

NOT THE POUND *you think you know*

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control shelters animals, offers pets for adoption, and needs volunteers

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

The Minneapolis city animal control facility isn't the grim place many picture.

"For a long time, this place would have been called a pound with all the negative aspects that entails," observed Lyle James, who volunteers as an animal care assistant. "It's hard to change the image." But, he's hopeful people are changing their minds about Minneapolis Animal Care and Control (MACC).

"We've changed a lot in the last 10 or so years," pointed out Madison Weissenborn, the MACC volunteer and community partnership coordinator. "We're focusing on the community and keeping people and pets together. Whatever they need, we're trying to help with that."



I am a dog walker, cat cuddler, and animal care assistant."

Lyle James

Weissenborn acknowledges that in the past, shelters hid things – or at least, people thought they did. So, MACC works to be transparent and posts all its data on the city's online dashboard. "With that transparency, we hope people trust us more," she said.

Many don't realize it, but Minneapolis animal control is a No Kill Shelter. That means that 90% of the animals that



Lyle James takes Honey, a two-year-old bulldog, out into the run next to the Minneapolis Animal Care and Control building at 212 17th Ave. N. James can't have pets at his condo and he volunteers several days a week at the shelter. He is also a carrier for TMC Publications CO. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

NOT THE POUND >> 5

A MIDLIFE TRANSITION

Kim Jakus leaving Longfellow Business Association, entering the trades

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

At 42, Kim Jakus is switching career fields and is leaving the Longfellow Business Association (LBA) at the end of December 2022.

"I don't consider it to be a mid-life crisis, but it is a midlife transition," remarked Jakus.

She has been with the LBA since July 2018, and is paid for about 10 hours a week. She has also worked part-time for the neighboring Seward Civic and Commerce Organization (SCCO). It was the perfect part-time job while she was a stay-at-home mom to Walter and through the shifts caused by pandemic school closures and last year's teacher strike in Minneapolis. She has loved working with the local business community.

But after working with a life coach, she realized that she didn't relish the computer and administrative work so much and really appreciated the sense of getting something accomplished at the end of the day.

She plans to enroll in the free, five-month electrician training at Summit Academy OIC this winter.

"You get to work with your whole body. You have a variety of tasks. Your tasks have a beginning and an end," explained Jakus.

Contracted for only 8-10 hours a week at the LBA has been tough as there was always more work that could be done – especially through the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest that enveloped Longfellow.

"I love the people," said Jakus, adding that it has been a hard decision. She is drawn to relationship work, and has really enjoyed walking into businesses, asking what they need, and figuring out how to help them.

"Longfellow is a very special neighborhood. Residents are really loyal and there is a strong neighborhood identity. They take pride in supporting their neighborhood businesses, which we really saw after the civil unrest," she said.



Kim Jakus

Asking: 'What does a person need?'

City's Homeless Response Team asks unsheltered people what kind of help they want

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Where can businesses turn to when homeless individuals pitch a tent in their parking lots, they're finding trash and syringes, or someone is sleeping on their steps?

Two members of the Minneapolis Homeless Response Team (HRT) shared information about what they do during the Longfellow Business Association lunch at the Legacy Building on Wednesday, Dec.

7, 2022.

When HRT staff respond to a call, the first thing they do is an assessment. They ask who is there, how many people are there, and what their situation is. "One of the main things is to build relationships," said Jose Acuña. They recognize that for the individual who is homeless, when they step near their shelter it is like stepping into their house.

"Every situation is different," observed Acuña.

The Minneapolis HRT is not a direct service provider, but instead work revolves around connecting unsheltered individuals to the services and resources provided by Hennepin County and community partners.



Jose Acuna (front) and Bobby Morrow talk about the city's Homeless Response Team. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

"We get a lot of calls – hey, we need more housing. But the reality is that there is not a one-size-fits-all," stated Bobby Morrow.

WHAT DOES A PERSON NEED? >> 3



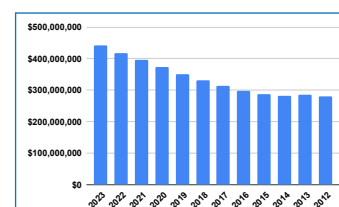
They're working to integrate Minneapolis Public Schools

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HEALTH & WELLNESS
End of year is a fine time to reflect on gifts of present

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City budget:
2023 property tax levy rising 6.5%

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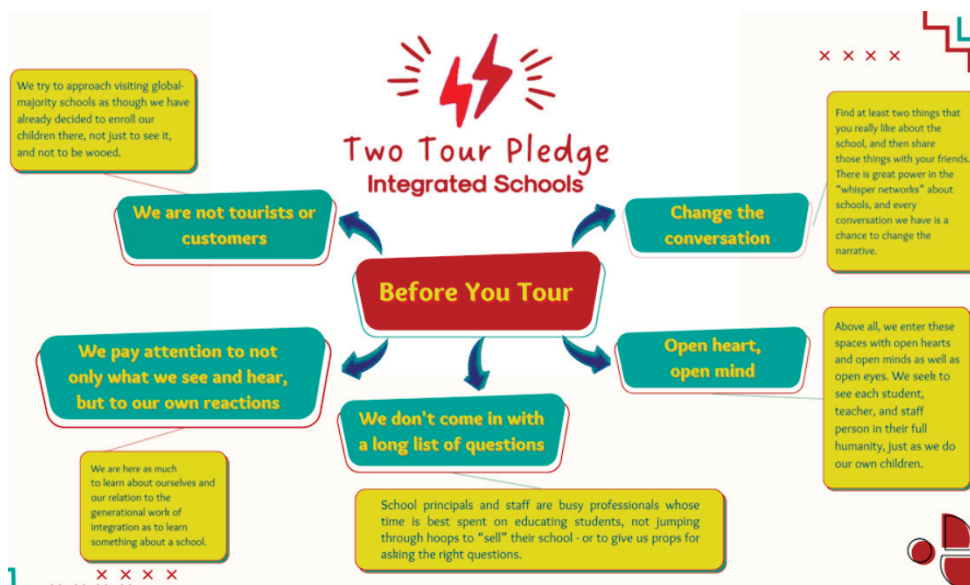
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GUEST COLUMN

BY CHARMAGNE CAMPBELL-PATTON, BRIDGET
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All around the country, caregivers and their children are entering school choice season. Here in Minneapolis, the deadline to request a school is Feb. 7. Whether it be a preschool, elementary, middle or high school, the decision can feel overwhelming. In a society that places great value on choice, we can feel pulled to try to find the "best school," and to make sure we've explored every last option for making a decision. Family, neighbors and friends are quick to give us their opinions on what school will be "best."

But what role do our values play in that decision? In a city that is deeply segregated due to a history of racial covenants and redlining, where the opportunity gap between White students and students of color is one of the worst in the nation, we need to be intentional about how we engage in our educational system.

School choice is a great place to start.

Integrated Schools (<https://integratedschools.org/>) is growing a grassroots movement of, by and for parents who are intentionally, joyfully and humbly enrolling their children in integrating schools. A national organization with an active Minneapolis chapter, we are working to encourage caregivers with race or class privilege to re-think the dominant narratives around school choice. One way to do this is for caregivers to take the "two tour

pledge," committing to tour at least two global majority schools where the student population is majority Black, Brown or Indigenous and / or receive educational benefits (free or reduced price meals). This pledge also calls us to show up to these schools with an open heart and open mind, not as consumers expecting to be wooed. *The image above provides additional ideas for how to show up on these tours.*

So, what does this mean in our highly segregated city? In Minneapolis, only 37% of students are White and 57% receive educational benefits. Yet few of our schools reflect these percentages. One of the district's primary strategies for integrating our schools has been to focus on magnets. The district currently has eight elementary magnet schools, two middle school magnets, two PK-8 magnet schools, one city-wide high school and a district-wide K-12 online school.

To learn more about the school choices available in Minneapolis, visit explor-empis.org.

We ask that caregivers carefully consider what values you are bringing to the school choice process, and to tour at least two global majority schools with respect for the students, parents and educators in those buildings.

If you'd like to explore how to center integration in your school choice process, we invite you to join us for an information session and conversation about school choice on Jan. 8 from 8-9:30 p.m. on Zoom. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ISMplsJan23>.

If you'd like to get more involved in the local Integrated Schools Chapter or have questions, please email us at integratedschoolsminneapolis@gmail.com.

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MIDLIFE TRANSITION

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As a business organization, the LBA brings businesses together for networking opportunities including lunches and trainings. They don't always have something tangible to give businesses, but after the civil unrest the LBA distributed \$65,000 in grants for businesses that had been damaged.

When she looks back at her years with the LBA, Jakus is also proud of how they supported businesses through the dual challenges of the pandemic and civil unrest.

In partnership with the Longfellow Community Council, they've also offered a business security matching grant program. Businesses may get up to \$2,500 when they spend the same amount for security lighting, security cameras, alarm systems, window film/polycarbonate window coverings, security shutters and blinds, and doors and locks. This program is still available and taking applications.

"I think every little bit helps," she said.

Jakus led many marketing efforts over the last 4.5 years at the LBA, including coupon pages that were printed in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and the every-other-year business directory distributed with the Messenger. She feels really great about last summer's BOGO program that 16 local restaurants participated in. In addition to the Messenger ad, each business promoted it on their social media channels and at the business. The LBA itself made \$1,100. (See image below, right)

"It was so nice to hear from folks who loved it," said Jakus. "One resident emailed me and said, 'It was the highlight of our summer.' That I felt really proud of."

"Kim has really worked hard for the Longfellow neighborhood. It is a loss to us," stated LBA Board member Cathy Heying of The Lift Garage.

PIVOTING TO DIFFERENT WORK

Jakus has accumulated a few degrees (first from Kalamazoo College in Michigan and then the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota), and done work in many areas. She has worked at the Wedge, traveled to Nepal, and looked into starting a canning business. She was employed by the Longfellow Community Council while in graduate school from 2007-2010. There was never one career that she thought she would work in and stay forever.

That was part of the reason why she decided it didn't make sense to pay for childcare when her son was born. She opted to stay home and work part-time.

She appreciated the flexibility of the work at LBA and called it "such a gift," while also finding it "crazy making" sometimes. She never felt like the work was done.

In contrast, when she worked at the 40-acre Loon Organics farm in Hutchinson, she felt like she had something tangible to show for her effort at the end of the day. She could also leave the work at the end of the day and focus on her family.

"There's nothing like getting your hands dirty to feel like you've accomplished something," said Jakus. "It's very rewarding."

Jakus weighed whether to do a five-year apprenticeship program or the five-month training course, and decided that the shorter program would be a good test to see if she really likes the work or not.

"If I'm totally off-base, I'll pivot," she said.

Her husband, Matt Horn, also switched career fields recently, earning his third degree from Bethel University and stepping into a physicians assistant role about two years ago.



Kim Jakus with husband Matt Horn and son Walter. (Photo submitted)

CHANGES FOR THE LBA

Jakus has been considering a job change for awhile, and has decided to leave LBA as the organization itself transitions.

Following several strategic planning sessions, led by Amy Arcand of Willow Consulting, the board began considering how its role has changed in the last 25 years, what it does well, and what it wants to do.

Twenty-five years ago, businesses needed an organization that served as a go-between them and the city. The city is more accessible now, according to Jakus. Membership dues won't support more than a few hours of staffing time, and people aren't joining organizations and paying dues like they used to. Board members asked themselves how they stay relevant while remaining financially stable.

They investigated combining roles and resources with the Longfellow Community Council and Redesign. They have decided to move forward with a shared, full-time employee that will do work for the LBA, SCCO, and Redesign, as all three have staff openings. The staff member will be based out of the Redesign office on Franklin Ave., but the three organizations will still operate independently and maintain their non-profit statuses. The intent is to cut down on any redundancies and increase capacity.

"I think it's the right step for the organization," said Jakus.

The LBA will be updating its bylaws, which was last done in 1998, and are creating job descriptions for board members. The board plans to change how often it meets with the intent of more easily recruiting new members. Instead of one-hour monthly meetings, the full LBA board plans to switch to quarterly, two-hour-long meetings. The executive committee will meet each month with the staff member. New board members will be voted in at the annual meeting this spring, which will be the first held since COVID-19 interrupted things.

The new position will be posted soon. In the meantime, Jakus will assist with the annual LBA membership drive, and board member Denis Woulfe (who works as a sales representative for the Messenger) will respond to calls and email.

"I think everyone agrees that Kim has been an incredible asset to the LBA and will be sorely missed. She's been a great connector of people, programs, and community assets. I've joked about this given the nature of her career aspirations, but it's completely accurate to say that I know Kim will bring a lot of energy to her next line of work just as she did with her work at the LBA," said Woulfe.

"I think the LBA is at an important crossroads right now. Because of its hard work and its history in Longfellow over the years, it has earned a seat at the table as Minneapolis grapples with challenging decisions moving forward as the community continues to rebuild. The LBA, working with community partners, will be part of that process."

"We're doing great stuff in the neighborhood," said Cathy Heying during the LBA holiday luncheon on Dec. 8, 2022. "I'm proud of the great stuff we're doing. I want to thank you for creating a neighborhood where I love working and living."



Tesha M. Christensen (left) and Denis Woulfe of the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger check in attendees at the Dec. 8 LBA luncheon at the Legacy Building as the LBA returns to in person events after a hiatus during the pandemic. Woulfe has been on the LBA board since 2019.

WHAT DOES A PERSON NEED?

>> from 1

Some people need an ID. Others are dealing with barriers that may include chemical dependency and mental health issues. They might need specific assistance that is culturally relevant.

HRT staff ask if the unsheltered person would like help finding a shelter, and will facilitate that if desired. Some don't know how to live inside.

"So many people are being burned by systems and they don't trust," said Acuña. "We understand that." While Acuña and Morrow made a point of acknowledging that they often were not welcomed by inhabitants at homeless encampments, they worked hard to earn peoples trust as folks realized that they could offer them valuable supplies to keep them warm and nourished.

HRT staff are with regulatory services, but don't have the authority to shut down encampments, stressed Morrow. They collaborate with public works regarding safety concerns and whether a private or public property is involved. If an encampment is to be closed, they work with the residents beforehand, said Morrow.

Occasionally, there is an immediate closure, such as what happened recently under a bridge near the river by the University of Minnesota because of a fire.

As the weather gets colder, the use of propane heaters in tents is becoming more of a problem as they can cause fires.

Most of the unsheltered people in the city are individuals, and there are not many families with children.

311 CALLS

According to Acuña, much of their work is centered around educating the community. "A lot of times people just want the homeless individuals off their property," he said. They work to explain the nuances of their work, and their focus on providing services. They do a lot of welfare checks.

Once, they checked in on a tent, and learned that all of the occupant's stuff had been stolen. Even their shoes. So, they were having trouble getting out and around.

HRT accepts donations and brings supplies such as gloves and hats.

"We have a lot of people with mental illnesses," pointed out Acuña.

If they respond to a 311 call that a homeless individual is scaring away customers from a business, HRT staff might encourage the person to move along from the space.

Lately, they are receiving more calls about individuals staying in cars and RVs, as well as abandoned houses. "Unfortunately, a lot of people are in need of something," said Acuña. "This is what we are trying to figure out. What does a person need?"

The HRT used to be under the city's department of health but is now part of regulatory services. Morrow and Acuña are among the three homeless response coordinators and there is one manager.

To reach HRT staff, email mplshomeless@mpls.mn.gov.

Unique Program Idea Punches Up Local Engagement & Revenue

When a Minneapolis business association partnered with their local newspaper to promote a new punch card rewards program, the results drove advertising, community engagement, and local restaurant revenue.



CREATE: In May 2022, Kim Jakus of the Longfellow Business Association set to work creating a local dining program that sold punch cards entitling card holders to BOGO offers at participating local restaurants. She contacted Longfellow Nokomis Messenger owner and editor Tesha M. Christensen to begin promoting the program with newspaper advertising. In designing the program promotion, Christensen contacted Metro Creative Graphics, Inc. with a request to make an existing image geared toward restaurant and wine advertisers inclusive for coffee shops and breweries as well. Christensen used the new image to brand the program with an eye-catching "Eat Local This Summer" ad design.

SELL: Jakus personally reached out to all of the food and drink establishments in the area to recruit program participants. Businesses were charged \$100 to participate, which they could earn back by selling the \$10 punch cards to customers. Jakus used Christensen's design to promote the program via email newsletters, flyers and social media, encouraging participating businesses to do the same.

PROFIT: The program generated a \$1,100 profit for the business association after expenses, but it also benefited local businesses and fostered community connections. Jakus says businesses were glad they participated, adding, "I got feedback from folks in the neighborhood who said they really enjoyed using the punch cards and it was the highlight of their summer."

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RETURN TO SENDER

STORIES
AND JOURNEYS

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN



One day as I am writing a draft of this column, I become aware that the U.S. mail has arrived at my house. I bring in the mail. An envelope jumps out at me with the words RETURN TO SENDER. Sad! Those words are encircled with red. For a brief moment the color red reminds of my Root Chakra, the source of earth energy. The words appear to be written in blue underlined with two lines.

The envelope is addressed to Everspring Health, the clinic in the Lowry Hill neighborhood of Uptown where I used to be a client. The sender is me. The RETURN TO SENDER printing I recognize as being that of a staff member I once trusted implicitly down to the core of my being. And then one day that trust was betrayed. Boundaries can sometimes betray us and be misunderstood. Failures

to communicate.

I open the stamped envelope and pull out a check made out by me to Everspring Health for Giving Tuesday Donation. I had put in a note stating my donation intention along with the check. I tear up the check. I put it in the trash along with the note. For some reason I save the envelope with the words RETURN TO SENDER. I attach it to my computer desk drawer.

I get a new envelope, and write a new check. I make it out to TMC Publications as part of the Messenger voluntary pay program. The Connector will happen later. I put the check in the envelope. I put a stamp on the envelope. I set it aside to go out with the next mail pick up. I doubt that this envelope will get returned to me with the words RETURN TO SENDER. So, dear reader, if you can consider making a voluntary payment to the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger or the Southwest Connector for any amount you can afford, do it! If you can't do it, that's OK. You'll still get the paper.

IMAGINARY CELEBRATION

Stories and Journeys is one year old. I'm 78 now. I am celebrating with imaginary streamers and balloons. I will make some tea. I will light one candle.

If you have read this far, you are joining me in this celebration. And you are tak-

ing the plunge along with me into the river (flow) of life experiences which is Stories and Journeys. Will you continue to join me as I write about what I am thinking, learning and experiencing in my life as an elder? Tell me, tell others or tell me at news@longfellownokomisemessenger.com.

IMAGINARY BUSINESS CARD

I have been thinking about dropping in at Minute Man Press in Uptown. Their ads say that they print everything. I want to find out if they can print my imaginary business card. While I am there I might ask them if they can print my imaginary t-shirt. On it would be the words, "I'm a writer. Anything you say or do might end up in a story." The card would include the following three things that I am trying to be as an elder:

- 1) Stories and Journeys Columnist
- 2) Holistic Health (Spirituality and Healing) Practitioner
- 3) Proclaimer and Celebrator of Being Real

This last one comes from my copy of "The Velveteen Rabbit." I inherited this book from my mother. It's a bit tattered and torn having followed me around for decades. In case you have forgotten or never knew here are some of the words from page 17:

"You become. It takes a long time.

That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all. Because once you are real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

Oh yes! To be real means to be understood and not refused like an envelope with the words RETURN TO SENDER.

OWNING UP TO A PREVIOUS LIFE

I rarely write or talk about my previous life as a seminary student (1967 to 1971) and ordained pastor (1968 to 1971). I once did to that Everspring Health clinic staff person who I trusted implicitly down to the core of my being. More than once I likely preached on the topic of unconditional love from the divine source of all life. Reminds me of my Crown Chakra, the color purple. The divine source of love within each of us that will never refuse us like an envelope with the words RETURN TO SENDER. Love that makes us real and not ugly.

In gratitude. Stay tuned.

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

LETTERS

RESIDENT SHARES IDEAS
FOR 38TH AND CHICAGO

I'm part Dakota. We're Irish-Creole mix.

I'd like to start out with changes from 38th and Chicago in a positive manner. The first program is called Adopt a Cop, in which we would have the City of Minneapolis donate a statue of George Floyd with his hand over his heart and his hand extended out to 38th St. as an apology and recognition of the problems that we've had with the police department and the residents here in Minneapolis.

Adopt a Cop is where we take the new recruits in the police department and we separate them from the old police officers into the community, and they become community officers serving the public. As far as the old officers, we're going to start another program called Cuffs for Cops, where whenever they break their oath, they break a law. And whenever they break a law, they break their oath, they get double the penalty because they set the examples

and the mood for the rest of the city.

The third part of this program is going to be called Purple Pride on 38th St. This brings in love, peace. It honors up Prince, it honors up the Vikings, it honors up anything that has to do with the color purple. We would decorate all of 38th St. from the river to the cemetery. Each community would gather together, they would paint the telephone poles purple, we'd stain the concrete purple.

We need to rehumanize our community, as one. And in doing so we're going to honor up this Dakota land. We're going to bring love and peace back to this community. We'll change CUP Foods into a food coop. We'll take Speedway and we'll change that into a Civil Rights Center. If we were to add a youth center, a teen center, in the building, we can protect our children and educate our children in civil rights.

Bobby Hull, Little Baby Tree

MONEY CAN BUY THE RIGHT TO SPEECH

I enjoyed Donald Hammen's last article in the Messenger. To me, yes, money is speech in many circumstances, but not all. What most prominent-

ly comes to mind is Twitter. In many ways, this platform is open to everyone but not all. Me, I choose not to waste my time with the nonsense some people write on this platform. What I know, however, is that if your name is Elon Musk, money, \$44 billion to be exact, will in fact give you the right to speech. It has allowed Mr. Musk the ability to pretty much control the banter on this site and who can participate. He can probably cut anyone off if he wants and he can promote others, like say, our 45th President if he wants, all for the modest price of \$44 billion. Most cable, supposed, news sources have the same advantage whether it be FOX, MSNBC or CNN.

So you see, money has very loud speech. Probably way more than any of us care to hear. This is just my take.

**Thank you,
Cheryl Hunstock
Cooper**

WARD ELEVEN ALLIED VOICES FOR EQUITY INVITE
YOU TO FEB. 8 MEETING

On Dec. 13, Ward Eleven Allied Voices for Equity (WEAVE) attended the Ward 11 Public Safety Meeting hosted

by Council Member Emily Koski. As has happened in past meetings, CM Koski centered the perspective of law enforcement. We know that our community needs a larger conversation to address the roots of harm and violence in our city, communities, neighborhoods, and homes.

That's why we handed out a letter inviting our neighbors to a meeting on Feb. 8, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Pearl Park Rec Center to allow community members to have a deeper conversation about what community safety and community care can look like. Please plan to join us!

**Rebecca Donley
Hale**

THANKS FOR EXPANDING INTO STANDISH

Not only do I individually appreciate the expansion of delivery into Standish, I think it'll help the neighborhood during our evolving neighborhood group.

**Thanks,
Vince Tuss
Standish**



"Perhaps you've seen my bright blue F150 around the Nokomis neighborhood with "Gardening Garden Design," my name and phone number emblazoned on it. Well, that's one way I advertise my business, but I can't be everywhere all the time, so besides the Longfellow Messenger I also rely on the Southwest Connector for a wider reach my other clients. When the Southwest Journal went out of business I didn't know what I was going to do, but TMC Publications and the Connector really stepped up to the plate. The folks in their ad department came up with a fantastic ad graphic that stretches horizontally across the middle of the paper and is quite striking – So much so that I've already signed up for my 2023 advertising contract." ~ Margi MacMurdo-Reading, Gardening Angel

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News for you!

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

Story ideas always welcome.

Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be e-mailed to news@longfellownokomisemessenger.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

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The Messenger is for profit and for a purpose – and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible soci-

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.



NOT THE POUND >> from 1

come in are re-homed versus euthanized. This high percentage is hard for a city-run shelter to achieve, pointed out Weissenborn, because they can't pick and choose which animals they take. When there is a dangerous, sick or injured animal in the city, it comes to them. "We are an open intake shelter," she explained.

They get in animals that have never lived in a house before, or never been fed two meals a day. These animals require more care and training to get them to be adoptable. Weissenborn has observed that it takes dogs a few days to feel that the shelter is a safe place for them where they will be fed and cared for. "Cats are more sensitive in general, and it might be longer," Weissenborn stated.

In addition to regular meals, exercise for the dogs and cuddle times for the cats, there are also enrichment activities. These are designed to use the animal's natural skills, such as smelling, hunting, foraging, and playing, according to Weissenborn. There are sensory things like bubbles and smells; and cognitive things like puzzle feeders. Plus there are training times. "Behaviorally, it really helps them," said Weissenborn, who previously worked as a primate zookeeper for eight years and lives in the Mac-Groveland neighborhood of St. Paul. These activities stop an animal from focusing only on when the next meal is or the next walk. "We keep them busy all the time."

DOGS AND CATS AND MORE

Roughly the same amount of dogs and cats come into animal control, and account for about 80% of the animals cared for. Another 6% are birds. They see a lot of chickens, and some reptiles, pigs, goats and venomous snakes. Not all of these stay long at the shelter, but they go to one of the 50 partner agencies that MACC works with, such as Chicken Run Rescue and the Minnesota Herpetological Society. When Connie came in, they could tell she was part wolf, and a visit from the International Wolf Center and a blood test confirmed it. She was transported to a sanctuary in California that had an opening.

In 2021, MACC saw 4,000 animals come in through their doors. They anticipate that number being higher this year. "Everyone is busier this year," said Weissenborn. "I don't know if it's related to the economy or COVID-19." Their services are up across all categories. "Vet clinics are swamped. We're getting in kittens because people can't afford to spay their animals. They fell on hard times."

While it is true that the biggest bucket of animals that come to Minneapolis Animal Control are strays, not all are. In the past four years, 43% of the animals that come in are strays and 17% are wild. Another 26% are surrendered. For two percent, humane euthanasia is requested.

There are many reasons why pets come in. Sometimes a cat was left behind in an apartment when the owner moved out. Other times, someone left a dog with



Madison Weissenborn holds three-month-old Llasa prior to a free adoption day event on Dec. 9, 2022 meant to clear out the shelter before Christmas. Weissenborn is the volunteer and community partnership coordinator at Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Madison Weissenborn (left) and Lyle James hold up small and large frisbees smeared with peanut butter that are used as treats and enrichment.



The shelter houses a variety of animals and staff never quite know what will come in – such as birds, chickens, goats and this one-year-old Hamster.

GET TO KNOW MINNEAPOLIS ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

WHAT DOES MACC DO?

- Adopt out companion pets to owners
- Educate owners on proper animal care
- Enforce laws pertaining to animal welfare
- Investigate animal crimes
- Offer low-cost vaccination clinics
- Provide no-cost kenneling to victims of domestic violence

ADOPTION DETAILS

- Any animal over 7 months old is free of charge
- Dogs and cats under 7 months range in cost from \$50 to \$100 for Minneapolis residents; fees are higher for those who live outside the city
- Occasional pet adoption days are held where all pets are free

LOW COST CARE

Minneapolis residents can get low-cost vaccines (rabies and distemper) and microchips for \$10 each.



St. Paul resident and shelter volunteer Caroline Serrano takes one-year-old Aimee, a Chinese Sharpei and Vizsla mix, on a walk.



We take some of the pressure off owning an animal until they get on their feet."

Madison Weissenborn

a friend and never came back for it. If an owner gets arrested, the police call animal control to look after the pet.

MACC provides free kenneling for victims of domestic violence so they can stay in a shelter without the fear that their animals may be left behind in a dangerous environment. They also help owners who are homeless, and those with substance use or mental health disorders who are unable to care for their pets while in treatment.

"We take some of the pressure off owning an animal until they get on their feet," said Weissenborn.

MACC is in the pilot stage of a foster program with the Animal Safety Net. The program is small right now as they work to expand their foster base. To become a foster, apply online.

DOG WALKER, CAT CUDDLER

James is a Marcy-Holmes resident who lives near the University of Minnesota. He lives in a condo and can't have pets, so he started volunteering at MACC in October 2012. This year, he has donated 1,424 hours to the shelter. In all, he's spent 10,600 hours there in the last decade.

cade.

"I am a dog walker, cat cuddler, and animal care assistant. Animal Care Assistants help clean cat cages, provide food and water, wash dishes, help with the laundry, remove trash from the receptacles, restock toys in the outside bins, and help with enrichment toys," he observed.

James is one of the carriers who delivers the Southwest Connector, Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor newspapers owned by the small, woman-run TMC Publications CO, as well as the Northeast that was recently purchased by Vince Brown.

He is among about 150 people who volunteer 700 hours at month at MACC, and they're always looking for more to take on two-hour shifts. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

James is particularly attached to the pit bulls and staffies that come in, in part because they are often mistreated and many consider them to be scary and dangerous. He doesn't, and believes it comes down to how they are treated and trained.

"I like being with the dogs. I really like the walking aspect of it," said James.

He didn't really like cats before he

started volunteering at MACC. "For years, I thought [the cats at the shelter] would be dangerous, but they're not. It turns out preconceived notions don't work out for anybody. I missed out on a lot of time with the cats because of that."

BLUE WENT BACK TO HIS OWNER

The most important day James experienced at MACC occurred in November.

He wrote in a Facebook post: "We really have something to be grateful for this Thanksgiving here at the shelter. Blue has been staying with us for quite some time now as his person deals with substance abuse problems. Our volunteer manager Madison was able to have a professional designate Blue as an emotional support animal, which allows him to live with his person in a sober home. Our friends at the North Minneapolis Pet Resource Center raised \$1,100 to help Blue's person pay for a security deposit and rent. Thanks also go out to our fosters that gave Blue a home away from home, and our donors who kept our buddy happy with treats and toys."

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UNDER
THE HOOD

BY SUSAN SCHAEFER



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

HYGGE

Certainly, the long, cold, dark Minnesota winters can spark a melancholia for some. Yet frigid temperatures and spare daytime hours can also create the mood to hibernate, as other creatures of nature do. One way to take advantage of wintertime is to retreat inside to our snug spaces.

The Danish concept of hygge refers to finding comfort, pleasure, and warmth in simple, soothing things such as a cozy atmosphere or the feeling of friends. It is a time to gather around the hearth to spend more intimate time with loved ones but also an opportunity to make time to nurture ourselves. As a writer, I revel in the fact that northern wintertime brings more hours for reading. Books, magazines and newspapers pile up around my reading nook.

GETTING SOME INK ON OUR FINGERS

In fact, the Twin Cities are a haven for local print news, boasting four dailies, two weeklies, two college, 11 specialty, and over 15 local/neighborhood/community newspapers/newsletters. Your local news heralds – the Messenger, Monitor and Connector are the Harry, Ron and Hermione of the pack – a dynamic trio bringing news and a bit of magic to each community served. From Midway, Como and Frogtown on the St. Paul side of the river to Longfellow, Nokomis, Southwest and many neighborhoods in between, the print editions have proven to be much anticipated by our readership.

I'm grateful to be a part of these independent papers assembled by our hard-working publisher, Tesha M. Christensen, who like Dumbledore, holds the entirety of TMC Publications' "Hogwarts School" together. She's assembled an equally hard-working team under her leadership who are grateful to the readers and advertisers for helping to keep local news alive and well.

Along the same lines, the metro is a major hub for literary arts, blessed with

Under the Hood columnist, Susan Schaefer, shares her spectacular view of the Mississippi River. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

GIFTS OF SEASON GIVE REASON TO REFLECT

While it's customary to make resolutions at this time of year, it's also a fine time to reflect on the gifts of the present



The soaring Bob Dylan mural attracts international visitors to downtown Minneapolis. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

a vital print publishing industry. Our literary forest is populated with numerous book branches, so to speak.

One such publisher, founded in 1859, is Minnesota Historical Press with three imprints, Minnesota Historical Society Press, Borealis Books and MNHS Express, and sister publication, Minnesota History Magazine, which each abound with stories about local culture, history, Native American and Scandinavian Studies, and more.

Another, approaching its 100th anniversary, is the University of Minnesota Press, a venerable pillar of the state's publishing industry. Topping the list of other local presses are Graywolf Press and

Milkweed Editions, both lionesses in our publishing den. These organizations put wind under the wings of our copious crop of homegrown writers and authors, many of whom grace national and international booklists, as well.

Our area is rich in resources for readers and writers. According to a recent Christian Science Monitor survey, Minneapolis comes in fourth, behind Seattle, San Francisco, and Cincinnati, based on sheer number of bookstores. From the unique Open Book building that hosts a trifecta of literary gems – the Loft Literary Center, a haven for readers and writers, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, and

Milkweed Bookstore – to dozens of other booksellers dotted throughout TMC's readership areas like the Red Balloon, Midway Used & Rare Books, Next Chapter, Magers & Quinn, Birchbark, Wild Rumpus and newcomer, Comma, to name a few. These literary temples often provide meeting space for community gatherings and host live author readings, fostering an array of cultural activities, serving as much more than solely brick and mortar structures.

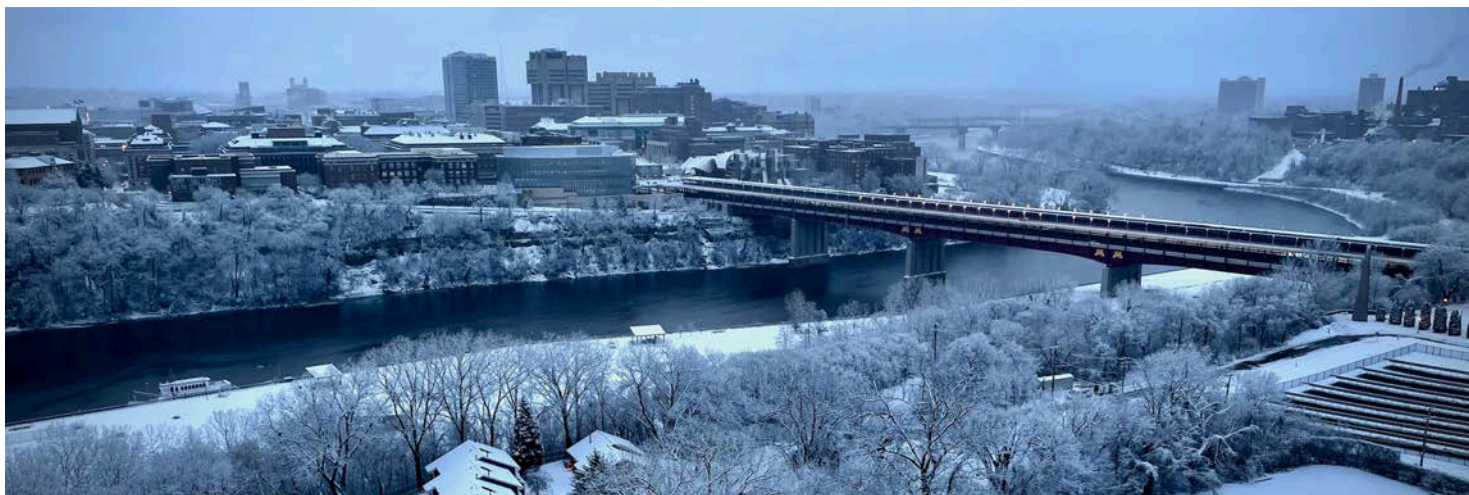
So, when cold winds blow and we do have snow, there are many choices to curl up with a favorite beverage and get some ink on our fingers.

OR GO FORTH INTO NATURE

Strange as it seems, I am also grateful to live in an area that experiences such robust and true seasons. Over the past year, my column has described how to embrace all that the metro area and beyond have to offer throughout the year. My January column took readers on a self-guided outdoor winter art tour available for free on the East and West Banks of the University of Minnesota, providing both exercise and culture.

Speaking of art and culture, our area features a dazzling array of free outdoor art, from the amazing Prince and Bob Dylan murals in downtown Minneapolis to Mears, Kellogg Mall Park and Western Sculpture Parks in St. Paul. Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall our communities burst with seasonal art crawls, and almost every night of the week our galleries and museums have exhibitions that are free and open to the public.

GIFTS OF SEASON >> 7



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Victoria Ford, proprietor of the new Comma Bookshop in Linden Hills, consults with a customer. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)



TMC's Tessa M. Christensen, publisher, (at right) and sales representative Suzie Marty, join the Harriet Brassiere crew at a team gathering in September.

GIFTS OF SEASONS >> from 6

We are blessed with an urban environment nestled in nature. A recent survey by The Trust for Public Land ranked St. Paul second, for the second year in a row, and Minneapolis fifth as the best park systems in the United States. The Minneapolis Chain of Lakes – Cedar Lake, Lake of Isles, Bde Maka Ska, Harriet and St. Paul's Como, Phalen, White Bear and Carver Lakes are minutes from all urban hubs, allowing for wintertime skiing and skating or warm weather kayaking, sailing, swimming, biking, running and walking.

The World Health Organization reports that green areas are essential for ecosystems and the mental health of urban denizens. The Trust for Public Land also named Minneapolis America's Best City for Parkland and Green Spaces, citing that "Minneapolis reserves 14.9% of city area for parkland and the 95% of residents live within a ten-minute walk of a park!"

I am eternally grateful to live atop Bohemian Bluffs, directly overlooking the majestic Mississippi River that runs right through Minneapolis and St. Paul. Our nationally protected 72-mile waterway exists entirely within our urban areas! I surely have one of the best views in the world,

overlooking the University of Minnesota's West and East Banks, with Frank Gehry's fanciful Weisman Museum directly outside my window. This location means I can walk or bike along the ribbons of pedestrian only trails that seem to run forever.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

U.S. News and World Report has again ranked the Twin Cities together in the top 30 of its list of best places to live. Our plentiful parks, lakes and rivers, trails and green spaces, affordability (I know hard to believe with current inflation, but it is worse elsewhere), clean air, robust job market, excellent infrastructure and higher education systems, and cultural richness define our area as one of abundance.

At this time of year, I take the time to acknowledge such priceless riches. I wish you and yours light in the darkness and gratitude in your heart.

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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This recipe was submitted by StrongHeart Farms, and is courtesy of Travis Taylor, Rainshadow's Farm to Table Chef (California).

1 BUNCH CARROT TOPS

2-3 CLOVES GARLIC

1/4 CUP LEMON JUICE

1 CUP PARMESAN

1 CUP OLIVE OIL

SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE

Fill a pan full with water and set on the stove. Turn on burner and let water come to a boil. Fill a bowl with ice water and set aside. Separate carrot greens from carrots. Pick out any yellowed greens and compost. Once the water has reached a boil, blanch the carrot tops in boiling water for 30 seconds. After 30 secs, remove the tops from the hot water and set into ice water. Once cooled, wring out the greens with a towel. Once dry, roughly chop the carrot greens. Add carrot tops, garlic, lemon juice, parmesan, and olive oil into the blender or food processor. Blend until smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste.

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- Raised Planter Beds
- Community Garden for Residents & Longfellow Neighbors

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Financing for this project was provided by the Metropolitan Council Metropolitan Livable Communities Fund, the City of Minneapolis, and the Hennepin County Affordable Housing Incentive Fund and Environmental Response Fund.



RESOLUTIONS AND REVOLUTIONS

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BY ANDREA TRITSCHLER,
communications
andrea@longfellow.org



The start of a new year always feels filled with so much promise. Our futures feel expansive and possible. And while so much of our focus shifts to ourselves in the new year, making goals and changes that address our needs or our neglected focuses in the previous year, I want us to advocate for resolutions and revolutions. I want to focus on collective goals that ad-

dress the needs of the people and create change on a community level.

I'm hoping that LCC's plans this year will work to make things better for our community. Last year was a learning year. We learned so much from each other and from the residents and business owners in Greater Longfellow. Our neighbors' input have become our resolutions, shaping what we want to focus on in 2023.

Expanded events programming and opportunities to get to know neighbors was a high priority for many residents. We already have several events planned for this year that we hope will be fun, but also will give our neighborhood a chance to heal, create, and imagine together. Thanks to a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, we are planning a free, family-friendly arts event with workshops,

artist vendors, and live music this spring. Our community has experienced trauma over the last several years from a global pandemic to the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent uprisings, the marks of which our community still bears. We hope to provide a space for connection and healing that is long overdue.

LCC wants to address this healing from a multi-angled approach. Trauma won't be healed by one event, we know this, but we hope that by providing space and resources to address it and supplying mutual aid support and care to all our neighbors is integral to aiding our collective and individual journeys. We can't heal until our needs are met. Our health equity event planned for summer will provide health resources to our community, including resources for our unhoused neighbors. We hope to provide free hair cuts, health screenings, movement-based activities and more. Community care needs to

have a holistic focus.

Holistic care isn't only how we tend to each other, but how we care for our surroundings. Greater Longfellow has the benefit of proximity to an abundance of natural beauty like the Mississippi River Gorge and Minnehaha Falls. Longfellow Community Council was awarded a Green Partners Grant from Hennepin County. We've been working with Better Futures, Black Table Arts and Urban Bird Collective to make and design benches for our parks to facilitate more accessible park space and focus on environmental opportunities for BIPOC community members, which will get underway this spring.

It is going to be a busy year for LCC. This is only a snapshot of what we will be working on throughout 2023, but I wanted to share a couple of things I am excited about. If you have any feedback or want to get involved in any of these projects, send me an email.

WHAT IS NOKOMIS NATURESCAPE?

NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY SARAH FRIEDMAN
communications manager
sarah.friedman@nokomiseast.org



The Nokomis Naturescape (NN) is beautiful, but I never knew its importance until today.

Vicki Bonk, a self-described "persistent volunteer," began working with a habitat concept for Lake Nokomis in 1995. She began by proposing a butterfly garden. The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board grew the idea to a 4-acre native plant habitat, planted in 1998. These indigenous plants create several natural ecological services. They are essential in feeding and sheltering beneficial wildlife, and their deep roots filter storm water running into the lake.

Today there are three major connected components: Nokomis Naturescape, the Monarch Mile, and the Gateway Garden. The three gardens have been largely maintained by volunteer gardeners. The Nokomis Naturescape is the lakeside plantings, where people can enjoy its liveliness through the seasons. Butterflies, bees, birds, and more, busily move from flower-to-flower to enjoy. The Monarch Mile began in 2017, and has a number of boulevard gardens inviting monarchs and more. The Gateway Garden is a flourishing sunlit prairie garden nourished by neighborhood volunteers. These gardens connect community and habitat and are the beginning of a habitat corridor along 50th Street.

The annual Minneapolis Monarch Festival began in 2009 to raise awareness of the monarch butterflies' plight and how we can help by growing habitat, as seen at the Nokomis Naturescape, in our own yards. Also, celebrated is the Minnesota-to-Mexico monarch connection and of us all coming together to make a difference.

The goal was to inspire residents to plant habitat. The beloved Monarch Butterfly was chosen as an ambassador. Monarch populations are declining, largely due to habitat loss and the loss of their host plant, milkweed. Vicki reminded me that monarchs are a 'flagship species.' She knew what she was talking about when she told me, "If you do something for the monarch, you do something for a lot of creatures." She listed several insects and birds who need local plants to survive Minnesota's harsh winter.

She explained to me that one reason why we need to take such care of the area is because Lake Nokomis is not a natural lake. Lake Nokomis was a marsh that was dredged in 1917 to become the beautiful lake we have today. Currently, the lake has a lot of algae growth. This is due to an overload of nutrients going into the lake, feeding the algae. The algae growth could "kill the lake," meaning that it could kill the fish and beneficial plants, thus ruining the ecosystem. Much of this nutrient overload is due to what people do in their yards. Native plantings surrounding the lake, residential, and commercial areas will help protect the lake best. "If you help the environment, you can help everybody," Vicki says as she explains how the lake is one of the geographic features of Nokomis that gives us a "sense of place."

Nokomis Naturescape is an exam-



Monarch butterflies are a flagship species, and their populations are declining in a large part due to loss of milkweed. The Nokomis Naturescape, Monarch Mile, and Gateway Garden help provide habitat in the Nokomis neighborhood. (Photo courtesy of Vicki Bonk)

ple of how beautiful a native garden can be. She and NN volunteers hold annual events to show residents the importance of these gardens. "Yard by yard, we can make a world of difference" is her motto. She explained to me that many native plant seeds need to overwinter to germinate in the spring. I was intrigued, but didn't know where to start. Fortunately, she - alongside NN gardeners and Wild One's

Twin Cities - are teaching at a Winter Sowing Workshop (visit WildOnesTwinCities.org). This is a good way to get a head start on your spring habitat garden planting plus a fun project for kids - big and little! "Life on earth can't happen without this base of plant communities worldwide and we're losing it - so let's plant native now," said Vicki.

If you would like to volunteer at the Nokomis Naturescape, please email Vicki at: vbbonk@usiwireless.com

OPEN BOARD SEATS

NENA is a community-based non-profit organization serving four unique, welcoming neighborhoods with over 14,700 residents and dozens of businesses in the southeast corner of Minneapolis. NENA is dedicated to bettering the quality of life and building a sense of community pride by sponsoring actions that help our environment, businesses, and homes.

We look for Board of Directors members who are energetic, strategically-minded leaders to help NENA and our neighborhoods thrive. Currently, there are two vacant seats for the Minnehaha and Keewaydin neighborhoods. Candidates are encouraged to apply by Jan. 19, and will be selected in the board meeting on Jan. 26. Please email nena@nokomiseast.org with any questions.

UPCOMING:

1/5/2023: NENA Housing|Development Committee, 6:30-8 p.m. (online)
1/10/2023: NENA Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (online)
1/12/2023: NENA Fundraising Events Team, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (online)
1/16/2023: NENA Environmental Committee, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (online)
1/19/23: Last day to apply to the NENA Board if you live in Keewaydin or Minnehaha.

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WHEN LOCAL NEWS FAILS...

“The consequences may not be obvious, but they are insidious.”

— Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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2023 property tax levy rising 6.5%

Few people complain about rising taxes at hearings; most ask for focus on racial and transgender equity, lighting, ID program

By CAM GORDON

Taxes are projected to go up in Minneapolis in 2023, and the areas with the largest increases will be Wards 1, 4, 5, 8, and 11, with slightly lower increases in 9 and 12.

After three hearings and the consideration of over 30 amendments, the city council unanimously approved a 2023 city budget on Dec 6. The \$1.66 billion budget includes a 6.5% property tax levy increase that will result in a median valued home's property taxes going up \$167 next year. The actual amount will vary greatly depending on a specific property's value.

During the hearings, however, few people complained about taxes going up. Most called for more funding for community needs like affordable housing, street lighting, neighborhood association funding, sidewalk snow clearing, public safety alternatives to police, opioid epidemic response, immigrant support and addressing climate change. Several speakers asked for more staff in various divisions such as racial and transgender equity, sustainability, 911, the legislative work of the council, the office of performance and innovation, and for the behavioral crisis response teams.

MUNICIPAL ID PROGRAM

Silvia Martinez, with Centro De Trabajadores Unidos En La Lucha (CTUL), urged the council members to "fund the Minneapolis Municipal ID program passed in 2018 to make IDs available to all city residents regardless of immigration status this year." In 2018, Frey recommended spending \$200,000, but the program was never implemented.

Julia Johnson called on the council to help "safely house every one of our unhoused. Fully fund the office of violence prevention and the behavior response teams." She also called for funding for youth and gun control, counseling, as well as support for community-led alternatives to policing and comprehensive plans to address the climate crisis. "Fund our communities," said Johnson. "Frey's budget gives pennies to address the crises we face."

BETTER LIGHTING AT U

The issue that had the most comments (written and spoken), with more than 30, was support for better lighting near the U of M campus, and especially in Dinkytown. More than 20 people asked for more support for neighborhood organizations and close to 30 called for a city sidewalk snow clearance program.

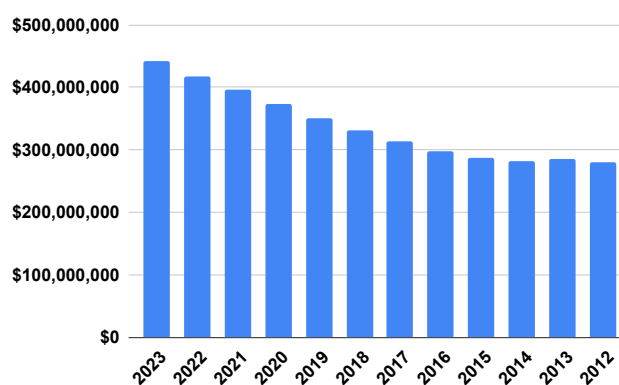
The Lake Street Council provided testimony outlining how the city could better support the recovery and revitalization of Lake Street. "Our neighborhood commercial and retail corridors have not fully recovered from the multiple impacts of a two-year pandemic, a sudden recession, a tragic racial reckoning that reverberated across the globe, extensive property destruction due to the Civil Unrest of 2020, a diminished customer base, and ongoing negative public perceptions about public safety," they wrote in a letter they submitted along with their testimony. They asked for over \$20 million to support the corridor with marketing, public realm maintenance, municipal sidewalk snow clearance, increased assistance for small business owners, façade improvements, grants to owners of restaurants that were shut out of the federal program, a new safety center, and pilot ambassador program similar to downtown's.

POLICE BUDGET WHITTLED DOWN

Amendments to the budget included moving over \$1 million from the police department's proposed budget of \$195 million to fund several of the concerns raised during the hearings. This included amendments by Ward 9 Council Member Chavez that moved \$25,000 from the police department to support the creation of a Lake Street safety center effort and another \$25,000 to support auto-theft prevention.

Ward 12 Council Member Johnson successfully moved (on a 7-6 vote) \$353,000 from the police department to fund three staff in the Performance Management and Innovation Department. Ward 10 Council Member Aisha Chughtai was successful in her amendment to move \$150,000 from the police department to the office of immigration and refugee affairs to expand immigration-related services. Ward 11 Council Member Emily Koski, chair of the budget committee, authored a successful amendment to move funds from the police department to add a public safety auditor to the city auditor's office. Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley successfully amended the budget to move \$185,000 from the police de-

MINNEAPOLIS PROPERTY TAX LEVY 2012-2023



partment to the city attorney's office. Ward 13 Council Member Palmisano successfully moved an amendment that reduced the budget for the police department by \$30,000 in order to add \$30,000 to the civil rights department's budget to fund the proposed Community Commission on Police Oversight.

Chughtai also authored an amendment that was approved to dedicate \$150,000 for the traffic calming program in order to complete additional neighborhood traffic calming projects.

NO NEIGHBORHOOD WILL GET LESS THAN \$20,000

Other notable amendments that were approved included Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman's amendment to increase funding for neighborhood organizations so that no neighborhood organization will receive less than \$20,000 between the base funding and equitable engagement funding in 2023. "I was proud to see my amendment which increased funding for 27 neighborhoods that were under \$20,000 from all city sources to a minimum funding of \$20,000 pass," said Goodman. "I wish it could have been more. Neighborhoods and the thousands of hours residents provide as volunteers are a real value to the city."

Palmisano moved a successful legislative directive that calls for a report in June of next year on neighborhood organization funding with recommendations for "potential future improvements to the Neighborhood Network Fund (base funding) in an effort to maintain a full network of neighborhood and community organizations that support residents across the city."

Palmisano also authored a series of amendments to implement the new government "Executive Mayor-Legislative Council."

A motion by Ward 1 Council Member Eliot Payne passed with unanimous support to move \$152,000 from the public works department and increased the budget for our Race Equity Inclusion &

Belonging department. This funding will pay for a new position dedicated to supporting equity work related to sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity.

The final budget also included Wonsley's amendment to send the Minneapolis Public Housing authority (MPHA) an additional \$1.2 million to be the final funding needed to install fire suppression systems in all 42 MPHA high rises.

UNSUCCESSFUL AMENDMENTS

Some proposed amendments were not successful. The council voted 6 to 7 against an amendment by Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley to reduce the budget for police department's PEACE pathways program, that plans to recruit potential officers in high schools, by \$200,000 to explore the establishment of a victims' services program.

The council majority also voted down an amendment brought forward by Wonsley to allocate \$200,000 of the Public Works Department's existing budget for to pilot a sidewalk snow and ice removal program.

Chughtai's amendment to reallocate \$200,000 to implement the city's approved but stalled municipal identification program, failed on a 6-7 vote. "My motion sought to pick up the work started in 2019 with the same \$200,000 allocation, which was stopped as a result of concerns by city leaders about the protection of individuals' data due to the State's Data Practices laws," she wrote after the meeting. "Over the last year, I've worked closely with a coalition of community organizations led by the Minnesota Immigrants Rights Action Committee on this issue. They've led dozens of community engagement events and gathered nearly 1,000 petition signatures in support of this work."

A labor standards amendment by Payne also failed to pass that would have added \$186,000 the civil rights department to enforce labor standard laws like wage theft, the minimum wage and fair scheduling also failed to pass. However, a directive brought forward by Koski was passed asking for staff to assess options for ongoing funding for labor standards co-enforcement.

The budget also includes \$9 million for streetlights with targeted investments in the University Area, Loring Park, and Stevens Square neighborhoods.

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TIDBITS

CITY BUYS PEOPLES' WAY

On Dec. 8, 2022, the city council approved the purchase of 3744 Chicago Ave. S., the former Speedway now known as the Peoples' Way at George Floyd Square. The cost to the city is \$200,000 plus \$15,000 for building security, according to the city's fiscal note, and would be drawn from existing funds. The seller, Realty Income, donated the \$420,000 difference between the purchase price and the property's fair market value. Future additional costs to manage and activate the site are estimated at \$650,000 and \$900,000. Funding for these later phases is not yet appropriated.

NEW ARTWORK COMING TO G CONCOURSE

Internationally renowned artist Kipp Kobayashi has been selected to design and install a centerpiece artwork within the new two-story G Concourse Rotunda at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP), the 16th busiest North American airport by

passengers. The yet-to-be designed artwork will be installed in the recently expanded east-end of the G concourse in Terminal 1. The Los Angeles-based Kobayashi was selected from MSP's public artist roster. He will begin a community engagement process to inform his design process in early 2023. The ultimate design will be finalized by mid-2023, with installation set for late 2023 or early 2024.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR NEW SENATOR

State Senator-elect Zaynab Mohamed (DFL - Minneapolis) was appointed to the Senate Finance committee, a panel traditionally reserved only for senior members of the Senate. "The Finance Committee plays a critical role in shaping Minnesota's budget," said Senator-elect Mohamed. The Finance Committee has broad jurisdiction over all bills appropriating money, meaning the incoming Senator will play a key role in shaping decisions about allocating the state budget surplus. Senator-elect Mohamed was also appointed as Vice Chair of the Jobs & Economic Development Committee and will serve on the Housing and Capital Investment Committees.

CITY BRIEFS

2023 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

So far, for the 2023 elections it looks like at least three of the 13 Minneapolis city council seats will be contested, and two of those are in south Minneapolis. Ward 6 has three candidates who have announced far. They are Jamal Osman (incumbent), Kayseh Magan and Tiger Worku. In Ward 12, Aurin Chowdhury, Jerome Evans, and Luther Ranheim have announced they are running for the seat now held by Andrew Johnson, who is not seeking reelection.

ANNUAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING

The city council has approved using \$15,880,000 of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) to support 10 affordable housing projects. This includes four projects located in the greater Longfellow-Nokomis area. One, located at 901 Cedar Ave in Seward, will receive \$2.9 million to construct a 137-unit apartment building including 35 three-bedroom units. The Agra, also in Seward on Franklin and 27th, will receive \$1.27 million (in addition to the \$3.2 million it received last year) to help construct a 155-unit building of affordable rental apartments on the old Perkins site. Little Earth, in East Phillips was awarded \$1.5 million to rehabilitate 212 units, and Snelling Yards Family Housing in Hiawatha was awarded \$1.07 million (in addition to \$1 million last year) to help construct a 90-unit building with 13 units reserved for homeless veterans.

GRANTS TO CREATIVE BUSINESSES

Minneapolis' office of arts, culture and the creative economy has awarded 26 enterprises money to assist in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This will include cash assistance, training, and planning. Those receiving funding in the greater Longfellow area and U of M areas include the Curiosity Studio, a community art therapy studio, and Sharp Design LLC

both located at 3607 East Lake St.; Fireweed Community Woodshop in Prospect Park at 14 27th Ave. SE; Foci Minnesota Center for Glass Arts in Seward at 2213 Snelling Ave.; The Somali Museum of Minnesota at 1516 East Lake St.; Twin Cities Media Alliance at 2525 E. Franklin Ave.; Danceco at 2801 32nd Ave. S.; and the Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts at 2742 15th Ave. S.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND EQUITY

The city is seeking comments on a racial equity framework for transportation planning in the city. The framework identifies racial equity strategies to be implemented through 2030. In 2020, the city council declared racism a public health emergency and outlined goals related to reversing past racist policies and practices. Now, city transportation planners hope to incorporate this in planning, designing, and maintaining transportation projects as a part of building an antiracist culture in the city. The draft was discussed on Dec. 6, at a meeting at the Midtown Global Market, and additional comments will be taken through Jan. 20 via the website at <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/publicworks/tpp/racial-equity-framework/>

MIDORI'S FLOATING WORLD CAFÉ

This relocated and recently reopened popular café at 3425 E. Lake St. can now serve beer and wine. They were approved for a wine and beer liquor license in December by the city council.

CIP COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The council appointed Kellie Rose Jones from Ward 6, Regina Burstein from Ward 8, Will Woodworth from Ward 10, Devin Driscoll from Ward 11, as well as Christie Roach and Lindsey Miller, both from Ward 12, to this influential committee that reviews and recommends major infrastructure, road and building projects for city funding. They were all appointed for two-year terms ending Dec. 31, 2024.

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

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Summer in the City

JUNE due May 15, pub May 25
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Summer in the City
Paws & Claws

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Summer in the City

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Summer in the City
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