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Citizens reject city's two options for 3rd Precinct

LCC Board asks that real community engagement take place to determine the best path forward

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

What should Minneapolis do with its police force?

The question continues to generate intense discussions. The 3rd Precinct – the same precinct that Derek Chauvin belonged to and trained officers at despite former complaints prior to murdering George Floyd – was under the microscope during a series of five conversations held in mid-April about the future of the building at Lake and Minnehaha.

As the third anniversary of Floyd's murder approaches, the city paid out another \$9 million in police brutality claims, bringing the total since 2006 to \$90 million. Settlements for Chauvin alone have cost taxpayers over \$35 million. At the same time, the city has spent more than \$25 million in PTSD settlement claims by officers. MPD is a \$200 million department and officers are not required to carry professional liability insurance, which means that the public pays for all misconduct lawsuit settlements.

Minneapolis just reached an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights on steps they will take to address a pattern of racially discriminatory policing, which some say doesn't go far enough to bring about real change.

In the midst of that, residents expressed their frustration that the city's five conversations on the 3rd Precinct came

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* Nearly three years later, the 3rd Precinct building at Lake and Minnehaha remains fenced, barricaded and unused.



* Option A: to extensively renovate and expand the former building at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$12 million.



* Option B: a new building located at 2600 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$24 million.



Minneapolis Director of Property Services Barbara O'Brien provides some information on site criteria used to identify two options for the 3rd Precinct building during a community meeting at Keewaydin Recreation Center on April 18. Near her are Minneapolis Interim Chief Operating Officer (COO) Heather Johnston and Karen DeYoung of DeYoung Consulting Services. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

WHY THROW AWAY A HOUSE WHEN PARTS CAN BE REUSED?

Better Futures Minnesota helps deconstruct homes to make way for new projects and avoid landfills.

By MARGO ASHMORE

From early 20th Century thrift to building cabins from contractor cast-offs, building materials reuse had long been an informal norm. But in a more recent world, entire houses have been thrown in the trash to make way for new construction. Landfills, many of them not lined to contain harmful chemicals, are filling up with construction debris, 90 percent of which is from demolition.

Better Futures Minnesota at the ReUse Warehouse, 2620 Minnehaha Ave. in Longfellow, is among those trying

to prevent and divert that waste stream through deconstruction, which serves reuse and recycling. For homeowners and public bodies in Hennepin County, Better Futures has access to deconstruction incentive funds in addition to grant programs homeowners may qualify for from Hennepin County.

How can people and systems help decrease waste? Here's one example.

"We started the project, then realized we needed help," said Libby Wilson of Longfellow. She and husband James employed a Better Futures crew to open an enclosed back porch bump-out. The crew took off exterior stucco and the siding underneath it plus ceiling and floor, leaving the structural elements.

James shared, "As a carpenter and employee owner at Terra Firma, all our experiences with Better Futures have been

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Better Futures employee de-nailing lumber in a 1960s rambler. Once the roof comes off the house, the lumber that's holding it up can be fully removed and sold at the ReUse Warehouse. (Photo by Margo Ashmore)

Allegations fly in Ward 6 race

Did delegates know they were being signed up by Worku? Was Osman involved in the child nutrition fraud case?

By CAM GORDON

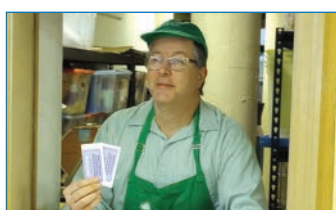
So far, four people are running for the Ward 6 City Council member seat that is up for election this year. All of them are competing for the Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) party endorsement. Ward 6 includes the Cedar Riverside, Elliot Park, Philips West, Seward, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, and Ventura Village neighborhoods. It is currently represented by Jamal Osman, who is seeking reelection.

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No mow May helps bees and other pollinators

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Fish dinners return to St. Albert the Great after COVID-19 hiatus

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Abdirizak Bihi



Kayseh Magan



Jamal Osman



Tiger Worku

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The first phase of the DFL endorsement process, the caucuses, ended last month and the ward convention is scheduled to happen online on May 20.

In the delegate count so far, Osman came in third behind Tiger Worku and Abdirizak Bihi. Kayseh Magan received the least delegates.

Based on the caucus results, where people were to sign up online or on paper forms to indicate they wanted to be delegates at the convention, Worku was allocated 182 divided among the nine precincts, Bihi 95, Osman 27, and Magan 6. Forty-nine delegate seats have been allocated for those who are not committed to any of the candidates. Despite his low delegate count, Magan has been endorsed by the Stonewall DFL and the Minnesota DFL Senior Caucus, and is the only candidate with any organizational endorsements at this time.

With questions being raised about the credibility of some delegates, those numbers could change significantly before the meeting in May. Both Magan and Osman have raised questions about the delegates signed up by Worku.

"Do I think there is some weird stuff going on? Sure," said Osman. "He

[Worku] signed up people who don't know they signed up."

Magan is reviewing Worku's delegate sign-in sheets says that he has found some phone numbers that are crossed out, addresses that are turning out to be wrong out and names that are misspelled. He said that he will make a formal challenge before the end of April, and is "continuing the process of finding and interviewing more of his delegates."

Magan is likely the least well known of all the candidates. He came to country as a refugee 30 years ago. He has worked as a correctional officer for the Washington County, and as an investigator in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. He has lived in the ward for six years, and has served on the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights and the city's Redistricting Advisory Group.

Bihi has run twice in the past and is a long time organizer in the Cedar Riverside area.

Osman has worked in the Seward area as a community organizer and been elected to the city council twice.

Worku grew up in the area, is a past president of the Seward Neighborhood Group, graduated from South High School in 2020, and, while a junior there, worked on unsuccessful legislation at the state capital to create a Minnesota New

Green Deal.

ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY

In a statement made after allegations of impropriety came forward, Worku wrote: "For most submitted delegates, our campaign received a fully completed and signed paper caucus form. Our originals were submitted directly to the DFL, and we have kept digital copies of each form in the event of typical, baseless accusations from candidates who are not viable." He called Magan's questioning of his delegates "a Trump-like effort to undermine the results of an endorsement process," and a "dogpile of misinformation and assumption."

Most recently, he stated, "Regarding our delegate sign ups, we have released an in-depth response. We also are confident in the DFL's process, and have thwarted Mr. Magan's attempt to undermine our democratic process."

"The DFL is a mess," said Osman, "I don't pay much attention to it." He is participating in the process, but said, "I don't think it will make much difference in Ward 6." He does not think that any candidate will win the 60% of delegates needed for an endorsement, and expressed confidence that he will go on to win reelection this year. "Ward 6 is something I know. I was able to overcome some 20 candidates in 2020, and 2021 was a landslide."

Osman has also been criticized by Magan. "Council Member Osman and his wife have not returned phone calls left by reporters asking about he and his wife's role in the largest pandemic fraud in the country," he said while also raising concerns about past "homophobic and antisemitic" social media posts.

Osman called the accusations about his involvement in the child nutrition fraud "fake" when asked about it. In response to the social media posts he shared a statement he wrote last year, he stated: "Regrettably, over a decade ago I made comments about the Jewish community, Israel, and the LGBTQ+ community on social media. I want to be clear that I explicitly and completely repudiate these comments. I am sorry for the ignorance I showed and hope my growth since that time is evident..."

QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT SNG AFFILIATION

Questions have also been raised about Worku's leadership at the Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG). In February of 2021 their executive director, Sam Taitel, filed a formal grievance concerning Worku and another board member.

"At the end of March, 2021, our executive director resigned citing difficulties working with the board leadership," a newly elected SNG Board wrote in a letter sent to the community in September of 2021. In August 2021, a new SNG Execu-

tive Committee asked Worku to "resign as President of SNG due to a loss of confidence in his ability to lead. Tiger did subsequently resign as president, and from the board."

"At 17, I had the privilege of stepping into the role of president of the Seward Neighborhood Group," Worku said. "There were many challenges, and I navigated those challenges to the best of my ability."

"I decided to run for office because I see a common need in many of the diverse communities that encompass Ward 6," Worku said. "Our campaign is focused exclusively on the issues, and we trust the people of Ward 6 to do their research on each candidate."

About his priority issues he said, "I believe we need to create a holistic approach to public safety. I will work hard on a plan that does just that. We must also implement rent control. Ward 6 had the highest percentage of renters in our city, and so we need a councilman who will champion a 3% cap."

TOP ISSUES FOR CANDIDATES

"I decided to run for city council because I care about my ward. Ward 6 needs a council member who will show up and listen," said Magan. "That isn't happening right now."

He added, "My top priorities if elected include making sure we hold landlords who fail to meet their obligations accountable, supporting those in our community who face homelessness and working to find real solutions to curb crime, which disproportionately impacts minority communities."

While Bihi did not respond to efforts to reach him for this article, in the DFL candidate questionnaire, he wrote, "I'm running for the city council because I believe Ward 6 deserves representation focused intently on the needs of our community - including a holistic approach to public safety, housing for our low-income and unhoused neighbors, and opportunities for entrepreneurs to develop their businesses."

Osman lists homelessness, opiates, public safety and supporting renters as his top issues. "Working to save our community from these drugs is my #1 priority," he said. He also noted that he is authoring a rent stabilization proposal that he hopes will pass the city council yet this year. "I am fighting for the most progressive policy we can pass," he said.

It is very possible that the Ward 6 DFLers will not endorse any candidate at their convention on May 20. Even if they do, the campaign will continue. Worku is the only candidate who has committed to abiding by the party's endorsement and dropping out of the race if the party endorsed someone else.

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AT THE 3RD PRECINCT MEETINGS

- Tuesday, April 11 – 125 attendees
 - Thursday, April 13 – 135 attendees
 - Saturday, April 15 – 155 attendees
 - Tuesday, April 18 – 85 attendees
 - Wednesday, April 19 – 150 attendees
- TOTAL attendees – 650

CITY-RUN MEETINGS

In March 2023, DeYoung Consulting Services signed a contract with the city to conduct the community engagement outreach about the future 3rd Precinct building. LCC then sub-contracted with DeYoung Consulting Services to organize and promote five community meetings to be held in April with the purpose of gathering input from residents, business owners and community organizations on the future location of the 3rd Precinct. LCC was tasked with advertising and setting up the meeting spaces. DeYoung was tasked with facilitating the meetings and taking notes on community feedback to then create a summary report for the City. At the time of the Request for Proposal (RFP) the understanding was that it would be a 12-month engagement process that incorporated community-based open discussions and forums asking where residents felt the 3rd Precinct building should be located and how it should serve residents. The first part of that engagement process was accelerated to six weeks for organizing and holding a series of community conversations to gather feedback and altered the question to a choice between two predetermined locations for the 3rd Precinct location.

The City of Minneapolis, DeYoung Consulting, and LCC settled on five community meetings to obtain public input on plans for the location of the 3rd Precinct building.

13 days prior to the first of these meetings, the city provided the information about the two locations that could be considered by the community:

- 3rd Precinct location option A: to extensively renovate and expand the former building at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$12 million.
- 3rd Precinct location option B: a new building located at 2600 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$24 million, according to the City of Minneapolis.

- From the Longfellow Community Council board resolution on April 18

SOLACE AT THE PALACE

A day of free community art and healing is planned for June 11, noon to 6 p.m., at 3032 Minnehaha Ave. It will include vendors, workshops, water weaving, food trucks, music and art for all ages. More at Longfellow.org.

AUTONOMOUS RFP AND SERIES OF MONTHLY PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLIES

Confluence: An East Lake Studio for Community Design has launched an Autonomous Request for Proposals (A-RFP) to re-imagine the Third Precinct complex from the ground up. The A-RFP is supported by a series of monthly assemblies at the Walker Church. These People's Assemblies aim to foster creative and critical space to collectively define a broad notion of security for the 9th Ward and East Lake St. corridor.

BADGE NUMBER WON'T BE REUSED

The Minneapolis department announced that it will not recycle and reuse Chauvin's badge number. "This badge betrayed and so egregiously dishonored will be destroyed, and the badge number permanently removed from our rosters so that no future Minneapolis police officer will be assigned to it," said Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara in a statement issued on April 13.



Karen DeYoung of DeYoung Consulting Service (right) and Minneapolis Interim Chief Operating Officer (COO) Heather Johnston talk to about 155 people about the 3rd Precinct on April 18 at Roosevelt High School. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

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three years after George Floyd's murder, were organized in only six weeks, and were limited to discussing two options for a new building to house the 3rd Precinct.

The sessions were held April 11 at Hook and Ladder (next door to the 3rd Precinct building), April 13 at Midtown Global Market, April 15 at Roosevelt High School, April 18 at Keewaydin Recreation Center, and April 19 at Sabathani Community Center.

In all, about 650 people showed up to the meetings. They began with a welcome by Karen DeYoung of DeYoung Consulting Services, brief information from Minneapolis Interim Chief Operating Officer (COO) Heather Johnston, and a short question and answer session. Then participants were broken up into smaller groups with facilitators to answer a series of questions.

DeYoung explained that their role as facilitators was to listen, pull into a report, and present that to the city. "Our role is to reflect the community," she said.

The information that Johnston shared shifted from meeting to meeting and focused on the two options the city presented:

- A: to extensively renovate and expand the former building at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$12 million.
- B: a new building located at 2600 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$24 million.

"It's been three years of hell over here, and I am extremely motivated to prevent the insult of rebuilding the old precinct on the existing site," 30-year Longfellow resident, business owner and filmmaker Paul Irmiter wrote to local officials after attending the first meeting. "The meeting did little to build trust. Not one of those who spoke was from the neighborhood/community.... How would it be possible to share information with city leaders when none of them attended the meeting? What is the point of collecting data when the decision has already been made?"

WHY ISN'T THE SURVEY OPEN-ENDED?

Some residents and leaders pointed to the "false choice" the meetings and online survey offered, as they merely asked citizens to pick whether they want to rebuild the precinct at Lake and Minnehaha or construct a large, new building at 26th and Minnehaha. People were not able to complete the survey without picking one of the two options. They were not able to state that they didn't support either option.

At the start of the community engagement process, residents asked that the online survey be changed so it didn't require picking an option to finish it. That had not been done by the last meeting. DeYoung stated that they can track how many people started the survey but did not finish it. Those at the meeting were able to complete a printed survey and could opt not to answer the question of

which option they preferred.

WHY THESE TWO OPTIONS?

At the April 18 meeting at Keewaydin, Minneapolis Director of Property Services Barbara O'Brien provided some information on site criteria, preferred conditions and potential site obstacles. This was a new handout not provided at earlier community meetings. Johnston said it was provided in response to questions at the earlier meetings.

"Why was the community not consulted on the criteria?" asked several attendees.

O'Brien stated that at over two dozen sites were considered between July 2020 and December 2022; the majority were located along Hiawatha Ave. and none in the southeast part of the precinct. She referenced general federal, state and city criteria but did not point to anything specific.

The two consultants the city used, along with administration staff and the police department, looked for sites located within the 3rd Precinct geographic boundary that were a minimum of 1.5-acres and had two points of entry/exit.

"I do not like either option and definitely do not want the police to return to the Lake and Minnehaha location. I would like to see more information about the other sites they considered and why they were eliminated as options," remarked Kathleen Lenk. "I also would like to know how they decided on the 'requirements' for the site. They said one requirement was that it be 'centrally located' in the precinct, and neither proposed site is near the center of the precinct (that extends to 35W and south to the southern border of the city). I would like them to consider smaller multiple sites. I think the residents and businesses of the 3rd Precinct should help decide the requirements for the precinct location(s)."

WHY THE FAST TURNAROUND?

Citizens also questioned why these meetings were pulled together so quickly and condensed into a short period of time.

The information on the two sites was presented 13 days prior to the first of the meetings. Initially, it was supposed to be a 12-month engagement process. (See sidebar)

"It's a runaround," said 23-year Keewaydin resident Shawn Holster, who attended two meetings and heard about other meetings from neighbors. "And I still want to know why they can't provide answers to questions that have been repeatedly asked. It reminds me of when they tore up 50th St. a bunch of years back. Here are the options, this is what you're going to get, now let's give you the appearance of having input."

He added, "Few feel heard. They feel as this process is an exercise in futility, and that it is a PR gesture, not genuine."

LCC CALLS FOR DELAY IN CITY DECISION

A year ago, on May 16 and 29, 2022,

the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) held community discussions to gather input from residents and business owners about the future of the 3rd Precinct building at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. A total of 200 people attended and filled out surveys. Seventy-five percent were opposed to the 3rd Precinct being located at 3000 Minnehaha Ave.

Common themes from the meeting included lack of trust between residents and the City of Minneapolis, lack of transparency regarding the future of the 3rd Precinct and ensuring public safety, and concern that in 2022, two years after murder of George Floyd, there had been very few opportunities for community conversations.

"Last May, in an effort to commit the city to centering resident voices in all future decisions, I led my colleagues to allocate \$100,000 for community engagement about the future of Lake and Minnehaha," remarked Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley in her e-newsletter on April 6. "Last week, I was shocked to learn from the Interim COO that the Mayor had sidelined the original intent of my allocation to instead focus engagement around the relocation of the 3rd Precinct Police facility. This was a complete bait and switch."

"Since murdering George Floyd, the MPD has also killed, whether intentionally or through recklessness, Norman Truman, Dolal Idd, Amir Locke, Leneal Frazier, Demetrius Dobbins, Jr., Jamontae Welch, Cortez Williams, Jr., and Tekle Sundberg," pointed out a handout distributed to people from Communities United Against Police Brutality, which is based at Cedar and 42nd and meets every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. "Countless others continue to be brutalized and harassed."

"Aggressive policing was standard practice for some 3rd Precinct officers when dealing with suspects of nonviolent, low-level crimes, often involving people of color," said Abigail Cerra, who has been a public defender and chair of the Police Conduct Oversight Commission, which was disbanded in early 2023. "My clients were constantly getting anal searches. Not at the hospital. At the Third Precinct."

Joel Albers has lived in Howe since 2008. He doesn't support either of the city's two options. "Both locations, 3000 Minnehaha and 2600 Minnehaha, would be located in predominantly BIPOC residential communities. What is required is first an understanding of the trauma imposed on the populations of Black, Native American, Brown and People of Color, both current and historic in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the U.S.; by systemic and institutionalized racism, especially police brutality," said Albers.

At the April community meetings, attendees continued to "express a lack of trust in the City of Minneapolis process for deciding the future of the 3rd Precinct building, with common opinions expressed about the process including a lack of transparency and accountability, and a lack of a healing, restorative practices and operations necessary to move forward toward public safety," pointed out the LCC in a board resolution passed on April 18. (Read full resolution at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.)

Longfellow Community Council Board of Directors:

- Demands the development of a new timeline, to be completed no later than May 2024, for defining a shared community vision for what a new facility or facilities should be, and how the former site of the 3rd Precinct should serve the community.

- Supports an intentional and respectful outreach process to allow residents and business owners of the 3rd Precinct in Minneapolis to more comprehensively weigh in on the location of the 3rd Precinct building specifically and public safety in general.

- Rejects any decision made about the 3rd Precinct building until a new community engagement process has been carried out.

Join the conversation, and let us know your diverse thoughts on the issues that affect your neighborhood. Send letters and guest commentaries to tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

FROM A RECOVERING CIVIL SERVANT

BY CAM GORDON



The recent proposal to reopen a police station in our community is bringing back painful memories and opening old wounds for many of us, me included.

I served on the City Council, representing the people of Ward 2, in 2020 and I remember when George Floyd was killed and the horrific days and nights that followed.

I also remember the commitment I made with eight of my colleagues in the heart of the southside in Powderhorn Park and then in city hall where the council and mayor unanimously resolved to start a process of community engagement to re-imagine public safety and create a "transformative new model" of policing.

That August, I was surprised when a proposal came forward to temporarily re-house the 3rd Precinct building back in the area, just across the street from one of the two sites now being recommended, near 26th and Minnehaha Ave.

It was clear to me then, that while the city's property services staff had done a good job of finding a facility that would meet the Minneapolis Police Department's needs and requirements, the requirements of the community were not being understood.

As I worked to do my job representing

LET'S THINK BEYOND FORTRESS-LIKE POLICE STATIONS

the will of the people, it became clear that our city government had not done enough to meet the needs of our residents.

The city had not fulfilled the promise of community engagement. We had done nothing to restore and heal from the injury and trauma of that time and from the larger history it helped uncover of unfair, inhumane and racist policing in our city.

Now the city has returned with a new proposal, only this time for a permanent location. And still, almost three years since George Floyd's murder, people are still waiting and still wanting the chance to heal.

It was obvious then – and it is obvious now – that this is not the time to repeat old practices and return to the way it was. Perhaps it is time to imagine something better. Could we use the need for a new building to explore new models and pilot new ideas about how public safety services can be provided to and with our community?

Can we think beyond large fortress-like police stations? Does maintaining MPD's isolation really help to change its culture? Does the old model make law enforcement more, or less, connected to the community? Does it help shatter, or only reinforce, the blue wall of silence and the persistent, militarized, us-versus-them mentality that infects our criminal justice system?

The 3rd Precinct area itself is larger than other precincts in the city. Why not

have it divided into smaller precincts and give each one a community safety service center where police could share a facility with other city or county staff from other departments? Could we include a community space and options for people to drop in to meet with health, housing, planning, violence prevention or licensing staff to conduct "business" with the city.

Better integrating our licensed law enforcement staff in with the rest of the city enterprise, county service providers and the community more generally could help change the culture of policing in our city.

These ideas may have merit but let them be seeds that remain dry for now. First, we must prepare the soil.

After participating in many large and smaller community meetings in 2020, 2021, and now, it is clear to me that we are still not ready to make any decisions about if, where, and how new public safety facilities should exist in our community.

First, we need to heal. First, we need to find a shared vision of the future of public safety and the role of licensed law enforcement in our communities.

For years now, people have been asking for a community-led restorative justice process before moving forward. Many people feel profoundly harmed. There are systemic deep-rooted problems and injuries that have been caused by our city government and our police. It is time to turn to the people and organizations skilled in restorative justice and use their expertise

and skill to help us recover and restore.

Throughout the city, in block clubs, neighborhood associations, business groups, nonprofits and collaborative efforts we see the work of transforming public safety being done. Within departments and divisions of the city we have seen current and former individuals and teams stepping up and working creatively and effectively to realize broader, more holistic approaches to safety. They have a role to play, as well.

To accomplish these two prerequisites, full, authentic and broad participation will be required where community members, residents, business owners, workers, city leaders, city staff at all levels and the police, especially those who have and will be working in the area, come together in small groups as equals, without weapons, uniforms, or titles.

As time-consuming, costly and challenging as it may seem, I suspect that the only way we will get where we need to be is through these kinds of difficult conversations and more: door to door, house to house, block to block, and neighborhood to neighborhood between people willing to see each other as each other and willing to truly share, and deeply listen with open ears, open minds and open hearts.

It won't be easy, but it might be possible, and it could be worth it.

Cam Gordon is the former Ward 2 city council member and a longtime resident of Seward.

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

GUEST COLUMN

BY DANIEL SCHMIDT



In light of Justin Jones and Justin Pearson's expulsion, some Minneapolis leaders appear rooted in conservative ideology

On Thursday, April 6, Tennessee Representatives Justin Jones and Justin Pearson were expelled from their House seats by the Republican super majority who determined these young Black Representatives are too "radical" for hallowed chambers. Their crimes? Rules violations: speaking without permission of the Chairman, using a sign to display a political slogan, using a megaphone, and gathering at the front of the House without permission. Supported by thousands of protesters against gun violence who gathered at the Capitol on March 30 in response to the school shooting that occurred in Nashville on March 27, Jones and Pearson chanted with the protesters, "No Justice, No Peace!" One week later, they were on trial, then expelled, leaving 150,000 Tennessee voters without full representation in their state legislature.

On Tuesday, March 9, the Minneapolis City Council voted to amend the Legislative Agenda and Policy Positions. One of the amendments, introduced by Council Member Linea Palmisano of Ward 13, is

a dangerous attack on democracy which resembles the rules used to justify what occurred in Tennessee. The amendment is for "supporting legislation that would create clear guidance for lawful conduct at public meetings of government bodies." In other words, it paves a legal pathway for city leaders to indulge in anti-democratic behavior. The amendment narrowly passed 7-6.

Democracy is not binary, and it is not indestructible, even in Minneapolis. This amendment was written two weeks after Indigenous people, Little Earth residents, and their allies peacefully protested against the East Phillips Roof Depot demolition at City Hall. After the protest, three council members – Emily Koski (Ward 11), LaTrisha Vetaw (Ward 4), and Michael Rainville (Ward 3) – filed police reports, claiming they felt threatened by protesters. Mayor Jacob Frey, in an interview with WCCO, said, "First Amendment rights stop at the next persons' nose! And when you start saying, 'we will kill you and your family if you take a certain vote...' that's not First Amendment rights, that's a terrorist threat."

Mr. Frey hits the issue right on the

nose: I smell toxic chemicals every day as an East Phillips resident. In fact, according to the EPA's Environmental Justice EJScreen, East Phillips is in the 97th percentile for "air toxics: cancer and respiratory health" as compared to the rest of Minnesota. The city council's votes, and the mayor's vetoes, are killing East Phillips residents and families. We are terrorized by their legislative and executive powers. When powerful individuals (like Frey and Palmisano) say they feel threatened by peaceful protesters, they are taking a page out of the racist stand-your-ground law book, and endanger democracy by prosecuting protesters.

Aisha Chughtai, council member for Ward 10, argued against the amendment with a nationally conscious perspective: "In the places that have implemented laws like this... the impact in real life, in real time, has been harsher criminal penalties and criminalization of people of color, of LGBTQ people, and of those without permanent citizenship status. These laws have not protected marginalized public officials from violence rooted in misogyny or in White supremacy. These laws historically have been carried by far-right Republicans."

The expulsion of Justin Jones and Justin Pearson in Tennessee confirms Ms. Chughtai's warning. The road to fascism is paved with decorum. It is time for the seven council members who voted for Palmisano's anti-protest amendment and Mayor Frey to clarify which "side of the aisle" they really sit on. Any law that makes it easier to jail peaceful protesters must be taken as a serious attack on democratic principles. Minneapolis is not exempt from the siren call of fascism. We must be ever aware of its clandestine signs.

Justin Pearson's final speech before expulsion should ring resonantly in Mayor Frey and the council member's heads: "Dr. King taught us that sometimes there is a consciousness above rule, above what you might say is law... You say, 'to protest is wrong! Because you spoke out of turn. Because you spoke up for people who are marginalized, you spoke up for children who won't ever be able to speak again, you spoke up for parents who don't want to live in fear...' [But] I've still got hope, because I know we are still here, and we will never quit!"

Daniel Schmidt is a Phillips resident.

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GIVE ME
A MINUTEBY VALERIE FITZGERALD
Howe resident

For over 10 years, in different settings and with varying titles, I did case management for people who were classified as "disabled." The Social Security Administration defines disability as: "a severe impairment(s) that makes you unable to do your past relevant work... or any other substantial gainful work that exists in the national economy." According to Minnesota Compass, about 650,000 people in Minnesota (11.5% of the population) have at least one disability. Of those, almost 50% aged 18-64 are employed. This column is about those who are unable to work due to disability.

There was a wide range of functioning among the people I worked with, and some needed more help than others. I began to notice that many were experts on their own health care. They taught me about their medical and mental health conditions. They navigated complex administrative systems such as Social Security, Medicare and Medical Assistance (MA or Medicaid). Even with professional supports, they faced tasks that took several hours a day – equivalent to a full-time job. These tasks had to be done regardless of chronic pain, depression, or any other debilitating symptom that was present.

I'm inclined to focus on people's humanity, but for this column, I am breaking it down to dollars and cents. People who are unable to work due to disability may not perform traditional labor at a traditional workplace, but they add value for taxpayers. Living independently with supports is significantly less costly than living in a group home or long-term care facility. Managing complex, chronic health conditions with outpatient care is less costly than emergency room visits and inpatient hospitalizations. From my perspective, the majority of people we call disabled work full-time to live independently and manage their health care, and they are good at it. I believe this valuable occupation deserves adequate compensation.

We have programs that provide monthly cash payments to people who can't work. I'm most familiar with Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). (These programs are separate from Social

Being disabled is a full-time job

Security retirement funds.) There's also worker's compensation, which is intended to cover workplace injuries. Some jobs offer short- or long-term disability coverage as a benefit.

All too often, barriers to these programs and benefits are insurmountable. The outcome is that people who experience an injury or illness that keeps them from working are excluded from services and pushed into poverty.

First, these benefits are not universally available:

- Over 60% of applications for SSDI and SSI are denied.

- Fewer than half of employed people receive short-term disability as a job benefit; only 35% receive long-term disability. The rates of coverage increase along with income. People with the lowest income are least likely to be protected against lost wages if they become disabled.

- In Minnesota, all employers are required to purchase workers' compensation insurance or become self-insured. However, the Council for Disability Awareness reports that less than one percent of American workers missed work because of an occupational illness or injury.

Second, the benefits take a long time to apply for and receive. Those who are approved for SSDI face a five-month waiting period before they start getting checks. A denial can be appealed, but usually takes over a year to be processed. Most of us live paycheck to paycheck. If the paychecks stop coming, then what? The Council For Disability Awareness reported that 44% of consumer bankruptcy filings specifically cited medically-related work loss as contributing to bankruptcy.

Third, payments are insufficient. The rate of poverty among people with disabilities is twice that of the overall population. At \$1,483/month, the average SSDI payment barely exceeds the poverty level. The National Disability Institute estimates that the additional cost to households with a disabled adult amounts to \$17,690 a year. They note that income level is used to determine whether someone qualifies for public benefits. However, income does not take into account the direct and indirect costs experienced by people who live with a disability.

Not only does disability cause poverty, the National Disability Institute argues that poverty causes disability, citing prevalence of illnesses like asthma and environmental factors like lead poisoning among

low-income communities.

A little over 10 years from now, the Social Security Act will be celebrating its 100th birthday. Workers have funded this program from the start. It's our money. For many years, Social Security and disability rights had bipartisan support. Social Security continues to be very popular with the majority of Americans. However, there has been discussion of privatization, or replacing Social Security with the option of managing our own retirement savings.

Privatization doesn't help lower income workers who need their whole paycheck to pay their bills, and it totally excludes anyone who becomes disabled and can't work. Privatization could arguably work for people who make enough money to set aside funds into a 401(k) or similar account, but I wouldn't recommend asking an older American if they're willing to give up their Social Security. Did I men-

tion it's our money?

The reality is that any of us could become disabled, at any time. The Council For Disability Awareness reported that the number one cause of short-term disability is a common condition: pregnancy. The Disability Rights Movement fought for workplace accommodations and equal access to employment, but working is just not the best option for everyone.

The work done by people with disabilities to maintain their health and independence has value. There is persistent and, in my opinion, misguided concern that aid will be given to those who don't deserve it. This creates a barrier to funding programs and services that support disabled people, their families, and professional supports. Health and human services policy should simplify and expand access to assistance, not push people into poverty. I hope our leaders will look beyond the cost of public aid in dollars, and recognize it as compensation for the valuable contribution made by people we call disabled.

ANCIENT STURGEON PART OF FISH DIE OFF AT LAKE



On April 13, 2023, Standish resident Sean Connaughty found a giant, six-foot-long, ancient Lake Sturgeon dead at Lake Hiawatha. "It is one of the many, many dead fish found on the shore after the winter die off," he observed. "Lake Sturgeons can live over 150 years. This fish may have swum in Rice Lake before it was changed 96 years ago. ... Three years ago I saw this fish when it was alive. It really saddens me that we still haven't gotten it together after eight years of sounding the alarm. This loss was part of a large fish die-off that occurred due to confirmed high phosphorus concentrations and low oxygen levels at the lake over the winter. Pollution from pumping, the drought, a dry creek and the closure of the dam are contributors to this condition. Last summer saw persistent and severe algal blooms that persisted late into the fall. This eutrophication resulted in the low oxygen environment that killed the fish over the winter. It is unknown what the combined effects of the loss of the creek ecology over the summer, combined with the fish die off will have on the critical food web at Hiawatha - our most biodiverse lake in Minneapolis. Hiawatha Golf Course pumping discharges 368 pounds of phosphorus into Lake Hiawatha annually. The main stormsewer into the lake discharges 570 pounds of phosphorus annually also. The lake is listed by the PCA as impaired for phosphorus, and also bacteria. We asked the park board in November, and again in February, to install aeration. They refused." (Photo submitted)

GOODBYE VIC ROSENTHAL AND THANK YOU

STORIES
AND JOURNEYS

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN



I am aware that there would be no All Elders United for Justice without the vision, leadership and guidance of Vic Rosenthal. This is my goodbye and thank you to Vic Rosenthal. Sadly, Vic passed away March 28, 2023 at the age of 68. Cancer took his life, but not his spirit and commitment to justice issues.

If you have read this far you have already taken the plunge into the river (flow) of life experience that is Stories and Journeys.

Last year, Chloe Peter, writing for TMC Publications, wrote a feature article on All Elders. For this article she interviewed Vic Rosenthal; Leif Grina, the President of Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council (MRRC) AFL-CIO; and myself. This article appeared in the Messenger, Connector and Monitor. That article still

exists online.

There is a back story to my awareness of and experience with Vic.

As an MRRC member I was invited to participate in a focus group organized and facilitated by Vic. It was one of several focus groups conducted by Vic across Minnesota. The purpose of these focus groups was to gauge interest in and the need for forming an organization like All Elders. This would be my only in-person meeting with Vic. Once Vic and his collaborators were done with focus groups, they concluded that there are interests and needs that could be addressed through an organization like All Elders.

Inspired by this focus group experience, I returned to my Greater Longfellow neighborhood. I started submitting a monthly notice to the Messenger announcing Elder Voices (Telling Our Stories) meeting at Turtle Bread. A small group open to whomever showed up.

I remember being contacted by Tom Beer, part of the leadership of MRRC. He wanted to know if I would be interested in serving on a steering committee to guide Vic in determining next steps toward forming an organization like All Elders. I

said yes. Next I told Tesha M. Christensen of TMC Publications that I said yes to this request. Hence, the reference at the end of each Stories and Journeys column that I serve on what is now the leadership team of All Elders.

I remember going through a period of being disengaged from All Elders and much of the other parts of my life. Cancer had taken the life of my brother. I needed to take time to absorb what had happened to my beloved brother and grieve his loss.

Apparently, during this time Vic was experiencing his own medical issues which at one point caused him to be hospitalized. I became aware of this as I was slowly and tentatively starting to re-engage with the All Elders agenda. During this time, I was experiencing my own health events. Nonetheless I was able to participate in a Zoom leadership team meeting – my first in several months. Little did I know it would be the last time I would see and hear Vic.

Shortly there after the leadership team received a Google Groups email announcing that due to his medical condition Vic could no longer do the work on justice issues to which he had dedicated his life. He had made the decision to enter hospice care. Next I received an email containing an obituary for Vic. He had died. It told me the date, time and location for his funeral service and shiva. Vic was Jewish. I

was able to live stream the funeral service. His obituary appeared in several publications along with tributes and remembrances, including from Governor Walz.

So, I say goodbye Vic and thank you for always being you. My perception of Vic is that he never thought anything was about him. He saw himself as an organizer and enabler of others in the pursuit of justice. It was always about process. Thank you for facilitating that focus group that inspired me to start Elder Voices, and later accepting me as part of the leadership team of All Elders.

Today All Elders United for Justice is a registered non-profit with the state of Minnesota. It has bylaws. A common interest in redressing Ageism. It has a bank account. An executive committee and temporary Board of Directors. A website is in the works. Jonathan Rose is executive director. We seek to fill the void left by Vic by pursuing our mission as outlined in the bylaws.

So, dear reader, who is someone in your life who has inspired you to do something you never imagined you would be doing? Tell your self, tell others or tell me.

In gratitude. Rest in peace, Vic.

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

WHY THROW AWAY

>> from 1

positive. There was no doubt who we were going to call when it came to our house. It's great that there is such a considerate deconstruction and salvage operation in the Twin Cities."

Libby added, "We also love to come to the store. A dryer, a toilet, an old door...there's lots of stuff we've bought from there in our four or so years of living here."

Like the Wilsons, most consumers know home deconstruction from the store perspective, finding used appliances, cabinetry, or vintage hardwood flooring matching their southeast and southwest Minneapolis 1900s to 1950s floors. Better Futures Waste Diversion Project Manager Jason Allen said huge, hand-hewn old growth timbers also go quickly. "The uglier it is, the more demand there is for it," Allen said. With work, these become fire-place mantels, furniture or art pieces.

Deconstruction could mean anything from a "partial," such as a kitchen remodel or condo where the wood color doesn't fit the new owner's taste, to a "full deconstruction," an old house making way for apartments. Deconstruction crews remove fixtures, cabinetry and appliances in the first pass. Flooring is removed, de-nailed and packaged on site. Good trim and built-ins are carefully removed. To access the structural lumber, plaster or drywall must come out, and that goes into a recycling dumpster along with wiring, siding and other parts to be sorted at a transfer station. About 85% of demolition waste can be reused or recycled, according to Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan. Currently only about 30% is.

Better Futures' crews consist of men coming out of incarceration participating in a two-year voluntary workforce development program. They're provided with 12 different certifications including OSHA 10 accident-prevention training. They cross-train in the nonprofit's other business lines of lawn-and-snow, janitorial, and appliance recycling. Crews have a supervisor and at least two experienced members, plus one or two trainees.

A block away from ReUse Warehouse (at 2620 Minnehaha Ave.), Habitat ReStore at 2700 Minnehaha Ave. accepts ma-



The Wilsons' back porch was opened up through careful deconstruction by a Better Futures crew. (Photo submitted)

terials already removed by the homeowner or a contractor. They also carry furniture, paint, tools and smaller home improvement sundries. The proximity of the stores brings customers to both and presents a variety of goods.

FUTURE OF DECONSTRUCTION AND REUSE

Melissa Wenzel, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Built Environment Sustainability Administrator, has seen "movement, momentum, and more success stories" since joining this work in

2019. Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington County offer deconstruction grants, and she said two other metro counties have expressed significant interest in deconstruction projects and/or funding.

About policy and lawmaking, Wenzel said: "We're already seeing cities that have sustainability, climate resiliency, waste management, emergency response, workforce development, and other similar goals. They are adopting more 'sustainable built environment' practices. St. Louis Park requires those receiving

MORE RESOURCES

- Find a growing list of building materials reuse businesses on this Hennepin County website: <https://www.hennepin.us/business/recycling-hazardous-waste/construction-demolition-waste>

- Statewide resources compiled by Melissa Wenzel of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and others: <https://www.allforreuse.org/ecosystem-map>

'green building' funding to meet certain requirements: <https://www.stlouis-parkmn.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/23233/637902841408170000>.

"We're seeing more counties implement similar programs like Becker County's Waste Diversion and Reuse Program and (Duluth area) WLSSD's reuse program. Pope/Douglas and Dodge County's future waste/material management campuses will include a building material and/or household goods reuse area.

"MPCA has a request in the governor's budget to help fund similar programs at counties that do not currently have the financial means. We know there's a high demand for deconstruction and building material reuse. We will continue to work to support this growing sustainable system," Wenzel said.

What can residents do to discourage demolition waste? Wenzel says use the systems and services that already exist. "Demand for these services will help drive them. USE used building materials. Items donated are often higher quality and lower cost than new items. Plus, you will likely own something far more unique than what you can find at big-box stores." She hopes that cities and counties offer building material/tool/household goods swap days or donation days.

"Definitely reach out to your local government contacts asking for these services. They WILL offer opportunities when enough people ask for them."

Editor's note: Margo Ashmore is Better Futures Minnesota's Deconstruction Marketing and Business Development person, former owner of MSP Home Tour and former publisher of the Northeast newspaper.

WORKING FROM HOME IS WORKING

One of the biggest changes to employment coming out of the pandemic is the huge increase in the percentage of people working from home. While not every job is able to be done remotely, the ability to work from home is a major recruitment factor for many positions as people demand more

ways they can remain productive while finding work-life balance. The current tight labor market has made more employers open to remote work - whether a few days a week or 100% time from home. Among midwestern states, Minnesota is at the leading edge of employers allowing remote work.

"A really interesting outcome of our research into remote work trends was revealing just how much more Minnesota workers are able to work from home compared to workers in neighboring states," said Minnesota Employment and Economic and Development (DEED) Regional Analysis and Out-

reach Manager Cameron Macht.

According to U.S. Census Bureau survey results from February of 2023, almost one quarter of Minnesota workers worked from home at least three days each week. At that rate, Minnesota ranked 9th among the 50 states at 23.5%, well ahead of the U.S. average of 20.1%. Minnesota sticks out in the Midwest for the ability to work from home, with more than double the concentration seen in North Dakota (10.2%) and nearly double South Dakota (12.6%), and well ahead of Iowa (14.5%), Nebraska (16.2%), and Wisconsin (16.7%).

"The ability to work from home several days a week or every day is really a big attraction point for many people looking for work now," said Gina Meixner, a career counselor at DEED's CareerForce office in Bloomington. "Many people are willing to change careers to 'do anything' just for the chance to work from home. Wanting to avoid a commute, high gas prices and needing to address a lack of childcare are the biggest draws.

Read more in the article "Working from Home is Working" by Cameron Macht in the current edition of Minnesota Economic Trends.

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~ Emily, Minneapolis

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NO MOW MAY HELPS OUR POLLINATORS

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

BY RUSS HENRY



Heights, and West St. Paul, all now encouraging residents to participate in no-mow May, the trend in the Twin Cities appears to be a hardy perennial event. Originating in the U.K., this wholesome habit hopped the pond when a group of Appleton, Wis. residents lobbied their city council to pass a no-mow May resolution in an effort to protect pollinators.

April showers bring May flowers, and May flowers bring in the bees. Even the lowly dandelion, while not a perfect nutritional source, is an important portion of the diet of many Minnesota pollinators including bees and painted lady butterflies. White clover, another early blooming lawn weed was shown to feed over 56 species of bees, according to a scientific study conducted in Minneapolis parks by James Wolfen, a U of M researcher. Allowing yourself and your mower to rest for the months of April and May will give the pollinators a chance to feed on these common lawn weeds that flower all around us.

Lawns are the largest irrigated crop in America covering approximately 2% of all U.S. land. Barren as a desert, offering no habitat or sustenance for wildlife, manicured lawns without weeds are being recognized as a blight on local ecosystems.

Maintaining the American lawn is a past time with participation rivaled only by sports and religions. Ted Steinberg, author of "American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn," informs us that the average homeowner will spend 150 hours per year maintaining the lawn. According to Beyond Pesticides, a national organic advocacy organization, lawns receive up to seven pounds more pesticides per acre annually than agricultural crops and herbicides account for the highest usage of pesticides in the home and garden sector with over 90 million pounds applied on lawns and gar-

Stumbling over bicycles and skateboards in the back of the garage, your fall is broken by the lawn mower handle. Wrestling your new turf terrorizer out of its winter hold, a vague memory forms of the electric mower sales person having said something about sharpening the blade a few times per year. An hour later with the battery mostly charged, the whirring blade makes its first seasonal spins, ready to start chopping away.

The electric mower signaling environmental credentials to supervising neighbors gives you confidence as you set out in your old tennis shoes and tall socks to start chopping through that thick May turf. But what is this? What is this trendy new sign hanging out in your neighbor's lawn proudly proclaiming a fashion statement heretofore unmentionable in dignified communities, "No-Mow May."

Suddenly you're buzzing with a stinging awareness. As you look down at the lawn about to perform what was going to be your first amazing landscaping feat of the season, questions root themselves deep into your subconscious. What do the neighbors know that I don't? Is it possible to be proud of a shaggy lawn? What is that little flower near my shoe? Why don't my socks match? Then the ultimate question hits you like a soft breeze; why continue to chop away, if we could all no-mow May?

With the cities of Edina, Mendota Heights, New Brighton, Roseville, Vadnais



April showers bring May flowers, and May flowers bring in the bees. This bee is feasting on creeping Charlie. (Photo submitted)

dens per year. Herbicides like Roundup® have been shown to cause several harms to bees including disrupting their gut microbiomes, disrupting bumblebees' ability to regulate the temperature of their colonies, and interfering with the growth and survival of honeybee larvae.

Recovering from no-mow May is something that has been little covered in all the excitement from people extolling the virtues of mowing reduction. Some people choose to no-mow for the full season, waiting till all the blooming activity is finished and mowing only one time after the middle of September. The no-mow till September strategy mimics what happens in a natural meadow where grazing might occur in sunny areas after the high heat of the season has passed. For that first mow whether it is in June or at the end of the summer season, you'll want to raise your lawn mower to its highest possible setting so that you don't hurt the lawn by chopping off more than 1/3 of the turf height at a time. Remember what the mower sales person said and sharpen the mower blade before hacking away at the lawn – a sharp blade makes a clean-cut that will reduce recovery time for your turf.

No-mow-May is not a new concept to cutting edge Minneapolis residents. A

healthy percentage of Minneapolis households have been practicing no-mow May long before it was popular. As a landscape designer, I am often asked to remove as much lawn as possible from people's landscapes. With landscapes like no-mow bee lawns, pollinator pocket gardens, prairie meadows, and food forests taking over yard after yard, block after block, the desire for standard turf as a ground cover is quickly waning. Replacing as much of your lawn with native plants as you are comfortable with will ultimately serve pollinators a more robust, productive habitat to call home in your landscape. Instead of restarting your mowing habits in June, consider replacing lawns with native plantings.

No-mow May is a huge time saver and a small step toward a more productive local ecosystem. Allowing grass and weeds to grow out and ultimately replacing lawn with native plantings will turn your turf into habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, and more.

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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www.faithlutheranmpls.org
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HELPING RESIDENTS FIGHT HUNGER

NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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



Minnesotans saw a record 5.5 million visits to food shelves in 2022. This is an increase of 53% from the year before. Due to the pandemic, inflation, and supply chain shortages, food has become increasingly expensive and people are relying more and more on food shelves for extra help.

Nokomis East Food Distribution is a collaborative effort between Crosstown Covenant Church, Good-in-the-Hood, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, and Trinity Lutheran of Minnehaha Falls. "I've been a pastor for 35 years, and to have a four-way partnership like this is such a miracle. It is a credit to all involved that out of care for our neighbors, we have a common aspiration,"

Crosstown Covenant Pastor John Jacobi explained. Pastor Jacobi also mentioned that Good-in-the-Hood has 36 pop-up programs in the Twin Cities, and has been a great resource for getting food to people who are willing to open their doors and serve their communities. Even though the pandemic saw an increase in food shelves like Nokomis East Food Distribution, there is still a need for more food assistance. People will line up hours before many of the food shelves in the area open to ensure they can get food before it runs out.

Kathy Anderson, a long-term volunteer at Nokomis East Food Distribution, used this to explain why she likes volunteering. "I'm so touched and honored to get to know the people as they come in early and wait on chairs for their chance to go in, to personally have conversations and see pictures of grandchildren. One particular woman from Afghanistan, [who] came to the U.S. 22 years ago, brings food while she herself is waiting for food. One time she brought coffee bread to share with me." Beate Illiff, another volunteer, added, "All of

the regulars there know us. There's a joy [in] that. It's a really beautiful atmosphere".

When discussing the food shelf, we talked about how it is set up. Instead of having pre-made boxes, people are able to come into a large open area in the church with all of the items on display and choose what they would like to take home, "which increases their dignity," Kathy added - keeping in mind that everyone deserves to have access to healthy and culturally appropriate food. "We want people to have food, but we are also bringing a human touch, which has been lost during COVID," Pastor John said when discussing their people-first approach.

As coordinators of a food shelf, they work with various volunteers and can never be sure of what surplus food they may get in the week. Most of the time, it is a win-win interaction, where donated food can be immediately given away to those who need it. Other times, it can be a logistical puzzle for the organizers to figure out. For example, one time, Nokomis East Food Shelf received 60 pounds of dill. They had to immediately find people who needed it before it went bad.

"COVID has been hard on every organization. It has been brutal on churches across North America, between masking,

political polarization, racial injustice. This has been such a gift because for the food distribution, we have an abundance of volunteers. People fight to sign up. This is how I know it's good and there's joy; there's an abundance of people who want to serve," said Pastor John.

The food distribution is open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 2-4 p.m. Volunteers are invited to sign up at the following: www.crosstown-covenant.org.

Nokomis East Food Distribution is also in constant need of diapers and small packages of laundry detergent, as people tend to walk to both the food shelf and the laundromat. If you would like to donate, please bring items to the Crosstown Covenant Church (5540 30th Avenue South, Mpls) Monday - Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

• All statistics taken from: <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/food-shelves-in-north-minneapolis-report-unprecedented-number-of-people-in-need/>

Are you a business, non-profit, or faith group? Please email brandon.long@nokomiseast.org to discuss how you can sponsor this program.

EVENTS

LBA LUNCHEON AT GALAPAGOS BAR & GRILL

The Longfellow business community will gather for the Longfellow Business Association (LBA) Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, May 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Galapagos Bar & Grill for an Ecuadorian feast. Galapagos Bar & Grill is one of a handful of start-up businesses that was paired with a mentor business this past year. Hear about Galpagos' collaboration with Gandhi Mahal / Curry in a Hurry as well as a few other start-up and mentor collaborations. Meet the new LBA business outreach specialist Gabriela Ortiz-Riera. This will also be an opportunity for LBA members to consider running to be on the board as elections will be happening during this meeting. Lunch tickets are \$22.50 (additional fees if paid online) which includes a buffet lunch and beverage. Pay in advance or at the door (cash, check, Venmo or credit). RSVP and include any dietary restrictions by contacting gabriela@redesigninc.org. More at www.longfellowbusinessassociation.org.

LAKE STREET COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Lake Street Council Annual Meeting + Networking Event will be at the The Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge (3010 Minnehaha Ave) on Wednesday, May 10 from 4 - 6 p.m. Ticket price of \$20 include appetizers and drinks will be available for purchase. The quick program will take a look back at the past year and vision for the future of Lake Street and our community. Enjoy networking with other Lake Street stakeholders before and after the program. More at www.visitlakestreet.com

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FUNDRAISER MAY 4

Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice is hosting a fundraiser with a performance by Maria Isa & the Drums at Hook and Ladder (3010 Minnehaha Ave. S.) on Thursday, May 4th. This concert will launch the Hook and Ladder's annual, award-winning Under the Canopy series. This outdoor concert is 21+ and tickets are \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit SLRJ.



There will be a food truck on site for the duration of the show and free ice cream provided by Minnehaha Scoop. For more information or to donate directly to SLRJ on their website, visit slrj.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH CHARD YOUR YARD

Volunteer with Chard Your Yard to help us build, deliver, install, and fill raised vegetable garden beds. No gardening or carpentry skills are necessary. A build night is set for May 2, with a delivery day on May 3. There are two shifts for install work on May 6. Find details and sign up to volunteer at ChardYourYard.org. Chard Your Yard works toward building sustainable communities to address climate change.

SEWARD MONTESSORI PLANT SALE

Seward Montessori's annual plant sale is May 12 and 13, 2023 and is the perfect place to get your flowers, fruit, vegetable, and herb seedlings for the upcoming year. There are over 50 perennials native to Minnesota to choose from. Seward Montessori is at 2309 28th Avenue South. Pre-order at plantsalesewardmontessori.org.

CAN DO CANINES OPEN HOUSE

Can Do Canines will host an open house on Saturday, May 20, from Noon-2 p.m., at its campus (9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, Minn.). Potential clients, volunteers, or anyone who might be interested in supporting the organization are invited to attend to learn how an assistance dog changes the life of a person with a disability. More at www.candocanines.org.

BLUE LINE COMMUNITY MEETING MAY 17

A virtual community meeting on Blue Line extension route options will be held from 5-6 p.m. on May 17. Since fall 2022, the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County have been working through the environmental review process to understand the potential social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits of the route options. The findings from the technical analysis, along with ongoing public feedback and agency coordination, will determine a single recommended route and station locations by this summer. Find meeting materials and find ways to share feedback at the project website at www.BlueLineExt.org.




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RECLAIM THE OUTDOORS

Learn about native bird species with bird walks led by Urban Bird Collective. Find the benches built by our community and Better Futures and painted by community members with Black Table Arts throughout community gardens in South Minneapolis. This program was funded by a Hennepin Co. Green Partners Grant

Bird Walking Dates:

- April 20th | 5pm
- April 28th | 8:30am
- May 21st | 8:30am
- June 6th | 5pm





Find the benches!
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FISH DINNERS RETURN AFTER COVID-19 HIATUS

Longtime volunteer Edward Burke talks about how the Lent tradition builds community

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The fish dinners at Church of St. Albert the Great returned in 2023.

The last dinner had been held on March 13, 2020 before the state was shut down due to COVID-19, and attendance had been low.

"Because we'd ordered our food ahead of time, we had a substantial amount left over. We saved what we could, thinking that we might have a special bonus fish fry in the summer. When it became clear that wouldn't be possible, we sold boxes of fish with seasoning packets so that people could fry up fish at home," recalled Edward Burke, who serves on the fish dinner leadership team. "I bought a box myself, and it was good, but not as good as what our cooks make at St. Albert."

Like others, St. Albert's did not hold any big events in 2021. They had hoped to hold the dinners in 2022, but then the Omnicron variant hit and they postponed things again.

In 2023, they returned for all six weeks of Lent with the same menu as before: baked and fried fish, potatoes, coleslaw, spaghetti, bread, and desserts. The games were back (Bingo, 50/50, a cash raffle, and mini raffles), and so were the musicians.



Edward Burke sells tickets at a Church of St. Albert the Great annual fish fry. It returned for six Fridays in Lent after a hiatus due to COVID-19. (Photo submitted)

"It's basically the same fish dinner that people are used to except that they can be eating their food within five minutes of walking in the door," said Burke. "Our primary adjustment for the pandemic is that we now have air purifiers positioned throughout the social hall."

Prior to the pandemic, the fish dinners averaged about 1,200 people per week.

Burke attended his first fish fry there

about 20 years ago, and by 2010 was working all the dinners. In all, 98 percent of the work of putting on the events is done by volunteers, which includes two volunteer co-leaders, two dozen section leads, and others who work in a variety of roles whether one night or six.

"These events started as fundraisers, and they still serve an important role providing a portion of our church's budget,"

observed Burke. "But more than that, they build community, both within our parish and between the parish and the wider neighborhood. Fish dinners are often the first volunteer role that parishioners will take on at the parish. They can help people to understand that they are part of a community of people who depend on each other. Fish dinner volunteers often build friendships that they might not have developed otherwise. And as the sense of community grows, people take on other ministries to support the church. And we also get many volunteers from outside the church who simply love the dinners and want to share them with the community. Each week we recruit about 120 volunteers to set up, cook, serve, clean up, and host bingo and other games.

"People come to the dinners for a host of different reasons. Of course, many people love the fish. Personally my favorite is the coleslaw. And we have a huge dessert selection, many of them homemade. We also have many serious bingo players who eat their dinner early and then head up to the gym as soon as the 5:30 p.m. bingo start arrives. We also try to keep things lively with raffles running all night long. We give away \$25 several dozen times most evenings. And we have a wide variety of baskets that people can take a chance on in the mini raffle. (The mini raffle winners are chosen after the fifth dinner, and the major cash raffle winners are chosen after the sixth and final dinner).

"There's something for everyone."

CITY BRIEFS

CEDAR AND 42 STREET

In April, Hennepin County workers began improvements on 42nd Street at 21st, 26th, and Nokomis Ave that include installing raised medians and pedestrian curb ramps that meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. In May, the county plans to close the 42nd St. and Cedar Ave. intersection to install new dedicated turn lanes, curb extensions and make drainage improvements. Closure is expected to last one month.

2023 CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN

On April 19, a city council committee received a presentation about the draft 2023 Climate Equity Plan. The plan updates and replaces the 2013 Climate Action Plan and sets a goal for the city to become carbon neutral by 2050 with a focus actions that can be taken over the next five years. Comments about the plan are being taken online until June 5, followed by a

June 7 hearing at the Public Health and Safety committee, a Green Zone presentation on June 10 and council adoption set for June 15.

COMMISSION ON POLICE OVERSIGHT

City elected officials, staff and a council committee has reviewed and is recommending 15 people to serve on the newly formed commission that will, according to the new ordinance, "provide a forum for the public to have meaningful engagement in police oversight and shall serve as part of the deliberative review process." Locally, recommended appointees include Mara Schanfield for Ward 2, AJ Awed for Ward 6, Fartun Weli for Ward 8, Stacey Guri-Sherman for Ward 9, Philip Sturm for Ward 11, and James Westphal for Ward 12.

NEW TRANSIT PLAN

Metro Transit is drafting a new plan that will help guide their work for the next five years. They will be holding community workshops online from 5:30-7 p.m., Wednesday, April 26 and 12-1:30 p.m. Friday, April 28 and in-person from 5:30-7

p.m., Thursday, May 4 at the Brian Coyle Neighborhood Center in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. For more details and to take a survey visit www.metrotransit.org/Network-Now.

UPCOMING DFL CONVENTIONS

The Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) party will hold Ward conventions for Ward 12 on Saturday, April 29 at Roosevelt High School; for Wards 2 and 9 on Sunday, April 30 online; for Wards 6 and 8 Saturday, May 20 online; and, for Ward 11 on Sunday, May 21 online. See <https://minneapolisdf.org> for more information.

WARD 6 CANDIDATE FORUM ON ENERGY

There will be Ward 6 city council candidate forum on energy and climate justice hosted by the group, Community Power, on Thursday, May 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Brian Coyle Community Center, 420 15th Ave. S. All four announced candidates - Abdizirak Bihi, Kayseh Magan, Jamal Osman and Tiger Worku - are expected to attend.

PARKLETS AND STREET CAFES

The city is seeking applications for parklets and street cafes for the 2023 season. Neighborhood organizations, businesses, nonprofits, community organizations, and special service districts are invited to apply. Street-level businesses can apply for a street cafe where you can seat and serve your customers. The deadline to apply to host one of the three city-owned parklets is May 7. All other applications can be applied for any time.

NEW HR DIRECTOR AT CITY

Nikki Odom has been hired as chief human resources officer for the city of Minneapolis. She will oversee city employee recruitment, benefits, collective bargaining, labor contract administration, training and more. Prior to joining the city, Odom served as vice president of People & Culture at Minnesota Community Care health center. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration and a law degree from Marquette University.

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

JUSTICE FOR ALL COALITION FORMS

A growing coalition of organizations and individuals concerned about building safe communities has joined together in support of a broad range of legislative proposals to help build true public safety in Minnesota. The Justice for All Coalition (JFA Coalition), made up of 15 organizations and individuals, has endorsed a package of 15 bills that call for changes in policing, sentencing, probation, and funding for victims of crime, an expansion of youth restorative justice programs, and public safety innovation. Many have bipartisan support, including the bill to

restore voting rights to Minnesotans on felony probation that has already been passed into law. Learn more at mnjrc.org.

Former State Rep. The Hon. Carlos Mariani Rosa, Member of the Justice for All Coalition: "As a former state legislator, I know how important it is for lawmakers to see community advocates encourage them to advance new policies that work to serve us all better. That is especially true when it comes to building effective public safety policies that keep people safe while reflecting the Minnesotan value of creating better systems for humanity, fairness, and racial justice operating with the people's

trust."

Dana Mitchell President of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL): "We commend legislative leaders and Governor Walz for restoring voting rights to Minnesotans on felony probation. Restoring the voting rights of over 55,000 people is just the historic beginning of what can be done together."

Amber Jones, Managing Director of Policy Impact at the African American Leadership Forum (AALF): "It is important for the State to make meaningful investments in public safety that are not exclusively targeted to law enforcement. We

have to recognize that community members are often interrupting violence in communities without sufficient resources to do so. Building safe communities requires investments beyond policing."

Mark Osler, Law Professor and JFA Coalition Co-Chair: "The JFA Coalition is a space where community leaders, advocates for victims, the formerly incarcerated, and other various stakeholders unify to achieve lasting transformation in our criminal legal system. This coalition helps build bridges and prioritizes the voices of community members."



"As a local business owner, I value the option to contribute to the Messenger, Connector, and Monitor through our advertising. I am happy to support a local paper that puts out quality journalism month after month and that represents the diversity of our community.

The Messenger, Connector, and Monitor are an asset to our neighborhoods. These papers consistently produce quality journalism that highlight stories and people from our community that I would otherwise not hear about. It's a breath of fresh air at a time when so much news feels distant and out of touch with our day-to-day lives." ~ Joe Hayes of Hayes Window Restoration

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SOLACE AT THE PALACE: Interactive art fair in Longfellow June 11

**LONGFELLOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

BY ANDREA TRITSCHLER,
communications
andrea@longfellow.org



Longfellow Community Council is hosting Solace at the Palace, a day of community art, healing and resilience in the heart of the Longfellow neighborhood. Community members can enjoy a free day of creating art with six workshops featuring things like printmaking, fabric collage, leather working and more. There will be 20 vendors selling artwork and three musical performances throughout the day, as well as special art activities for kids. Solace at the Palace is June 11 from 12 to 6 p.m. in the yard of Moon Palace Books.

With so many amazing artists participating in this event, we wanted to highlight three visual artists and one musician who shared their reflections on the meaning and power of community.

Find more information on Solace at the Palace on our website, longfellow.org.

MEET ARTIST AND VENDOR SHEENA VANG (SHE/HER), THE ARTIST OF PABGHA (BAH-KHA)

Sheena is passionate about creating bubbly, colorful, and whimsical art to bring a tint of happiness.

Why is working in the Twin Cities important to you?

The Twin Cities, or Minnesota in general, hold a special place in my heart. My parents immigrated here as refugees, and I'm forever grateful for the resources and support the community has provided.

I love how supportive the Twin Cities are when it comes to art. There's a poignant stance to preserving, yet Minnesota artists continue to evolve art. It's refreshing. Thus why, I'm grateful to be part of this amazing community.

As for me, the culture and practice of what Minnesotans do has influenced my artist way. Most of them are kind, polite, experience perseverance through crappy winter, yet truly know how to enjoy great weather.

What does community mean to you?

There's a saying that the kitchen is the place where people are happy because food always brings people together. For art, the way we see the world and sharing that is a connection with one another. I create art and connect with others because



Sheena Vang

I want others to feel the subtle joy in their everyday and hardship life.

Portfolio: <http://www.pabghaart.carbonmade.com>

RICARDO PEREZ (HE/HIM) IS A TWIN CITIES-BASED ARTIST BORN AND RAISED IN MEXICO

How does environment/ community shape your work?

I live in Richfield and work in Minneapolis. As a Latinx immigrant, being able to find the diversity and vibrancy of Minneapolis was very special, it is like a piece of home here in Minnesota. The sounds, smells, and people feed my soul; almost like breathing fresh air, and lets me keep going on my identity journey.

I lived my adolescent years in Mexico city, and fell in love with the beauty created by the chaos of the city and the connections between the mystical indigenous past and its anarchic present; my identity started shaping up in between," said Ricardo. "I am a self taught mixed media artist. Love watercolor and ink. I have a robust body of work that goes back more than 15 years. More recently I have done murals that serve as place keeping strategies to engage with community about where they live.

What does community mean to you? How do you see the connection between art and healing?

On a personal level, art has been a healing element of my person since I was a young child. When I do art, it allows me to focus on my feelings and on the present moment. I approach it as a ritual, I need to have several elements for the moment to be right, the 4 elements need to be pres-



Carolyn Naomi

ent. I respect art as a spiritual part of me, and I am still discovering where this journey is taking me.

Instagram: @ricardo.ricardo.perez

FABRIC JOURNAL, ATELIER MAMAKO

atelier mamako is a creative studio co-founded by Jacques Elate Joss and Carmen Elate, lifelong partners, educators and artists. Jacques is a Cameroon-born DJ, poet, and visual artist. Carmen is a book artist and textile designer. Jacques and Carmen will be leading community members in a fabric book collage and patch making workshop.

Why is working/ living here important to you?

We live in the Seward neighborhood in south Minneapolis between the Greenway and Mathews Park.

We enjoy being part of our community in many different ways. Walking in our neighborhood is an important part of our creative process: from walking or biking near the Mississippi, to enjoying street art under bridges, and poems on the sidewalks. We also consider the outdoors to be our studio and a place of inspiration.

We make collages with eclectic and colorful pieces of fabric. It gives us joy to reuse and repurpose old items into new work. We integrate scraps from many different sizes, patterns, cultures, and textures into our projects. We enjoy watching the conversation of colors and patterns unfold as the work progresses. We are inspired by our experiences that are related to our journey.

What does community mean to you?

Community is a sense of belonging

and sharing experiences together. Art allows us to connect with our intuition, work with emotions, and experience the power of color and patterns. Art can bring the fun and joy of making something with your hands.

What do you like most about workshops/ making art with others? What do you hope people get out of your workshop?

We enjoy working with people and seeing how they play with the material and how they express themselves. There is beauty in seeing the variety of voices and responses to the process. We hope participants experience a sense of play and joy.

We are humbled by the opportunity to be making art outdoors with our community.

ateliermamako.com

CAROLYN NAOMI

Carolyn Naomi was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria and began writing music lyrics and singing at nine years old. She will be performing during Solace at the Palace.

"I picked up the guitar during my undergrad and have been performing at a number of venues in Nigeria and then the U.S. when I moved here in 2014. My music is a mix of Afrobeats, Rhythm and Blues, Gospel, Reggae and Pop music. Quite a number of music artists have influenced my sound because I grew up listening to a variety of genres and artists. However, two of them were instrumental in my decision to pursue music and they are: Asa (Nigerian-French singer and guitarist), and Brandy Norwood.

I live in Apple Valley and have always loved living in the south metro. The environment I live in is very important because this is the space I come home to after a busy work day, and so a quiet neighborhood with less traffic works best for my mental state and provides the peace needed in order to focus on my creativity better. As much as I used to live in the big hustle-bustle city of Lagos, Nigeria, I have a great appreciation now for small and laid back neighborhoods.

Community is valuable and it provides a sense of togetherness and identity. I try to connect with others through music and dance events, roller skating locations and events, festivals, birthdays and outings, etc. Art and music play important roles in influencing our communities, hence it is important that we use these tools positively.

<http://www.carolynnaomi.com>

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD
SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH

Multiple sales across the Greater Longfellow neighborhood.
Maps and details will be available May 20th.

Longfellow Community Council
www.longfellow.org **612-722-4529**

Nokomis East Garage Sale Day
DOZENS OF SALES!

SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2023

Maps, list of sales, and sale registration available at:
nokomiseast.org/garage-sale
Register your sale by May 29th



SUMMER FUN GUIDE

Hello, Summer!

By JANE ST. ANTHONY

Between winters, delight in the chance to leave home without mittens or money. Most of the activities listed below are free.

JUNETEENTH

Celebrate the Soul of the Southside Juneteenth Festival at Hook and Ladder, 3010 Minnehaha Ave., on Monday, June 19 from 1-8 p.m. This family-friendly event features live music, speakers, poets and a Local Black Owned Business Market.

BIRD WALK AND GARDEN TOOL SWAP

Join Urban Bird Collective at Longfellow Park for a bird walk through natural spaces in the Longfellow and Seward

Neighborhoods. You'll have the opportunity to learn and observe native bird species. Sign up to reserve your spot. Dates and times: May 21, 8:30 a.m., June 6, 5 p.m. Questions? Email jasmine@sng.org.

Longfellow Park will host a Garden Tool Swap on May 13 from 9 a.m. until noon. Bring your extra yard tools, planters, garden décor, books and seeds. Don't have anything to trade? Come to find what other gardeners hope to leave behind.

<https://longfellow.org/event/garden-tool-swap/>

MINNEHAHA BANDSTAND

Bring a blanket and catch a free concert at the Minnehaha Regional Park bandstand on Thursday and Friday evenings. The South High Community Band kicks

off this year's series on Thursday, June 1. Music ranges from alt-country, upbeat and danceable music, craft pop and belly dance. Minneapolis-based musicians include Tyler Haag, Southern Resident Killer Whales and Harlow.

<https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parks-destinations/parks-lakes/minnehaha-regional-park/>

MINNEHAHA FALLS ART FAIR

This annual event is a Zero Waste Festival hosted by Homespun Gifts and Décor at Minnehaha Regional Park. This year's festival is Friday, July 14, 3-8 p.m.,

Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 16, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The fair will host 100-150 artist booths as well as

ADVENTURES IN WALKING

One summer morning I passed a father who carried his son in a backpack. The little one moved his fingers at me, signing. What did he say? "You're a monkey," said the dad. On another walk, a huge dog raised a paw and shook my hand. Suddenly, his paws were on my shoulders. "He wants to give you a kiss," said his owner. I was flattered. A man was at work on his retaining wall; I crossed to his shady side of the street. We chatted. Subsequently, my husband and I have a new friend who introduced us to our first butterfly release and more.

The British Journal of Sports Medicine reported that a brisk walk of at least 11 minutes a day "significantly lowered participants risk for heart disease." The benefits increase exponentially with longer walks. Legs are the pump of the heart. Keep pumping!

music, crafts, food and more.
www.minnehahafallsartfair.com

HELLO, SUMMER >> 16



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National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 23-29, 2023

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SEXUALVIOLENCECENTER.ORG

Survivor Voices

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This project is supported by a National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project subgrant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators under a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



see you THERE


Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, May 7, 2023
8am-noon
\$12 Adults • \$6 Kids 6-18
FREE ages 5 and under
Tickets sold at the door

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- >>> Consider purchasing advertised products



CULTIVATING KINDNESS

Minnesota Veterans Homes Week
May 14-20, 2023

Thank you to our employees who cultivate kindness every day.

During Minnesota Veterans Homes Week, May 14-20, we publicly honor our compassionate, talented, dedicated staff who cared for more than 400 Residents of the **Minneapolis Veterans Home** who over the last year have served and sacrificed.

Team members help Veterans live their best possible life in an environment of respect, trust and dignity. We're grateful our employees followed their hearts to find their purpose at Minnesota Veterans Homes across the state.

*Senior Leadership Team
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs*

Serving Minnesota Veterans and their families.



SUMMER FUN GUIDE

Hello, Summer!

>> from 15

LIBRARIES

Nokomis Library

Cuddle up with a book-loving dog! Kids from grades 1-3 will relish reading aloud with a certified therapy pup or other four-legged bibliophile. Activities for the younger set include Storytimes and the new Play Space that features Science Lab, where kids experiment with color, sound and motion. Older kids will check out Nature Trading Space. Bookomis! All-Genres Book Club includes sci-fi, mystery thrillers, graphic novels and much more.

Pause at the glass display case to see historical children's books. First edition Alice in Wonderland, anyone? The library offers new books, journals for writing and drawing, plus rotating Play Space with activities for kids of all ages, all free of charge. The ongoing Nokomis Community Seed Library offers free seeds to gardeners. Learn about more activities throughout the summer. <https://www.hclib.org/about/locations/nokomis>

East Lake Library

Do babies line up at East Lake Library? They might when they learn of a Petite Concert. Little ones from birth to 24 months and their grown-ups meet every Friday during summer for a lively time at Baby Storytime. Family Story Times is also a big hit.

In July, Art Camp opens for third and fourth graders, as well as teens. Curious kids and teens can drop in on "Chemistry in the Library." There are zine workshops: "Writing and Drawing" as well as "Tools, Different Methods." Adults, as well as teens, are invited to create these printed publications that the library collects to encourage creativity and discovery.

Choices for adults also include East Lake Mystery Book Club, Weekly Art + Craft Practice Group, Job + Career Resources with PPL, City of Minneapolis Small Business Support, Medicare 101, Club de Lectura and many, many more. Events at East Lake continue to be added to the calendar. For information about new events and times, go to:

<https://www.hclib.org/about/locations/east-lake>

Roosevelt Library

Young architects and their families will explore the world of fiber when they construct their own soft animals on Wednesday, June 28. (Courtesy of Silverwood Park: Exploring Fiber Arts and Anima Architects).

Connect and Play is open every Saturday in May from 10 a.m. to noon.

On alternate Saturdays from June 3 to July 29, the younger set will enjoy Family Storytime. Yard Games provide the ball, bubbles, chalk and fun every Saturday in August. Ages 10-12. Check out "Llamas at

the Library" on Wednesday, Aug. 16 from 4-7 p.m. Roosevelt Library's Teen Tech Squad will provide STEM programs for youths.

For the mature set: Mystery and Thriller Book Club, 1-2 p.m. on Saturdays. Other offerings: Alzheimer's and Dementia: Effective Communication on July 22 from 2-3 p.m. and Alzheimer's and Dementia: Healthy Living for your Brain and Body on Aug. 5 from 2-3 p.m.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUG. 1

Neighborhoods are full of neighbors: those you've met and those you haven't yet. On Tuesday, Aug. 1, reach out and connect at your neighborhood block party, which may feature cookouts, youth activities and more. Minneapolis leads the nation in National Night Out participation. To learn about your block club, contact <https://www.minneapolis.gov/government/programs-initiatives/>

NOKOMIS DAYS AUG. 4-6

Nokomis Days 2023 returns Aug. 4-6 courtesy of the Nokomis East Business Association. Nokomis Shoe Shop continues its long-time sidewalk sale all weekend, and will be joined by others. Music kicks off with a Friday night concert at Nokomis Tattoo, and things end with a parking lot party at Bull's Horn on Sunday afternoon. There will be a beer collaboration between Venn Brewing and Bull's Horn, food spe-



Robert Sherwood's classic crime drama, "The Petrified Forest," will run May 5-6 and 12-13 at 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on May 13. All performances will be at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Tickets can be purchased at the door 45 minutes prior to the start of the show by Classics Lost & Found Community Theater Company. Later this summer, on June 9-10 and 16-17, the company will present "Pirates in the Park" outdoors at Lake Nokomis (1610 E. Minnehaha Parkway).

cial around the neighborhood, a maker's market, Bossen Renter's Party on Saturday, and more. www.nokomiseastba.com

FARMERS MARKETS

For your picnics, lunch bags or solo supper while watching the Twins, enjoy the fresh produce and abundance of choices when you shop at the community supported Midtown Farmers Market at 2225 East Lake Street. www.midtownfarmersmarket.org

Nokomis Farmers Market opens in June at 5167 Chicago Ave. www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org/nokomis

NOKOMIS MAKER MARKETS

Drop by the Shoreview Triangle (5342 25th Ave. S.) on Thursdays from June 1 to Sept. 28 from 4:30-7:30 to hear music, browse maker booths, and enjoy food trucks. www.NokomisMakersMarket.com

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