on a 7-5 vote. In order to have a policy finalized in time to submit a question to voters in 2023, the work group will need to submit its final report with recommendations by the end of 2022.

GREENLIGHT TWIN CITIES SAFETY INITIATIVE ON LAKE STREET

In April, the GreenLight Fund Twin Cities announced a multi-year \$1.4 million dollar investment in Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD) intended to use a community-involved approach to reduce police interactions for low-level offenses in the Lake Street corridor. "This investment centers a public health approach to community safety which will divert individuals cycling in and out of the legal system into a long-term case management model of care," said Ward 9 Council Member Jason Chavez. "I'll be serving on the policy coordinating group to help drive these efforts."

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

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Faced with controversy, park board once again fails to govern

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board is in a difficult position when it comes to Lake Hiawatha and the Hiawatha Golf Course. It has been eight years since the 2014 flood that inundated the golf course and revealed unpermitted groundwater pumping, yet the park board still has not passed a plan to deal with the issue. A two-year-long public engagement effort guided the creation of a master plan to reduce the golf course to nine holes and add wetlands, water treatment, and additional recreational opportunities, but the park board keeps failing to move it forward.

The sticking point is Hiawatha's historical role in the integration of city golf courses and the importance it continues to hold among Black golfers in Minneapolis. A group of golfers campaigning under the banner of Save Hiawatha 18 have made it clear that they consider anything less than 18 holes to be an attack on this heritage. Unhappily for the board, they face the reality that keeping 18 holes of golf at Hiawatha isn't compatible with resolving the major water issues plaguing the site. Dealing with flooding and pollution requires space, and there isn't enough space to build a flood-resilient 18-hole golf course, as well as the needed water management facilities.

An alternative proposal by Save Hiawatha 18 illustrates the cost of keeping

GUEST COLUMN

BY IAN YOUNG
info@hiawatha4all.com



18 holes at this location. Their proposal would disconnect Minnehaha Creek from Lake Hiawatha, leaving the lake stagnant and unsuitable for recreation. It would also route a drainage channel along most of the non-golf-course shoreline, and would require lowering the level of both Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis by three feet. Even if the park board acted against the wishes of surrounding neighborhoods to pursue an idea like this, it would be subject to approval and permitting by regulatory agencies such as the DNR and MPCA. These agencies would likely reject any plan like this that pushes our water problems into other jurisdictions, at which point the park board would find themselves back to square one, having wasted staff time and taxpayer money with nothing to show for it.

This sort of difficult decision is the reason we have elected leaders. It's their job to sort through the complicated technical details, to listen to affected commu-

nities, subject matter experts, and their own staff, and to synthesize that information into a decision that best serves their constituents. It's also their job to understand that you can't always make everyone happy and that they will sometimes face harsh criticism, even for making the right decision.

Unfortunately, some commissioners seem to be following the example of the previously-seated board, who twice failed to advance resolutions about Hiawatha, instead passing the buck to the current board. Most recently, commissioners deadlocked on a procedural vote to schedule a public hearing on the Hiawatha Master Plan, leaving us once again with no forward progress of any sort.

More delay will not change the facts of this problem or cause a magical solution to arise where there wasn't one before. Meanwhile, continued inaction is causing tangible harms:

- As anger rises on both sides over the constant revisiting of this issue, the rhetoric surrounding it is becoming more bitter and divisive.

- More than 1,000 pounds of trash per year enters the lake from the stormwater pipe. Some of this trash remains in the lake and harms the ecosystem there, while some of it travels downstream into Minnehaha Falls and the Mississippi River.

- An unquantified amount of phosphorous pollution enters the lake from a combination of upstream agriculture, golf course runoff, and groundwater pumping. This contributes to the lake's murkiness and causes toxic algae blooms that keep the beach closed much of the summer.

- We continue to roll the dice on when the next flooding event will damage the existing golf course. The concern is a "10-year" flood event, which happens on average once every 10 years. Nobody can predict when the next one is, but we are now eight years past the last event, so the odds are only getting worse. FEMA assistance was required to recover from the 2014 flood, and they have made it clear that they won't be stepping in a second time.

We don't elect leaders for them to hide behind nice words and hope that problems go away on their own. During debate on the recent resolution, Commissioner Shaffer stated that "this could be our story." Indeed it might. This may be the defining moment in which our newly seated park board decides if they will run away from every difficult decision, or if they will acknowledge their responsibility to lead, even when it's hard.

Ian Young is with Hiawatha 4 All. Find more at info@hiawatha4all.com.

The Donald L. Hammen I know: staying strong, writing with courage

Imagine you are with me at my recent visit to the River Lake Eye Clinic. I have been a client there for many years. Even before receiving original Medicare plus supplement. You have now taken the plunge! You are a reader of Stories and Journeys, the column! We encounter a staff member. I inform this person that I am now the writer of Stories and Journeys. This person starts to recollect that Calvin deRuyter is the owner and publisher of the *Messenger*. I reach inside my tote bag to give this individual a current copy of the *Messenger*. I don't have one with me. A visit from Tesha M. Christensen, the current owner and publisher of the *Messenger*, *Connector* and *Monitor* to River Lake Eye Clinic might be in order. She could introduce herself and hand deliver the *Messenger*.

Next on our visit, we encounter another staff member. This person wants to know what is the focus of the column. Upon hearing this question I start to panic. I don't have a short answer. How should I know what is the focus? Momentarily I forgot that I am the writer. I'm supposed to know! Right? I go to my default response. Tesha M. Christensen has tasked me with writing what I am learning, thinking and experiencing. The response I receive from this potential reader is that it sounds open ended. I'm thinking freedom within 750 words and zebra company values.

I'm starting out with the words, Stay Strong, Don! They were spoken to me by Titi, an RN, in 2019. That year, twice, I

STORIES AND JOURNEYS

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN



was a patient on the nursing unit where I worked as a nursing assistant/registered for 21 years. For some reason those words seem important to me. It is as if it is taking me courage to write this time. Maybe it is my sense of grieving a loss that is in play. Recently I read that courage is the foundation of integrity. I hope so. What do you think?

For me, staying strong in this moment means owning up to who I know myself to be as a person and writer. The Donald L. Hammen that I know at his best can be articulate, charismatic, rooted and grounded in the power of his own story and self-awareness. The Donald I know has been told that he writes well about his experiences. He tends to be an autobiographical thinker and writer. Self care occupies his daily living activities. They are currently captured in the words eat, sleep, move, meditate/pray. Then comes experiment, explore, create. Yes, there is walking.

Due to his lumbar and cervical spine stenosis he needs to stay mindful of balance, body mechanics and posture. His focus on his body is critical. This includes lying, sitting and standing physical therapy-

infused routines. Movement and balance are everything. This all comes down to something Donald knows as his version of 'everspring living.'

He is his own version of introvert. His speaking is largely grounded in his writing. He describes himself as pursuing a Ph.D. in being Donald L. Hammen in the school of everyday life. One day at a time. All this seems to go into making him unique. What goes into making you unique?

Speaking of unique. I have declared 2022 for me to be the year of the woman. The following strong words from Marianne Williamson, combined with an experience that happened as part of what I call my 'everspring health' story are part of what pushed me to take a deeper dive into women's issues and realities. Her strong words come from her introduction to a chapter called "Awakening From Patriarchal Medicine" in a book called "Reclaiming Our Health" by John Robbins. She writes:

This is a time of monumental shift, from male dominance of human consciousness back to a balanced relationship between masculine and feminine. The resistance to this is stronger than most people know. The invalidation, the crucifixion, of feminine power is one of the most violent and subversive forces at work today. The fate of every woman alive today, whether she likes it or not, is that the story of her life shall be played out against this panorama.

What life experiences might cause you to declare your own year of the

woman and take your own deep dive into women's issues and realities? Tell your self, tell others or tell me at news@longfellownokomisMessenger.com.

In gratitude. Writing with courage outside of my comfort zone. Today I am Ukraine.

Donald L. Hammen is a longtime south Minneapolis resident, and serves on the All Elders United for Justice steering committee.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Email letters, guest commentaries, press releases and notes to Tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

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My personal connection to Ukraine

By JOHN SCHMELIG

On a spring afternoon in June 2017, I'm bounding along a country highway in a minivan with four other passengers. I'm gazing out the window across a green sea of a waist-high crop resembling corn. The landscape seems rural Minnesota-like, but I'm half a world away, in Ukraine.

It's my first day as a Peace Corps volunteer. I'm traveling to a town in the southern Mykolaiv oblast to meet the head of the veterans organization I'm assigned to. The occasion is somber. Medals of honor are awarded to families of Ukrainian Army soldiers who died in the war in Donbas. I feel out of place. I don't know enough Ukrainian to offer solace, and I look like a foreigner. The singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem concludes the ceremony. I get goosebumps and tears well in my eyes.

In meeting the leader of my organization, I'm a bit intimidated. He's 6'4", 240, with a buzz cut, in medal-adorned uniform. He lost both arms and an eye in a grenade explosion. He extends his prosthetic arm for a handshake. "Nice to meet you," he says. "Duzhe pryemno," I respond in Ukrainian (very nice to meet you). Motioning towards his good eye, he tells me, with a facetious smile, that he's a "real" cyborg. My counterpart laughs. She explains that cyborgs are the "superhuman" fighters who withstood the Russian siege of the Donetsk Airport in 2014-15.

I came to Ukraine at a pivotal time. Three years after the 2014 Revolution of Dignity, fragile economic growth was returning. There was optimism that the building blocks were in place to develop as a democratic country. They appreciated the Peace Corps' presence, that America had its back.

My role was to help strengthen my organization's capacity by applying my professional expertise and American perspective. I gave website consultations to entrepreneurs and got them listed on Google. Veterans and displaced people with PTSD got psychological help through my grant project. I tutored kids and adults, help-

ing improve their English skills. I shared American culture in talks at schools, libraries and on the radio.

Now, the horrific destruction of the Russian invasion is shocking the world. For me, it feels like a punch in the gut. I see images of streets I walked, shops and buildings I've been in demolished. It's unreal. Someone recently remarked that my service was for nothing. I couldn't disagree more.

My 27 months there was the experience of a lifetime. When my group of 85 volunteers arrived in Chernihiv, our staff welcomed us with bread and salt. It's an ancient Slavic tradition, symbolizing trust and friendship between people. Ukrainians are the most generous and hospitable people I've met. (You haven't lived until you've ate, sung, danced and toasted your way through a nine-hour Christmas party.)

I feel helpless as my friends tell of air raid sirens going off every hour and waiting out the shelling in cold cellars. Fleeing is an exhausting ordeal and not knowing if they'll ever see loved ones or their homeland again brings added misery. Ukrainians shared their deep-rooted customs with me; laughed, cried and prayed with me. To see such a peace-loving and decent people getting slaughtered is heartbreaking. It's criminal. In the words of President Zelensky, "This is a war we didn't start, and didn't want."

But with courage and heart, the proud Ukrainian people are defying the invaders and inspiring us. Against all odds, the unrelenting "cyborgs" are holding back the powerful Russian military.

Ukrainians are grateful for the outpouring of humanitarian and weapons aid. Yet their desperate plea for a no-fly zone persists. "Close the sky," they say, "and we'll take care of the rest." I believe them.

There are many ways to show solidarity with Ukraine. Donating to on-the-ground relief organizations is an effective way to deliver urgent help. One thing everyone can do is write our government representatives. Want to help? Find email templates and other resources



TOP Minnehaha resident John Schmelig met with Ukrainian Army veterans while serving in the Peace Corp in 2017. LOWER LEFT He saw the Maidan Square Monument in Kyiv. LOWER RIGHT Schmelig stands with his host family in Ukraine. (Photos submitted)

at HelpSaveUkraine.com.

To make a direct cash transfer to help my former NGO buy resources for soldiers and families in Mykolaiv, please contact johnschmelig@gmail.com.

John Schmelig served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine from 2017-2019. He lives in Minnehaha and works as a digital marketing specialist in Eden Prairie, Minn.

LETTERS

Park board: Please move master plan forward

If adopting the much-needed Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan were a round of golf, some of the park board commissioners would get a penalty for slow play. The master plan addresses the current challenges: the land's low topography, a wetter climate due to climate change, declining interest in golf (compared to increased interest in other outdoor recreation), and a stormwater system that dumps often toxic trash into beautiful Lake Hiawatha. The master plan is a sustainable, well-thought out solution, developed with years of community input, that works to restore and conserve the natural landscape.

We do not need an alternative plan that further disturbs the land. It's been too many years with more trash and no action. Please, park board, stop this egregiously slow play and move the master plan forward.

Kristen Olsen, Ericsson

Golf course designed to sink

The golf course I grew up on was only nine holes, but it was stunningly beautiful in the rolling hills of a southern Minnesota river valley and our community was very proud of what we had. People drove from neighboring states just to play our course. If I wasn't golfing I was an employee working the pro-shop. When I went to college, I was offered a golf scholarship to play on the women's golf team, and I began dreaming of turning pro and to ultimately design and build golf courses.

But, over time, I came to see golf in another light. For example, tee boxes based on gender and age felt sexist and ageist. Terminology such as 'handicap' (numbers assigned to players less skilled), 'shank,' 'bomb and gouge,' struck me as unaware, unevolved and insensitive. And in the southwest states golf courses demand and are delivered everyone else's much needed water supply. Emerald green in the brown desert scape feels elitist. I was now seeing golf as an institution that did not align with my ethos and definitely not woke to social and environmental justice.

The environment suffers from the vast quantities of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, pesticides, and fertilizers golf

courses use for 'turf control.' The Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) state these products as "extreme health hazards with Eco-Acute Toxicity to fish, birds, invertebrates, algae, and bees." How many pounds of this poison does the golf course deliver into Lake Hiawatha, Mississippi River and, ultimately, the Gulf of Mexico? This is a question and pollution problem that needs to be addressed.

Friends of Lake Hiawatha (FOLH) are volunteers who work to restore the ecology and history of the land and lake. They have found hundreds of abandoned golf balls while picking up the endless stream of trash left by humans. An estimated 1.2 billion golf balls are manufactured every year while 300 million are lost every year. These balls are made from butadiene rubber (BFGoodrich tire rubber) and surlyn, which is a thermoplastic and polymer of ethylene acid. All extremely caustic. Plus, golf ball production consumes over 20,000 tons of polybutadiene per year. All these caustic chemicals leach into the ground and water and are then pumped (I call it a bail out) from the 140-acre course into Lake Hiawatha (and all downstream) at a volume of 400 million gallons per year in violation of state regulations and good neighbor etiquette.

It does not require an engineer to know we need to reconsider the lay of this land and what is best for it. The original wetlands of Rice Lake was actually a perfect design. As a matter of fact, large cities are wanting to create and mimic wetlands for use in their infrastructures. Restoring the ecology and history of Lake Hiawatha (plus surrounds) back to Rice Lake topography is the sustainable solution and the fiduciary responsibility of we the people.

Don't build what will need to be bailed out. There can be no pride in that.

Lynn Ford

Messenger has my attention

The April issue got my attention with its outstanding coverage of local community issues. The renaming of a street to honor exemplary fire chief John Cheatham along with the Token POC column by Abha Karnick serve to heighten my awareness and appreciation of what a small neighborhood publication can do. Russ Henry's article on "How to create a food forest" also prompts thought and hopefully action on food practices. The Messenger has my attention.

Judy Solmonson, Longfellow

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NO POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN NEW CONTRACT

By CAM GORDON

After years of negotiations, led by three different city labor relations directors, with strong community opposition, and a lengthy debate on March 24, the Minneapolis City Council voted 8 to 5 to approve a new contract with the Minneapolis Police Federation, that represents all Minneapolis police officers up to and including the rank of lieutenant.

The previous agreement expired in 2019. The new one ends this December and covers 2019-22. It includes \$7,000 bonuses for new officers and current officers who stay on the job until the end of the year, as well as retroactive salary increases of 1% for 2020, 1.5% for 2021 and 2.5% for this year. There is also an additional 2.5% "market adjustment" wage increase beginning Jan. 1, 2022, and another 1% starting Dec. 31, 2022.

This increases department expenses by \$9 million in 2022 to cover the retroactive pay increases and half of the bonuses.

The agreement also includes a new mental health screening requirement following a critical incident, greater authority for the chief in making officer assignments, and a statement supporting race and gender equity, that were asked for by the city. The city agreed to the federation's proposal for a proactive email notification of data requests that would include the identity of the person making the request, unless it is done anonymously.

Once the details became public many felt the results fell short of expectations for something better.

That was the case for the community coalition called, Mpls For a Better Police Contract (MFBPC), that, in 2019, crafted a set of recommendations for the agreement and met with the mayor and council members to discuss them. These included limiting overtime, mandatory mental health screenings, and explicitly referencing the discipline matrix of the department's policy manual in order to strengthen management's ability to discipline officers and have such action supported by a state arbitrator.

That was just before the federation requested, and the city agreed to closing future meetings to the public.

RAISED EXPECTATIONS

Mpls For a Better Police Contract (MFBPC) includes representation from the Racial Justice Network, Our Revolution Twin

Retroactive contract for 2019-2022 increases pay rate, offers bonuses, and allows officers to know who is requesting their data. Negotiation was all done in closed meetings.

Cities, and Communities United Against Police Brutality. The coalition filed a lawsuit in June of 2021.

Micala Tessman, attorney of record for MFBPC, said, "There are clear violations of Minnesota law that exists for the benefit of the public's right to know. The city failed in its obligation both under the Data Practices Act and laws governing public employee collective bargaining to provide timely notice of negotiation sessions when they were occurring. MFBPC and the public had every right to attend these sessions."

MFBPC member Ryan Rantanen stated, "The enthusiasm by a vast majority of the city council for our recommendations was gratifying after all the hard work to present common sense advice. But it has been incredibly frustrating that the mayor and city have completely obstructed our right to view what they are doing."

In June 2020, following the murder of George Floyd, then police chief Medaria Arradondo held a press conference to announce that he was ending his involvement in contract negotiations with the federation. He said that he wanted a contract that makes it easier to fire problematic officers, after multiple instances in recent years where officers terminated for misconduct had been reinstated after union appeals and arbitration decisions.

That same month Mayor Frey appeared on national television in an interview on Good Morning America. "I am for massive, structural and transformation reform to an entire system," he said. "Let me be very clear, we're going after the police union, the police union contract."

COMMUNITY FRUSTRATED

In March of 2022, details of the negotiation were finally made known when a tentative agreement emerged.

In response, Communities United Against Police Brutality put out an action alert, declaring, "Not a single recommendation by the community was incorporated but a new provision (Section 12.03, paragraph 3) requires the city to report the name of anyone who requests data on an officer to that officer – an invitation to harass data requesters."

The chair of the city's own Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Abigail Cer-

ra, along with coauthor and former council member Paul Ostrow, wrote in a letter to the mayor and all council members, "We have reviewed the language.... and have grave concerns that it does not address serious flaws in the city's disciplinary process. Perpetuating this flawed system would be unconscionable in the wake of universal calls for reform."

A group of 23 nonprofit organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, Black Lives Matter Minnesota, Black Lives Matter Twin Cities, Black Visions, CAIR Minnesota, Center for Victims of Torture, Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence, ISAIAH, Jewish Community Action, Legal Rights Center, Minneapolis NAACP, Minnesota Youth Collective, Racial Justice Network, Reclaim the Block, Safety Not Surveillance, SWOP Mpls, TakeAction MN, Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar and Voices for Racial Justice, sent a letter urging the council to delay its vote.

"We are troubled by the lack of any changes around discipline in this contract," they wrote. "The city shouldn't sign off on a contract until it contains a mechanism to escape the cycle of being tied to past disciplinary practices."

They also expressed concerns, shared by others, about why "the city is focused on paying officers more, rather than putting money into public safety for all."

According to the city coordinator's staff report, following "years of bargaining sessions beginning in 2019" and months of mediation, in December of 2021, negotiations stalled. At that time the decision was made to go to "interest arbitration." Staff, under the leadership of labor relations director Holland Atkinson, recommended approval of the contract and warned that relations with the federation "would be damaged severely by a city council unwilling to accept a new labor agreement that has been expired since 2019."

In defense of the pay increases, city staff stated in a supplemental report, "In order to attract and retain police officers, the city must maintain a competitive compensation package." They noted that several nearby police departments offer hiring bonuses, including the University of Minnesota at \$5,000, Brooklyn Park at \$5,000,

Brooklyn Center at \$6,000, Hopkins at \$2,500 and Roseville at \$10,000.

COUNCIL DIVIDED BUT APPROVES CONTRACT

Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins (Ward 8) said she preferred to accept this now and prepare for more changes next time. "We've been at this table negotiating with this union for over two and one-half years. Many of the items that led to the impasse, that put us into mediations, were the recommendations, desires, and hopes and dreams that we heard from community," said Jenkins. "If this goes to arbitration, we absolutely know we won't gain anything from it."

Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley Worlobah disagreed. "We were told by many, including some of you who ran on police reform and by the mayor, that this contract would be an area to create new standards of accountability," she said. "I'm seeing shifting goal posts. In 2020, Mayor Frey went on Good Morning America and said, 'We have a hard time terminating and disciplining officers... the elephant in the room is the collective bargaining agreement.' Now we're saying, no, it's the opposite. This also does not set us up to attract qualified candidates. We're telling potential officers, we'll pay you more and you will not have to face any discipline."

Those voting against approval on March 24 were council members Payne, Wonsley Worlobah, Ellison, Chavez, and Chughtai.

Andrew Johnson, representing Ward 12, was unsuccessful in passing a motion he made for a two-week delay. Before voting in favor, he said, "The contract, while it is important, and it does matter, is also way too often used as a scapegoat for failures of management and failures of leadership to hold officers responsible for their bad behavior in a consistent way."

"The lack of community input and transparency, a requirement to email officers who made a public data request about them, and the shortfall of accountability and discipline was enough for me to vote no," explained Ward 9 Council Member Chavez in his latest e-newsletter.

"With this now settled," wrote Ward 13 Council Member Linea Palmisano in her e-newsletter, "we can begin negotiations for a forward-facing contract that will cover a broader range of negotiations and cover years 2023-25." She added, "Negotiating a contract that allows for more discretion by the chief – to impart discipline and build out additional, mandated, training and expectations around de-escalation, cultural competency and anti-racism – would be one positive outcome."



"This is not over," said Locke's mother Karen Wells at a press conference held in New York on April 6, the day Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman announced they would not press charges against Minneapolis police officer Mark Hanneman, who fatally shot Amir Locke on Feb. 2, 2022. At an April 8 protest downtown, family members of Leneal Frazier (above) show their solidarity with Locke's family. Frazier was killed in July 2021 by Minneapolis police officer Brian Cummings, who was pursuing a stolen vehicle at 90 miles per hour in a residential area and struck a car that was not involved in the chase. Its driver was Leneal Frazier. Cummings was charged in October 2021 with manslaughter and criminal vehicular homicide. (Photo by Jill Boogren) >> Read the full story online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO AMIR LOCKE RULINGS



On March 31, residents returned to City Hall to denounce the decision by the Ethical Practices Board to dismiss ethics complaints submitted in February by 1,300 residents against Mayor Jacob Frey for the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting of Amir Locke by the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). The ethics board also dismissed any future, similar complaints. Despite the March 15 ruling, residents delivered 1,100 more complaints to a city staff person after the press conference. "When we submit an ethics complaint, we want it taken seriously – 2,400 complaints dismissed? That is beyond wrong," said Toshira Garraway of Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence. (Photo by Jill Boogren) >> Read the full story online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

George Floyd's aunt releases memoir

By JILL BOOGREN

Becoming an activist in a worldwide movement for racial justice was beyond anything Angela Harrelson would have imagined for her life. But the murder of her nephew, George Perry Floyd, Jr. – or Perry, as his family knew him – by Minneapolis police officers, changed her in profound ways.

In her memoir, "Lift Your Voice: How My Nephew George Floyd's Murder Changed the World," Harrelson shares her reaction to Perry's death and the conviction of Derek Chauvin. She exposes the racism she experienced as a child in the south and as an adult in the Midwest. She challenges White Americans to look closely at their own perceptions and beliefs. And she shares how her nephew's death pushed her to use her voice against injustice.

Before she had time to truly grieve for Perry, Harrelson was launched into the spotlight – as a public spokesperson, a representative of the family, a speaker at events, co-chair of the George Floyd Global Memorial – all brand new roles for her, each in contrast to her upbringing.

"I grew up in a raggedy old shack in Goldsboro, N.C.," writes Harrelson. Her family was poor, sometimes on the receiving end of racial slurs and discrimination. Her mother, born in 1925, gave birth to 14 kids and had a lot to navigate.

"My mother raised us to be very submissive to White people," said Harrelson in an interview at the memorial. "Even though she would tell us behind closed doors, 'You know you can do this... but at the same time, don't question them.' She did that out of protection. Because she grew up in an era where you didn't question White people."

Harrelson learned to pursue her dreams anyway, but to keep a low profile; speaking up against racism was not an option.

FINDING STRENGTH

As she dealt with a wide range of emotions following Perry's death, Harrelson turned to something familiar, writing, which became very therapeutic for her. She had always journaled – she even used to write family newsletters – and found that the process allowed her to reflect on everything she was feeling: Angry. Mad. Frustrated. Guilt. Her anxiety level was up.

"I was in a dark place," she recalled. "But then... there was love. I felt love. And kindness. That was coming out of me, too. And that's where I needed to be."

The writing process took her back to her childhood, retriggering numerous instances of racism she had endured: Being forced to stand on the school bus, a target of bullying by White students, prohibited by a teacher from using her own first name in class. As an adult, when Harrelson expressed interest in becoming an attorney, an instructor at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa told her straight up, "I'm a racist, and I don't teach Black people."

For Harrelson, the murder of her nephew showed that though there have been changes over time, there were hidden inequalities, injustices within the system; things never really changed.

"Perry's death made me see that very



Angela Harrelson calls the shift that has taken place since the death of her nephew, George 'Perry' Floyd, "the Great Awakening." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

clearly," she said.

Enduring poverty and being raised in a family culture that gave her faith, Harrelson found strength she didn't know she had – including in the determination and willpower passed along by her ancestors, especially her great-grandparents who were born to slavery.

"They passed along that strength through their hands, their blood, sweat and tears, and their faith, all of that was passed along to survive," she said. "Because they had to."

COMING TO TERMS

Though Harrelson wanted to see the site where Perry was actually killed, it was too overwhelming at first to go to 38th and Chicago.

"It was difficult because everything happened so fast. One minute Perry was here, and all of a sudden he wasn't here. And it's dealing with the reality that he really is gone," she said. "I knew that he'd been killed... But then, he was everywhere. I walk out and he's on somebody's wall. Somebody's wearing him on a t-shirt. And it played with my mind, my emotions. It was just so sad."

She stayed hidden for a while, but when she came out, the community "wrapped their arms around me, and I knew I was gonna be okay." Harrelson and her family leaned on each other plenty. But being the relative who lived closest to Perry, with the rest of her family in North Carolina and Texas, the community at George Floyd Square became like family to her. Having people nearby to call on when she needed something and neighborhood kids calling her "Auntie" filled a void in her life.

She also saw how they were taking care of the memorial, delicately, meticu-

lously, making sure the offerings were in the right place, one small piece at a time.

"They take care of this memorial as though [Perry] was their brother or sister, and I see them doing that for my family," said Harrelson. "They didn't know him. But they had the commonality of the pain."

On Oct. 14, 2020, Perry's birthday, Harrelson, with Perry's cousin Paris Stevens and now-executive director Jeanelle Austin, launched the nonprofit George Floyd Global Memorial to preserve the offerings and ensure the stories in the movement for justice are carried to future generations.

THE GREAT AWAKENING

Harrelson calls the shift that has taken place since Perry's death "the Great Awakening."

"It was a validation of this ugliness that was being hidden for so many years, playing with people's minds, because to White America... they could not see that," she said. "When Perry died, it gave validation. It gave meaning. It gave support. That what we were saying was true."

As these hidden layers were exposed, she felt Black people didn't have to defend themselves as much, and White people became more open to hearing the message – that fundamentally, according to Harrelson, "we need to treat people like human beings."

When Perry was pleading for his life, speaking out of desperation, she reasoned, he was appealing to Chauvin as a human being. But Chauvin and the other officers failed to see Perry as one.

With this exposure has come some forward progress, Harrelson believes. Since her nephew's murder, some cases have been reopened, and six police offi-

cers in Minnesota have been convicted for extreme violence against Black people (Chauvin, J. Kueng, Thomas Lane, Tou Thao, for George Floyd's murder; Kim Potter of Brooklyn Center in the death of Daunte Wright, and Brett Palkowitsch of St. Paul for using excessive force involving a police dog during an arrest of a person mistaken for a robbery suspect).

"Those may be small victories to others, but those are battles we have won towards the war... So yes, the movement is going forward, and it makes me feel good to see these things happening, because I know that it validates to me that my nephew's death was not in vain," said Harrelson. "Everything takes time. You're not gonna win all the battles. But it doesn't stop us, 'cause when we go five steps backwards, we gonna go 10 forward. And the bottom line is, we're not taking it anymore."

NEGOTIATING FOR EQUALITY

Harrelson talks about Black Americans having to be in constant negotiations – whether or not to take a drink at a water fountain or ride the bus or be educated – for equality. For her, the Black Lives Matter movement exposes White people to this reality.

"What to them is a privilege, to us is a negotiation. It's a business deal," said Harrelson. "I want one day to not have to say Black Lives Matter. I want one day to not use the words White privilege... I just wanna be able to come out and know that I'm a human being. And I don't have to watch what I say, or when I'm driving I gotta slow down – not because I should by law, but I should because my color's Black, and I don't want my skin weaponized. 'Cause I wanna see another day."

Nowadays Harrelson goes to the Square as often as she can, greeting visitors as she sees them. On the day of this interview, she spoke with people from California, Colorado and St. Paul. A Sudanese gentleman from Australia who attends Harvard University. A Minneapolis educator on strike. Rochester, Minn. Detroit, Mich. They are simple exchanges that uplift Harrelson and leave a lasting impression on those she's touched.

"You see something in the news, you're able to meet Angela, with all she's experienced, [and see her] show up with so much love. It's powerful," said I Ling Thompson, who was visiting from Grand Junction, Colo.

Often, White people ask Harrelson, "What can we do?" She talks about the importance of having these conversations, something that just didn't happen before. On this particular day, she encouraged a White woman to go into a Black hair salon, another to a Black church. To be okay with feeling awkward, but to recognize that it's only because it's different. To recognize that many Black people have been moving in White spaces for much of their lives.

Harrelson's warmth and generosity of spirit is felt throughout the pages of "Lift Your Voice." So is her determination. She's blunt about the impacts of systemic racism, in her own life and as played out on the world stage in George Floyd's murder. As she explains in the book, it's not enough to care about racism, you have to act. "The main thing is to speak up when you see injustice."

"Lift Your Voice" is a story of finding strength, holding onto hope and tapping into our collective humanity.

More on the George Floyd Global Memorial can be found at georgefloydglobalmemorial.org.



I Ling Thompson from Colorado, Diane Regas from California, Angela Harrelson and Susan Schmidt from the Twin Cities talk at the George Floyd Memorial. Harrelson often greets visitors to the Square and has met people from all over the world. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



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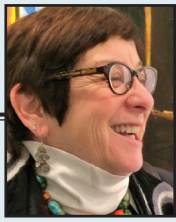
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UNDER
THE HOOD

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.

Planning for peace of mind

At age 69, I was a “silver sneaker” poster child – fit and healthy, living on my own, fiercely independent and proud of it. Ironically, my main fitness exercise, avid fast walking along the Twin Cities’ marvelous trails, system of lakes, and Mississippi River paths, contributed to significant wear and tear on my hips.

In 2019, after a year of pain, my Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon proclaimed that I needed new hips and was an ideal candidate for “bilateral hip replacement” surgery – both hips at once.

Being in great health, I assumed I’d heal like a champ and believed that coming home to my one-level condo in an elevator building would be a breeze. Ha! Preparing for my at-home rehabilitation was like facing a tsunami of details about safety and access. I was caught off guard about what I needed to successfully age in place. Things I always had taken for granted, like getting in and out of both the shower and my low-rise, Zen-inspired bed, were challenging. Before my in-patient physical therapy facility even would release me, I had to certify that I had “grab rails” installed in my shower! I had to hustle to find a reputable outfitter.

HOME RENOVATIONS TO AGE IN PLACE



Installing a small elevator and widening doorways made this lower level more accessible. (Photo by Andrea Rugg Photography)

This episode was a rude awakening about the importance of considering the steps to take to successfully age in place. It’s best to plan well ahead of time.

Anyone Social Security age or older has a good chance of needing new hips, knees, or shoulders by their mid-60s. Surgeries like this are expected to become more frequent as life expectancy continues to increase. Why? Degenerative arthritis caused by wear-and-tear is one reason, coupled with multiple other realities of aging that cause decreased mobility with increased challenges of staying safe in our own homes.

STAYING IN OUR OWN HOMES IS A GOOD OPTION

According to St. Paul’s Wilder Research, Minnesota’s 65 and older adult population will more than double between 2010 and 2030 as the state’s 1.3 million baby boomers head into retirement. During the last decade, our hearty senior population was on track to increase by 41%, more than the national average.

Why? Residents here in the True North tend not to retire to other regions. Hearty and hail, greatly attached to their families, and social networks, Minnesotans stay put.

Notable in this effort to keep seniors happy and safe in their own homes is the design community, members of which often join forces with policy makers to offer ideas and services that improve and extend the lives of seniors who choose to live their lives out in their own homes.

SEEK CERTIFIED EXPERTS

Choosing a reputable remodeler is key. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), in collaboration with AARP and other experts, have developed the Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) designation, which remodelers earn through training and testing during a multicourse educational program. CAPS professionals focus on the unique needs of the older adult population, examining common barriers and the appropriate aging-in-place home modifications to solve them.

According to NAHB, a CAPS professional can:

- Recommend updates that will help a person live independently in his or her own home
- Work with an occupational therapist to develop a home modification or build plan based on the safety and functional needs of an individual or household
- Collaborate with a licensed contractor or interior designer about building and design strategies and techniques for creating attractive, barrier-free living spaces
- Provide information about building codes and standards, useful products and resources, and the costs and time required for common remodeling projects

CAPS remodelers and design-build professionals are not medical or health

AGE IN PLACE >> 9



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TICK LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ASK

There are many resources for folks contemplating an aging-in-place adaptable remodel. One of the most trusted is AARP's "HomeFit Guide" which among other helpful tips and ideas, begins with a checklist of questions designed to allow seniors to think wisely about how to live independently for longer. Here are a dozen of their considerations:

1. Is there a step-free entrance into your home?
2. Are there a bedroom, full bath, and kitchen on the main level?
3. Are the interior doorways at least 36" wide?
4. Does the kitchen have a work surface you can use while seated?
5. Are the kitchen cabinets and shelves easy for you to reach?
6. Are your exterior walkways and entrances well lighted?
7. Do all your area rugs have non-slip grips to prevent tripping or slipping?
8. Are stairway light fixtures located at both the top and bottom of the stairs?
9. Do you have a shower with a step-free entry?
10. Are the bathroom cabinets and shelves easy for you to reach?
11. Does your bathroom have a lever, touch, or sensor-style faucet?
12. Are there nonslip strips or nonslip mats in the bathtub and/or shower?



This bathroom by Sylvestre Remodeling & Design features a shower without a curb as it aids in mobility. Dangerous throw rugs have been removed. (Photo by Andrea Rugg Photography)

AGE IN PLACE >> from 8

care professionals. Some charge hourly or flat fees to consult. It is worthwhile to note that by earning this certification they have gone the extra mile to provide critical design aspects to safely age in place.

LOCALLY-BASED CAPS CERTIFIED REMODELER

Sylvestre Remodeling & Design's owner and chief architect, John Sylvestre, has a lifetime of experience providing ways to make home modifications that allow people to stay in the homes they



love, maneuvering not only safely, but also in style. A self-confessed "baby boomer," Sylvestre takes seriously individuals' desires to remain in their own homes as long as possible.

His firm is CAPS certified and his portfolio abounds with stylish remodeling examples of work with typical Minneapolis housing stock. For example, the elevator they installed in a 1920s home for one client perfectly matches the door to the existing hallway doors, seamlessly integrating the design into the character of the home.

Following well-established aging-in-place guidelines, Sylvestre emphasizes basic categories for consideration:

- One-level living is a prime factor once mobility is impacted. Sylvestre explains, "We have done a number of projects that make sure there is a full bathroom on the first floor, a possible sleeping room, and a laundry."

- Logically, the bathroom is a next critical area. It must be able to accommodate mobility aids, such as canes, walkers, or wheelchairs. Options include widening doors, replacing tubs with showers, removing curbs or step ups into showers, which also creates a more modern look, positioning shower controls in a practical location, and investing in newer wall hung toilets that have adjustable heights.

- Kitchens are another essential mobility-friendly frontier. Sylvestre suggests, "taking a look at cabinets, doorways and islands, ensuring adequate room for tasks." Fully mobile individuals take for granted clearance space needed to open doors and drawers that would be greatly impacted when using a mobility aid like a walker or wheelchair.

Don't get caught off guard. Spring is a good time to assess our surroundings, inside and out. Minnesota Seniors provides a free resource for seniors and their family members, with links in the Aging in Place Directory to many resources, including home remodeling companies under such categories as "Accessibility/Lifts/Elevators/Ramps" and "Home/Bath Modifications."

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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THE CITY GARDENER

BY LAUREN BETHKE,
MASTER GARDENER



Many of us would love to have a yard full of beautiful flowering plants that bloom all season long, providing food for pollinators as well as visual interest. Lots of perennials have showy flowers in June and July, but often, in early spring and late summer, the yard looks a little bare despite our best efforts. Read on for some recommended plants that have a long flowering period and will help fill these gaps in your landscaping.

One of the earliest perennials to flower in Minnesota is the Christmas Rose, or *Helleborus niger*. In warmer climates it flowers around Christmas (hence the name) but in our growing zone, it will give you beautiful white flowers from March to May. It grows in upright clumps about 10-12" high and prefers a shady, moist area.

Dianthus and *Fringed Bleeding Heart* are two very long-blooming perennials that can fill gaps both early and later in the season. Both will start to flower around April and could continue until September, depending on the weather. *Dianthus* prefers sun or partial sun and is fairly short, growing 4-8" tall. It will put out even more flowers if you remove spent blooms throughout the season (also referred to as "deadheading"). There are lots of gorgeous *Dianthus* varieties – some of my favorites are *Double Bubble* (a double-layered, bubblegum-pink flower),



Consider adding (Clockwise from top left) Christmas Rose, Dianthus, Gayflower (also known as Blazing Star) or Fringed Bleeding Heart to your yard. They have a long flowering period and will help fill in the gaps in your landscaping. (Photos submitted)

American Pie Cherry (a cherry-red flower with silvery foliage) and *Cranberry Cocktail* (a carnation-like hot magenta flower).

Many of us grow *Bleeding Heart* in our yards, but *Fringed Bleeding Heart* (*Dicentra eximia*) is a slightly less common variety with a much longer blooming season (approximately April to September). *Fringed Bleeding Heart* is native to forests of the eastern United States and gets its name from its unique fern-like foliage. It prefers shade to partial shade and moist but well-draining soil. Its natural habitat is the forest floor, where lots of decaying plant debris enriches the soil – so add compost yearly to meet this plant's nutri-



ent needs.

There are several great options for garden color even later into the fall. *Gayfeather*, *Threadleaf Coreopsis*, and *Russian Sage* will bloom from about June to October. As a bonus, all of these are great for attracting butterflies and bees. Try placing them near your fruit or vegetable plants for improved pollination!

Gayfeather is also known as *blazing star*, or *Liatris spicata*. This plant grows to several feet tall and has spikes of strikingly bright purple flowers. It prefers a sunny spot with well-drained soil.

Threadleaf Coreopsis has delicate foliage and cheery yellow daisy-like flow-

ers, and generally grows 18-20 inches tall. "Moonbeam" and "Zagreb" are two excellent varieties. Although we don't often have to worry about deer in south Minneapolis, *Threadleaf Coreopsis* is also deer-resistant.

Russian Sage is a low-maintenance plant that has a beautiful fragrance and is sometimes used for aromatherapy. It prefers full sun but will tolerate dry conditions well. *Russian Sage* can grow 3-4 feet tall and has silvery foliage and delicate purple blossoms. When several plants are placed close together, it can make a beautiful fragrant hedge.

Finally, *sedum* is probably the latest-blooming perennial for our zone, often producing flowers until November. There are many different varieties of *sedum*, ranging from short, sprawling groundcovers to taller, bushy plants. You can find *sedums* that bloom in almost any color, to suit any landscape. Generally, though, they do well in full or part sun and don't require much water. It's also very easy to make more *sedum* plants to grow throughout your yard – just pinch off a stem from the main plant and stick it in the ground somewhere else. Keep it moist for a couple of weeks and it will begin to develop roots. Look for the "Autumn Joy" *sedum* variety for especially long-lived blooms that start out pink and become a lovely dark red in the fall.

As you can see, with a little advance planning, even those of us in northern climates can enjoy blooms all the way from spring until fall!

For more information on long-blooming perennials and many other types of plants, check out the publication "The Best Plants For 30 Tough Sites" from the University of Minnesota Extension. You can access it for free through the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy, at conservancy.umn.edu.



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LAKE HIAWATHA >> from 1

Meyer addressed the trash issue at Lake Hiawatha, caused by a stormwater sewer pipe flowing directly into the lake. It drains the area of Minneapolis south of East Lake St. The current master plan for the golf course includes trash mitigation. However, while the master plan has been discussed it has not been approved over the last two years, and nothing has been done to solve the trash problem at the lake.

"In order to solve the pollution problem, they need a lot of space for wastewater treatment," pointed out Meyer. "That space can either come from the golf course or it will have to come from somewhere else near the northern pipe. So really the only other ways you can clean up that trash would be to demolish homes or do something else like that. That's something I really want people to understand."

Ian Young started Hiawatha 4 All in 2021, and supports the master plan for the site. He has lived near Lake Hiawatha since 2017. Young believes that the latest plan proposed by golfers finally gets to the real issue. "It fully acknowledges that the option is either 18 holes or the lake," Young observed. "We have been trying to explain that for years. This is the reality."

(Read Young's guest editorial on page 4.)

"I want people to understand there are no easy choices here," stated Meyer. "We really need to take some action to clean this up."

He pointed to other benefits of the master plan. "It's going to be a great new amenity for people. You're going to have access to what is essentially a whole new park. Right now this golf course is fenced off. You're not supposed to walk through it because you don't want to get hit by a golf ball. With the master plan, the fence comes down. There will be trails around the full length of the lake and around the golf course. And all kinds of new amenities for fishing and kayaking and things that we don't have right now."

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan is the culmination between the MPRB, community advisory committee, and years of many meetings with community members and focus groups, observed Nicole Cavender, a nearby resident who is a Dakota woman with ties to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation. "It is the compromise between Black history, Dakota history, and environmental necessities," said Cavender. "There



Standish resident Lydia Dahl, holding five-month-old Felix, signs a petition held by Brynn Kasper expressing her support for the master plan for Hiawatha Golf Course. "You don't put a golf course on a wetland. It doesn't make sense," said Dahl during an event at Lake Hiawatha on April 16. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

is a section in the Hiawatha Master Plan that makes it clear that we can include more ways to honor history, and cultures after this plan is passed."

She pointed out, "What we now call Lake Hiawatha is part of Bdote. In Dakota this means 'where two waters come together.' Dakota and other Indigenous Peoples were sustained by the abundance of Rice Lake, now called Lake Hiawatha, for millennia."

She continued, "Eventually, the park board bought the land that included Rice Lake and channelized and straightened Minnehaha Creek, dredged the lake, and filled in the wetlands of Rice Lake. By 1938 no trace of wetland or habitat remained."

Cavender said she understand the effects of historical and generational trauma personally. Written within the master plan is a Native Land acknowledgement she wants to see adopted.

"I also understand that the water of Lake Hiawatha and the creatures living at the lake are being poisoned by over a thousand pounds of trash from a storm water pipe every year," said Cavender, "poisoned by polluted pumped water from this golf course – a golf course which

is four feet below water level. ...

"Mother Nature has been telling us all for years and years that the golf course is not meant to have all of that land without water. Nature is reclaiming her wetlands and she is only getting more insistent."

'YOU DON'T PUT A GOLF COURSE ON A WETLAND'

Standish resident Lydia Dahl attended the April 16 event because she wanted to learn more about the plan for the golf course and the lake. She supports the master plan.

"You don't put a golf course on a wetland. It doesn't make sense," said Dahl, who has lived nearby for four years and in Minneapolis her entire life.

Dahl cross country skis at Hiawatha, and she's looking forward to having a trail around the entire lake.

The parks, open space, and options for outdoor activity are what drew Brynn Kasper to Minneapolis in 2019. As a new Standish resident, she was surprised to find she couldn't walk around the entire lake. She doesn't support prioritizing an 18-hole golf course over the health of the lake and sustainability of the environ-

LAKE HIAWATHA >> 13

EIGHT YEARS AND COUNTING

2014 - Hiawatha Golf Course floods. Planning and studying begins. Front nine reopen that fall using \$1.1 million from FEMA to fix the damage.

2015 - Back nine reopen in the spring. In September, the discovery is made that dewatering is being done to continuously remove water from course; 263 million gallons were removed in 2015 and it has grown from there. The DNR permit supports irrigation, not dewatering.

2015 - MPRB begins holding public meetings. There are nine in all held between 2015-2018. MPRB staff meet with homeowners to learn about basement flooding in area. A food forest is proposed. Local resident Sean Connaughty hosts first art exhibit at The Sandbox showcasing 1,500 pounds of trash cleaned up from Lake Hiawatha.

2016 - A temporary trash catchment is installed at the north pipe, but breaks free after a heavy rain.

2018 - Community Advisory Committee begins meeting in March. Ten focus session open houses are held, including one on Black history, one on Indigenous history, and another on environment.

2019 - Three master plan concepts are created with a reduced pumping scenario. There were four surveys and a general comment form, and several in-person meetings.

2020 - Preferred alternative presented in April. There were 345 surveys collected during 45-day comment period.

2021 - In the spring, the final master plan was not approved by MPRB due to a supermajority needed for a clubhouse name change. The plan was not approved during a second vote in July 2021. During the Earth Day clean-up, a record 400 pounds of plastic and styrofoam trash are removed from the lake. FOLH file a complaint with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

2022 - The amount of trash Friends of Lake Hiawatha has cleaned up nears 10,000 pounds. Golfers propose an alternative plan to drain Lake Hiawatha and keep an 18-hole course.



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This land acknowledgement is included in the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan that has not yet been adopted:

"The MPRB acknowledges the land subject to this master plan amendment is Bdote, lands once richly inhabited by the Dakota and other Indigenous peoples. Under the hands of the MPRB, that land changed dramatically and in ways that fail to resonate with the spirit of the Dakota and the honor they bring to the land. In crafting a master plan to guide the future of this land, we bring good intentions of healing what we have so dramatically disturbed, and with good hearts hope to restore the vital functions of the land and the water that passes through it. We are striving for a more holistic balance than has existed here for the past century, one that can better sustain all peoples for the next centuries."

LAKE HIAWATHA >> from 12

ment.

"I want people to understand what's at stake here," said Carol Dungan, who has lived three blocks away from Lake Hiawatha for 16 years. "It's not just saving the golf course. It's destroying the creek."



Chris Meyer

PEACEFUL RESOLUTION?

Cavender pointed to the historical figure of Hiawatha, the Iroquois chief who founded the Iroquois Confederacy over 800 years ago, making it the oldest living participatory democracy on earth. "Hiawatha resolved conflict, brought peoples together," said Cavender. "He was a true peacemaker and a fitting namesake for this lake."

"I believe it's important to make sure everyone is considered and heard."

She expressed concern about how this issue has negatively affected the neighborhood over the last eight years.

She believes that MPRB spent time listening to the voices of the wide and diverse combination of community members with varied interests in the development of the Hiawatha Master Plan.

"Let us hear each other, respect each other, and look to the future together, dynamically willing to change," said Cavender.

She added, "Like a confluence of rivers ... the waters from each river mixes together, and make space for the other and they travel forward together. Eighteen holes at any cost is not a confluence of anything."

>> Read a column and letters on page 4.

>> More online, including letters written by Friends of Lake Hiawatha, at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

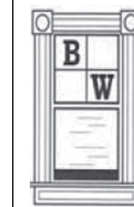
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DFL endorses Zaynab Mohamed, Emma Greenman, Sencer-Mura as district 63 candidates

By CAM GORDON

Over the course of two lengthy meetings in April, the Senate District 63 Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) party held its endorsing convention and endorsed three candidates to the state legislature.

On April 9, hundreds of delegates met virtually for nearly 12 hours, District 63 DFL convention. They endorsed Zaynab Mohamed for State Senate Dis-

trict 63, and Emma Greenman for State Representative 63B. Both endorsements were uncontested. However, they recessed the meeting without endorsing anyone for State Representative for District 63A, currently held by Jim Davnie who is not seeking reelection.

They reconvened on April 24, to continue balloting for the contested endorsement for 63A state representative, and, after several hours and on the sixth

ballot, endorsed Samantha Sencer-Mura. She grew up in Minneapolis, graduated from South High School, and lives in the Corcoran neighborhood. Since 2017, she has been executive director of the educational non-profit, 826 MSP, which provides in-school and out-of-school writing, publishing and leadership programs, as well as writing centers in the Seward neighborhood and one at South High School.

On April 9, three candidates, Yusra Arab, Kevin McDonald, and Samantha Sencer Mura were contesting for the 63A endorsement at what was the district's first ever virtual convention according to district party chair, Amy Livingston.

At the first meeting they completed three ballots, with McDonald dropping out after the first ballot with just 16% of the vote. Sencer Mura picked up votes on the second and third ballots, but was still short of the 60% needed when the lateness of the hour concerns about losing quorum led to the decision to recess the meeting.

The decision to have a virtual convention, according to Livingston, was made weeks ago following extensive research and polling that indicated that close to 45% of delegates were not comfortable meeting in person, but that those people who we comfortable meeting in person were also willing to meet virtually.

"We know the convention for many was long, difficult, and disappointing. There is a lot of work to be done to make conventions more accessible, inclusive, and welcoming," Sencer Mura said several days after the first meeting. "Moving forward, we seek to honor the commitment of everyone who dedicated their day to participate in our district's DFL endorsement process."

Despite efforts to develop procedures to ensure success and conducting "mock conventions" and orientation sessions before hand, Livingston said that they learned a lot from the experience. She regretted not planning better for a long meeting (that they assumed would be over by 6 p.m.). In the notice for the next meeting she wrote, "I want to offer an apology to our Somali and Muslim delegates. This convention went for a very long time during Ramadan, and we should've kept track of sunset and evening prayer times, too."

Livingston noted the two most im-



portant things they could have done differently to stay on schedule was shortening the time allowed for rules challenges and communicated better at the beginning regarding how the credentialing worked.

"I know we are all disappointed in the way things transpired at our convention, however, I firmly believe we need to view this entire process as a learning moment," Arab said about the longer meeting. "At the core of our party's platform is diversity and inclusion, and we need to truly live up to those values. Our democratic processes shouldn't ever exclude people based on their faith, access to technology, or the language they speak. I am looking forward to working with our party leaders to create more transparent, equitable, and inclusive processes."

Changes they made for the second meeting included adding prayer times, having two different convention chairs (rather than one), adding more volunteers to help with credentials, and using a speech tracking tool called a "speaker's stack," rather than Zoom's raise-hand function. They also had public sites with technical help, rented laptops, strong internet, and live audio interpretations so that participants.

Historically, in this district, DFL endorsement is a major stepping-stone towards getting elected and the decision at the local convention can be changed through the primary system in Minnesota. The two major parties will have primary elections Aug. 8, with early voting starting June 24, for those offices where more than one candidate has filed with that party.

The Republican Party also endorsed several candidates at their meeting last month. They endorsed Diane Napper for State Senator District 63, Penny Arcos for State Representative District 63A, and Frank Pafko for State Representative District 63B.

There could yet be a primary for one or both parties. Kevin McDonald, who dropped out of the DFL convention endorsement race on April 9, said, "The climate crisis is at the center of my candidacy. It is the issue of our lives. We must act with much greater urgency to cut greenhouse gases and assist Minnesota communities in pursuing climate resilient pathways." When asked about the future of his campaign, he said, "I haven't ruled anything out at this point in time."

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BY BECKY TIMM
outgoing executive
director



Our board of directors is thrilled to announce to our neighbors the hire of new executive director Brandon Long.

Brandon moved to the Highland neighborhood of Saint Paul from Iowa with his wife in 2012 to begin his master's degree in occupational therapy at St. Kate's. He began work at the Minnesota Autism Center as an occupational therapist in 2015. Brandon served as an elected at-large board member of the Highland District Council on their engagement committee and helped found the neighborhood non-profit Sustain Ward 3 (now Sustain Saint Paul).

Prior to serving as NENA's new executive director, he served in the same role with the Union Park District Council. Brandon is also a graduate of Neighborhoods Now!, the grassroots organizing training program through the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota.

With a history of proactive leadership and community involvement, we are confident that Brandon will help further NENA's goals to promote neighborhood connections and implement our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.

Brandon began full-time in late April,

and the board has also authorized him to hire additional staff, including a community organizer in 2022. Contact him at brandon.long@nokomiseast.org.

GARAGE SALE DAY RETURNS ON JUNE 4

The annual NENA garage sale brings buyers and sellers together for a neighborhood-wide event. Whether you're looking to clean out the basement or seeking reasonably priced hidden treasures, this is the event for you, your friends, and family.

Register your sale by June 1, 2022, at www.nokomiseast.org/garage-sale/. NENA suggests a donation of \$10+, which will be used for NENA Neighborhood Projects.

On June 4, 2022, you can access a downloadable map or visit Oxendale's Market and Nokomis Beach Coffee after 9 a.m. for a printed map of sales.

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.

NENA offers up to \$500 in matching grants for Curb Appeal and Home Security projects. We offer 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.



Brandon Long replaces Becky Timm as the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Executive Director. After seven years with NENA, Timm accepted the executive director position at the Sacred Ground Center for Spirituality in St. Paul. Timm graduated from St. Kate's Holistic Health Studies graduate program in December. This new position allows her to continue working with small, local nonprofits and expanding into new areas of interest.

Nokomis Days (formerly 'Crazy Days') is back first weekend in August

NOKOMIS EAST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

BY HEIDI VAN HEEL
co-chair
NokomisEastBA@gmail.com



We're excited to report that planning is already underway for Nokomis Days the first weekend in August!

Last year, we had events in every corner of Nokomis East, from live music, sidewalk sales, and pet adoptions to wine tastings, food specials, local vendors, and screen printing. And this year's celebration comes with more than a new name – it will have even more ways to get out and celebrate the neighborhood we all love!

Right now, we want to hear from you!

Are you a local business or service organization who would like to participate in the festivities? Would you like to join the volunteers who are making Nokomis Days happen?

Contact us at NokomisEastBA@gmail.com to learn more about getting involved and watch for more details to come!

NEBA meets on the third Thursday of each month at Town Hall Lanes (5 p.m.).

Engage with your community, join LCC Board

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BY ANDREA TRITSCHLER,
communications
andrea@longfellow.org



The Longfellow Community Council is looking for new volunteers for our board of directors. Our board is made up of passionate community leaders, like one of our newest board members, Annie Wang.

Annie joined the board earlier this year. A resident of Longfellow, Annie and her family have lived in the neighborhood for several years and have planted their roots here. Being rooted in community means so much more than living in a place. A plant roots to take in water and nutrients, which allows it to grow taller and faster; to make roots in a community is to nourish and support our neighbors so our community can thrive. Annie is invested in supporting and representing the neighborhood – it was one of the reasons she joined the LCC board.

"Neighborhoods grow and change; and this is the most local level to have that voice and share your opinions. I also believe it is important that we should think about the future and be good stewards for future residents while we're strengthening our community," Annie says. "With rebuilding projects going on on Lake Street, it is important to be united together and invested into what is going on at this hyper local level, to make sure we are providing equal and equitable opportunities for others."

LCC board members have the opportunity to express the needs and concerns for our diverse neighborhood and take action through coordinated events, volunteering, meetings, and advising the Longfellow Community Council. Board members are encouraged to join an LCC committee that aligns with their passions and interests – equitable housing and development, environment, and events. Annie is the chair of the events and engagement committee. Increased engagement is something Annie hopes to accomplish as part of the LCC board.

"Knowing your neighbor, regardless of home ownership status or background, is



Annie Wang joined the Longfellow Community Council board earlier this year. The board's general elections will be held following the May 14 meeting.

also an important part to building a stronger community. I hope to get other residents involved with LCC in some capacity, even if it's just being an attendee at an event."

Connecting with neighbors and businesses is foundational to a strong community. Greater Longfellow has so much to offer – amazing local businesses, great restaurants and diverse people who are invested in building together. Joining the board is a great way to give voice to individuals in this community and make your voice heard.

"If you want to take action in local politics, a community board like this is a great way to get an understanding of how important and impactful it can be. You don't need to be a homeowner or have a fancy career, your voice and unique experiences are just as important if we want to be truly representative of those who live in the Greater Longfellow area," Annie says.

Board members are elected by the community during LCC's general membership meeting and this year voting will be available in-person, and electronically for a week following the May 14 meeting. More information on our election is coming soon. If you're interested in applying for the board, or would like to know more, visit our website longfellow.org or email andrea@longfellow.org.

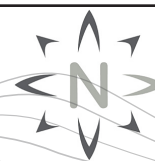
Planning overseas travel? THINK MEASLES



- Bring back only memories, help prevent the spread of measles.
- Talk with your doctor about what immunizations you and your family need before traveling.
- Call your doctor if anyone gets a fever and rash within 3 weeks of returning from your trip. Describe where you traveled.

Learn more at:
www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html

m DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH



Nokomis East
Neighborhood Association

Nokomis East Garage Sale Day

nokomiseast.org

@NokomisEast
Facebook

Our annual NENA garage sale day brings buyers and sellers together for a neighborhood-wide event on June 4.

Register Your Sale by 6/1

Visit www.nokomiseast.org/garage-sale/

FAILED BY FAMILY COURT >> from 1

19 on Sept. 20, 2010, and got pregnant again just three months after his birth with their daughter, Autumn. She was born Aug. 24, 2011. "It was never physical, just verbal," she remembered. "I was naive."

They split up in early 2013. At first, Brett had the two- and three-year-old every other weekend at his mom's house. Kelsey did all the transportation for visits and provided everything for them there, including beds, clothes and groceries. He wasn't paying child support, so she filed for it in the middle of 2013. He filed for custody at the end of 2013.

If he had custody, his child support would be reduced.

Kelsey was young, didn't have any money for an attorney, and had heard that the judge would give him 50/50 anyway. So, she agreed to joint physical and legal custody. They set up a parenting schedule where the two kids were with mom for one week, and with dad for one week. They exchanged the kids on Sundays.

Sarah came into the picture pretty early on, and she and Brett married in 2017. Sarah had a child of her own who was a little bit older than Noah, and a restraining order against the dad. "She was good at restraining orders," said Kelsey. "She had one against her parents, she threatened Brett's mom, and she had one against me."

There was an altercation between Kelsey and Sarah one day during drop-off. Kelsey brought Sarah's daughter a gift from Brett's mom, and during the exchange Kelsey allegedly shoved the gift into Sarah's shoulder. Sarah threw the gift at Kelsey and kicked her. A week later, Kelsey was served by a sheriff's deputy at home with a restraining order, alleging she had ripped the stitches in Sarah's shoulder from a recent surgery. "It was ridiculous. I couldn't believe they approved the restraining order without hearing from me," said Kelsey.

"I was constantly accused by Sarah of harassing them." In court, Sarah spoke for Brett. Tenth Judicial Court Judge Mary Yunker ordered that Kelsey could only contact Sarah because Brett had disabilities "and I caused him to have seizures frequently," recalled Kelsey. "I've never seen a seizure. She didn't show any proof."

Brett blocked Kelsey's number so he didn't get the messages she sent about the kids' education and medical care. "They said I never told him," said Kelsey. "It was very manipulative. They tried to make it seem like everything was my fault all the time. There was a lot of blaming. If something went wrong, it was always my fault or the kids' fault."

Sarah told Kelsey that she had just as much right to her kids as Kelsey did. "I don't know why she wanted my kids so much," remarked Kelsey.

"The step-parents are hard to get along with because they want your kids to be their kids. They're playing house."

She observed, "I think that's why she started abusing Noah. Because she hated me."

CHARGED WITH CONTEMPT

One Sunday, Noah came home and the whole right side of his cheek was bruised and swollen.

Brett told Kelsey that Noah had fallen while playing with one of his two half-siblings and hit his face. Kelsey believed what Brett said until later that night. She was getting the kids ready for bed when Autumn told her: "Sarah hit Noah for having an accident in his pants." When Kelsey asked Noah, he told her that Sarah hit him, he fell backwards and hit the bed frame.

When confronted, Sarah admitted to "grazing his lips with two fingertips, he flinched, and fell."



Autumn holds her new baby sister, Delylah. (Photo courtesy of Kelsey Kruse)

Kelsey went to Elk River Police Department, and they pulled in Sherburne County Child Protection Service (CPS), but it didn't go anywhere.

Noah came home with bruises again. He had bruises on his chin that looked like fingerprints, and a darkened eye that wasn't quite a black eye.

This time his school counselor reported the injuries to child protection.

CPS interviewed both kids at school and said it would be a good idea if Kelsey kept him a few extra days. Kelsey remembers feeling like it was a good thing they were involved, and she believed they would help.

But they closed the investigation within two weeks saying that Noah's story had changed, and told Kelsey he needed to resume visits with his dad. Noah was crying and said he didn't want to go, and they made Kelsey stay outside the apartment while they talked to Brett. She asked if she could say goodbye to Noah. They wouldn't let her.

Brett and Sarah brought Kelsey back to court to have her charged with contempt for not sending Noah to their house. Judge Yunker charged her and removed the kids from her care for five straight weeks, saying Brett was entitled to the make-up days.

When the kids were at their dad's, they wouldn't let her talk to them on the phone. Kelsey went to their school to have lunch with them as many days as she could, which Brett and Sarah tried to stop so she had no contact with them at all.

"I felt very helpless and hopeless," Kelsey recalled.

Neither Brett nor Sarah were working, and Kelsey was paying them child support.

She couldn't afford an attorney to argue against the accusations.

ACCUSED OF COACHING SON TO REPORT ABUSE

In September 2019, Brett refused to let Kelsey pick the kids up for their regular Sunday exchange, saying he got extra days. Noah wasn't at school on Monday, and hadn't been there the Friday before either. She called the police and asked for a welfare check. The police officer talked to Brett and Sarah, saw Noah, and reported back to Kelsey that Noah was fine. Brett and Sarah agreed Kelsey could pick him up that afternoon.

When she did, she saw he had bruises all over his face, back, bellybutton and legs. The police officer had seen the marks firsthand, as well, and hadn't mentioned

them to Kelsey.

Noah said a kid kicked him on the playground, and that's how he had the bruise on his temple. He said his foot was swollen because it got stuck in a hole. He said his stomach injury was because he fell off the playground. He said he didn't know how he got the rest of the bruises.

Kelsey reached out to a co-parenting support group she was part of online and asked for advice.

Then she took him to the Mercy Hospital emergency room. They made a report to CPS, who didn't call her back for a few days. She dropped Noah off at school and he went back to his dad's house. CPS interviewed him in front of Brett and Sarah.

"I think it's crazy they did that. You don't talk to a kid in front of the people that are being accused of abusing them," said Kelsey.

Again, CPS closed the investigation without any findings of abuse or charges against Brett or Sarah.

Instead, CPS accused Kelsey of coaching Noah and of using this as a tactic to get more custody in court.

"I trusted them to know how to do their job," said Kelsey.

People tell Kelsey they wouldn't have kept sending him to his dad's house.

"I was so terrified of losing custody. They already brought me in for contempt and won. I felt like I didn't have a choice but to keep sending him," explained Kelsey.

'A CORRUPT SYSTEM'

Things weren't getting better, but seemed to be escalating five years after Kelsey and Brett had split up. The post-separation abuse included the legal abuse and financial abuse directed at Kelsey, and the neglectful, abusive parenting and isolation directed at the kids. She felt like Brett and Sarah were fighting for control, while she was fighting for the safety of Noah.

Noah kept saying he was being abused at his dad's house. He told his school counselor at Lincoln Elementary that he was scared to go back there for the weekend. He said he was being forced to stay up all night and clean, and then go to school the next day without having slept. He described being forced to swallow liquid dish soap and being confined to a bedroom for hours as punishment for not doing his chores. He said he was being forced to sleep on the floor without a pillow or blanket. He talked about being

hit. He wasn't getting help with his homework. He wasn't allowed to read or color, and had to sit still all day. He couldn't play.

He said he was forced to stick his tongue out and then Sarah would push down on his head so that he bit his tongue.

He told CPS he didn't feel safe at his dad and stepmom's house.

"When Noah came to me, I had no reason not to believe him. I knew how Brett and Sarah treated me and I believed what Noah said," Kelsey stated.

But no one else was listening to him. Or, to her.

"To brush that off is unacceptable," she said.

She knows they aren't alone in this. Since Autumn's death, many people have reached out to tell her they've experienced the same thing with CPS, schools, Guardians ad Litem, parenting consultants, therapists, police officers, custody evaluators, and family court professionals who ignore the patterns of abuse, label the mother as a problem, insist she stop putting the kids in the middle, and tell her she needs to communicate better.

"It's so messed up and so corrupt. You think, how is it ever going to change?"

At first, Kelsey thought that having had CPS be involved would hold some weight in family court. It ended up being exactly opposite. Instead, the judge tossed it out because CPS had closed the case, even though they never did a complete investigation.

Kelsey decided she was never sending Noah back.

She negotiated a new custody arrangement with Brett, and agreed to give up time with Autumn in order to keep Noah safe. She would now spend three weeks with her dad and one with her mom. Noah was supposed to spend one week with his dad and three weeks with Autumn, but didn't end up going to his dad's again.

At the start, Kelsey wasn't worried about Autumn. "I had no reason to believe she was being abused. I thought Autumn was spoiled. That's how she made it seem," explained Kelsey. In contrast, Noah was the scapegoat in the family and constantly being punished.

They took a family trip at the end of December 2019, right before Kelsey and longtime boyfriend Justin Osterbauer welcomed a baby girl in January 2020. Autumn met her new baby sister, Delylah, the day she was born. Jan. 26, 2020 was the last time she was home.

'I TRIED SO HARD TO GET PEOPLE TO LISTEN'

In March 2020, Kelsey arrived to pick up Autumn but Brett cited concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and wouldn't exchange her.

As time went on and Brett continued to refuse to send Autumn back or let her speak to her mom on the phone, Kelsey got increasingly concerned. Brett also stopped responding to messages through their court-approved service, Our Family Wizard.

Kelsey heard from people who lived at the three-story apartment complex that they were hearing children screaming and crying in Brett's second-story apartment, and they were reporting it to the Elk River Police Department. A neighbor recorded the sound of a girl screaming multiple times, and shared it with the police department. Another called when they were woken up in the middle of the night by a child screaming, "Get off me." One heard an adult threaten to hit a kid. In all, reports show officers were called to the apartment over 30 times. Sometimes Brett or Sarah answered, and said the children were misbehaving or attributed the noise to a loud television and video games.

Kelsey tried to get help through the family court system in April, but Judge Mary Yunker (whose current term expires in 2025) declined to hear the case saying

FAILED BY FAMILY COURT

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that Kruse failed to properly serve notice to Autumn's father and that Kruse "failed to demonstrate that the current circumstances constitute an emergency."

She called Sherburne County CPS on Mother's Day, but they told her if the cops couldn't get the couple to answer the door how did she expect them to. The woman who answered the phone said they'd look into it, but Kelsey never heard back from them.

"I tried so hard to get people to listen to me about helping Autumn," Kelsey said.

Kelsey continued going to Brett's apartment on Sundays to pick up Autumn for the exchange, but they never sent her outside.

"I'd sit out there for hours waiting," recalled Kelsey. Sometimes she'd see a curtain move. She called the police five times between May 10 and Aug. 2. The officers sometimes spoke to Brett or Sarah but didn't see Autumn up close. They saw Autumn from the balcony once in June. Often, the apartment lights were turned off when police arrived in the parking lot and no one answered.

"At first, they would come out to the apartment and meet me, try to make contact with Brett, and then eventually, they would stop even coming there," Kruse said. "The more that I called, the less help that I got."

People tell her they would have knocked the door down to get to their child. When she hears this, Kelsey knows they don't have experience with family court or with someone like Brett or Sarah who know how to manipulate the system for money. They don't know how the system works and how often mothers lose custody. They don't know that fear. They don't know how stuck you feel.

"When I really needed help, I couldn't get it," Kelsey said.

She had piles of documentation, of reports, of OFW messages. "It's so overwhelming," she remarked. "It's overwhelming to be in family court for so many years. It makes you feel helpless. You don't want to go through it."

LOSING A CHILD

On Aug. 13, 2020, after six months of not seeing her daughter, Kelsey's phone rang. It was Sarah's father, and Kelsey almost didn't answer the call. He told Kelsey that Autumn was "unresponsive." Kelsey rushed to the apartment complex, and found her mom already there. That's when she understood Autumn was dead. She

KAYDEN'S LAW

In August 2018, seven-year-old Kayden Mancuso was murdered by her biological father, Jeffrey Mancuso, on a court-ordered, unsupervised visit in Pennsylvania. Mancuso then committed suicide. He had a documented history of violent and erratic behavior and had been diagnosed with depression, but none of his past incidents involved his daughter, Kayden. In the year before her death, Kayden's mother, Kathryn Sherlock, had sought a Protection From Abuse (PFA) order for her daughter against Jeffrey.

Kayden's Law is currently making its way through the Pennsylvania legislature. It includes child safety first provisions such as:

- 1) Restricting family court judges from granting adjudicated abusers unsupervised parenting time with children if they present a risk.
- 2) Requiring private custody courts hold a hearing if a parent has been found by the child welfare system to have physically or sexually abused a child, so that the private custody court can hear the facts about that abuse when deciding custody and parenting time for a child.
- 3) Recommendation that Pennsylvania courts train family court judges and court personnel on the facts of domestic violence, child abuse and child sexual abuse.

collapsed.

One of the hardest things Kelsey had to do was tell Noah that his sister was gone.

The funeral home suggested they have a closed casket because of how emaciated the eight-year-old was, but Kelsey explained it was important for her loved ones to see her one last time because it had been so long since they had. She bought her little girl a wig to wear.

There were a lot of details Kelsey didn't know until the murder trial a year later.

At the time of her death, Autumn weighed only 33 pounds. "She weighed more than that at her four-year doctor appointment," said Kelsey. She should have been about 70 pounds.

"I think losing a child is the greatest loss you can endure," Kruse said in court. "I lay in bed and close my eyes and picture what she looked like before she died."

Brett and Sarah pleaded guilty to sec-

LAW PART OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

Portions of Kayden's Law have been included in the Violence Against Women's Act that Congress reauthorized earlier this year, including a provision aimed at making child safety the primary concern in custody disputes.

"No child should ever be court ordered to be left alone with a dangerous abuser, period. Kayden's Law in VAWA will help states to ensure that never happens again," said Danielle Pollack, the policy manager for the National Family Violence Law Center at GW (NFVLC). "By adding Kayden's Law to VAWA, for the first time since it was passed in 1994, states will be eligible for federal funding when they improve their state custody statutes and close loopholes which routinely jeopardize the safety of children," she added.

Actress, UN Special Envoy, and child rights advocate Angelina Jolie addressed Congress on Jan. 19, 2022, urging support for Kayden's Law.

The legislature is supported by the National Safe Parents Coalition (NSPC), which represents dozens of family court reform advocacy organizations and more than 100,000 survivor parents and concerned citizens in the United States advocating for evidence-based policies which put child safety and risks at the forefront of child custody decisions.

ond-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter. In September 2021, Judge Karen Schommer gave them both the maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. They both appealed the decision and were denied.

According to the Center for Judicial Excellence, 833 children have been murdered by a divorcing or separating parent since 2008. "It is estimated that each year in the U.S., tens of thousands of children are court-ordered into the custody of an abusive parent, frequently without supervision or other safeguards in place. Throughout the world, dangerous parents are using family court systems to harm children and former partners, continuing their post-separation abuse with little oversight and accountability," according to the National Safe Parents Coalition. "While these problems have been widely studied and documented, children continue to be sent into harm's way."

Kelsey has filed a \$30 million federal lawsuit against Elk River Police Depart-



Delylah visits the Autumn Blaze maple planted to honor her sister. (Photo courtesy of Kelsey Kruse)

ment, Sherburne County, and Elk River School District to hold them accountable.

Kelsey has trouble sleeping still. "Every single day I worry about my other kids dying," she said. Noah worries about being kidnapped and taken from her. Kelsey, too, worries every day about her children being taken away.

THEY PLANTED AN AUTUMN BLAZE MAPLE

For now, the urn with Autumn's ashes is in her mother's room with a photo of the little girl. Delylah has a teddy bear with a recording of Autumn's voice and her laugh because her mom wants her to know her sister.

Kelsey and Justin got engaged last year, and still live in the area where Autumn lived and died. Kelsey home-schools Noah.

Kelsey is involved with Rivers of Hope, a domestic and family abuse prevention non-profit located in Monticello. She wishes she would have known about them earlier. They've advocated for her since Autumn's death.

On Autumn's ninth birthday, they planted an Autumn Blaze Maple tree in their front yard, so they can watch it grow.

On her 10th birthday, they gathered at the Elk River Boys and Girls Club where a memorial bench donated by the Elk River Lions was unveiled.

On April 28, 2022, Kelsey will be the keynote speaker at the Rivers of Hope annual gala.

Kelsey hopes that by telling her story, she can work to prevent this from happening to other families.

Mostly, she misses Autumn.

Longfellow woman pens new children's book

A new children's book explores a city park through the seasons.

Edith Marie Karras has been taking pictures for over 30 years, and has lived in Minneapolis since 1985. She is a Longfellow resident. Over the decades she's participated in shows and art fairs and currently is an artist member and board member of Vine Arts Center. Karras uses her photographs to create ceramic tiles, posters, scarves, canvas wraps, and framed prints. Looking to create something new, she is now using her collection of children and nature photos to create picture books. "Let's Go for a Wander" is her first, with more on the way.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE "LET'S GO FOR A WANDER?"

Actually, the impetus was cleaning. The virtual cleaning out of photo files on my desktop computer. Like most photographers I have a mountain of pictures, and two or three times a year I try to organize,

edit, and delete what I don't need. This last time, as I was going WAY back in the library, I saw how many great photos I have of my son and his friends, as well as lots of neighborhood and nature pictures. Coupled with being in a slump about what else I could produce with my art form, and discussing things with my wife who is a teacher, I started researching the possibility of creating a children's book using photographs instead of illustrations.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BECOMING A PUBLISHED AUTHOR?

"Let's Go for a Wander" is my first book, and honestly – It's the people I've been working with at Beaver's Pond Press. They have been so kind and so helpful; advising me from the get go, and pumping with me with enthusiasm. I'm so happy to have had a very positive first-time publishing experience.

WHAT IS YOUR WORK SCHEDULE LIKE WHEN



YOU'RE WRITING?

When you're working full time and raising a family, creating artwork most often takes a back burner. I, for one, was very happy with the advent of digital photography and the ease and accessibility of iPhones. It allowed for flexibility and is far less expensive than film. Still, the act of creating and producing final products can get squished into a corner. For

example, many years ago I took care of my mother-in-law in our home. Also at that time, our son was only seven years old and my wife was in graduate school. I spent almost two years taking pictures of food and flowers in the yard because I was so tied to my house. However, I ended up creating an entire series called "Views from the Kitchen."

WHAT'S THE NEXT BOOK?

My next two books are in the concept phase. One is called "Bearcub, Sprite, and Little Grey," about our three cats. The Second is "Color Color Everywhere."

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK AS A CHILD?

What I remember most is anything Dr. Seuss, Peter Rabbit, and "Where the Wild Things Are." My folks also read older kids' books to me at a young age, like "Stuart Little," "The Jungle Book," and "The Wizard of Oz" series.

PLAN IT

MAY DAY RETURNS MAY 1

MayDay 2022 will look different from MayDays past. This year, instead of a parade there will be an art-filled political and cultural festival on May 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Four Directions Family Center Parking lot, 1527 E. Lake St.

Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue will serve as the host for the MayDay political and cultural festival with support from Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Coalition (MIRAC). It will be a celebration of International Workers Day with an emphasis on immigrant rights. The Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue is a learning community of Indigenous people joined by the desire to learn, share and live the tradition of Aztec dance.

The Medicine Woman Mojiganga, a traditional Mexican puppet, will welcome festival goers. A stage will feature speeches by community activists. The festival will include performances by KetzalCoatlucue Aztec dancers, music, local poets, and break-dancers. There will be participatory art projects for children and teens and games for kids ages 1-10 years old. A M-GIZI youth-crafted turtle puppet will make an appearance. Students at Roosevelt are getting involved, collaborating on MayDay 2022 preparations, as well.

GARDEN TOOL SWAP MAY 14

Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling and community partners are holding the second annual city-wide swap event of garden tools and plant-related equipment. From first time gardeners to those with green thumbs, all are welcome at this free event on Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bring your unused items to Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S. You do not need to bring items to the event to take items home with you.

LONGFELLOW BLOSSOM FESTIVAL MAY 15

All in the neighborhood are invited to the Longfellow Blossom Festival, Sunday, May 15, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the intersection of 33rd St. and 34th Ave. Join the 3200 block of 34th Ave. S. and Christ Church Lutheran for a block party to celebrate spring, named for the beautiful crabapple blossoms that bloom mid-May in the neighborhood. There will be live music, food trucks, bouncy house, lawn games, and more.

WALK FOR PEACE AROUND LAKE NOKOMIS

While some might consider their act of giving in May to be walking from door-to-door hanging gift baskets, at Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis you will find a whole different type of altruism this year. On Saturday, May 21, Friends for a Non-Violent World (FNVW), an organization with the vision of creating a world free from violence and the threat of violence, will be hosting a Walkathon that circles the lake in hopes for pledges.

Participants are asked to strap on their tennis shoes and stroll for a cause, with the goal of raising \$4,000 to help fund their programs which teach alternatives to violence and champion nonviolent social change. At the end of the walk, partakers will be given food, water and prizes as a thanks for coming out.

LOCAL THEATER COMPANY PERFORMS 'THE MISER'



Ashley Marek as Marianne and Troy Lowry, Jr. as Leo in CLFTC production of "The Miser."

Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater Company is pleased to announce their spring 2022 production, "The Miser" by Jean-Baptiste Moliere, honoring the playwright in the 400th anniversary of his birth. Satire and farce blend in the fast-moving story of "The Miser." Harpagon, the title character, loves money more than he does anyone else, even his son and daughter. Meanwhile, his children have both fallen in love, although Harpagon wants to thwart their plans. Things heat up considerably when the miser's strongbox is stolen, but of course, things work out for the best.

Adapted and directed by Steven LaVigne, the CLFTC production of this comedy is set on the day that Lindbergh landed in Paris in 1927. The cast is as follows: Don Larsson plays Harpagon, the Miser; Lauren Wills plays his daughter, Elise and Troy Lowry, Jr. plays his son, Leo. Ashley Marek plays Harpagon and Leo's love interest, Marianne with Lissa Miller as Frosine, the matchmaker. Jackson K. Whitman plays Elise's love interest, Valere.

The cast also features David Norini as Ansel, Noreen K. Brandt as Claudette, Coral Bastien as Mme. Simone, Stephen Greenhalgh as Jacques, Meagan Kellom as Brigitte, Lisa Phelps as Fletcher and Miles Scroggins as the Gendarme.

The CLFTC production of "The Miser" will be presented 29-30 and May 6-7 at 7p.m., with a pay-what-you-will matinee on April 30 at 2 p.m. Phone 612-724-4539 for reservations. Performances are at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th St.

For more information, contact lavignebiz1952@gmail.com or Classicslostandfound@gmail.com.



Stephen Greenhalgh as M. Jacques



Lissa Miller as Frosine



Meagan Kellom as Brigitte

MAY IS AMERICAN INDIAN MONTH

A Mother's Day Powwow is planned for Saturday, May 8, 12-9 p.m. at Cedar Field, 2500 Cedar Ave. There will be singing and dancing, including a hand drum contest and a jingle dress healing dance. This event is free and open to the public. Honoring Our Life Givers Round Dance will be on Saturday, May 15, 1-7 p.m. at Cedar Field. The outdoor event features singers, dancers and a hand drum contest. A meal will be provided.

The Division of Indian Work Spring Feast is on Friday, May 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1001 East Lake St. The Division of Indian Work is hosting a community resource fair. Attendees can get food and learn about the resources and programs and see the work organizations are doing in their community.

CHURCH HOSTS ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.) will host its Annual Spring Rummage Sale, Friday, May 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Expect lots of great buys, from clothes to home goods and more. Sloppy Jo's and bars will be available for purchase.

TOYS ON EXHIBIT AT SQUIRREL HAUS ARTS

"Collecting Memories: A Love Story" is a fun interactive vintage toy gallery exhibition in the Longfellow Neighborhood, at Squirrel Haus Arts (2308 E. 36 1/2 St.). Full of quirky nostalgia and new perspectives, the exhibition is perfect for the whole family. Opening April 28, it runs through May 8, 2022. There will be a mini-Toy Swap and ComiCon on Saturday, April 30. Admission is free of charge. More at at SquirrelHausArts.com or SuperMonsterCity.com.

BUNGALOW HOME TOUR MAY 7

After a much-too-long absence, the Twin Cities Bungalow Club Home Tour returns on Saturday, May 7, for the Bungalow Club's celebration of vintage houses. Pick up a tour map with the homes' addresses and descriptions any time after 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, at the first house, located at 3212 22nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A special treat on this year's tour is the E.L. Powers house, a 1910 Prairie Style masterpiece by architects William Gray Purcell and George Grant Elmslie. The home's owners have restored and enhanced vintage lighting throughout the main floor; introduced a new sympathetic kitchen and bathroom; and added interior elements that were included in the architects' original blueprints, but not installed until now. More at <http://www.bungalow-club.org>.

Says FNVW volunteer Bridget Doak, "FNVW gives us a place to start. It gives us a point to look at different sides to understand ourselves, others, and the community... To have a nonviolent community, you have to learn and listen to each other."

Friends for a Nonviolent World actively runs Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) conflict transformation workshops in communities, prisons and jails. AVP Workshops empower people to lead nonviolent lives through affirmation, respect for all, building and enhancing of community, cooperation and trust. Founded in prison and developed from the life experiences of people who've been incarcerated, AVP encourages every person's innate power to positively transform first themselves and then the world we live in. Individuals who successfully complete the

training can become workshop facilitators themselves.

"This past year has reminded me how much we need social interaction. I realized how much [FNVW] brought out of me and revitalized my joy, happiness and love. I look forward to paying it forward," says Shiny Shea, an Incarcerated AVP Facilitator.

"By supporting the Friends for a Non-violent World Walkathon you help promote a more peaceful and inclusive community," said FNVW Executive Director Leah Robshaw Robinson. "A donation of \$20 will fund an Alternatives to Violence workshop for one incarcerated person."

FNVW is especially driven to get the message out about their work, given the high need for their services and their ambitions for reducing violent crime in the Twin Cities area. In addition to running

AVP workshops, FNVW produces the "Everyday Nonviolence" podcast that highlights people using the tactics and principles of nonviolence to transform the world around us. "Their stories deepen our understanding of the impact of violence and the many ways nonviolence can be used for healing and social change," said Robshaw Robinson.

FNVW also runs a week-long intergenerational peace and justice themed summer camp available to the community called People Camp. People Camp is a unique experience of cooperation, community living, peacemaking, and the exploration of ideas and issues. People Camp 2022 will take place Aug. 7-13 at Northern Pines Retreat Center in Park Rapids. Learn more at fnvw.org

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6 of 10

readers say they frequently purchase products and services from ads that they see in the Messenger.

Home

CRISIS HOTLINE

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

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STORAGE

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VINTAGE LIGHTING LIQUIDATION SALE

The Lamp Mender Lighting Liquidation Sale: Fixtures, sconces, lamps, glass (losing our space). 9911 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington. Open 10am-4pm Sat, Sun, Tues, Wed, Thurs. Closed Mon & Fri. www.lampmender.com

WINDOW WASHING

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Faith

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

Bethlehem Covenant Church
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www.bethlehemcov.org
Pastor Colleen Nelson
(Handicapped Accessible)
Traditional Service - 9 AM
Contemporary Service - 10:30 AM
All sermons can be found online

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthmpls.org
Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay
Sundays, 10 am - Join Us for in-person worship, live-streaming on FB @ EpworthUMCMPLS
Coming Up: Environmental Focus 5/4 - Wed Eve Reading Circle 6:30pm 5/6 - Sound Bath Journey - 9:30am 5/22 - Garden Party - 11:30am

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church
3430 East 51st St. • 612-729-5463
www.faithlutheranmpls.org
Rev. Peter Preus
Sundays - Worship - 9 am (Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)
Education Hour - 10 am
Bible class, Wednesdays - 10 am

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.org
Pastor Shawna Day
9:45 am Sunday Worship in person & online. Info on church website
12-step groups Tuesday thru Friday evenings

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863
www.parkavechurch.org
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612-724-3643
www.saintalbertthegreat.org
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.
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Saturday 5:00 pm. A-G
Sunday 9:30 am. H-M
Sunday 12 noon. N-Z
Center front door access only.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691
www.trinityfalls.org
Pastor Matt Oxendale
10:30 Sunday worship in person & online
Adult & kids' Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 p.m.

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Word ads must be received by the Messenger by Monday, May 16 for the May 26 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com



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