

## Is lake unsafe due to pollution from golf course?

*Community members ask MPRB to move forward on master plan to solve pollution, trash issues at Lake Hiawatha*

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan is heading to a public hearing, another meeting in a long line of contentious meetings since the course flooded in 2014 and the public learned how much pumping is being done at the site to keep it dry and playable.

Community members drove to the parks headquarters in northeast Minneapolis to speak about the issue during the public comment period at the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board meeting on July 20, 2022.

IS LAKE UNSAFE DUE TO POLLUTION » 7

## Nokomis Days return

*Businesses host concerts, sidewalk sales, dog rescue, classes and more Aug. 5-7*

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The community celebration in Nokomis is back on the first weekend of August. This year, it has a new name: Nokomis Days. But the goal of the event is the same: to draw people into the neighborhood to celebrate the vibrant nature of Nokomis East. Find the complete schedule on pages 10-11 and online at [www.nokomiseastba.com](http://www.nokomiseastba.com).

"I think we have such a great variety of businesses," observed Dori Johnson of Paddlesculpt (5007 S 34th Ave.). "It's a little Mayberry gem," agreed Jennie Tang of The Workshop (5004 S. 34th Ave.).

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Carol Holbrook (left) and David Mura at the reading of the book they edited, "We Are Meant to Rise," an anthology by Minnesota writers. (Photo by Terry Faust)

## TWIN CITIES DIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTED IN ANTHOLOGY

*Local writers reflect on pandemic and George Floyd's murder in 'We Are Meant to Rise: Voices of Justice from Minneapolis to the World'*

By JAN WILLMS

Carolyn Holbrook loves to bring people together to discuss difficult issues. As an educator, author and advocate for the healing power of the arts, she has spent much of her life doing just that.

David Mura is an author, poet, novelist, playwright, critic and per-

formance artist whose writings explore the themes of race, identity and history.

The two of them, who have worked together before, collaborated as editors of "We Are Meant to Rise: Voices of Justice from Minneapolis to the World," an anthology by Minnesota writers reflecting their

DIVERSITY OF TWIN CITIES » 12



Markeanna Dionne, a former classmate of Sundberg's at Roosevelt High School, led a chant to say his name, "Tekle" on July 16, 2022. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

## COMMUNITY GRIEVES, SEEKS ANSWERS

*Friends, family grieve 20-year-old Tekle Sundberg, who was killed by MPD at Seward apartment*

By JILL BOOGREN

Grief fell heavy as family, friends and supporters gathered on the 900 block of 21st Ave. in the Seward neighborhood on July 16, 2022, two days after Minneapolis Police officers killed Andrew Tekle Sundberg while he was experiencing a mental health crisis.

Police went to the apartment building after a resident called 911 reporting that bullets had been shot into her apartment while she was inside with her children at

9:30 p.m. Officers evacuated them and other residents from the building. They then engaged in a six-hour standoff before Sundberg was fatally shot by snipers positioned across the street at 4:30 a.m. The officers were identified as Aaron Pearson and Zachary Seraphine.

The woman who called 911, Arabella Foss-Yarbrough, arrived on the block as the gathering got underway.

"Why do I have to risk my life 'cause he couldn't get that proper help"? she yelled toward the crowd from her vehicle. "It's not okay. I'm sorry I'm upset and I'm sorry it had to come this way, and the fact that I'm even apologizing for this shows you that I'm hurtin' all around."

Organizers acknowledged her pain and called on the crowd to extend their support to her, as well. **TEKLE » 15**



OPINION: Let's get rid of Edmund Blvd. and stop honoring White supremacist

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George Floyd Square: Sewing seeds of solidarity, planting Black-eyed Susans

PAGE 6



Meet new Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Executive Director

PAGE 14



# FARMERS MARKETS: reconnect, refresh and re-stock your pantry

## 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.

Summer in the cities finds metro residents flocking like sheep to partake of the bounty offered at more than 15 local farmers market from various neighborhood locations. (See sidebar on page 3.)

Replicating the function of historic town squares, our modern-day farmers' markets are places for neighbors to meet, greet, eat and frolic. Reflecting current passions, many markets feature way more than produce, protein and prepared foods, offering everything from mini-cooking and even yoga classes, to knife sharpening services, local crafts such as jewelry, ceramics and woodworking, and live music.

Outdoor gatherings like these have gained even more popularity with quarantine-weary urban area dwellers delighted to share safe places to reconnect, refresh and re-stock pantries.

### FARMERS MARKETS THROUGH THE MILLENNIA

Said to have originated in Egypt over 5,000 years ago, farmers and craftsmen have been provisioning city denizens throughout history. Archaeological data reveal that early farmers and artisans often measured their goods on scales, using barter to value items by weight rather than using a monetary system.

Though not farmers markets in the traditional sense, Native peoples of the Great Plains also engaged in trade between members of the same tribe, different tribes, and with the European Americans who increasingly encroached upon their lands and lives.

According to the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, trade within a tribe involved gift-giving as a means of obtaining needed items and social status, "often taking the form of an exchange of products of the hunt (bison robes, dried meat, and tallow) for agricultural products, such as corn and squash. European and American items, such as horses, guns, and other metal products, were incorporated into



Dawn2Dusk farm provides land, infrastructure, and sharing of knowledge of farming and markets, as well as building community to beginning farmers through 1-on-1 support. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)



the existing Plains trade system after the 17th century."

The first farmers markets in North America, in fact, date back to the 1600s and were brought by European settlers. Such markets were the primary means for customers from small towns to access meats, dairy, and fresh produce. They were significant economic operations that attracted many people into city centers.

By the 1800s and 1900s, farmers markets were not only important for economic success, but also social interaction, as they were often the only means for rural

and urban community members to meet.

### FARMERS MARKETS HERE AND ABROAD

Growing up in Philadelphia, I was fortunate to frequent one of our country's earliest farmers markets, the historic Lancaster Central Market, which dates to 1730 when city planners had the foresight to designate a 120-square-foot lot in the center of town as a public marketplace. This remarkable market has persisted throughout the years offering products from many vendors, notably from the celebrated Pennsylvania Amish community.

During my 10 years as a resident of the medieval European city of Maastricht, the Netherlands, I went weekly to the traditional Market Square with its "goods" market on Wednesdays and an expanded version on Fridays featuring fresh fish, artisanal regional products, and a famous textiles market. Living just across the Muse River in the tiny, ancient Wyck neighborhood, I frequented its legendary Thursday organic market, which drew hundreds of locals as well as neighbors from nearby villages and towns. My neighborhood market was an authentic international experience where polyglot vendors spoke at

least five languages, communicating with customers from nearby Germany and Belgium in the local Limburg dialect, Dutch, English, German and French.

### A NOSTALGIA AND RESURGENCE FOR FARM TO TABLE

Back in the USA, the 1950s and 60s featured people transitioning from rural to urban life. Farmers markets diminished as a focal point for commerce and interaction as improved roads, transportation and technology drastically changed consumers relationship with food production, giving rise to an eventual 24/7 global economy where an itch for a midnight bowl of ice cream could be tickled by 3 a.m. trip to a nearby supermarket. During this era, most people had no idea where the food on their table came from. Presently in the United States, food travels, on average, 1,300 miles and changes hands six times before it is consumed.

But by the 1970s, there was a renewed desire for fresh and organic food, sparking a revival of farmers markets and local coops. United States Department of Agri-

FARMERS MARKETS >> 3

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## METRO AREA FARMERS MARKETS

## Minneapolis

- Fulton Farmers Market | Saturdays May 21-Oct. 29 | 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | 4901 Chowen Avenue South
- Kingfield Farmers Market | Sundays May 22-Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., NEW LOCATION at the north end of MLK Park at 40th & Nicollet
- Linden Hills Farmers Market | Sundays beginning May 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 2813 W. 43rd St. (Settergrens of Linden Hills)
- Lyndale Farmers Market | Daily 6 a.m.-1 p.m., 312 East Lyndale Avenue North,
- Market After Dark | 4th Tuesday of each month, May-Oct. 6-9 p.m., 1315 Tyler Street NE (Bauhaus Brew Labs)
- Midtown Farmers Market | Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. May-October; Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. June-September/3-6 p.m. June-October, BACK AT 2225 East Lake St.
- Mill City Farmers Market | Saturdays, May-October, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 750 S. 2nd St.
- Nicollet Mall Farmers Market | Daily 6 a.m.-2 p.m. (June- October), between 6th and 9th St. on Nicollet Mall
- Nokomis Farmers Market | currently closed (hope to be back in 2023), on the corner of 52nd and Chicago Avenue S.
- Northeast Farmers Market | Saturdays, May 14-Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 629 NE 2nd Street (St. Boniface Church parking lot)

## St. Paul

- Highland Park Farmers Market | Saturdays, June 11-Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Luke's Lutheran Church
- House of Hope Farmers Market | Fridays, May 13-Oct. 28, 1:15-5 p.m., 797 Summit Ave.
- Signal Hills Farmers Market | Fridays, June 10-Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-noon, 1225 S Robert St.
- St. Paul Farmers Market {Downtown} | Saturdays, April 23-Oct. 29, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, April 24-Oct. 30, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 5-19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays, Nov. 6-20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 290 5th St. E.
- St. Paul Farmers Market {Securian} | Wednesdays, July 13-Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 400 Robert St N, St. Paul



A perennial favorite, fresh, farm-raised flowers. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

## FARMERS MARKETS &gt;&gt; from 2

cultural (USDA) data show that the number of farmers markets had increased by 63% over a six-year period from 1994 to 2000.

## NAT'L FARMERS MARKET WEEK, AUG. 7-13

The USDA, which provides support and education for its broad membership, sponsors National Farmers Market Week each year during the first week of August.

Here in Minnesota, our nation's breadbasket, the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, (MFMA) provides services, programs and leadership that support and promote farmers markets across Minnesota, highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion.

One local market, the Mill City Farmers Market, runs its enterprise mirroring the MFMA. Operated by a unique non-profit founded by legendary restaurateur, Brenda Langton, in collaboration with the Mill City Museum, Mill City Farmers Market mission supports diversity, equity and inclusion. And fun! Known for its free cooking classes with prominent chefs, MCFM also features engaging children's activities and adult education, supporting over 100 local farmers, food makers and artists, the market has always focused on local, sustainable and organic food in a vibrant setting. The added benefit of the relationship with the Mill City



Tera Forge Knives offers "while you shop" knife sharpening. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)



Café Palmira offers fresh brew and hand-picked and shade-grown coffee beans according to traditional Mayan customs. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

Museum allows the market to operate year-round, outdoors May through October next to the Guthrie Theater, and inside the Museum on select Saturdays November through April.

With half the summer still ahead, consider incorporating a visit to assorted markets as part of your seasonal explorations.

Your tummy and taste buds will thank you.

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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BY JANE MCCLURE



The *Longfellow-Nokomis Messenger* is not only one of Minneapolis' oldest neighborhood newspapers, it is part of a long tradition of such Minneapolis and St. Paul publications.

Coverage of city neighborhoods was a 19th century staple for Minneapolis' daily newspapers. Correspondents sent in copy describing which family had motored to Red Wing or entertained guests for Sunday supper. That coverage was phased out over time as daily paper news space faced other demands.

The earliest versions of neighborhood newspapers began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As Minneapolis expanded beyond its downtown area, and the streetcar network grew, distinct commercial and residential districts took shape.

Every neighborhood had at least one print shop. Printers were needed to produce letterhead, posters, business fliers, greeting cards, invitations, business cards and other paper goods. In some cases newspapers were a sideline for a printer, taking a back seat to job printing. In other shops the newspaper was the main focus. Printing jobs provided extra income.

Newspapers began rolling off of these small presses starting in the 1880s and 1890s. City directories indicate that Minneapolis had several dozen of these small papers over the years, most of them printed on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. They joined papers printed in several languages, predominantly Scandinavian languages and German in the 19th century.

These inaugural neighborhood and community newspapers not only served as advertising vehicles for their business districts, their printed pages were an important means of promoting or "boosting" community interests. Neighborhood causes filling the news columns included demands for paved streets, street lighting, better schools and adequate fire and police protection.

A frequent theme of early papers was

## THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS

to urge readers to "shop at home" at locally-owned stores, and not at "chain stores." Stores and catalog companies including Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck and Company were viewed warily.

Papers came and went. It wasn't unusual for printers to move their shops, discontinue one neighborhood newspaper and start another paper at the new location.

Some printers served as newspaper editors. Others provided printing services for individual publishers or for groups, which provided copy and editing. Civic booster or commercial clubs often served as publishers and editors.

The Southeast Civic Association published the *East Minneapolis Bulletin* and later *Southeast Minneapolis Bulletin*, starting in 1915. The *South Side News*, published by the South Side Businessmen's Association, only lasted for a few issues in 1934.

Other late 19th and early 20th century South Minneapolis newspapers included the *Southside Telegram*, *South Minneapolis Argus*, *Southside News* and *South Minneapolis Press*. Various papers published under the name *South Minneapolis News*, with the earliest paper in 1883-1888. Names were reused by different publishers over time.

Some early papers were saved by historical societies and libraries. But others are only found with a reference in old city directories.

By the 1930s and 1940s, the number of neighborhood newspapers had dwindled. Increased advertising competition from daily newspapers, radio and later, television, took a toll. Changes in printing technology were another factor. Minneapolis retained a handful of papers, most owned by suburban chains.

Neighborhood papers enjoyed a renaissance in the 1960s and 1970s. It was time when Minneapolis, like so many other cities, found itself caught up in debate over urban renewal. People needed a way to communicate in the pre-Internet days, beyond distributing fliers door-to-door.

An example of a 1970s paper with a community betterment focus is the *Seward West News*, later the *Seward West Gazette*. In the early 1970s, the City of Minneapolis' Housing Authority announced plans

to demolish 70 percent of the houses in a 35-block Seward West neighborhood. It was part of an urban renewal and housing development effort.

Neighbors fought to preserve homes and their community, organizing as the Seward West Project Area Committee to fight City Hall. They crafted a development plan which emphasized historic preservation.

Eleven houses on Milwaukee Avenue were eventually demolished and replaced with new housing that reflected the historic homes. One house was moved onto the avenue from an adjacent street. The rest were preserved and rehabilitated.

Similar battles were unfolding throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul. Editors began to network and organize among themselves. It wasn't unusual for editors to help each other with stories, page layout and the loan of equipment. Because neighborhood papers weren't allowed to join the Minnesota Newspaper Association at that time, editors organized as what became the Neighborhood and Community Press Association in 1974. One argument that kept neighborhood papers out of MNA was that their coverage was "advocacy" journalism.

It was time to form their own group. Activists from the cities got together to share ideas. Jim Scheibel, an editor and organizer in St. Paul, helped bring the group together. He later became mayor of St. Paul and is now on faculty at Hamline University.

The organization at its peak had more than 40 members, with spring and fall conferences and an annual awards contest. But online advertising took a huge toll. The NCPA folded more than a decade ago. Today Minneapolis and St. Paul have fewer than 20 print publications between them. Along with the *Messenger*, *Hill and Lake Press* (1976), *Camden Community News* (1976) and *Northeaster* (1978) are among the oldest print publications.

Interested in neighborhood newspaper history? The Minnesota Historical Society maintains many papers on microfilm at its library, along with a digital newspaper hub. <https://www.mnhs.org/newspapers>

**>> More photos and stories about our 40 years @ LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com**

### THE DUEMKE FAMILY

For many years the Duemke family played a dominant role in Minneapolis' neighborhood newspaper community, with generations of family members working for the family-owned Argus Publishing Company. The father-son team of Lewis and Emmett Duemke Sr. were prominent community leaders who are forgotten today. Lewis Duemke grew up in an Ada farming family, in northwestern Minnesota. He came to the Twin Cities to attend St. Paul Academy. In 1903, he joined the Argus Printing Company, and became its owner eight years later. Lewis Duemke spent much time expanding his newspaper network.

Argus began in the late 19th century, printing books, letterhead, posters, cards and, of course, newspapers. The company eventually would publish several Minneapolis neighborhood and first-ring suburban papers. The earliest paper predated the Duemkes. The East Side Argus began in 1890 and continued until 1957 when it and the South Minneapolis Argus were folded into the Minneapolis Argus. Lewis Duemke served in

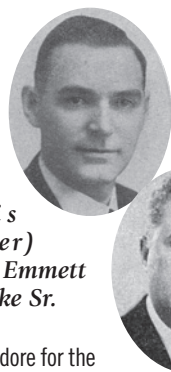
the Minnesota House from 1923-26. In 1926, he was elected to the Minnesota Senate, winning re-election in 1930. Races then were nonpartisan. Legislative records indicate he was a Republican.

Lewis Duemke was a supporter of Prohibition and sometimes gave speeches on the topic of the dangers of alcohol. In 1929 he introduced legislation that would have banned cigarette advertising on posters, streetcars and other places. It would not have affected newspaper advertising, something his foes pointed out. The senator said his intent was to try to limit efforts to sell cigarettes to minors. But the bill got caught up in a larger fight over cigarette taxes and didn't pass. Active in many civic and fraternal groups, he was a staunch supporter of Minneapolis Edison High School. A plaque commemorating his community activities was placed near the athletic fields there in 1934. He died in 1932 after surgery for appendicitis, at 45 years old age. At the time of his death he was publishing four community newspapers — East Minneapolis Argus, Lake district Advocate, Columbia Heights Record and Camden-Fremont Bulletin.

Argus and its papers would continue under the guidance of other family members, eventually including son Emmett. In 1938, 23-year-old Emmett Duemke was elected to the Minnesota House. A Minneapolis

Star article noted that he would be the youngest member or "baby" in the House that year. Like his father, Emmett Duemke was active in numerous civic groups. One year he was commodore for the Minneapolis Aquatennial. Emmett Duemke served in the House from 1939 to 1945, and in the Senate from 1945 until his defeat in 1954 by Don Fraser. Fraser would go on to serve in Congress and later as mayor of Minneapolis. Emmett Duemke sold the Argus papers to the Sun Newspapers in 1960 before moving to Wimberly, Texas. He raised cattle and was active in other business ventures. He died in 1981 in Texas.

**Lewis (father) and Emmett Duemke Sr.**



### MEET EDDIE SCHWARTZ

One of the colorful characters of south Minneapolis' past neighborhood newspaper days was Edward P. "Eddie" Schwartz. He was a second-generation printer, newspaper reporter/editor/publisher, and a show business publicist whose specialties included burlesque.

The Schwartz family has a place in Minneapolis Jewish history, as well. Schwartz Printing Shop, later Schwartz Printing Shop and Ad Art Advertising, was Minneapolis' first Jewish-owned print shop and one of the first union shops. Edward's father, Mayer, opened the shop at age 17. It was originally located on Washington Avenue, and moved to different locations before landing at 3812 Nicollet Ave. in 1915. The family lived above the shop for several years. The shop later moved to Hennepin Ave. Mayer Schwartz worked as a printer for 61 years. It was the oldest continuously owned family print shop in the city at of his death in 1950.

Edward Schwartz launched the Nicollet-Lake Livewire monthly newspaper in 1921 after working as a reporter for the Willmar Tribune and the Minneapolis daily papers. The Livewire was published until 1967, with different editors besides Schwartz. For many years it was affiliated with the Loring Commercial Club and served as a promotional vehicle for neighborhood businesses.

E. Schwartz expanded the family printing business over time, handing out cards with jokes as a promotion. He did much job printing, including programs for events at the Minneapolis Auditorium. He also had a long list of community involvements, playing a leadership role in the Variety Club of the Northwest and the Variety Club Heart Hospital. He was involved in efforts to build Mount Sinai Hospital. Other involvements were with Temple Israel, the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, neighborhood business associations and with Democratic Farmer Labor politics. He was sometimes referred to as "Mister Minneapolis."

Schwartz loved books and was a longtime book reviewer for the Star Tribune. He hosted visiting novelists including Henry Miller and Erskine Caldwell. He was a founder of the Henry Miller Society at a time when some of Miller's novels were considered pornographic. His circle of friends ranged from U.S. Sen. and Vice President Humbert H. Humphrey to band leader Guy Lombardo.

Schwartz was quick-witted, often called on by the daily newspapers for a quote, an interview or some historic background. The Star Tribune's Mr. Fixit column, which answered reader questions, called him in March 1970 to answer a question about dance marathons in wake of the movie "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" He had promoted and printed programs for dance marathons.

Schwartz died in 1983. He was interviewed in the 1976 as part of the Jews in Minnesota Oral History Project. His interview can be found at the Minnesota Historical Society.

# Messenger

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097  
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#### Story ideas always welcome.

Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be e-mailed to [news@longfellownokomisMessenger.com](mailto:news@longfellownokomisMessenger.com). Unsigned letters will not run.

#### Owner & Editor:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-345-9998,  
[tesha@longfellownokomisMessenger.com](mailto:tesha@longfellownokomisMessenger.com)

#### Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183  
[denis@longfellownokomisMessenger.com](mailto:denis@longfellownokomisMessenger.com)  
Sandra Mikulsky, 612-260-7967  
[ads@longfellownokomisMessenger.com](mailto:ads@longfellownokomisMessenger.com)

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ety that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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Member of Minnesota Newspaper Association, Midwest Community Free Papers, Longfellow Business Association, Seward Civic and Commerce Association, and Nokomis East Business Association.





# Let's get rid of 'Edmund Boulevard' and stop honoring a white supremacist

by Mark Brandt and Joe Larsen  
Longfellow residents

Edmund Boulevard is a scenic, tree-lined street that parallels the West River Parkway, separated from it by a spacious green median. Many of us cross Edmund each day as we make our way toward the parkway or to the river itself. While we no doubt appreciate the abundant natural beauty, and the fine homes that line the street, how many of us have actually pondered the origin of the boulevard's name?

Edmund Walton, the boulevard's namesake, was a prominent real estate developer here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He immigrated from England in 1885, and established the Edmund Walton Real Estate Agency in Minneapolis a year later. During the first decade of the 20th century, Minneapolis was expanding rapidly south of Lake Street. Former farmlands were turning into new residential neighborhoods, and being incorporated into the city's grid. While Walton had developments throughout the city, he was particularly excited about the area along the Mississippi River, between Lake Street and the Ford Bridge. In 1904 Walton wrote to his mother, "Am getting my nose into the biggest suburb I have ever touched, in fact it is so big containing ten thousand plots that I almost hesitate about going in."

Walton and his business partner, Henry Scott, were the first real estate developers in Minneapolis to follow a national trend of using racially restrictive covenants as a marketing tool. In a *Minneapolis Tribune* ad, Walton wrote "I appeal to the instincts of those [men] about to



Mark Brandt (left) and Joe Larsen would like to see Edmund Boulevard renamed.

marry. Isn't this the most remarkable offering you ever heard of?" He then stipulates that the property, "... shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian, Semitic or African blood or descent." As discovered by the Mapping Prejudice Project, this language was replicated thousands of times in Minneapolis deeds.

In 1905, Walton and Scott secured 347 acres in today's Longfellow neighborhood and began to feverishly develop and sell the homes within that area. And it was in Walton's Lyndhurst addition of Longfellow in 1910 that Henry Scott sold the first covenanted home in Minneapolis, to Nels Anderson. The covenant language was nearly identical the one quoted above, though it did not include "Semitics." Walton had not yet opted to exclude Jews in his covenants.

The use of covenants would push and concentrate especially Black residents

into relatively few neighborhoods. These areas were later "redlined" by the FHA and other lenders as too risky for housing loans. By contrast, homeowners in covenanted areas were often granted low-interest 20-year FHA mortgages. The cumulative effect was to shut most Black residents out of home ownership, and with that, the principle means of building wealth. As of last year, the rate of home ownership among White residents in Minneapolis was about 77%, while that among Black residents was about 25%.

This is the grotesque legacy from the days of Edmund Walton. Along with redlining, racial covenants offer damning evidence of a systemically racist practice with enduring effects today.

We are hoping that this article, as well as our other efforts, get people talking about this racial disparity, about the type of neighborhood we want to be, and about righting past wrongs. We also hope that along the way, it will occur to many people that perhaps we should not honor so odious a figure as Edmund Walton by having a neighborhood street named after him.

If Edmund Boulevard were to be renamed, the possibilities for a new name are many. A new name could posthumously honor a noteworthy person, commemorate local history, strengthen neighborhood identity, or recognize natural features of the area. In this city, any measure to rename a street needs to be brought to the city council by a 2/3 vote of the residents of that street, or through a direct submission by either the mayor, a city council member, or the public works

commissioner.

We acknowledge that changing a street name is a symbolic move, but we respect the power of symbols – they identify us, and say something about us. Right now, our 12 "Edmund Boulevard" signs say something about ourselves and our neighborhood – and that's a message that needs to be discarded. We also expect that this name change would accompany, and in fact catalyze, more substantive changes.

If you want to learn (or do) more, the Minneapolis 2040 plan has a number of recommendations for expanding homeownership for non-White residents. Right in our neighborhood, the Longfellow Community Council's Equitable Housing and Development Committee works to identify, research, and plan for increased access to equitable housing in Greater Longfellow.

Just Deeds and Free the Deeds are two local organizations that help city residents identify and discharge racial covenants and offer additional ways to engage neighbors about the legacy of racist housing policies.

Lastly, a number of organizations work to expand equitable access to housing in Minneapolis, including The Alliance, Urban League of the Twin Cities, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, United Renters for Justice, and many more.

So, let's talk about racial covenants and their enduring effect, and how to fix things. Meanwhile, let's see if we can get the name of a White supremacist off our neighborhood map. To do so would symbolize the hope we all have for a more just, more inclusive community.

## WRITING WITH A SENSE OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude for the life of my brother, Richard A. Hammen, an out-of-town reader of the *Messenger*. Reader as long as his powers of comprehension were intact. Gratitude for the fact that he was the first person I told when Tesha M. Christensen had proposed to me that I write a column. It would appear in TMC Publications papers – the *Messenger* and *Southwest Connector*. Gratitude for the memory of his response that I should be writing. Writing like Stories and Journeys. He told me he believed I was born to write. He believed in me before I believed in my self. It was my brother, along with the likes of Amy Laederach and others observing that writing is me processing my life and sharing it with others.

### AS I PROCESS MY BROTHER'S RAPID DECLINE – HIS DEATH AS PART OF HIS LIFE AND MINE

I am processing my brother's rapid decline and death as part of his life and mine. He died, according to my sister-in-law, at 8 p.m. Friday, July 8, 2022 at age 75. The reality of my own mortality is becoming more real. Before I die, he told me I could/should write a book. I have no clue as to how to write a book. I'm a



### STORIES AND JOURNEYS

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN

column writer. If I could write a book I would call it, "The Life and Times of My Brother, Richard A. Hammen As Told By The People Whose Lives He Touched." It would be me taking the plunge into the river of life experiences with my brother. Me getting to know my brother again.

### KEEP WRITING!

I intend to keep writing! I intend to keep honoring my brother as the possibility of my own demise becomes more real. From my own life experience, my brother, readers of Stories and Journeys, a message is coming through to me. It is thank you for writing! Keep writing! And when I ask myself the question when facing the reality of my own mortality, why am I still here? The answer is two words. KEEP WRITING! YOU ARE HERE TO WRITE!

### YOU HAVE READ THIS FAR. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO KEEP READING?

If you have read this far you have definitely taken the plunge into the river of life experiences which comprise Stories and Journeys. I'm hurting! I am broken! I feel lost! Are you still with me?

There are three things keeping me focused body, mind and spirit. One is responses from others, many of whom I know to be Stories and Journeys readers, as I let people know what has happened. I have lost my brother. Have you seen him? Oh, yes, he died or transitioned or passed away. Second, like I have done in the past, I am reaching out to a Behavioral Health Clinician with Fairview Health Services. He tells me that our society does not do grieving well. He assures me that what I am experiencing as deep grief is normal, and that, while it may take awhile, we will get through this together. I have his direct phone number in front of me as I write and another appointment coming up. Finally, writing Stories and Journeys is keeping me going.

What keeps you going when life throws you a punch in the gut causing you to feel like you are cascading out of control down the river of life experiences hoping you don't drown? Looking for a tree branch to grab to pull yourself ashore until you are ready to take the plunge

again? Tell yourself, tell others or tell me at [news@longfellownokomisemessenger.com](mailto:news@longfellownokomisemessenger.com).

### DEVASTATION PILED ON TOP OF DEVASTATION. FRUSTRATION AND QUESTIONS.

What has happened feels like devastation piled on top of devastation. Everything happened so fast. There is no time for "quality of life" when you feel like you are barely treading water. First, my brother has cancer. Less than a month later, my brother is a hospice patient. Shortly thereafter, I am told "Your brother is transitioning" – which means actively dying. Within three days I learn that he has passed away. All within about one month.

I have a lot of unanswered questions about how my brother developed cancer and his treatment or lack of treatment. And there is my sense of frustration that I was never able simply TO BE with my brother before he died. My spine stenosis limits my ability to travel. It still seems so unreal. So many variables! So much to unpack in the months ahead.

For now. Light a candle and/or plant a tree and say my brother's name. Stay tuned.

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

## LETTERS

### Vote for real change when you vote for Lori Norvell

Through this tumultuous year in Minneapolis Public Schools, an opportunity for real change has emerged through five open seats on the MPS school board. Voting for three of these open seats can be directly impacted by the readers of this local newspaper: former MPS math teacher Lori Norvell running for District 5, plus two at-large candidates, Collin Beachy and KerryJo Felder.

All three of these candidates were endorsed at the Mpls. DFL convention on

May 15 and have been endorsed by MFT 59 and the ESP union. Additionally, Lori Norvell has been endorsed by the Stonewall DFL and the MN Senior DFL caucus.

These three, along with two other DFL endorsed candidates for District 1 and 3, have joined forces to form the "Safe and Stable Schools Slate."

While school board races are often of low interest and low information, this particular race has greater import than usual.

Joy Misselt  
Longfellow  
Campaign Manager for Lori Norvell's District 5 school board campaign

## EVENTS

### WALK AGAINST RACISM AUG. 13

Bring your friends and families of all ages together for a casual (or competitive) run/walk against racism. Through this event, we will race forward to advance the mission of YWCA Minneapolis to eliminate racism and empower women. Join us at Saturday, Aug. 13, at 8 a.m. at Lake Nokomis. The \$40 fee supports our life-changing programs for Minneapolis community members. Children under 10 can register for free and virtual options are available. Sign up at <https://www.ywcampls.org/event/race-forward-2-day/>. Contact [engagement@ywcampls.org](mailto:engagement@ywcampls.org) with any questions.

### FRINGE SHOW; 'COWBOY CAT'

"Cowboy Cat: the musical!" will premiere at the Minnesota Fringe Festival. Longfellow resident, Bob Alberti, is a supporting actor in this show. "Cowboy Cat: the musical!" is an original work by local playwright J.L. Charrier to be produced at Mixed Blood Theatre. Showtimes are: Aug. 4 at 10 pm, Aug. 7 at 8:30 p.m., Aug. 10 at 7 p.m., Aug. 12 at 5:30 p.m. and Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at: [minnesotafringe.org](http://minnesotafringe.org). The Minnesota Fringe Festival is a non-profit theatre organization in its 29th season of production in the Twin Cities area. Its mission is "to connect adventurous artists with adventurous audiences."





Brass Solidarity plays a few tunes in front of the Arthur and Edith Lee house at 4600 Columbus Ave. S. where an angry mob gathered in 1931 to force the family out. (Photos by Jill Boogren)



A few thousand white citizens tried to drive the Arthur and Edith Lee family from their home for a week. This photo was featured in the October 1931 edition of "The Crisis" magazine.

By JILL BOOGREN

The little white house at 4600 Columbus Ave. S. is a typical south Minneapolis home. It has a garden out back and another out front, where every year in mid-July the Black-eyed Susans bloom. Its simple serenity belies its roots in Minneapolis history, though, as indicated by a limestone pedestal on the front lawn bearing a plaque that describes how it earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

Formerly the Arthur and Edith Lee house, it is the site of a 1931 race "row," as termed by the then *Tribune* - a White mob numbering in the thousands had gathered out front to coerce the Lees to leave. They first tried paying them but ultimately resorted to hurling bottles, black paint and racial epithets at the home.

The Lees were Black.

And though Arthur Lee was a war veteran and U.S. postal worker, that wasn't enough to break the racial covenant that denied home ownership to people of his

## GFS: SOWING SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY

color.

In a 1931 edition of *The Crisis*, "A Roman Holiday in Minneapolis," Chatwood Hall wrote, "Mr. Lee's first serious hint of trouble was a large sign placed on his front porch, bearing this inscription 'No N-s [racial slur is spelled out] Allowed in this Neighborhood. This Means You.'"

"Please, never forget that it wasn't just the south that dealt in the Jim Crow behavior," said high school teacher and GFS resident Marcia Howard to community members who gathered in front of the home on July 11, 2022.

A steel sculpture that stands with the plaque, created by Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (3749 Chicago Ave.) with Obsidian Arts, has a portrait with this quote from Arthur Lee from July 16, 1931: "Nobody asked me to move out when I was

in France fighting in mud and water for this country. I came out here to make this house my home. I have a right to establish a home."

Carla Jo "CJ" Bielawski, whose parents Carl A. and Pearl Lindstrom moved into the home in 1957, is the current resident and caretaker of the property. She keeps the Lee's contribution to the house alive by tending to the Black-eyed Susans that are planted throughout the property.

"Those are the same babies of the ones Edith Lee planted in 1931," said Howard. "And for that reason, the idea of commemorating what happened here and bringing it to the Square, where we have had an occupation that is markedly different than what happened here" - this drew cheers from the two dozen people there - "because we are there for equality. We are here for liberation. We're here for dismantling systems of racial redlining, profiling, inequity that happened here."

People tucked cut flowers behind their ears and, to the music of Brass Solidarity, marched in procession to 38th and Chicago. There they were met by CJ who had already presented seeds to Jay the Gardener to plant throughout the Square.

"Today was the day 91 years ago that [the Lees] were in the home and they were told, 'Go. We'll give you money if you go. And God bless 'em, they didn't leave,'" said CJ. "That man was American. Whatever his color is my color, we're all the same color underneath. We all bleed red. So let no more blood be shed."

Jay held up a box of "thousands" of Black-eyed Susan seeds and embraced CJ.

"If you see Black-eyed Susans sprouting up from every hem and hamlet and corner of this Square, it's because Edith and Arthur Lee's legacy continues," said Howard.

See the University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice project and view the TPT documentary "Jim Crow of the North" to learn more about discriminatory housing practices in Minneapolis. See JustDeeds.org to see if your home has a racial covenant on it.

### BUILDING POWER

Under The Peoples' Way that same evening, in another quiet act of solidarity, artist Jordan Powell Karis was constructing the components of a new wooden fist, like those that mark each of the four entrances to the Square. Once ready he hand delivered it to its destination - Akron, Ohio, where on June 27, 2022, Jayland Walker was killed by police in a hail of bullets shot as he was fleeing on foot. The medical examiner's autopsy determined that Walker had 46 gunshot wounds; 26 bullets were recovered from his body.

Asked what moved him to build another fist, Powell Karis said, "I live in mostly White spaces. And in these White spaces everything is back to normal. And it's intolerable. It's truly intolerable to see White spaces continue on while people



Jay the Gardener (left) and Carla Jo "CJ" Bielawski embrace as he holds a box of Black-eyed Susan seeds that have been passed along from the original garden tended by the Lees.

are doin' work and the work's not done yet. And it makes it harder for us to do the work when that continuation is happening unconsciously."

Five days prior, Powell Karis had no plans to do this. Something called him. He reached out to a reverend there, and it just clicked.

"The people there, they need the support. They need to know that they're being cared for by the rest of the communities out here," he said. "We gotta keep showing up for one another. We all just gotta keep showing up."

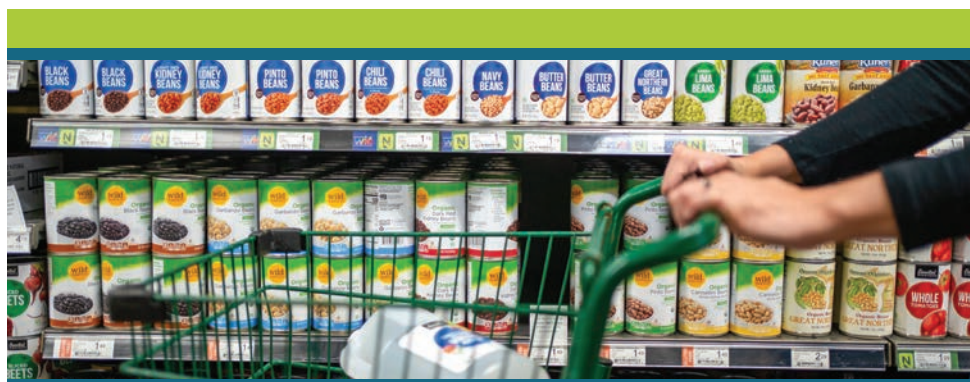
### BLESSINGS

On the evening of July 14, to show solidarity with Jayland Walker's loved ones, activists gathered at the Square to bless the fist, which was now assembled and painted, for its journey eastward. Civil Rights Activist Rosemary Nevils offered the first blessing, pouring water for each name called of a person whose life was taken at the hands of police. But there was one more name to say today, once more from closer to home: Tekle Sundberg. (See article on page 1).

The impact was felt throughout the Square. GFS community member C Chase had spent the night watching livestreams and trying to get information from residents.

"I had to tell people today that I can only stay a little while because I've got two vigils to attend tonight. We've gotta bless this fist to go to Akron for Jayland Walker, who was absolutely massacred. And in the early hours of the morning, overnight, we have someone presumably in what seemed to be a mental health crisis shot for it while his parents were outside," she said. A vigil was being held for Sundberg after the one at GFS. "And I'm in coordinator mode. I show up to this space that holds the grief and resistance to this very atrocity, and I show up to make sure we have water, to make sure people are seated, to make sure it's accessible for those who need it. And this is not who I wanna be in this space or in any moment. I don't wanna be facilitating other people's grief."

After community members spoke, everyone present was invited to sign the fist, which Powell Karis delivered the following day. One expression, written on its base, reads: "Love to Akron. Peace, Power & Love from GFS. Minneapolis."



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# Is lake unsafe due to pollution? >> from 1

Standish resident Sean Connaughty has been cleaning up the trash in Lake Hiawatha for years, and served on the MPRB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that reviewed the issues around the golf course and lake in depth. The Hiawatha Golf Course planning process since 2015 included nine public meetings, seven Community Advisory Committee meetings, and 10 focus open houses. The public comment period for the master plan concluded on Sept. 15, 2020. In public posts online, Connaughty pointed out that a majority of the CAC members appointed in 2015 were golfers, but "a compromise plan" was developed keeping nine holes of golf and the club house and continuing some groundwater pumping, while also making space for water holding, filtering and trash collection.

"Our community's lake is unsafe and unusable because the city of Minneapolis and the park board are discharging massive and increasing quantities of pollution from golf course pumping and stormwater," said Connaughty during the public comment period. He pointed out that recently, the park board expressed concern regarding eight pounds of phosphorus being loaded into Minnehaha Creek from the city of Edina near the upscale Bde Maka Ska, while the park board itself puts tons of phosphorus into Lake Hiawatha from turf treatment at Hiawatha Golf Course. "Increasing pollution from golf course pumping has been ignored and unregulated," said Connaughty.

Later in the board meeting, District 5 MPRB Commissioner Steffanie Musich (who represents the area around Lake Hiawatha) addressed the question: Why don't we just keep pumping?

"The real big problem is pollution," said Musich. "When you pump water out of the ground, you are also pumping the nutrients out of the ground." Water sam-

ples in the winter from the golf course pumps showed the same levels of impairment as found in the lake, she explained. "We are adding more pollution to an already polluted system."

Musich pointed out that when a private parking garage operator was doing something similar, MPRB sued him so that he stopped. "We're choosing to allow ourselves to continue to pollute. That's very problematic," she said.

District 6 Commissioner Cathy Abene addressed the question of why Hiawatha Golf Course is different than what was done at the similarly MPRB-run Columbia Golf Course (located in the Columbia Heights suburb). "This is the golf course in the flood plain. This is the golf course next to the lake with a continuously closed beach."

## MISINFORMATION FROM PARK BOARD

Several people pointed to the language submitted by District 2 MPRB Member Becka Thompson to the board, including Commissioner Musich, and asked that the inaccuracies be corrected.

"The resolution is bewildering," said Standish resident Matt Ryan. "The numbers don't make sense."

Carol Dungan submitted a statement on behalf of the Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association Board, and then said she had a personal note for the MPRB board members. "I am deeply offended at the way some board members have addressed our community," she said. "The misinformation coming from this board is unchecked and we deserve better. I would like you to consider giving us an apology for the op-ed that appeared today [in the *Star Tribune*]."

"I'm appalled at the amount of misinformation," said Ericsson resident David Dietz, who lives four blocks from Lake Hiawatha, adding this it "further divides us."



The clubhouse at Hiawatha Golf Course has been renamed. Celebrating on June 29, 2022 are (left to right) MPRB Superintendent Al Bangoura, Minneapolis City Council Member LaTrisha Vetaw, Solomon Hughes Sr.'s children Solomon Hughes Jr. and Shirley Hughes, MPRB Vice President Alicia D. Smith and Solomon Hughes Sr.'s granddaughter Roxanne Allen.

He said, "We live in this area and experience the consequences of doing nothing."

Hiawatha 4 All member Kristen Olsen pointed out that the master plan was developed over years and included public input from the multiple needs of people who use the park. "To insist on 18 holes of golf would mean abandoning not only reduced pumping but pollution treatment and flooding mitigation, as well," Olsen said. She observed that the plan was developed by the community, and is what community members have asked the board to approve for years. "You owe it to the community to finally take action on this plan," said Olsen.

On behalf of the Sierra Club Northstar Chapter, Sheila Wiegman said, "We believe these improvements are direly needed for stormwater and water quality improvement."

## BLACK AND DAKOTA HERITAGE

During the course of the meeting, At-Large MPRB Member Alicia Smith (who is also the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization Executive Director), Al Flowers, Jonathan Carlson and Darwin Dean

pointed out the heritage of African American players at Hiawatha Golf Course, and said that taking away an 18-hole course was an act of racism.

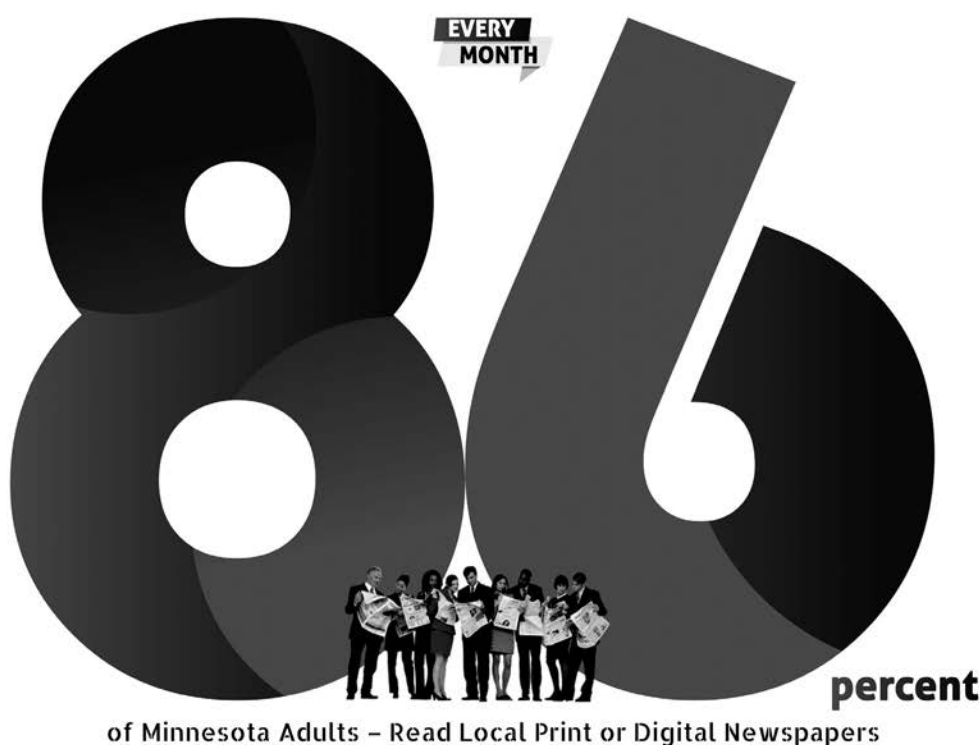
District 1 Commissioner Billy Menz said, "I have to put aside my ecological values because this is more important." He stated that he would be voting against the master plan and supports prioritizing 18 holes.

Nicole Cavender, who lives near the lake, spoke on behalf of the Dakota people who have many sacred sites near Lake Hiawatha. She pointed out that Minnesota is the Dakota homeland, and that they have lived in the area for thousands of years. "Why is no one talking about the Dakota people who are still here?" she asked.

"The lake should be treated kindly and respectfully," stated her six-year-old son, Weston.

MPRB is expected to set a date for the public hearing at their next board meeting on Aug. 3.

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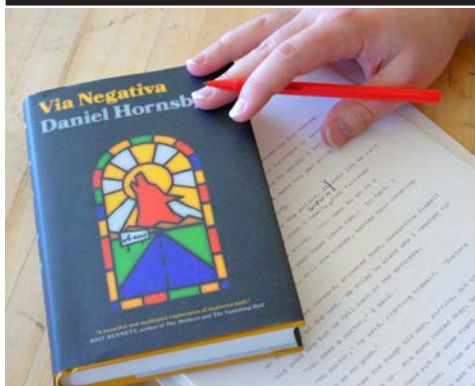


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Longfellow resident Dan Hornsby published his first book, "Via Negativa," in 2020. (Photo by Terry Faust)

By JAN WILLMS

It is an exciting moment when a writer's first novel is published. But when that first novel is also turned into a movie, the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction can be intense.

Longfellow resident Dan Hornsby has achieved that goal with his book, "Via Negativa," published in 2020 and in the process of going into film production.

The book has a simple premise. A priest named Dan sets off on a road trip and picks up a coyote that has been hit by a truck to make the journey with him. Dan has been dismissed from his conservative diocese, and he plans to make a slow and contemplative road trip, heading to see old friends and hoping to find some answers.

Naming his main character after himself was kind of a joke, Hornsby said. "He really doesn't say his name for quite some time," Hornsby noted. "I think it's natural if you're alone, you don't say your name. There is this genre of auto-fiction, where people kind of explain their characters. He is 70, and I was 29 when I began writing the novel. The name just kind of stuck, and there are a lot of priests of Irish or



Dan Hornsby does much of his writing at Milkweed coffee shop. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Italian extraction who are named Dan. So it kind of works out."

Hornsby said there were a lot of ideas that are part of theology that he wanted to explore, so the character of the priest was a way for him to think about the mystery and conflict that comes with spirituality.

Writers are often advised to write about what they know, and Hornsby has done that. Originally from Indiana, he holds an MFA in fiction from the University of Michigan and a master of theological studies from Harvard Divinity School. He is currently a visiting professor teaching creative writing at Macalester in Saint Paul.

"Via Negativa" is defined as a way of describing something by saying what it is not...it refers to the stream of Christian

theology which emphasizes the unknowability of God and the inability of positive theological attributes to define God.

"I know a Latin title is not the catchiest thing in the world," said Hornsby, "but I'm putting out a narrative that the priest is very much in denial. That's kind of what his life has been like. One nice thing about having a narrator who is not exactly my age, he has more of a life lived than I have."

When taking a trip by yourself, it is only natural to start thinking about your past life and reflect on it, according to Hornsby.

"We think about the mystery of our lives and try to figure things out, and that doesn't ever stop. Whether you are middle-aged or older, it doesn't stop. You die, and you are still trying to figure it out," Hornsby said. He said there are moments of insight in Dan's life.

Hornsby said people tend to think of older individuals as not having new interests, but that is not correct. He said he liked the idea of having an older narrator.

"I started this book in a couple of different forms," Hornsby stated. "Maybe the real draft of it started in 2016, and the book came out in 2020. I was working the first draft for about a year. I kept polishing that and bringing it to friends to have them read it."

Hornsby said he spent two years of really hard writing, then spent time copy-editing and getting ready for publication. He got an agent.

He said that publishing a first novel is like a journey, discovering and figuring out what you need. "For example, if you go for a hike and pack just a Snickers bar,

## Longfellow author's first book, 'Via Negativa,' is heading for the big screen

you can go really fast for a while, run up a mountain and then you die. But if you carry a fridge on your back, it's way too heavy. You have to figure out how much stuff to take out. When you make the trip, there are some kind of immediate physical things to solve, like the title. I needed a couple of working parts, and then it moved ahead."

Hornsby also hired a film agent and shopped the book around. Hannah Peterson is scheduled to adapt and direct "Via Negativa" for the big screen. Hornsby said Peterson is a protégé of Chloe Zhao, the Oscar-winning director of "Nomadland." The production company for the film is Complementary Colors. "The producers really got the book," Hornsby said.

He said they are now just waiting for the next step in production. Peterson took the book and adapted it. "I gave some help, nothing too much. I am a producer on the project, but I am not directing it. I respect these people who know what they are doing."

He observed, "I think I wanted to present the character as looking at more marginal forms of spirituality, more marginal expression, especially in the kind of Catholic tradition and the kind of Catholic guilt."

"I wanted to get inside those ideas and show what it is like to embody that." He said he wanted to show what it is like for somebody who came up in the Catholic tradition, who either doubles down and becomes more conservative or authoritarian or isolates and tries to be good. He noted that with this book, he wants to make the Catholic tradition more accessible to those who did not grow up in it.

Hornsby said he does much of his writing at Milkweed Café, a coffee shop in his neighborhood. "I come over and write a couple hours in the morning, then go teach, and sometimes come back later and write some more," he said.

His second book, "Sucker," is set for a February publication. It is the story of the son of a millionaire who has to find employment, and gets involved with a start-up tech firm that may have ties to the mob. The book is a satire of Silicon Valley and the 1 percent.

Regarding his writing, Hornsby said he first likes thinking of an idea, seeing if it has legs, and doing some research to see if it will hold water. "You see it's working, and it's fun figuring out what you are doing," he said. "First you require a bigger burst of energy, then you get down and try to make it pop. There's something underneath what you think you are doing that has to be brought out."

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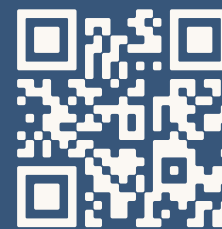
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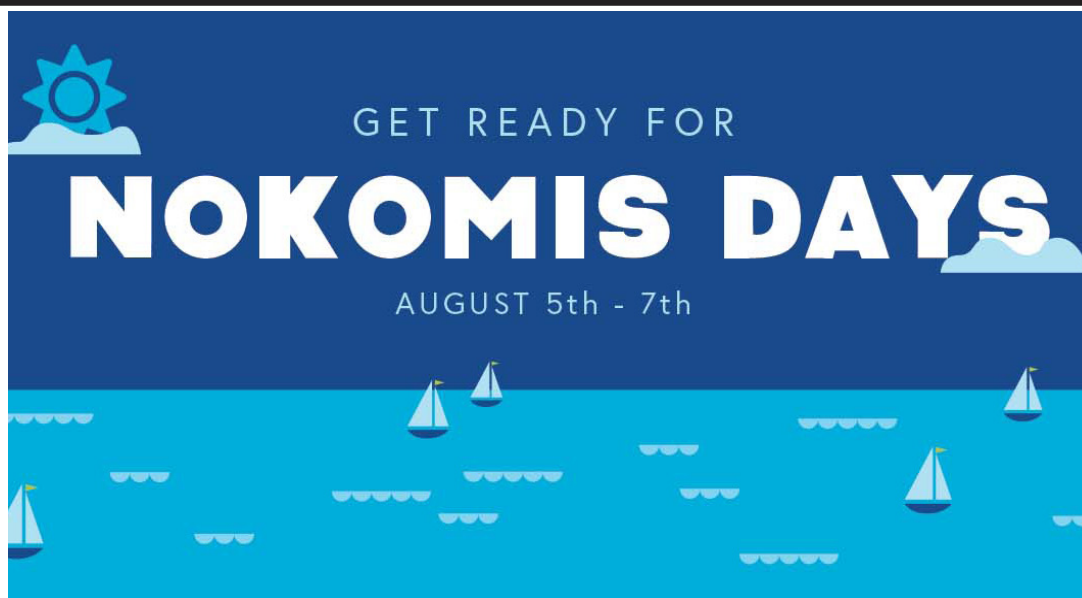
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## NOKOMIS DAYS RETURN

>> from 1

Both women are part of the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) and served on the planning committee that put together Nokomis Days.

"I chose to put a business in the neighborhood for a reason. I need to be part of this neighborhood," remarked Tang. "This is a neighborhood party."

The event opens with the Friday night concert at Nokomis Tattoo's parking lot and event space (4933 S. 34th Ave.) organized by McDonald's Liquor and Wine. Opening is Ember, followed by Chickaboom and Troglodyte.

Looking for more tunes? On Saturday, drop by Venn Brewing from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to hear Caydence spin vinyl, and go to Town Hall's parking lot from 2-5 p.m. for DJ Rock the Monkey.

This year there will be parking lot parties on Saturday, Aug. 6 at Town Hall Lanes (5019 S. 34th Ave.), Oxendale's (5025 S. 34th Ave.), and Topsy Steer (5000 Hiawatha Ave.); and a beer party with Fulton at Bull's Horn (4563 S. 34th Ave.). You might find your new best friend at the Nokomis Tattoo UnderDog Rescue event on Saturday from 2-4 p.m. The Great Pottery Throwdown and screen printing returns at The Workshop, with a new design for 2022.

Begin your Saturday with two different classes at PaddleSculpt. Strong and Calm will start at 8 a.m. and be followed by Row Sculpt at 9 a.m. On Sunday, try yoga at 4 p.m. with Linda Simon of Fit to Live at the Nokomis beach, outside Sandcastle. This is the last year Bull's Horn owners Doug Flicker and Amy Greeley will be operating Sandcastle, and they're also hosting live music there on Sunday with Nokomis Life.

Feeling hungry? Drop by Oxendale's parking lot for free coffee and donuts from Faith Evangelical Lutheran starting at 10 a.m. until they run out. Riverside Evangelical Free Church is hosting a community picnic, and there will



NEBA member and home-based business owner Ashley Tapp of Tapp Action-COACH enjoys a tasty meal during the 2021 community festival.

be free root beer floats from Trinity Lutheran Church. Order lunch from the Parralilly food truck at Venn Brewing. Enjoy Fulton beer brats with Green Bay-style chili at Bull's Horn for dinner. Topsy Steer will have brats and mini donut ice cream floats.

There will be free beer at Grande Sunrise from 2-4 p.m. with a limit of two per person.

Thirty plus years ago, the businesses on 34th Avenue put on Crazy Days each year. For several decades, the lone event that continued to be held was the annual Nokomis Shoe Shop Sidewalk Sale. In 2021, NEBA breathed new life into the beloved community tradition, and held a three-day event spanning the entire neighborhood.

A storm rolled through the community during the 2021 event, which sparked a shift to an indoor sale for Nokomis Shoe and indoor classes at Paddlesculpt.

"The whole neighborhood showed up in force. The rain didn't scare anyone away. They were awesome. I've still got my shirt from The Workshop," said Mike Welsh of Nokomis Tattoo, who helped lead the charge to bring back the community festival.

"I really like what all the businesses are doing this year. It's going to be a lot of fun to celebrate all things Nokomis," Welsh added. "Grande Sunrise, Agrarian Seed, and Steve's Auto are doing some super fun outside-the-box stuff for this year. I'm looking forward to having a good mellow time."



NOKOMIS TATTOO EVENT SPACE

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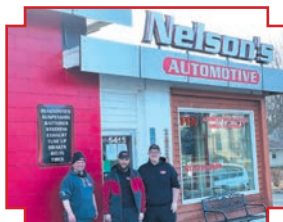
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remarked Nick. They operate as an "open book," inviting customers into the shop to look under the hood and check out exactly what broke. Eric is the manager of the East Nokomis shop, and has been there since it opened. Sam is the lead technician and Mike is the general technician. They recognize that most people enter an automotive shop on the defensive, worried they're going to get

a raw deal. So they educate customers on the process and what it takes to fix a car properly. There are no secrets – and no hidden fees. They keep up with current auto technologies and trends, and don't stray from classical repair service fundamentals. "Our motto is you've got a guy," said Nick. "We want you to feel like you want to tell someone about us."



Meet Eric, Sam and Mike



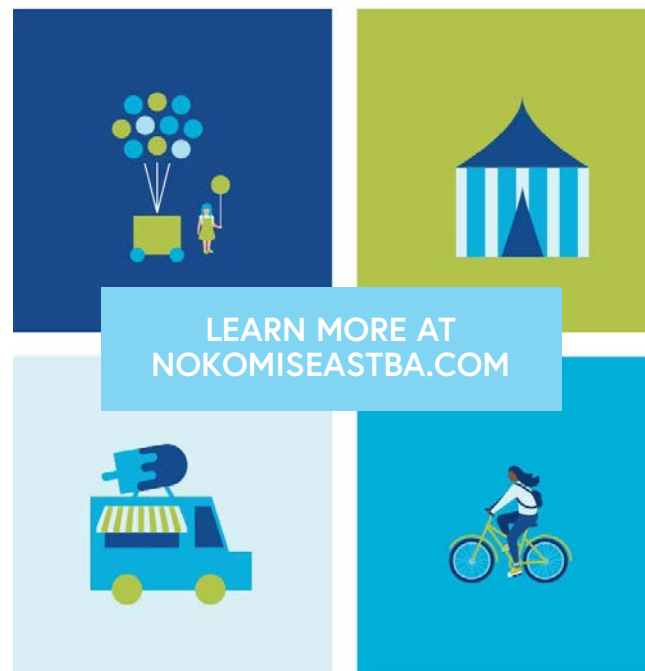
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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, AUG. 6

11am-3pm - Steve's Tire & Auto - Chili Lime Food Truck

5-8pm - Kick-off Outdoor Concert presented by McDonald's Liquor & Wine at Nokomis Tattoo parking lot.

### SATURDAY, AUG. 7

8-8:45am - PaddleSculpt parking lot - free Strong & Calm full body circuit & yoga (all levels welcome)

9-10am - PaddleSculpt - free Row Sculpt

9-11am - The Workshop - The Great Throw Down (friendly pottery competition)

10am-1pm - Venn Brewing - Brunch with Friends + Mini Makers Market, Parralilly food truck, Caydence spinning vinyl

10am-8pm - Grande Sunrise bouncy house

11am-4pm - The Workshop - Market of local makers and workshop staff pottery

12-2pm - The Workshop -

Live Outdoor Screen Printing. T-shirts and Bags.

2-4pm - Nokomis Tattoo parking lot - UnderDog Rescue Event

2-4pm - Grande Sunrise free beer (limit 2 per person)

2-5pm - Town Hall Lanes - Beer & wine in the parking lot with DJ Rock the Monkey

4-6pm - Topsy Steer parking lot - Grilled brats, kiddie duck pond w/prizes

4-10pm - Bull's Horn - Full-ton brats and beer specials, free tastings and cool swag all night, ~ Mini-Trivia at 5 & 8pm w/prizes from Fulton ~ Meat Raffle at 6pm

\*ADA bathrooms available at the Nokomis Library

**OXENDALE'S PARKING LOT PARTY**  
SAT. AUG. 7, 10am-2pm  
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Community picnic by Riverside Evangelical Free Church

Free root beer floats from Trinity Minnehaha Falls

Coffee and donuts until we run out from Faith Ev. Lutheran

Pack 38 - Mobile, inflated archery set

### SUNDAY, AUG. 8

Sandcastle - Yoga at 4pm with Linda Simon of Fit to Live; 5-7 Live music and Nokomis Life

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Sandcastle - Pries Brewing Tap Takeover

Topsy Steer - Drink specials & mini donut ice cream floats

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## DIVERSITY OF TWIN CITIES HIGHLIGHTED IN ANTHOLOGY

>> from 1

thoughts and experiences in the wake of the pandemic and the George Floyd murder. Some of the authors also write about their cultural history.

Holbrook, who teaches at the Loft Literary Center and Hamline University, in 2015 created "More Than a Single Story," a group of BIPOC writers who presented panel conversations throughout the Twin Cities. She was inspired to do so when one of her African American women's writing groups was giving a presentation. A white member of the audience expressed surprise that they did not all sound alike or tell the same stories.

Holbrook set out to prove that a group of women who are of the same race can have many stories to share. She set up panel discussions hosted by the Loft in a series that first featured African American women, then women of Caribbean descent and finally, women of East African and West African backgrounds, all who lived in Minnesota. The series of conversations expanded, and Holbrook had Mura join her and moderate BIPOC men's panels discussing their experiences.

When the two started looking for stories for an anthology, they were hoping to get writers from "More Than a Single Story" to tell about some of the panel discussions they had held over the past several years.

"Then the pandemic hit, and we told them that if they preferred, they could write about how the pandemic had affected them. And then George Floyd was mur-



Writers and editors celebrate the launch of "We Are Meant To Rise: Voices of Justice from Minneapolis to the World." Left to right: Tess Montgomery, Samantha Sencer-Mura, Carolyn Holbrook, David Mura, Anika Fajardo, and Suleiman Adan. (Photo by Terry Faust)

dered, so we ended up with pieces about George Floyd, some about the pandemic and others about family and the environment, as well as other topics," Holbrook said.

Some of the writers selected were from "More Than a Single Story" discussions and others were asked because they were obvious choices, according to Mura. "We wanted to have a mix of writers who represented different communities," he said.

Holbrook added that it was difficult to select writers, because they could only have a certain number. "We wanted to have as many BIPOC communities represented as we could, and we wanted a mix of well-known and emerging writers. It was not an easy task to choose the authors."

"So many writers grew up in the neighborhood (where George Floyd was killed), or live or work there, and we got a very visceral response from people," Mura stated. He said Floyd's murder was traumatic and upsetting and indicative of

"something horribly wrong with the justice system here. This was all confirmed by the recent government study, showing systemic racism in the Minneapolis Police Department."

Holbrook said, "Many of us who grew up here knew what happened behind closed doors, but people in government would not believe us, and not believe the police were as horrible as they were. With George Floyd's murder, so much has come to light."

Mura said that Black people have talked about police abuse since 1865, but have not been believed. "Technology has caught up with racism," he noted. "The event with George Floyd could have happened, and all the people who were there could have testified, but the public wouldn't believe it. So the video was the crucial proof." He was speaking of the video recorded by 17-year-old Darnella Frazier, who filmed the murder of George Floyd and received a special dedication in "We Are Meant to Rise."



Our diversity is our strength."

David Mura

**'WE STICK TOGETHER, WE TALK TO EACH OTHER, AND WE HOLD ON'**

The close connection of the Twin Cities is emphasized in the anthology, Mura explained. "We have these stories from Somali Americans,

Native Americans, Korean Americans, and Black Americans. The authors are all commenting on the same event from their own particular vantage point and relationship to the neighborhood."

In light of the struggles Black people have endured over the years, Holbrook said, "We stick together, we talk to each other and we hold on. We've been holding on for how many hundreds of years. Historically, in the American Black experience, whenever we make gains, they come and knock it down. We get back up, and they come and knock it down again."

"We had eight years of peace and hope with Obama, and then they brought in Trump. It's not a new cycle or phenomenon, it's the American way."

Mura said the book features people writing about their communities and the historical experiences of their communities. "You see how entrenched systemic racism is, but I do have hope because of the brilliant voices that are part of this anthology," he said. "All these writers from different perspectives are bringing us their language, their input, their stories."

He cited one of the anthology's essays by Louise Erdrich, writing about her grandfather's fight against the government and describing the history of boarding schools. "When we see we have all been dealing with this, it makes us stronger. We are fighting in many ways the same anti-democratic, racist movement that is part of our country."

DIVERSITY >> 13

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Brandon Long said, "When national news is getting me down, I find community work gives me hope."

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

The new Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Executive Director Brandon Long is no stranger to neighborhood work.

"I've learned that community is immensely powerful," said Long. "I spend a lot of time explaining that to people. You don't need to be an elected official to have a voice. We have the power to convene, to release information to large groups of people, institutions and officials. We can provide each other with mutual support, financially or otherwise, when other, larger institutions struggle or fail us. We saw that play out very obviously during the pandemic through things like food distributions and grant assistance.

"When national news is getting me down, I find that community work gives me hope."

Long began working for NENA in April following the departure of Becky Timm.

#### WHAT DREW YOU TO NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION WORK AND WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT IT?

My journey into this work started with the premature birth of my brother who is 12 years younger than I am. Due to many complications he is subsequently blind, has cerebral palsy, and lives in a group home. My parents are both nurses so when I asked how I could work with someone like him they told me occupational therapy (OT) may be a good option. Before I started in community work I held just about every position you can within the disability community over the course of a decade, including as an occupational therapist at the Minnesota Autism Center for three years after graduate school. While I was doing this work, I realized that what I valued most was advocacy

## Meet new NENA Executive Director

*'Community work gives me hope,' says Brandon Long*

for folks like my brother which got me into political organizing both on electoral and issue campaigns. Through that I found the district council system in Saint Paul and sat on the Highland District Council while simultaneously forming an advocacy group called Sustain Ward 3 (now Sustain Saint Paul).

I loved advocating for things that made my community more equitable and sustainable, which led me to make the professional transition to the Union Park District Council as its executive director. I loved spending my day getting to know anyone and everyone I could, helping connect people to each other and resources and tools that they needed to make their lives better. In conventional OT I didn't have the opportunity to make whole systems or communities healthier, happier, and more equitable. Stepping outside that convention allowed me to tackle issues in a bigger way. I love getting to know the histories of areas and understanding how things work and who people are. The relationships you form in place-based neighborhood work are what I enjoy the most.

#### WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO NOKOMIS EAST?

I was intrigued to learn more about what a different city's neighborhood organization system looked like for starters. I have many acquaintances in Minneapolis who had spoken highly of NENA as an organization and its outgoing executive director - who I have subsequently gained a lot of respect for.

Aside from getting my feet under me my initial goals are a fresh restart. The board was very intentional about providing me with enough to get started and point the ship in a general direction while also leaving me the flexibility to make the role my own. I really appreciate the work that they put into our strategic plan and their emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The pandemic upended all of our lives and NENA was no exception. There was a lot of pivoting to deal with the huge issues and barriers cropping up and they navigated it well, understanding that post-pandemic NENA would look a bit different. Not only do we now have a new ED, we are once again expanding our staffing by hiring a full-time community organizer and part-time communications person.

#### WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES YOU'VE NOTICED ABOUT ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS?

There is more clarity of purpose in the Saint Paul District Council system. The one contract that those 17 organizations have is called the "Community Engage-

ment Contract" which covers roughly half of each organization's operating budgets (with some exceptions). Those organizations are a formal part of the development engagement process, Saint Paul's Planning Commission and its city council members are informed of the positions district councils take on any given new development. Since they are independent non-profits they are free to do other things, but they all have at least that in common.

The city of Minneapolis use to have a more formal connection to their neighborhood organizations this way - as contracted engagement that informed their decision making. It does not seem to be the case any longer - we are not given any meaningful notification for proposals and our input is not sought. Our power to influence these things seems quite a bit softer depending on relationships we have with our city council members, but then again, we don't get notifications in a timely enough manner. Minneapolis also has three different funding sources from different eras sometimes operating at the same time for each of the 70+ organizations rather than just the one for Saint Paul councils. While the Saint Paul system is definitely underfunded, the newest funding stream for the Minneapolis system is being massively underfunded to the point that many in this system are considering merging because they will not be able to keep the lights on.

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PROJECTS YOU'VE WORKED ON THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF?

Co-founding Sustain Ward 3 is the project I am the most proud of. The idea behind this was to intentionally create community first and foremost, and that collective action would naturally occur after that. The way this played out was backyard barbecues and happy hours, neighbors getting to know neighbors, conversations about Star Wars, dogs, bikes, anything folks were interested in. Community "shop talk" occurred naturally and without structure at gatherings in small groups without any need for direction. We needed to get to know each other, like each other, and trust each other. Over a few months this morphed into creating a formal organizational structure and name. Too often community engagement dives into business first, overwhelming new folks with jargon, acronyms, and stuffy procedural conduct. Working families are tired in their off time or they need a mental or physical break - I know I do.

We need to ease folks into community involvement, provide food and create fun and trust. Meeting folks where they are at is the surest way to peak their interest and

motivate them to be further involved.

This group created an organization built on creating more equitable and sustainable neighborhoods. Specific examples of this include successfully organizing around ensuring the preservation of critical affordable housing targets on the Ford Site and helped paved the way for the West 7th Street Car in Saint Paul. It has now expanded citywide and continues to educate and activate residents around issues of equity and sustainability in development and transportation and is well respected by city officials.

#### HOW DO NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS LIKE NENA CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY?

Neighborhood organizations like NENA create touch points and connections for residents amongst each other and with the city government. They have the power to convene, which gives them the opportunity to be a voice for the neighborhood and provide resources and education for neighbors. Not everyone has the time to be sifting through the flood of information that we are inundated with daily - place-based neighborhood organizations are entities that can funnel relevant information to their residents. Staff and board members form relationships with city officials giving residents a more direct line to general decision making. NENA, and organizations like it, offer small matching grants to residents and businesses to ensure that local economies stay strong.

#### AS FUNDING SHIFTS DUE TO NEIGHBORHOODS 2020, HOW IS NENA CHANGING?

Rather than shrinking away from the challenges we face, we are meeting them head on. We are fortunate to have a strong cash reserve that will keep us going for the next 5-7 years, and we are going to spend that time not downsizing and just trying to perpetually survive, but rather, expand and show our worth to attract new outside funders and/or convince the city of our merits. We are becoming increasingly connected with other neighborhood organizations to work in coalition as we tackle new challenges with changing neighborhood demographics. We have implemented diversity, equity, and inclusion policies that will guide all of our work and decision making.

#### WHAT'S AHEAD FOR NENA?

Once we have secured more staff, we are committed to reassessing which committees we would like to establish and how they will be structured. This will provide more opportunities for community members who are not board members to become more involved with the work we do as an organization. This will also provide spaces for NENA to flesh out what our engagement looks like and what projects we take on.

## DIVERSITY >> from 12

Mura spoke of the current debates about what is being taught in America's schools. "We will either get past this or fall apart as a country," he said, referring to the concern that bringing anything about the United States' racial history into the classroom will hurt White students.

"D. Kearney writes in the book about having to have a talk with his six-year-olds about the shooting of Philando Castile, and then talking to them when they are 10 about the murder of George Floyd," Mura stated. He said D. Kearney wrote that he will never forgive White Supremacy for putting him in a position that he has to have this conversation with his children.

Mura commented on White parents being afraid for their children to hear in the classroom about the story of Ruby Bridges, an eight-year-old Black girl who integrated school while adults spat upon her.

"Why couldn't they take courage and

inspiration from that? I don't believe White kids are so fragile."

Kevin Yang, one of the essayists in the anthology, wrote about being in a school system where he felt bad about being Hmong, and how a teacher introduced him to the work of a Hmong poet. This changed his life.

"This is an argument for teaching a diverse range of history and literature," Mura said. "You begin to feel pride and understand these stories are important."

Holbrook noted some White kids do learn these stories, after hearing that they shouldn't. "They ask why they aren't being taught about this, and the censorship blows their minds."

#### WHAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT

Both Holbrook and Mura have a long history of working in the Twin Cities as activists, besides their other roles.

Mura said he came to the Twin Cities in 1974 to attend graduate school, and he never left. He resides in Minneapolis, just

a few miles from where he lived when he first moved here. "I helped start the Asian American Renaissance, and I have worked with Carolyn on so many things," he said. "I stayed here because this is a great place to be an artist and raise a family." He said his children all attended South High, and he has a daughter who has been endorsed as a DFL candidate for District 63-A.

Holbrook said she grew up in Minneapolis down the street from what was Bryant Junior High School and is now Sabathani.

She has two sons and three daughters. She said her youngest son and his wife have moved to LA to follow their dreams. "They got their kids through college, and now my daughter-in-law just graduated from architecture school. My son is creating sound tracks for films."

Holbrook said she hates to cook, and her children living in the area often bring her dishes.

The message Mura would like readers to take from the anthology he and Hol-

brook edited is to understand it is providing them with a portrait of the Twin Cities, of Minnesota and of America. "The testimony of these writers of different ethnicities and races is part of what makes America great," he said. "Our diversity is our strength."

Holbrook said she hopes the book inspires readers to learn and study more about who lives in Minnesota, and who its people are. "Each group has a lengthy history," she said. She cited some examples of Black residents. "Dr. Richard Green was politically active for a long, long time. We may know of slaves like Dred Scott, but not that he was imprisoned at Fort Snelling. And enslaved Eliza Winston gave testimony to the courts. I really hope this book also inspires enslaved people to learn more about what Minnesota is."

Mura said he and Holbrook have been writing and working as activists for a long time. "It gives me hope that these young talented writers will be coming after us, carrying the torch."



## National nonprofit GreenLight seeks to empower Lake Street residents to reduce police interactions

# COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

By CHLOE PETER

In fifth grade, Simone Hardeman-Jones was asked to identify a social problem and identify a solution. She chose to have her classmates and community help her in writing letters to a company that sold baby formula in developing countries. The formula needed clean water to be safe for the babies, but that was difficult for mothers living in poverty to access. She felt that, in sending letters and making her voice heard, she could have a powerful impact on the world.

Hardeman-Jones said that this led to her career in community activism. When she was offered the position of executive director at Greenlight Fund Twin Cities, she accepted.

GreenLight Fund is a national nonprofit with a local focus that partners with communities to create opportunities for inclusive prosperity. Each year, the fund is focused on identifying one critical, unmet community need, and begin to take specific action against that to make real change.

"We seek to elevate our community's knowledge and lived experience through

our community-driven process which centers on elevating persistent local needs not being met by existing services, programs, or organizations," Hardeman-Jones said.

In fall of 2020, GreenLight Fund Twin Cities began engaging in its annual community engagement process by connecting with local leaders and residents to understand the prevalent issues of today and gaps in services that exist. They created a local Selection Advisory Council (SAC) to guide how and where GreenLight will focus energy and resources. In partnership with the SAC, and through many conversations with community leaders and residents, GreenLight chose community safety as a focus area for the year. This began the investment in Let Everyone Advance with Dignity Minneapolis (LEAD).

"The collective goal is to decrease recidivism and improve stability and outcomes for those facing behavioral health challenges often criminalized in our current systems," Hardeman-Jones said.

LEAD Minneapolis is a public health approach to community safety that works with individuals cycling in and out of the legal system and gives the option of working with a case manager on a long-term basis. Case managers utilize a harm reduction, trauma-informed approach in building relationships with LEAD participants to support them in their individually identified goals.

Whether it is a need for support getting one's birth certificate so that they can apply for a job or a need for a hot meal one night, case managers are there with participants every step of the way for as long as they need support. This initiative is held by community with its collaborative implementation structure bringing a cross section of community leaders, neighborhood residents, business owners and government officials together in partnership with case managers.

"As we connected with leaders in the Lake Street Corridor, we heard loud and clear that now is the time to de-center law enforcement and center the community in our efforts to reshape public safety," Hardeman-Jones said.

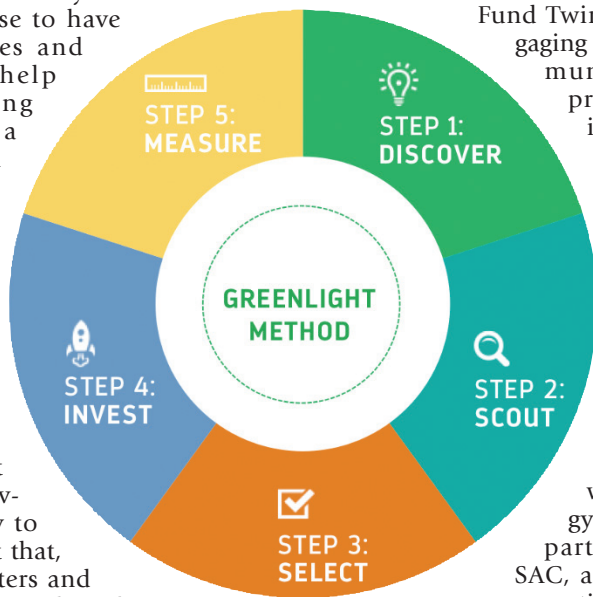
LEAD Minneapolis will focus on the Lake Street Corridor. With the relationships built with their case managers, LEAD participants will have a higher chance of finding mental health services, substance abuse support, housing, and employment than they would trying to navigate the system on their own. With over 50 participants in LEAD Minneapolis by midsummer 2023 growing to 200+ in the Twin Cities over the next four years, this program will lower recidivism by 50%, increase social support by 35% and improve relationships with residents, law enforcement, business owners, and many more.

"We know that business owners and community members along Lake Street are in daily contact with potential LEAD participants and know that these individuals often just need support denied to them in a system that focuses on punishment rather than support," Hardeman-Jones said.

LEAD is rooted in a harm reduction approach, allowing people to receive support that they are ready for and also al-



Simone Hardeman-Jones, executive director of GreenLight Fund Twin Cities and a former Obama Administration staffer, knows the Lake Street corridor well. She grew up near there and said, "It's a hub of entrepreneurship and culture built and sustained by Black, Indigenous, Latinx and immigrant communities." (Photo submitted)



lowing people to take their course of healing with the understanding that progress isn't linear. Individuals will never graduate from the LEAD program. If someone feels like they are doing well enough to stop seeing their case manager after three months and then find themselves in a crisis six months later, they are always able to call their case manager and receive support. More information on how to help LEAD and GreenLight Twin Cities can be found at <https://greenlightfund.org/sites/twin-cities/>.

"Through understanding some of the root causes of why people are struggling rather than tying them to a legal system that wasn't designed to meet people where they are, see their humanity and get to the root of any issues they may be struggling to overcome," Hardeman-Jones said.

## Who is on primary ballot Aug. 9?

By CAM GORDON

Early voting in the Aug. 9, 2022, primary election is now underway. There is plenty to choose from on the ballot this year on the federal, state and more local levels.

Even if you are not interested in voting as part of one of the state's four major political parties to select their candidates for the general election, you can still vote and influence who appears on the November ballot in key important local elections.

You can see your own sample ballot, and even print it out to bring to the polling place with you, at <https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/>.

If you do, you will discover that this year there are two ballots-in-one.

### THE STATE PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION

One, on the front page, is called the State Partisan Primary Ballot. This ballot is for those who wish to vote for the offices that are connected, by election law, to one of the major political parties. All political parties that qualify as a major party in Minnesota and required to participate in primary elections if more than one person files for a particular partisan office under their party's name. For these offices, only one candidate from each party may run in the general election. Since 2018, we have had four major parties in our state: the Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party, the Legal Marijuana Now Party, the Republican Party of Minnesota and the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL).

Each major party will have one column on this partisan ballot, and, if voters vote at all on this ballot, they are required to limit all votes for only one of the four parties. If you vote for candidates from more than one political party your ballot

is "spoiled" and will not be counted.

For the smaller of the two parties, the candidates on the ballots for southside Minneapolis voters will only be in the races for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. For the Republicans, there are candidates to choose from at the federal level for U.S. Representative District 5, and at the state level for Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. The DFL has the most candidate and offices on the ballot. They have five candidates who filed for U. S. 5th District Representative and two each for Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. For some southside voters, the DFL also has primary races at the legislative district level.

Because more than one candidate has filed with the DFL for Senate Districts 62 and 63, as well as for House District 62A, those races will also be on the primary partisan side of the ballot in the DFL column. State Senator Omar Fateh is being challenged by union organizer Shaun Laden in 62 and State Senator Zaynab Mohamed is being challenged by Todd C. Scott. The current State Representative for 62A, Aisha Gomez, is being challenged in the primary by Osman Ahmed who also ran unsuccessfully for the same seat in the primary in 2018.

### THE NONPARTISAN PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

Perhaps the most significant impact voters will have in the primary is on the second ballot, called the State and County Nonpartisan Primary Ballot. Turn the partisan ballot over and there it is.

Even if you have no interest in selecting any of the major party candidates who will appear on the general election ballot, you can use this ballot to participate in voting for who will go on to the general

election for some critically important non-partisan races in Hennepin County and for the Minneapolis Public Schools. Those include County Sheriff, County Attorney and two At-Large School Board members. The top two vote getters for County Attorney and County Sheriff will go on to the General Election. For the two at-large school board member offices, the four top voters will go to the general election where two at large board members will be elected.

This year's election for Sheriff and County Attorney are especially significant because, no matter who wins, both will be new to the office and, based on historic trends, could end up for serving for years to come. The current County Attorney, Mike Freeman, for example, is stepping down after serving 16 years, from 2006-2022. Prior to that he was County Attorney from 1991-1999. While the current Sheriff, Dave Hutchinson (currently on a leave of absence) is leaving after only one term, former sheriffs have served longer, including Patrick McGowan who served from 1995 to 2006, and Rich Stanek who served from 2007 to 2019.

There are three people running for sheriff in the primary: Dawanna Witt, Jai Hansen and Joseph Banks. For County Attorney there are seven: Martha Holton Dimick, Jarvis Jones, Tad Jude, Mary Moriarty, Paul Ostrow, Saraswati Singh, and Ryan Winkler.

The at-large school board candidates are Colin Beachy, Sonya Emerick, Kerry Jo Felder, Harley Meyer, Lisa Skjefte and Harley Meyer.

Many Longfellow/Nokomis voters will also have a district level school board member primary election on their ballot. If you live in Minneapolis east of 35W, and south of 34th St., you are in School Board District 5 and can cast a vote for either Laurelle Myhra, Leslie Haugland-Smith, Elena Condos or Lori Norvel. The top two vote getters of that group will go on to run in the general election this fall.

Voter turnout in primary elections is consistently much lower than in general elections. The highest it has been since 1950, according to the Secretary of State's Office, was in 1966 when 39.39% of eligible voters voted in the primary. It hasn't been over 30% since 1970. As a comparison, turnout in the 2020 General Election was 79%, and it hasn't been lower than 50% since 1986.

In the primary many candidates are eliminated. This year five of the seven candidates will be eliminated in the County Attorney race and two of six in the at-large school board race.

"While these elections tend to turn out fewer voters than the November General election, they are in many cases more important than the November election as the candidate who wins the primary will go on to win in November for lack of serious competition from the other party," said FairVote Minnesota Executive Director Jeanne Massey. "In primary races across the country in races with several candidates, we are seeing candidates win with just 20% or 30% of the vote this year in small turnout elections. That is bad for democracy. It is imperative voters turn out Aug. 9 for the primary and make their vote count."

If you haven't voted yet, you still have time before the primary election day, Aug. 9. There is time to print your sample ballot, explore candidate websites, talk to friends and neighbors, reach out to candidates, and take advantage of this opportunity. People can register and vote through Aug. 8 at the early-voting site at 980 E. Hennepin Ave. Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or, on election day, Aug. 9 at their polling place. You can call Minneapolis voter services at 311 or 612-673-3000 (TTY: 612-673-2157) and find more information at [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/); <https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>; <https://www.vote411.org/>; and <https://lwvmppls.org/>.



## TEKLE &gt;&gt; from 1

"This is a very traumatizing situation for everybody involved," said Trahern Crews of Black Lives Matter Minnesota. "We gotta love and support one another. That's not just a slogan, it's for real. And we gotta support her. She deserves support. She deserves love and her children deserve love."

Demonstrators moved down the block, away from the entrance to the apartment building. Markeanna Dionne, a former classmate of Sundberg's at Roosevelt High School, led a chant to say his name, "Tekle."

"I went to school with the boy. He was a sweet soul, bro, he was a sweet soul. He should still be here," she said. "Having a mental health issue should not result into you being killed."

A family friend (who asked not to be named) said she'd known Sundberg since he was four years old. She addressed her first comments directly to Yarbrough.

"I am so sorry that this happened to you and your babies. Nobody's trying to take that away from you," she said. She urged people to not make this about one side over the other and asked them to support a GoFundMe for Foss-Yarbrough and her kids to relocate.

She spoke of Sundberg's large family of both biological and adopted brothers and sisters that love him. "This is a beautiful southside Minneapolis family," she said.

After a brief march, some of Sundberg's sisters and brothers spoke.

"His life was precious. His life was sacred. His life mattered. He was deeply loved," said his sister, Kelsey Romero. "I need you all to know that he was deeply, deeply loved."

"He was all about that plant life. He was all about that positivity. We all are," said Sundberg's older brother. "That's what we are. The Sundbergs. We're positive."

## MANY QUESTIONS

There are still many questions as to what went wrong that led to Sundberg's death. Sundberg's parents had been called to the scene, but they reject the implication that this meant they were in collaboration with negotiators. Despite pleading with officers, Mark Sundberg was not allowed to go in and speak with his son. According to Romero, officers also told them repeatedly, "We will not shoot him," but had positioned snipers on the roof.

"My parents were invited to the scene to helplessly, helplessly witness their son



One of Tekle's sisters holds up a picture of him as supporters raise a large portrait near the Seward apartment building where he was shot and killed by MPD. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

executed," she said.

Many asked why police in Faribault, Minn., who themselves were involved in a six-hour standoff on the very same day, were able to apprehend the person alive. There, Juan Jose Zamarripa Almeda allegedly broke a window and yelled "Shoot me." He then pointed a gun at officers. He allegedly had also pointed a gun at two men walking outside beforehand. Police there used less-lethal munitions to end the standoff, and brought him into custody alive.

"Don't tell us you had no other choice. Don't tell us you need more training," said Romero. "We've seen you take people into custody safely. You know how to do it."

Activists also stressed that Sundberg was a Black man and, as such, was likely subjected to different treatment than a White person would be under similar circumstances. (This is corroborated by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights findings of race-based policing in Minneapolis). Dylann Roof and Kyle Rittenhouse were among names mentioned of White-bodied people who had actually killed other people but were apprehended alive.

A request for information on whether less-lethal munitions were available and used and whether a Behavioral Crisis Response team or other mental health crisis experts were on hand has not been answered by MPD.

"A mental health crisis should not be a death sentence. It should not give cops permission to perform an execution," said Romero. A social worker herself, she spoke of dealing with mental health crises on a regular basis, without any weapons and without a SWAT team. "We're trained to deescalate."

Officers Pearson and Seraphine were part of the SWAT team that executed the no-knock raid that led to Amir Locke's killing by police in February 2022. Between the two of them, they have racked up a dozen complaints. According to MPD internal review records, every complaint marked closed shows no disciplinary action taken.

In a July 16 statement, Attorneys Ben Crump and Jeff Storms, who are representing the family, called on MPD to provide video evidence and other information "as to why Tekle, who officers had isolated for hours, suddenly needed to be executed." On July 20, a 14-minute video containing some body camera footage from the first and last parts of the night was released and concludes with this message:

"At this point, a video with a clear depiction of the activities occurring at approximately 4:18 a.m. at 904 21st Ave. S. has not been identified by MPD." The MPD asked anyone with video from the scene to contact the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, who is investigating the incident.

"That video and [accompanying press



Arabella Foss-Yarbrough, who reported that bullets had been shot into her apartment, expresses her anger to the crowd. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Tekle's sister Kelsey Romero speaks during an event to honor him on Saturday, July 16, 2022, two days after he was shot by snipers. A social worker, Romero said, "Don't tell us you had no other choice. Don't tell us you need more training. We've seen you take people into custody safely." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

conference] was a sham. They did not answer a single question. They only added more questions for us today. That was not transparency," said Jaylani Hussein of CAIR-MN at a July 21 press conference. "They told us they don't know what happened. We know what happened. They killed that young man."

Tekle's parents Mark and Cindy Sundberg, in a statement delivered by their attorneys, described Tekle as a son, brother, grandson, uncle, nephew and friend. "He was smart, loving, funny, and kind. He had artistic talents, including photography and painting. Tekle was a deep, soulful, critical thinker who drew strength and energy from being outside and gazing across the river. He never missed a good sunset," it reads. "We send our deepest sympathies to anyone in his building impacted by his crisis, and we thank the community members who have come forward in loving memory of Tekle."



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# Tips on growing tomatoes in a home garden

## THE CITY GARDENER

BY LAUREN BETHKE,  
Master Gardener



Tomatoes are one of the most popular crops among home gardeners – in our neighborhood, it seems like every other house has at least a couple of tomato plants in the yard. Every year, I look forward to late summer and weeks of BLTs and caprese salads! But this is also the time of year when hot weather and common diseases can start to make your tomato plants look a little rough. Read on for advice on growing tomatoes in the home garden, including tips on plant selection and avoiding common disease and cultivation problems.

If you're looking out your window at sad, wilted tomato plants with yellowing leaves, rest assured – you're not alone! Minnesota's hot, humid summer climate is very conducive to several tomato plant diseases that tend to pop up every year. Early blight, Septoria leaf spot, and bacterial spot are all very common and cause similar symptoms. You may see yellowing leaves, especially towards the bottom of the plant, or yellow and brown spots on leaves or fruit. Although these diseases are caused by different pathogens (including bacteria, viruses, and fungi), we deal with them in similar ways. The pathogens are generally spread when the plant's leaves come into contact with contaminated soil, such as when water splashes the soil onto leaves. A lack of air flow in dense tomato plants can also be an issue.



*Early blight is common, and causes yellowing leaves. A lack of air flow in dense tomato plants can be an issue.*

Once a tomato plant has one of these diseases, there is generally no way to cure it. However, removing diseased foliage and trimming off some branches to improve airflow throughout the plant can slow the disease down and hopefully give you enough time to harvest some tomatoes.

There are also several tomato disorders that commonly vex Minnesota home gardeners. These are not caused by pathogens, but by environmental factors like watering and weather. Blossom end rot is one of the most common tomato disorders, and causes a tan or black "rotten" spot on the fruit opposite from the stem end. This is the result of a calcium deficiency, which weakens the fruit's cell walls



*Blossom end rot is caused by a calcium deficiency, that may be from inconsistent watering.*

– but don't add calcium to your garden just yet! Most soil throughout Minnesota has plenty of calcium in it, but the plant may not be able to absorb the calcium in the soil. The most common issue that reduces calcium uptake is inconsistent watering. Make sure your tomato plants are watered consistently and stay moist but not too wet. And don't worry too much – often, the first tomatoes produced by a plant will be affected by blossom end rot, but later tomatoes will be fine. Another factor that can cause insufficient calcium is applying too much nitrogen fertilizer, which causes the plant to grow very quickly. This can cause blossom end rot when the growing plant needs more calcium

than its roots can absorb. If you have a lot of problems with blossom end rot, consider having your soil tested to determine whether you do have a calcium deficiency in the soil.

Other tomato problems can arise from a wide variety of factors, including heavy rain, high temperatures, low temperatures, sun scalding, damage to tomato flowers, damage from insects, and damage from herbicides applied nearby. There's not enough room in this column to discuss the many potential pitfalls, but you can visit the University of Minnesota Extension website for detailed advice on lots of tomato problems!

When you plant tomatoes next year, there are a few things to consider that can help reduce the likelihood and severity of problems. First, you can look for disease-resistant tomato varieties, which will be labeled in a seed catalog or online. I've had good luck with the variety Juliet, which is resistant to early blight, and Gala-had, which is resistant to several common viruses. Also, consider adding mulch beneath the plants to reduce the likelihood of soil splashing onto the leaves. Another option is to use self-watering planters or drip irrigation for your tomatoes, which has the added benefit of ensuring consistent watering to reduce blossom end rot.

Finally, make sure to space your tomato plants out when planting them to improve air flow and reduce fungus and bacteria problems. Although the plants look so small in the spring, don't plant them too close together – remember that they will get much, much bigger! You can also remove some lower branches, which allows more air to move around the plant and keeps tomato leaves away from the soil.

For more information, check out the University of Minnesota Extension Yard and Garden website. Extension resources are written by experts, and contain the latest and most reliable research-based information. Happy gardening!

## Volunteers of America partners with YardHomes on ADUs for homeless vets

Volunteers of America National Services announces a new partnership with YardHomes, a Minneapolis-St. Paul metro-focused Accessory Dwelling Unit specialist, to create innovative, permanent, supportive and affordable housing for veterans and their families formerly experiencing homelessness.

As part of the VOANS Innovative Dwellings program, this partnership leverages a \$3 million grant the Wells Fargo Foundation awarded to VOANS in 2020 to support the creation of 125 units of housing across four market areas served by local VOA affiliates and community partners, including one in the Morris Park neighborhood of Minneapolis.

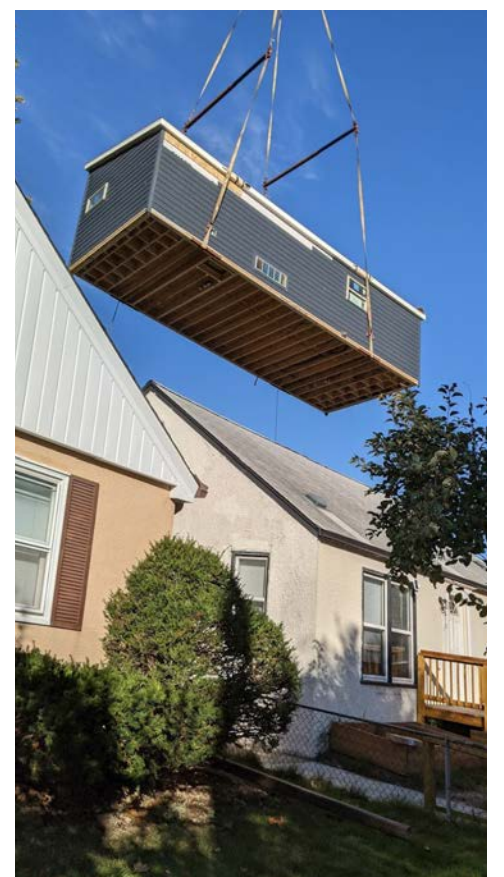
"Having a healthy and affordable place to call home is an essential pathway for wellness, dignity, and economic opportunity," said Eileen Fitzgerald, head of housing affordability philanthropy with Wells Fargo. "Lack of affordable housing puts millions at the edge of crisis and ADU's can help to increase the supply of affordable housing."

Individuals, churches, community land trusts, nonprofits and other "hosts" provide low-cost land for the ADUs or cottage village cluster developments under a long-term ground lease or land sale. The



*This YardHome accessory dwelling unit (ADU) was installed in Morris Park with the help of Volunteers of America. It will provide permanent housing for veterans and their families formerly experiencing homelessness. (Photo submitted)*

Y-HELP® entity constructs, owns and property manages the ADU and leases the unit to the veteran. For more information on YardHomes visit [www.YardHomesMN.com](http://www.YardHomesMN.com).



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# Annual events coming this summer

## NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY BRANDON LONG  
executive director  
Brandon@nokomiseast.org



### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUG. 2

National Night Out (NNO) will be on Aug. 2 this year. NNO takes place every year on the first Tuesday in August, and is organized by registered block club leaders. Events are held in neighborhoods across the city. Our city leads the nation for NNO participation. Every year, thousands of resi-

dents take part in the festivities.

### NOKOMIS EAST 'CRAZY DAYS' RETURNS AS 'NOKOMIS DAYS'

Local businesses and the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) are bringing back this local favorite during the weekend of Aug. 5-6. Activities include an outdoor concert night on Friday, sales and information booths all day on Saturday on 34th Avenue, and sites throughout Nokomis East. Visit [www.nokomiseastba.com](http://www.nokomiseastba.com) to learn more and participate!

### NOKOMIS EAST GIVING GARDEN INVITES YOU

Are you interested in gardening, building community, and raising food for good local causes? You should get involved with

the NENA Giving Garden at Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls (5212 41st Ave. S). The next upcoming work day is scheduled for Aug. 13! Email [nenan@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nenan@nokomiseast.org) for more information.

### NENA IS HIRING

NENA is currently searching for a new full-time bilingual community organizer. This position will work with NENA's executive director and communications manager to implement the organization's outreach and engagements initiatives, including work with cultural communities, renters and grassroots leadership. Help us spread the word! Applicants can apply by visiting [www.nokomiseast.org/communityorganizer](http://www.nokomiseast.org/communityorganizer).

### 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](http://www.nokomiseast.org) for more information.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

8/25/2022: NENA Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Crosstown Covenant Church

9/10/2022: Minneapolis Monarch Festival, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Lake Nokomis

# CONNECT WITH NEIGHBORS AS WE CONNECT WITH LANDSCAPE

## LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BY ANDREA TRITSCHLER,  
communications  
[andrea@longfellow.org](mailto:andrea@longfellow.org)



Environmental conservation is not an individual responsibility, but a collective one. The residents of Greater Longfellow consistently prioritize the preservation of the neighborhood's natural resources as an important part of our work as a neighborhood association. Greater Longfellow has so many incredible natural resources and environmental gems like the Mississippi River Gorge and Minnehaha Falls in our community, and it's up to all of us to work to keep them clean, healthy and accessible.

Our Environment and River Gorge Committee is a dedicated task force working to make the environment in our neighborhood one that is available and welcoming to all, both now and in the future. So many people in our community have shown up to support those efforts through volunteering, participating and talking with us about what they want that future to look like.



We've been partnering with organizations like Friends of the Mississippi River, Freshwater Society and Adopt-a-Drain to find better ways to engage with our community and preserve our surroundings' natural beauty.

Recently, our ERG Committee went on a Lock and Dam Tour hosted by Friends of the Mississippi River. Right

now, some of the infrastructure built in the 20th century to transform the river for commercial and industrial purposes is no longer useful. We have a chance to reimagine our relationship with the river again. FMR is studying issues around the dam on the Mississippi River and the answer to the question, should we remove the dams on the Mississippi River?

What we do here will affect the Twin Cities and all communities downstream and may have an even more significant ripple effect than we can imagine, FMR states.

"I think that staying engaged and making sure people are turning up and that people are staying involved and giving feedback. We want people who will be affected by this engaging with it, and we want them to really have a say in what their river access looks like," said Maddie Miller, FMR Grassroots Organizing Coordinator.

Friends of the Mississippi River is partnering with Macalester College to host free walking, biking, kayaking and boat tours of the locks and dams this summer. You can find more information on that on their website ([fmr.org](http://fmr.org)). We've also been working with Freshwater Society and Adopt-a-Drain on clean-ups and educational initiatives on how we best care for the planet on a local level. To be connected to the environment around us is to be connected to the community. We will have several more clean-ups this year, and if you're interested in getting involved contact [andrea@longfellow.org](mailto:andrea@longfellow.org) or check out Adopt-a-Drain's website for a list of other cleanups happening in and around the city. We want to celebrate what's around us and build community through events like Share the Park and Share the River Gorge. Connect with your neighbors as we connect with the landscape. We share this planet, so let's take care of it and each other.

**DID YOU KNOW? 6 of 10** readers say they frequently purchase products and services from ads that they see in the Messenger.

## Longfellow Community Council

# Share the Park

**Fun in the park!** Join a game of kickball or Horse, make some free-throws, **win prizes**, check out demos from East Lake Aikido & Ludy's Gym. **Be there!**



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Nokomis East  
Neighborhood Association

## Minneapolis Monarch Festival

[nokomiseast.org](http://nokomiseast.org)

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The next Minneapolis Monarch Festival will occur on **Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

The Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly amazing 2,300 mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico with music, food, dance, hands-on art, native plant sales and plenty of opportunities to get up close with monarch butterflies, learn about their habitats, and what you can do to make a difference.

**Learn More: [www.monarchfestival.org](http://www.monarchfestival.org)**





## SHELTER FOR YOUTH OPENS IN LONGFELLOW

On June 21, 2022, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis marked the opening of a new location at 4140 Cheatham Avenue for Hope Street for Youth, the largest emergency shelter for youth in the state of Minnesota. Hope Street moved from its current location in Phillips to a former assisted living facility in Minneapolis's Hiawatha neighborhood that was significantly renovated in 2018. For more than 20 years, Hope Street has served thousands of youth, and it currently offers both emergency shelter and support for youth living independently across Hennepin County. The Hope Street program encompasses both emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing in the community. The new location includes:

- Housing-focused emergency shelter for 30 youth (18 to 24 years of age) experiencing homelessness; youth will reside in 25 single and double rooms which offer safety and privacy;
- Supportive services in an environment that nurtures trusting relationships and helps youth develop the skills they need for future success; services include food, clothing, laundry, and medical care, as well as case management to move youth forward in the housing continuum; and
- Housing case manager who supports 11 youth living in permanent homes across Hennepin County with rent subsidies and long-term support.

Key partners made critical investments to make the new home for Hope Street for Youth a reality. Investments included \$2.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the City of Minneapolis, \$2.5 million from Hennepin County, and \$1 million from a generous donor. These significant investments allowed Catholic Charities to purchase the new facility in March 2022.

## BRIEFS

### SHUN TILLMAN TO LEAD CRIME PREVENTION TEAM

In June, former 3rd precinct Crime Prevention Specialist, Shun Tillman, was promoted to the position of manager of the city's crime prevention specialist team which operates within the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. Tillman served as a crime prevention specialist in the south Minneapolis precinct for 26 years, covering the Greater Longfellow and Seward neighborhoods and working with residents and businesses. Find more information about the crime prevention specialists and sign up for their bulletins on the city's crime prevention specialist webpage.

### GREEN ZONE PROJECT PROPOSALS

The city is looking for community-based project to advance environmental justice located in the Northside and Southside Green Zones. Proposals are due by 2 p.m. Aug. 4. Funding ranges from \$500-\$10,000 and projects must be completed by Feb. 28, 2023 and align with action items in one of the Green Zone Work Plan. Proposals from people who live, work, play or pray in the Northside Green Zone and/or Southside Green Zone are encouraged. Questions? Contact [kelly.muellman@minneapolisismn.gov](mailto:kelly.muellman@minneapolisismn.gov) or 612-673-3014.

### EAST PHILLIPS AGREEMENT

On June 30, the City Council approved general terms and authorized city staff to execute an agreement with the East Phillips Neighborhood association related to their urban farm project and the city's Hiawatha Public Works Expansion Project. The framework calls for EPNI to release all pending and potential environmental claims against the City and the City to grant EPNI exclusive development rights to a 3-acre portion of the site at no cost

to EPNI, add an outreach and training facility, and incorporate sustainability and community benefits into the project to be constructed on the 5.5-acre remainder of the site. The agreement has not been approved by EPNI. "East Phillips has some of the worst air pollution in the state and the Roof Depot building sits on top a arsenic plume. Until we have guarantees for our neighbors we will continue to negotiate," wrote EPNI in a social media post. "It's on the city to change its course and it's MOU to reflect a better deal for its residents."

### INPUT ON 38TH & CHICAGO'S FUTURE WANTED

As the project to re-envision the intersection design at 38th and Chicago moves into the "community visioning" phase. The project team has announced that they will gather input on which infrastructure needs are most important to the community such as pedestrian space, transit access, art and memorials, trees, parking and vehicle access. This will help the project team develop design concepts to share publicly this fall. People are invited to share their ideas through Community conversations during virtual office hours 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m.-noon Thursdays, join a focus group, and invite staff team members to an event they are hosting. The project team will also be scheduling monthly learning tables and open houses later in the summer. Email the team at [38thandchicago@minneapolisismn.gov](mailto:38thandchicago@minneapolisismn.gov) to learn more.

### SUMMER MEALS AND SNACKS FOR YOUTH

People 18 years old and under can find free nutritious meals and snacks from Minneapolis Public Schools this summer. Young people do not need to attend Minneapolis Public Schools to participate and can pick up food at parks, libraries, other community spaces, as well as at the Minneapolis Public Schools food truck and food bus. For locations and more information, use the Free Meals for Kids app.

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

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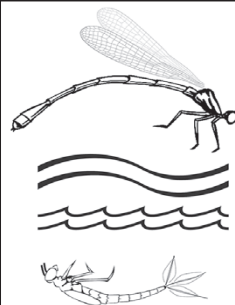
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# Coliseum unwrap reveals colorful murals

By IRIC NATHANSON

On July 11, the iconic Coliseum building was "unwrapped" to reveal a series of poems and colorful murals displayed in the building's first floor window bays. The unwrap project is the first step in an ongoing effort to rebuild the East Lake landmark by its new owner, Redesign Inc.

Redesign purchased the Coliseum in 2021 after the building had been abandoned and badly damaged during the civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

Robyn Robinson, who helped organize the Coliseum arts installation, said that the idea for the wrap grew out of conversations between the Redesign staff and a local arts group, five X five Public Art Consultants, on how to acknowledge the trauma caused by George Floyd's murder and the COVID-19 pandemic. "We also recognized the realities of rebuilding in a neighborhood where people were still hurting and suspicious of any new development that stood to potentially displace them."

"The arts project was a way for us to provide a message of hope and to demon-



A series of poems and colorful murals are displayed on the first floor of the Coliseum building. At right, Tish Jones of TruArtSpeaks talks about the project on July 11. The building renovation project is \$2 million shy of the funding needed to start. (Photos by Terry Faust)

strate the continued strength of this community," added Taylor Smrikarova, Redesign's Coliseum project coordinator.

Visitors to the Coliseum will find poems by Marcia Rendon, Isha Camara and Tish Jones displayed in the window

bays, along with artwork by Precious Wallace, Noah Lawrence Holder and Emma Eubanks.

Wallace's abstract designs are exhibited on the 27th Avenue side of the building. "Our work is an effort to convey a



sense of the history and the people who have been engaged with the building over the years," she said. "We hope it will help bring people together and, in doing so, help strengthen the idea of commu-

nity in Longfellow. The mural is really a community-building effort."

Holder and Eubanks designed the fanciful murals on the Coliseum's Lake Street side that depict scenes of community life in South Minneapolis. "We wanted to create something bright and lively that reflected the community, its history and the people who were part of the history. We hope the Coliseum's neighbors will see themselves in our work," Holder said.

"Emma and I started working on this project last winter," he added. "We brainstormed about some ideas and then just let the artwork evolve. Once construction gets underway, we hope Redesign will find a way to preserve the murals; maybe by displaying them inside the building."

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