



A sweet
journey
» 5



Longfellow's own creative haven

Operated by hip-hop duo iLLism, The Legacy Building focuses on community and excellence

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The Longfellow music scene has expanded with the opening of The Legacy Building at 46th and Minnehaha, a block away from the Minnehaha Recording Company.

It's the kind of space that Sarah (aka Fancy) and Emmanuel (aka Envy) Duncan wish they would have had when they were young.

"Growing up I wish I would have had a space like this to come to," said Fancy. "It would have been such a great avenue to me to have with the things I was struggling with and dealing with in my younger years."

"We pride ourselves on having an open space like this where we can welcome anyone who wants to be here."

The Duncans are the hip-hop duo iLLism, a team known for its cross-genre production, catchy songs, tight harmonies, and inspiring lyricism. The couple resides in Longfellow. In 2020, their touring came to a halt due to COVID-19 and they had time to reflect.

They realized "the time is now to offer and share what we know with our community but also to continue to put emphasis on our own art, as well," remarked Fancy.

The Legacy Building was born from their mutual desire to nurture creativity and cultivate excellence.



It's about community. It's about cultivating creativity. Excellence derives from that."

Sarah Duncan
aka Fancy



Fancy and Envy (Sarah and Emmanuel Duncan) put their do-it-yourself skills to work at The Legacy Building, the area's newest art center at Minnehaha and 46th. "The time is now to offer and share what we know with our community but also to continue to put our emphasis on our own art, as well," said Fancy. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

CONNECTING OVER MUSIC

Sarah Lanier and Emmanuel Duncan met during an ice breaker at an AT&T call center where they were both working. When Envy mentioned that he did music, Fancy knew she wanted to learn more about his work. At the time, she wasn't doing any artistically and thought she could live vicariously through his efforts. She had become a mom at 17, and was focused on her job.

They became "lunchtime buddies," connecting over music. Fancy introduced him to music she had heard, and he'd sample what he was working on.

"Getting into the car and listening to

music is still a big part of our relationship," remarked Fancy.

Envy was part of a hip-hop duo at the time, and he headed off to Atlanta, one of the meccas for hip hop. But before he went, Fancy wrote him a love letter and gave him a mix CD.

"I had established some deeper feelings and they kind of erupted," said Fancy.

He read the letter and called her – and they stayed on the phone for most of his 18-hour drive to Atlanta. Their conversation changed from its friendly focus on music and fun into deep dives about each other's inner lives.

He traveled back and forth be-

tween Atlanta and Minneapolis for a few months, and then was about to start a new job. It was supposed to be his final trip back to Minnesota. Fancy asked him, "When are you going to be my man?"

He was back in Minnesota within a month. This time to stay.

"From there the relationship grew and blossomed," said Fancy. Plus, she was inspired to get back into making music herself.

They wed two years later on Aug. 29, 2009.

"We just got lucky," stated Envy.

"We're very blessed," agreed Fancy.

CREATIVE HAVEN » 6

24 STRATEGIES, 64 ACTIONS

City considers groundbreaking racial equity framework to guide transportation planning

By CAM GORDON

The city council is set to vote early this year on a groundbreaking racial equity framework that could guide city transportation planning and investment decisions for years to come.

The draft Racial Equity Framework for Transportation (REF) plan was released with a presentation to the council on Dec. 1, followed by a virtual open house on Jan. 11 and a public comment period that ends Jan. 20.

The framework is intended to help improve racial equity outcomes in the city

24 STRATEGIES » 3

ENCHANTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI

Book born from time spent in the Mississippi Gorge

By JAN WILLMS

The research for Thomas Becknell's recent book, "Enchantments of the Mississippi," began years before he actually wrote the book. "At the outset, I must have read at least a hundred Mississippi River narratives," said Becknell, who taught literature and writing in St. Paul for 35 years.

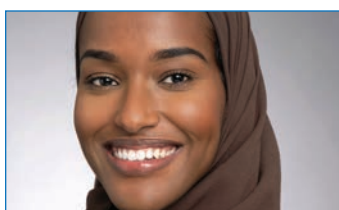
"It has been fascinating to read the accounts of so many different ways people have encountered the Mississippi River – paddling, rafting or just being near the river, and writing about their experience. So many different stories," he said.

These stories of numerous historic figures and their connection to the river, as well as those lesser known individuals he meets on his travels, set Becknell's book apart. He also takes the reader with him on his exploration of the Mississippi, and provides a sense of place and an understanding of his fascination with the river.



THOMAS BECKNELL

ENCHANTED » 2



Senator Zaynab Mohamed
urges support for Drivers
Licenses for All bill

PAGE 4



The Messenger is carrying
on a tradition, one
doorstep at a time

PAGE 4



Ron Buhta is retired –
but busier than ever before
at Every Third Saturday

PAGE 8

ENCHANTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI

>> From 1

"All the time I spent on the river and along the river – exploring, observing, listening, and paying attention – was as much a part of research as time in the archives," Becknell continued. "When I actually began the process of writing, turning my notes into narrative was a real pleasure, and time seemed to stop. Writing 'Enchantments' was a great joy, and I hope that comes through in the writing."

Becknell said he did not initially set out to write a book, but once the river fully caught him, he had to write about it. "It's kind of like falling in love – not so much a decision as an enchantment," he claimed.

Becknell said he likes to set foot on the spaces he writes about, if it is possible. "The contemporary Kiowa author N. Scott Momaday said that everyone should, at least once in their life, give themselves up to a particular landscape, look at it from as many angles as possible, wonder about it, imagine being there at various times and seasons," he stated. "I began doing just that with the Mississippi River Gorge, near the Longfellow community, and continued the habit with other parts of the upper Mississippi – its many confluences, its bluffs, bottomlands, and bends in the river. It had the feel of a great pilgrimage."

According to Becknell, he approached the river with a holy sense of terror. "It's such an enormous and powerful body of water, representing many different things for different peoples. In this book, I tried to capture – not only through my own experiences, but also through the many stories I encountered – the river's enormous mystery and multiple associations."

One story Becknell tells in his book

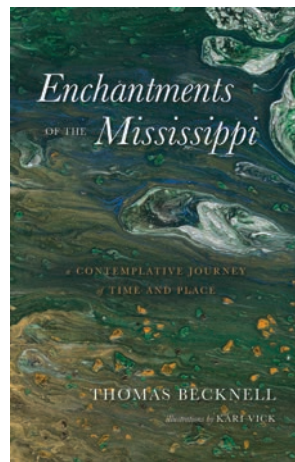
is about his meeting with Jerome. It is in a chapter about unexpected meetings and transformations. Becknell recalled that each of the river's many confluences changes the river, and that his encounter with Jerome changed him.

"I had been looking for a solitary experience at that particular confluence with the Wisconsin River, and instead, there was Jerome at sundown offering me a beer and conversation. His unique perspective on the river was one of many small transformations I experienced on my journey," Becknell said.

On his journey, he also connected with Jim Bear Jacobs, a Mohican and Christian pastor who works for cultural healing and reconciliation through Healing Minnesota Stories. "His stories of the Dakota experience are transforming," Becknell said, "but his encouragement to all his participants is to 'Tell your own stories. You are stories wrapped in bodies.'"

Becknell also recalled the Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi, who gave a TED talk some years ago on the danger of a single story. Becknell said Adichi related that stories are who we are, how we know ourselves and each other. "She said there is a grave danger for all people in having only one story, and in refusing to hear the stories of others."

In his book, Becknell has made sure to include the perspectives of all who are in some way enchanted by the Mississippi. "Long before Europeans arrived on this continent, Indigenous peoples were drawn to the great river, building cities like Cahokia (near present-day St. Louis), constructing effigies and mounds all along its banks and bluff tops, and trading at its many confluences, like Bdote," he said. "Unfortunately so much of what the river meant to them is lost to time. What the European immigrants called the falls of St. Anthony were known to the Dakota as Owamniyanni, and the Ojibwe as Kababikah, and both nations



Thomas Becknell takes the reader with him on his exploration of the Mississippi, and provides a sense of place and an understanding of his fascination with the river. "I'd like to think I've told a story of falling in love with the currents of time, the beauty of life, and the consolation of the spirit," he said.



held them sacred."

Becknell said he would like his readers to take from the book a sense of enchantment, of being spellbound, of connection with the world one inhabits and with a presence much larger than oneself.

"I like to think I've told a story of falling in love with the currents of time, the beauty of life and the consolation of the spirit."



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SUMMER CAMPS

How to help kids make friends

The family and parenting resource Parenting Science notes that research indicates that the most popular children are those who exemplify certain traits. These traits include being caring; a willingness to share; a willingness to offer help; and strong verbal skills.

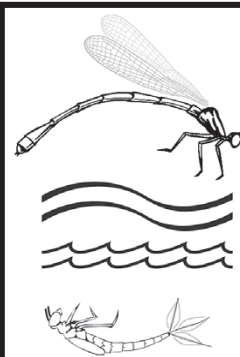
1) Encourage kids to seek out someone on their own. It may be challenging to walk up to a group and introduce yourself. Encourage students to seek out someone who is alone and then strike up a conversation, which can be less intimidating than approaching a group.

2) Practice conversation starters at home. Children can work with their parents to come up with topics that can help foster communication. These can include ice breakers and common interests, such as favorite television shows or video games.

3) Ask open questions. The social networking advisement site Young Scot suggests having students ask open questions, such as: "How was your summer?" or "What sports do you like to play?" These types of questions can kick-start in-depth conversations.

4) Help children be active listeners. An active listener is someone who makes it clear that he or she is paying attention. Making eye contact, orienting the body toward the speaker and making relevant verbal responses are some active listening strategies that can help kids more fully engage with their peers. Feeling valued and listened to may encourage other children to be more friendly and engaging.

5) Join a team, get involved in a club, or sign up for a summer camp. Kids often make friends in social or extracurricular settings, such as on a sports team. With a shared interest, it's easy to find topics to discuss.



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25 STRATEGIES >> from 1

by making wiser investments in transportation and “uplifting voices historically excluded from the decision-making processes,” said the press release announcing the draft’s release.

“This is furthering an entire body of policy and works hand in hand with all the pieces,” said Kathleen Mayell, a city transportation planning manager who has been leading the effort. “There are other cities who are working on this, like Seattle, Denver and Oakland,” said Mayell, “but we are cutting new ground for sure.”

The framework was called for in the Transportation Action Plan that was approved in 2020 and builds on policies approved by past councils, including the city’s Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan, the Minneapolis 2040 comprehensive plan, and the 20-Year Street Funding Plan from 2016.

“I am really excited about the Racial Equity Framework for Transportation,” said Ward 8 council member and council president Andrea Jenkins. “As the chair of the Racial Equity Sub-committee and lead author of the ordinance declaring racism a public health crisis, I am thrilled that the framework acknowledges and addresses past harms. It looks at inequities in housing, economic development, environmental impacts and public safety. It’s a comprehensive framework, developed with key community stakeholders, with measurable outcomes and systems in place for residents to track its progress.”

City staff partnered with the Cultural Wellness Center to create a community equity workgroup to help develop the framework.

A PAST OF EXCLUSION

Mayell identified three parts of the 84-page report that she considers the most important for people to be aware of: the historical context, a new way to identify priority areas, and a set of strategies and actions.

First, the framework acknowledges and demonstrates that the transportation system and past government decisions “underserved, excluded, harmed and overburdened some communities, namely Black and Indigenous communities, other communities of color, and people with disabilities,” and that “past decisions have denied these communities the full participation of transportation benefits, which has led to disproportionate burdens.”

The framework lays out how past policies and decisions have negatively impacted the people of Minneapolis. These include practices such as the use of racial covenants in deeds to prevent Black, Indigenous and other people of color from owning homes and redlining that resulted in segregated neighborhoods and stigmatized areas with high populations of immigrants. It shows how the location and construction of interstate highways through the city displaced thousands of residents and destroyed neighborhoods. It reports that “formerly redlined areas make up 17% of Minneapolis land but include 48% of the total miles of freeway,” that



I think the two things I am most proud of are the strategies and actions because they pave the way for action and for the dashboard that brings to life the history.”

Kathleen Mayell

“interstate construction in the Twin Cities displaced an estimated 30,000 people from neighborhoods that were home to 80% of the region’s Black population.” Formerly “redlined areas in Minneapolis are over 10 degrees hotter than non-redlined areas.”

‘TRANSPORTATION EQUITY PRIORITY (TEP)’

Second, the framework presents a refined way that the city can, and potentially will, prioritize areas based on a set of key variables that go beyond only looking at population, ethnicity and wealth measures.

A new formula is proposed to identify “transportation equity priority (TEP)” areas using measures of race and income, along with data about vehicle availability, commute times and land temperature. According to the framework, this TEP score is “a tool to identify geographic-based equity priority areas that can be used to help shape investments, infrastructure, operations, maintenance or other transportation work and decisions citywide.” According to Mayell, following the framework’s approval by the council, “The 20-year street funding plan will be updated in the near term, and this new formula will be used there.” Thirdly, the plan outlines a set of 24 strategies and 64 actions to drive the work of the department over the next several years. They are based on four goals that are intended to guide the work of department staff. The goals are to build organizational empathy; to lead with a racial equity approach; to build trust, cultivate partnerships and share power with communities of color; and, to hold ourselves accountable to data-driven reporting and adjustments.

“The strategies and actions are the building blocks,” said Mayell.

A sampling of “actions” reveals some of the potential changes to city processes

and programs that could be coming:

- Hire and maintain staff at all levels of the organization to better reflect the communities we serve.
- Disseminate information internally on racial inequities related to transportation to build shared understanding.
- Support the inclusion of anti-displacement work when major investments occur led by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Hennepin County and/or and Metro Transit.
- Continue to develop new and support existing ways of increasing access to the Shared Bike and Scooter Program and the Evie Carshare Program for low-income individuals.
- Use the REF to analyze, and adjust if warranted, procedures and policies related to street operations and maintenance.
- Establish streamlined process guide for hiring neighborhood and community organizations for small contracts.
- Report on metrics developed in the framework every two years.

“I think the two things I am most proud of are the strategies and actions because they pave the way for action and for the dashboard that brings to life the history,” said Mayell.

VIEW WEB-BASED DASHBOARD

The web-based transportation equity dashboard shares the history and impacts of past decisions and presents information from the framework in a way that lets people explore the data related to transportation, organized by census tract, and includes an interactive map of the transportation equity priority areas.

Find the dashboard and complete framework at <https://www2.minneapolis.gov/government/departments/public-works/tpp/racial-equity-framework/>.

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~ Emily, Minneapolis

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CARRYING ON A TRADITION, ONE DOORSTEP AT A TIME

VIEW FROM THE MESSENGER

BY DENIS WOULFE,
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LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com



It was the summer before my junior year at Hamline University in 1977. I had already been named the editor of the Hamline Oracle, Hamline's student newspaper, for my junior year, and I decided that I wanted to take a class at the University of Minnesota that summer before the rigors of my year as editor began. After reviewing a number of course descriptions at the University of Minnesota, I decided to enroll in an introductory class in Humanities taught by Richard Leppert.

The class was a delight, and I have since learned that Richard Leppert later became a Regents Professor Emeritus at the U of M. Humanities was a subject not offered at Hamline and I found it to be fascinating. Leppert was an excellent teacher and I found myself, once again, to be that student that was continually raising his hand and asking questions during class. I had worried, coming from a smaller private college, whether being on the U of M campus would be intimidating, not to mention the much larger classes, but somehow after a few days went by I was so thoroughly engaged in the subject matter

that the foreignness of the setting seemed to fade away.

We read "The Social Contract" by Rousseau and "The Sorrows of Young Werther" by Goethe, and much more. I absolutely loved my short stint as a U of M student. I didn't spend a lot of time on campus after my class was over, having to get to my job as a waiter at the White Bear Yacht Club in White Bear Lake immediately following, but while I was on campus twice a week, I always managed to find a copy of the Minnesota Daily to take home with me to read.

As a student journalist, I always admired the big stories that the Daily tackled and followed the Daily closely, picking up copies in later years when I was on the campus for dental work at the U of M Dental School. I knew that some of the talented journalists at the U of M later started the Twin Cities Reader and other area newspapers. And I also marveled at the Daily's ability to churn out a newspaper each day. At Hamline, while I was editor, we were scheduled to produce 27 issues during the course of the school year and one special edition during the January interim. But a daily paper produced by college students? It seemed like an impressive feat.

While it's been some time since I have been on the U of M campus, I was saddened to learn recently that the Daily published its last issue in March of 2020. While initially the publication of the Daily

was suspended during the pandemic as classes went virtual, intending to restart publication once in-person classes resumed, recently the staff at the Daily decided not to resume regular print publication, as reported in the Star Tribune.

While the Daily has pivoted to its online presence exclusively, and reportedly is enjoying an upward trend in terms of the growth of its digital audience, it is sad to note the passing of one of the U of M's legacies. When I was editor of the Monitor years back, I remember one community activist recounting how when she and her husband were considering the Midway as a place to live, they were debating the merits of the neighborhood and decided that the presence of a newspaper like the Monitor was a definite plus. Like many readers, they were one of the readers outside the official boundaries who just happened to pick up copies of the Monitor when they visited the Midway, just like when I visited the U of M campus. In both cases, that serendipitous readership doesn't occur with an online subscription. For that you have to sign up and don't just bump into a print copy in a coffee shop. A loss, I would say, for the reader, the community, and the institutions the media outlet represents.

While our industry has changed over the years, and reading habits alike, there is some comfort to know that our readers at TMC Publications are still finding the Messenger, the Monitor, and the South-

west Connector at their doorsteps each month. While other media outlets have moved to only bulk drop deliveries or to digital only, TMC Publications still believes that our readers want a real newspaper that they can touch and feel each month. And they appreciate having one that is dropped at their front door. They want to know what's happening in their neighborhoods, what their neighborhood organizations are working on, and how their neighborhood officials are representing them. They want what's Relevant, Local and Trustworthy.

Bottom line is that we know from the Circulation Verification Council that our readers are reading us and using our newspapers to make purchasing decisions, get engaged with their communities, and help them make decisions on who to elect to represent them and how to live better lives. That's what community newspapers do best. And we plan to continue doing it.

Denis Woulfe has been working with community newspapers of one sort or another since he became editor of the Zephyr Lines, his high school newspaper, back in 1974, and he still considers the work that they do as important in building community. When he's not assisting his clients at TMC Publications with their marketing campaigns, you can probably find him on the tennis court somewhere as he is a captain for Senior Tennis Players Club of Minnesota. You can reach him at Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Restore freedom to drive, pass Driver's Licenses for All

GUEST COLUMN

BY ZAYNAB MOHAMED,
Senator, District 63



Nearly 100,000 of our fellow Minnesotans aren't allowed to drive. Not because they aren't old enough, or they have a suspended license, or they pose a danger to themselves or other drivers. Instead, they aren't allowed to drive for one simple reason: they're undocumented.

It wasn't always like this. For decades,

anyone who could prove Minnesota residence and pass a driver's exam was allowed to obtain a driver's license.

In 2003, that all changed. Amid a wave of fear and distrust toward immigrants following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, former Governor Tim Pawlenty unilaterally stripped away the freedom to drive from tens of thousands of our friends and neighbors who are undocumented. The effects have been devastating for undocumented Minnesotans, who risk deportation and forcible family separation if they choose to get behind the wheel.

Since that fateful day in 2003, immigrants have been fighting for a bill that would reverse course: Driver's Licenses for

All. I am proud to be the chief author of this legislation in the Minnesota Senate.

This bill is quite simple. First, it restores the ability of all Minnesota residents – regardless of citizenship or immigration status – to obtain a Class D driver's license as long as they pass the driver's test and get insurance. Second, it provides data protections for undocumented Minnesotans. Third, it ensures that a future governor can never again unilaterally and undemocratically take away driver's licenses from our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

This bill is common sense. It makes our roads safer. In states that have a similar policy in place, the rate of hit-and-runs decreased between 7 and 10 percent.

Furthermore, states like Utah and New Mexico have both seen significant drops in uninsured rates after adopting driver's licenses for all.

In Minnesota – particularly in greater Minneapolis where there is little to no public transportation – we need to be able to drive safely and without fear. To get to school, to get to work, and to get to places of worship. To live lives of dignity.

It's an honor to carry the legacy of this 20-year movement for the freedom to drive, a movement that started when I was only five years old, as the southside's Senator. I am determined to make sure that this proposal is signed into law by Governor Walz this year.

Senator Zaynab Mohamed represents district 63 (south Minneapolis and a portion of southwest Minneapolis) in the Minnesota Senate.



"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 Nokomis 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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Story ideas always welcome.

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

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SHARING THE FINER THINGS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A JOYFUL AND DEEPLY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I SEE EYES LIGHT UP AS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES SAMPLE AND DISCOVER MY CHOCOLATE NOTES AND NUANCES. FOR ME THE WORLD OF FINE FOOD IS ABOUT DISCOVERY," SAID MARY LEONARD OF CHOCOLAT CELESTE.

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

A SWEET JOURNEY

The Twin Cities' beloved chocolatier Mary Leonard of Chocolat Céleste didn't take a day off work when she was being treated for breast cancer. Not even when she was dealing with severe radiation burns.

It was her busy holiday season, after all.

On Christmas Day 2019, her sister called her twice. The second time, Kate told her why she had called. She had just been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Breast cancer had always been on Leonard's radar. Her grandfather died from breast cancer in the 1930s, and an aunt also battled it. Leonard started having regular mammograms in her 30s.

After hearing the news from her sister, who is two years older, Leonard called to make an appointment. They tried to put her off, she recalled, and she asked when their next opening was. It was the next morning. That first appointment on Thursday showed lumps in both breasts. When they suggested a second appointment two weeks later, Leonard again asked when their next opening was. She went the next morning, and then again on Monday. The diagnosis was stage one breast cancer, ductal carcinoma. Her sister had both ductal and lobular, and opted for a double mastectomy and reconstruction.

Leonard's path involved a lumpectomy – which she scheduled for right after the Valentine's Day rush. Because of the physicality of her job, she didn't get a mastectomy.

She learned she carried the BRCA2 gene, which is fueled by estrogen. Chemotherapy started the second week of March 2020 at Methodist Hospital's Frauenthuh Cancer Center. She went every Thursday for the infusion and had a full head of hair through Aug. 1. Then she switched to a medication known as "The Red Devil." She had lost all her hair by Sept. 1.

"I was very lucky because I was not sick at all after chemo," stated Leonard.

"Radiation was different. I still came to work everyday, but I had pretty severe burns. I'm pretty fair skinned. That was pretty intense."

It was Christmas by that time. "You can't miss Christmas," she said.

Throughout the uncertain months, Leonard found joy in making fine chocolates and sharing them with others. "Fine chocolate actually affects the brain chemistry, changing your dopamine and serotonin levels," said Leonard, which affects



Twin Cities chocolatier Mary Leonard of Chocolat Céleste adds a layer to truffles at her Midway facility. Leonard battled breast cancer in 2020, but didn't miss a day of work. She had chocolates to create, after all. Each chocolate is hand made with fresh whipping cream, small batch butter and the finest fair trade cocoas. The company that she started at age 46 was named after her beloved Bichon Frise. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

your sense of well-being. "Chocolate can have a calming effect."

She fashioned a box of chocolates for the Firefly Sisterhood, an organization that gave her support during her journey through cancer. Each piece of chocolate featured the group's signature firefly. Twenty percent of every Firefly Sisterhood Collection purchase supported the organization's mission: to ensure that women in the community do not face breast cancer alone. She also created a box to benefit the Hope Chest for Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Breast Cancer Collection continues to be sold at Chocolat Céleste, made with Valrhona chocolate, cream, and butter.

A CACAO LOVE STORY

Leonard has always worked hard – past employers said she did the work of five employees.

Now 68, Leonard grew up around female entrepreneurs. Her mother owned a

salon. "We counted money on Saturday night," recalled Leonard.

She began to dream about running her own business. Even as a teen, she loved to bake and make chocolates. "I was visually inspired to create visually appealing foods," said Leonard.

She earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts in 1976 and a bachelor's degree in business and food science in 1978 from the University of Minnesota. She began working in the kitchen and dietary department of a 150-hospital system. She wrote 3,000 recipes and learned how to manage a kitchen. Then she shifted in 1989 to manage a project with the state of Minnesota and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University to introduce artificial intelligence and expert systems to state agencies. They partnered with IBM. Next she was tasked with managing the merger of the state of Minnesota's voice and data networks. Along the way, she earned her software development and de-

sign certificate from the University of St. Thomas, as well as a mini masters in marketing and telecommunications for the non-engineer. Plus, she took cabinetmaking classes at Minnesota Technical College.

When she encountered sexism in the workplace, she went to work for one of their vendors. At MCI Telecommunications, she served as the marketing and sales manager of a four-state region serving state governments and universities and managing a multi-million dollar piece of business.

MCI was her last employer.

When it was purchased, she took a package and didn't work for three years. She was in her mid-40s and checked off items on her bucket list.

While on a bicycle tour of France, she forwent the wine tours and checked out the patisseries and chocolatiers instead. "At 46 years old, I made the decision it was time to take the leap," she recalled. "I needed to do what I had intended to."

THE FINER THINGS OF LIFE

She attended various Chocolate and Sugar Technology courses through the University of California, Davis, and took a chocolate course from Jean Marie Auboigne. In 2008, she earned a Fast Track for the Lean Organization mini masters from the University of St. Thomas.

"I taught myself what I needed to know," said Leonard.

She tested some boxes of chocolates at a local grocery store to see how they would sell. She doesn't partner with stores now to carry Chocolat Céleste products. "They aren't any chocolates like mine at Lunds and Byerlys or a department store because they're fresh," she explained.

Leonard leveraged the connections she had made over the years to network with universities and corporations looking for gifts to give their clients and donors. She also caters to individuals who want to come in and personally build their own box of chocolates.

Leonard imports the Valrhona brand of luxury chocolates made purely from cocoa beans, and uses that to fashion the signature Chocolat Céleste truffles. Valrhona, based in the small village of Tain L'Hermitage, France is a certified B Corporation. She uses Organic Valley cream, and handcrafted butter from the family-run Hope Creamery in Hope, Minn. Her selections change slightly according to the season. There are no preservatives and no gluten.

A SWEET JOURNEY >> 9



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CREATIVE HAVEN >> from 1

FORMING THEIR OWN DUO: ILLISM

While Envy and Fancy were pursuing their own solo careers, they decided to collaborate on the 11-song album "He Say She Say" in 2010.

In 2015, they formed their duo iL-Lism - "ILL" as in cool or dope, and "ism" which turns it into a movement, like feminism. Together it is a "dope musical movement."

"People always loved our music separately but when we did music together it seems like people connected with us differently, in a way that was a bit more meaningful," observed Fancy.

Working together is something that fits for this couple.

"It doesn't feel weird or extra," said Envy.

"It feels like that's just something we're supposed to be doing," observed Fancy. "I think it helps us understand each other a little better."

With both of them in the same industry, they understand the demands of the work the other is doing. Some days, Envy stays home while Fancy is out working. Other days, it is reversed. "It's not like your job is more important than my mine. It's the same. It's beautiful that way," said Fancy.

The couple parent three children. Her son, Santino, is 19; his daughter, Amari, is also 19. And two years ago, Syre was born.

Before having a child together, the two addressed trauma from their other parenting relationships. "There was a lot of healing to be done," said Fancy.

"We wanted to take the next step in our relationship," stated Envy. "We didn't want the trauma to herd us back in. We wanted to experience more with each other."

The toddler is "full of fire and he's full of curiosity and energy."



Fancy and Envy (Sarah and Emmanuel Duncan) stand in front of the popular VIBE wall that Fancy created inside The Legacy Building. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Their family influences their music and lyrics. Their latest album, "Family Over Everything" was recorded while Fancy was pregnant.

TRANSFORMATIVE

Forming iLLism has been "life-changing" for them, according to Envy. "When we were solo acts we were chasing commercial success," explained Fancy. "We were conforming to what we thought the industry wanted. When we are together as iLLism, that just goes away."

Fancy pushes Envy to go deeper, and he does the same for her.

Their music comes from their heart and souls and isn't trying to fit into a certain mold.

It is "our story, our experiences," said

Fancy.

Their music takes them places, from performing at Paisley Park to Superbowl Live to the NAMM show in Anaheim, Calif.

They've also added a band which has expanded their sound.

Fancy finally quit her 9-5 job in 2018, and both focus entirely on their music now.

They have a number of songs that have appeared on television shows, including The Hill, Jersey Shore, Keeping Up With the Kardashians, and more. They collect royalties on over 200 placements.

HIGHLIGHTS

Fancy is a southsider who graduated from South High School. Envy grew up

THE LEGACY BUILDING

The Legacy Building, located in south Minneapolis, is a black owned, creative haven for artists to experiment, collaborate, coexist, and create compelling content and experiences. It is located at 46th and Minnehaha. They do not have a liquor license but work with a caterer. Email info@CRWNmedia.com or call 651-497-5927.

in Rondo and graduated from Highland Park High School across the river in St. Paul. The Minneapolis music scene in the 1990s heavily influenced both of them, so it was an incredible honor to bring back the Battle of the Bands at Paisley Park's 'Musicology' in 2017. The event was modeled off the Battle of the Bands at The Way on the northside that Prince, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis participated in. The Paisley Park event brought together 150 bands from around the nation a year after Prince's death.

iLLism landed in the top three.

"That was a really special moment," said Envy. "We were the first to get on that stage and bring live music back to Paisley," pointed out Fancy. "That was a really high honor."

DOWNLOAD OF IDEAS

Until a few years ago, both worked 9-5 jobs and faced the challenges of finding resources for photographs, music videos and websites.

With little to no budget, they taught themselves what they needed to advance their creative careers. Envy learned photography and videography, and Fancy figured out how to do graphic design and websites. Envy also does all of their sound mixing, and is trusted by many others for their sound needs, too.

CREATIVE HAVEN >> 7

Seward COMMUNITY CO-OP

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CREATIVE HAVEN >> from 6

They were asking themselves what they could do that was deeper and bigger yet when they drove down 46th and saw the sign in the window at the former Sol-Sta music store/My Sister's Closet clothing store.

Envy called the number to talk to building owner Eric Fox.

The building had been sitting empty while Fox considered the best use for it. Various coffee shops had wanted to move in, the developers of the multi-use building next door expressed interest in using it, and he'd even been approached by Chipotle.

When Fox, who makes synthesizers, heard Envy and Fancy's proposal he told them that he loved their idea. They moved in the next month on Jan. 15, 2022.

The couple began to make changes to the building as they considered what it could be.

"It was a download of ideas," said Fancy.

They wanted to create a place where an artist could walk in and achieve everything they needed to. At The Legacy Building (4024 E. 46th St.), they can sell merchandise in the front room, rehearse, record, shoot videos with the 4K green screen, hold events, and use it as a co-working space. The space is modular to accommodate a range of uses.

They officially opened with a grand weekend celebration on June 19, 2022, the second observation of Juneteenth as a holiday in Minneapolis. "Every inch of our space came to be because of our hard work, our vision, and bank account," said Fancy. No loans, no grants, no team of employees or contractors.

Since then, they've held parties, Purpose Driven Coffee events, album launches, art pop-ups, spoken word events, live musical performances, natural light studio



The art on the walls in the arcade area was created by Fancy's 19-year-old son, Santino. All of the art in The Legacy Building is for sale. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

bookings, a Haunted Legacy House, a celebration of life on the first anniversary of Jellybean Johnson's son's death, a youth healing event, and more. The space is available for private event rentals, as well.

"It became this creative haven that I wish we had," said Fancy.

Folks who walk through the door tell them: "I have been looking for a place like this."

For some people, The Legacy Building becomes the first place that they perform. Envy and Fancy know how memorable that is, and how it becomes a core memory for that individual.

"That's really special to us. It makes a difference," said Fancy. Their goal is to amplify the work of other artists and support them in their creative pursuits, especially Black artists. They also help make connections for other artists, including linking them to their two labels, Black Label and In the Groove.

It was a dream for them to become their own bosses.

"It's about community," said Fancy. "It's about cultivating creativity. Excellence derives from that."

Learn more at thelegacybuilding.org.

PURPOSE DRIVE COFFEE

This spoken-word event is aimed at people who were formerly incarcerated and provides a place for them to feel safe. It was developed by Sarah's brother, Alex Lanier, who discovered spoken word as a way to heal during his incarceration.

UNSEEN VOICES

The Legacy Building amplifies the voices of artists across the wide spectrum of musical genres and artistic types, including sculpture, fashion and painting. This is a place for artists to share their work and be seen, according to Fancy. At their first event, they placed a band in the middle of the floor, and art on the walls. The next Unseen Voices event will be Feb. 18 and promises to be an immersive art experience. Tickets are free with pre-registration and \$5 at the door.

ROTATION: OPEN MIC AND JAM SESH

In collaboration with Carbon Sound, The Rotation: Open Mic and Jam Sesh is offered every two months. The next event will be Feb. 5. In addition to the open mic, three artists are featured and their music showcased on Carbon Sound. The Legacy Building provides everything (including two drum kits, keyboard and amplifiers), and people just need to bring their own instruments. "It's such a supportive group of people who show up," said Fancy.

Carbon Sound was launched on June 16 by The Current. It is a new music stream, website and app dedicated to celebrating the depth, breadth and influence of Black musical expression through genres including Hip-Hop, R&B, Afrobeats, Funk and Electronica, honoring the foundational role of Black music throughout all genres of music.

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ETS VOLUNTEER FINDS JOY IN ART

NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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



Ron Buhta is the most optimistic and grittest person I have ever met. He retired 17 years ago, but laughs at himself as he "is now busier than ever." A Vietnam veteran and self-taught artist who volunteers at Every Third Saturday (ETS) to help other veterans overcome obstacles such as PTSD, he emphasizes the importance of understanding the past, but living in the moment. "My life is pretty good. I have a place to sleep. I have food on the table... I'm living good. I want to help other people live good, too." Ron's story is unique in how he overcame hardship and used it to help others overcome theirs.

Ron served in the Navy as soon as he "hardly graduated high school." He served for four years (1963-1967), and was on one of the first ships that went to Vietnam at the beginning of the Vietnam War. Serving the majority of his time on two ships, he did small acts to make the ships feel like home. For example, he painted dragons on the anchor holders on one of the ships, and drew Peanuts cartoons on flyers to make them more fun for the crew to read. He described how some ships have five steering wheels just in case there is an issue with one of them, and how he learned to steer all five.

He discussed the need to "grow up fast" while living in stressful situations traveling the world. He heard "more bombs than you can imagine" in the distance while aboard one of the ships. Some of his friends were affected by agent orange, and he keeps up to date about how the United States is helping Vietnam today. He described the need to be technically savvy on the ship as having a small error – such as wrapping a rope the wrong way – led to one soldier losing his arm. He also remembered the good times. One time he (illegally) snuck onto the anchor of the moving ship just to have some time alone. He watched the sea life swim by and was really able to take in where he was. That was one thing that surprised me about Ron – no matter how harsh the situation he described, he would always also talk about a beautiful one that came out of it.

A self-taught artist, he began sculpting after he came back to civilian life. He learned this skill when his 11-year-old son unexpectedly and suddenly passed away. It was the darkest time of his life. "You can sit and dwell on the negative thing, [but] where does that get you? In a depressed mood." He then discussed how he remembers his son as always being a child and all of the good times they had – it makes him "smile and see what is left in your heart and your mind."

So, how did he find this grit? A friend who is an art teacher helped him look internally to find it. "I went through some hard times, and I was given a wad of clay and I was told 'do something with it.'" He



Vietnam veteran Ron Buhta retired 17 years ago, but is busier now than ever volunteering at Every Third Saturday (ETS) where he teaches art classes. (Photo submitted)

now casts molds and has sold his art at festivals. He originally thought that when he retired, he would do more art displays, but instead finds more joy in helping others find hope. "Everybody has a creative mind." He said, reflecting on his weekly art class he helps teach at ETS, "When you're doing something, you don't have to be an artist, but it [creating art] makes your mind focus on something positive."

He then told me all about his fairy garden that spans his front yard, and the joy it gives the children who go to the preschool across the street. He was so focused on the joy he has created today that he never dwelled on the past. He left reminding me: "Today is the day you live for."

ETS has several programs to help veterans, including art lessons, guitar lessons, Bible study, and free clothes to those who need it.

OPEN BOARD SEATS

NEA is looking for board of directors 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 Feb. 16. Email nenan@nokomiseast.org with any questions.

FACADE IMPROVEMENT MATCHING GRANTS

Local businesses and nonprofits who would like to improve the exterior of their buildings are encouraged to apply for this matching grant for up to \$5,000.

UPCOMING:

2/2/23: NENA Housing|Development Committee 6:30-8 p.m., online
2/9/23: NENA Fundraising Events Team 6:30-7:30 p.m., online
2/14/23: NENA Executive Committee Meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m., online
2/16/23: Last day to apply to the NENA Board if you live in Keewaydin or Minehaha
2/20/23: NENA Environmental Committee 5:30-6:30 p.m., online

Did you know dust in your house has 10 harmful chemicals?

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

BY RUSS HENRY



It's a warm summer afternoon, sun shining through kitchen windows. The front door flies open; kids and dogs come bursting in two by two. Running through the house and right out the back door. As they leap off the back steps, birds and squirrels scatter to the safety of nearby branches. Twenty minutes later, just as the dust cloud settles, the scene repeats.

This is the nature of our homes and neighborhoods. We live in busy spaces filled with the lively activity of people and animals. Dust is kicked, stirred, and whipped up into the air inside and out on a daily basis and we breathe it in all day long. What is in the dust?

A study conducted with help from Dr. Ami Zota, a population health scientist at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, found at least 10 harmful chemicals in 90% of household dust samples gathered. According to the research, phthalates occurred in the highest concentrations, followed by phenols, RFRs (fire retardants), fragrance, and PFASs

(Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Adverse health effects of these chemicals include chronic disease risk, IQ deficiencies, and reproductive issues. The wide variety of consumer chemicals linked to potential threats for children's health were often co-occurring and found in mixtures, a point which Dr. Zota emphasizes in a video explanation of her work, "This is important because the health effects of mixtures have not been well studied."

In a recent study the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emphasizes the importance of thinking about potential mixtures of products. According to the EPA website, "In this study, EPA researchers focused their analysis on endocrine disrupting chemicals and flame retardants. One hundred household products were tested from 20 diverse household product categories, including shampoo and clothing. EPA researchers found 4,270 unique chemical signatures across the 100 products.... Chemical standards confirmed the presence of 119 chemical compounds."

Phthalates, phenols, PFASs can all be found in various pesticides. These products are often considered "inert" ingredients in pesticide mixtures which also contain even more toxic "active" ingredients. To learn more about the risks associated with household pesticides, I spoke with Drew Toher, the Community Resource and Policy Director for Beyond Pesticides, a national organization that "works with

allies in protecting public health and the environment to lead the transition to a world free of toxic pesticides."

Toher explained, "The most commonly used pesticides in residential households are insecticides. Within that group, the synthetic pyrethroid class of insecticides are likely the most common. They are the active ingredients found in most RAID products. This use is concerning because studies show that this class of chemicals are linked to a range of adverse health effects, particularly in young children. Children with higher levels of pyrethroids in their urine are three times as likely to have mental delay compared to children with lower levels of exposure. Synthetic pyrethroid exposure increases risk of premature puberty in boys, a finding that was recently expanded to show early puberty development in both boys and girls aged 7-11 with higher levels of pyrethroid in their urine. One study found pyrethroid exposure before, during, and after pregnancy associated with increased risk of infant leukemia."

Toher further cautioned, "Products like the synthetic pyrethroids can linger in homes for well over a year, remaining toxicologically active and risking re-exposure. Pesticides used outdoors can also be tracked inside, with one study finding that the commonly used lawn herbicide 2,4-D was tracked indoors – it was able to be detected in indoor air and found on indoor

surfaces throughout one's home." As for mixtures Toher said, "Studies on pesticide mixtures and synergy are unfortunately few and far between. EPA does not require testing on mixtures or potential synergy despite the facts that products can be packaged with multiple active ingredients, people are exposed to multiple pesticides daily, and consumers may use multiple pesticides inside the home. One concerning synergy that may commonly occur in homes is between DEET products and synthetic pyrethroids. Combined, these products can result in significant neurotoxic effects, and may have even played a role in the development of Gulf War Syndrome among Gulf War veterans."

Managing an organic household and landscape is the best way to protect ourselves and our loved ones from harmful chemical mixtures. Organic foods can greatly reduce our exposure to chemicals in pesticides. Natural fibers for clothing, furniture, building materials, and bedding can also reduce our exposure to harmful chemicals. Choose natural cleaning products like vinegar, washing soda, and castile soap, and avoid pesticides inside and outside the house. Next summer, practice organic house and landscape management to help keep the kids, pets, and the whole neighborhood a little safer.

Russ Henry is a landscaper, naturalist, gardener, soil health specialist, and educator. The Longfellow business owner is devoted to pollinator protection, urban farming, local food system development, and restorative justice.

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WHEN LOCAL NEWS FAILS...
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Help LCC erase 1,111 racial covenants in Longfellow

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BY ANDREA TRITSCHLER, communications andrea@longfellow.org



There are around 8,000 racial covenants still attached to properties in the city of Minneapolis. Since implementing Just Deeds in 2021, a free legal service that assists property owners in removing racial covenants from their deeds, only 733 racial covenants have been discharged, according to a recent article from the Star Tribune. The city is encouraging more residents to partake in this program and remove these covenants.

Racial covenants were placed on properties throughout the city and metro area between 1910 and 1955 to restrict homeownership by non-White people. It has been illegal to enforce racial covenants since 1968, but many of them remained attached to the properties. We have inherited this history that wrote racism into the documents of our neighborhoods.

LCC has absorbed the work of Free the Deeds, a program started by local artists to educate and inform people about racial covenants and help them start the process of removal with Just Deeds. We help them find out if they have a covenant on their property and help fill out the application for removal, which goes on to the city attorney's office.

There are 1,111 racial covenants in Greater Longfellow alone. We are looking for volunteers to help spread the word about these covenants and why their re-

moval is important to creating an environment of equity in our community.

Get involved in Free the Deeds and learn the stories of families impacted by redlining and think about the ways your actions can make change and be a part of erasing racial covenants and writing a new future for your block, your neighborhood, and our city of Minneapolis, one deed at a time.

We're hosting several training sessions to help prepare participants to door knock, table, and talk with neighbors about how they can erase racial covenants in our neighborhood. These sessions are in-person and on Zoom. Register for these on our website: longfellow.org/events. Any questions can be emailed to info@longfellow.org.

- Monday, Feb. 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.



LCC has absorbed the work of Free the Deeds and is informing residents about how they can discharge racial covenants from their deeds. (Photo submitted)

SWEET JOURNEY >> from 5

"Sharing the finer things has always been a joyful and deeply memorable experience for me. I see eyes light up as friends and colleagues sample and discover my chocolate notes and nuances. For me the world of fine food is about discovery," said Leonard.

A SENSORY CELEBRATION

Leonard has seven seasonal staff – and many of them also work at various State Fair booths in August, such as Jan Halter who works at Sweet Martha's Cookies. Stephanie Drake also works at the fair – and has known Leonard since their high school chemistry class. She appreciates flexible hours and likes being busy. When asked what her favorite chocolate is, Drake responded, "Vanilla peries. Or, creme caramel."

For Leonard, it is the Franglico, which was called the Celestial Sweetie for 10 years (until Celestial Seasonings threatened a trademark infringement).

Longfellow resident Catherine Holtzclaw agrees. "I always love Chocolat Celeste's dark chocolates. My favorite in the Celestial Sweetie," she said. "It's a blessing to have them so close by."

Costs have gone up on chocolate, cream and butter. Someone else might consider finding cheaper alternatives and downgrading the ingredients. But Leonard doesn't plan to take that route.

She knows what makes her chocolates taste so good.

Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater announces 2023 season

Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater Company, located in the Nokomis Neighborhood in south Minneapolis is pleased to announce four productions for its 2023 season. The theater performs at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th Street. The theater is accessible with the #14 and #46 bus lines.

The season opens on May 5 with "The Petrified Forest" by Robert Sherwood. Set at a café and truck stop near the Petrified Forest in eastern Arizona, where Gabby, the owner's daughter, longs to leave the sticks and move to Paris. Author Alan Squier, a failed author, stops in on his way out West, but everything changes when escaped convict Duke Mantee arrives and holds them hostage.

Directed by Greg Bastien, the show needs six to nine men, two women and four non-gender roles. Auditions will be held Feb. 13 and 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals will begin on March 20 and there will be five performances, May 5-6 and 12-13.

"Pirates in the Park," a collection of short pirate plays, directed by Maureen Trepp, will be presented outside at the Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., for five performances, June 9-10 and 16-17. The show will require 11-12 performers. Auditions will be held April 23 and 24 from 7-9 p.m. at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals begin on May 9.

Opening on Friday, Oct. 13 is a new version of "Frankenstein" written and directed by Steven LaVigne. Adapted from Mary Shelley's classic novel, the play alternates between events at Lake Como during the summer of 1816 and the story of Victor Frankenstein, an obsessed scientist who creates a human creature through unorthodox scientific experiments. The play

needs four men, three women and five gender neutral actors. Auditions will be Aug. 28-29 from 6-9 pm. at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals will begin on Sept. 5, with five performances, Oct. 13-14 and 20-21.

Returning to the stage for the Winter Holiday season will be "A Christmas Carol Krampus" by Lisa M. W. Phelps. Auditions will be Sept. 25-26 from 6-9 pm at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals begin on Oct. 23, and there will be five performances Dec. 8-9, 15-16.

Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater Company is dedicated to presenting new adaptations of classic literature, including new scripts. Of the four titles for 2023, two are genuine classics and two are unique new scripts. For more information, check out our website, classicslostnfoundtheatercompa.godaddysites.com or phone 612-724-4539.

Man dies in hit and run at Cedar Ave./E. Lake Nokomis Parkway

A pedestrian was struck by an unknown vehicle on Thursday morning, Jan. 12, 2023 and was killed at the Cedar-Edge-water-Lake Nokomis Parkway intersection. Police responded to the report of a person in a snowbank at about 7:10 a.m.

"The specifics that led to this predictable and tragic death will eventually emerge. Every neighbor and leaders in every government agency with jurisdic-

tion over this area, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis Park Board know how dangerous this area is to anyone passing through. This area is so dangerous that for decades we have held periodic public meetings to gather specific feedback and neighborhood suggestions to make it a safer area. After decades of engagement that area is full of signs, striped in gallons of paint, and there's an

electronic sign notifying vehicles of their speed just north of the crosstown where the speed limit drops to 35MPH," wrote Parks Commissioner Steffanie Musich, who lives nearby. "Please join me in holding David Norris' family and the people who loved David in your thoughts. And go a step further to honor David's life by taking action to ensure that my colleagues and I can demonstrate to county and city staff that our community supports changes that will prevent future deaths."

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CITY BRIEFS

CITY SETTLES SUIT WITH TOWN TALK DINER

The city council has approved a settlement regarding the lawsuit brought against the city and mayor Jacob Frey by Kacey White and Charles Stotts, owners of the Town Talk Diner. White and Stotts owned the restaurant that first opened in 1946 at 2707 E. Lake St. and was burned down on May 29, 2020 in the civil unrest following the police killing of George Floyd. They sued the city and mayor for failing to protect property and alleged in the lawsuit that Frey failed to follow policy "leaving the citizens of Lake Street to defend themselves and their property." While most of the claims were subsequently dismissed, the claim that the city did not adequately respond to their request for public data was not. In January, they agreed with the city to settle all alleged damages, fees and costs for \$10,000, with \$5,000 going to White and \$5,000 to Stotts.

HISTORIC REGISTRATION OF GOLF COURSE

Following a letter in December from the State Historic Preservation Office requesting comments, the Heritage Preservation Commission has approved the nomination of the Hiawatha Golf Course

(4553 Longfellow Ave.) to be added to the national register of historic places. A 129-page report they reviewed details the history of the course and found that it "is locally significant under National Register Criterion A, in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Social History, and Ethnic Heritage: Black, as a significant site for civil rights in Minneapolis." If the nomination is successful and the course is put on the national registry, it is unclear exactly how this will impact planned future changes to the area. National registration is associated with preservation incentives, including rehabilitation tax credits, but it does not include the same level of restrictions that comes with local historic designation.

CITYWIDE ZONING REGULATIONS PROPOSED

In January, the city initiated a 45-day review period of proposed land use regulations for primary zoning and some overlay districts, throughout Minneapolis. The new rules are intended to implement the goals and strategies of the city's Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan. They cover 11 land use districts, and would add specific details to the range of uses and intensity allowed in each district. The deadline for written comments on the draft regulations is Feb. 26. The city is holding an online forum on the proposal at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15. The city planning commission will likely hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to the

city council on March 20 with a city council vote on the new regulations expected in April 2023. Learn more at minneapolis2040.com.

MET COUNCIL OVERHAUL

Some state legislators are again proposing changes to the Metropolitan Council. The council was established in 1967 and oversees planning, water treatment and public transportation projects, including the Southwest Light Rail project that has received scrutiny in recent years because it is significantly over budget and years behind schedule. The 17 council members are appointed by the governor. Senator Scott Dibble, who represents most of southwest Minneapolis and chairs the Senate transportation committee, is working on legislation that would make the council an elected body and could shift management of major transportation construction projects, like light rail projects, to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

2023 CITY ELECTION

This year there will be a city general election held on Tuesday, Nov. 7 for the 13 Minneapolis city council members, as required by state law due to the 2020 census and the redistricting that followed. Candidates who have announced campaigns so far in the Longfellow/Nokomis area include: Ward 2, Robin Wonsley; Ward 6, Jamal Osman, Abdirizak Bihi,

Kayseh Magan, and Tiger Worku; Ward 8, Andrea Jenkins; Ward 9, Jason Chavez; Ward 10, Aisha Chughtai; Ward 11, Emily Koski; Ward 12, Aurin Chowdhury, Jerome Evans, Nancy Ford, and Luther Ranheim. The Minneapolis Democratic Farmer Labor party plans to hold precinct caucuses on Tuesday, March 14 with ward conventions scheduled in April and May.

PARKING PAY APP

In January the city council voted to change its provider of parking payment app services by approving a five-year, \$5 million contract with Flowbird to provide a parking payment app. The current contract with ParkMobile will end March 31. The app of the city's current provider, ParkMobile, was used for 3.7 million transactions last year, or 65%, of parking payments in the city.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

This year, the Minneapolis Public School Board will be hiring a new superintendent plan to have the process completed and a superintendent hired by July 1, 2024. Rochelle Cox is expected to continue to serve as interim superintendent until then. The school board has been seeking community feedback through listening sessions and a survey that was open through Jan. 23. More at <https://board.mpls.k12.mn.us/suptsearch>

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

TIDBITS

SKI CLUB SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS

Cross country skiing season is well underway with North Star Ski Touring Clubmembers enjoying weekly outings, monthly events, and organized ski trips. The board is actively seeking individuals to fill the position of Vice President (vacancy this spring) and other volunteer opportunities. If you love the outdoors and

interested in giving back to the community, contact Dave Buending, Club.President@north-stars.org or Sharon Mickelson, Vice-President@north-stars.org, for more information. For those interested in becoming a member, visit www.North-Stars.org.

LONGFELLOW RESIDENT HONORED

While there are 32,230 credit counselors nationwide, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dan Park sets the gold standard. Park, financial counseling supervisor for LSS Financial Counseling in

Saint Paul and a Longfellow resident, has won the National Foundation for Credit Counseling's Credit Counselor of the Year award, honoring outstanding accomplishments and excellence in pursuit of consumer financial health. "We are so proud of the determination and care he demonstrates every day with people he supports, helping them achieve personal dreams, financial stability and life-long goals they thought were simply out of reach," said

Becky Pakarinen, senior director for LSS Financial Counseling, a service of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. Certified credit counselors, like Park, equip people with tools and a roadmap to overcome seemingly insurmountable credit card debt, achieve homeownership, save for rainy days and retirement, manage student loans in the best way possible and reach other financial priorities.



LEGISLATORS TOWN HALL MEETING

Over 50 people attended the town hall meeting on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at Hiawatha School Park hosted by Longfellow and Nokomis area district 63 state legislators, Senator Zaynab Mohamed and Representatives Samantha Sencer-Mura (63A) and Emma Greenman (63B). It is their first community meeting since they took office and 2023 session of the Minnesota Legislature began.

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Epworth United Methodist
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Faith Ev. Lutheran Church
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www.faithlutheranmpls.org
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Jered Yogerst, PhD
Sundays – Service times on website (Communion 1st and 3rd)
Mondays: Exercise Class, 9 am
AA, 6:30 pm
Wednesdays: NA group, 7:30 pm
Blind Ministry Feb.18 from 12-2 pm.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
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www.minnehahacommunion.org
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www.saintalbertthegreat.org
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Sunday mass 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook), 12 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm Saturdays; Sunday 11:30-11:50 am; Or by appointment
Weekday masses at 8:15 am, M, T, Th, F in the chapel

Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls
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www.trinityfalls.org
Pastor Matt Oxendale
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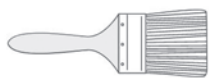


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Financing for this project was provided by the Metropolitan Council Metropolitan Livable Communities Fund, the City of Minneapolis, and the Hennepin County Affordable Housing Incentive Fund and Environmental Response Fund.



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