



## Citizens don't want 'false choice' around Third Precinct

*Community leaders, business owners and citizens call for robust community engagement to heal trauma after George Floyd's murder by Third Precinct officers before building discussion that offers just two choices to residents*

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

"For 20 years, we've been putting democracy to work on Minnehaha Ave in the shadow of the precinct building," observed Henry Slocum of The Hub Bike Co-op (3016 Minnehaha Ave). "We're asking now that the City of Minneapolis change course and honestly attempt to do the same."

Slocum represents one of the 17 businesses and organizations that joined with 16 neighborhoods within the Third Precinct that rejects any decision made through the April city-led process regarding the Third Precinct building, and demands the creation of a community-led intentional and respectful outreach pro-

cess that focuses on restorative justice. He and others spoke during a press conference on Tuesday, May 16 at city hall regarding the resolution passed by the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) that they also signed.

Slocum, who was recently elected to the Longfellow Business Association Board, added, "Until a month ago, not once had a city official come to talk with members of our business community about our visions, hopes, and concerns, or even how we had been impacted by the police murder of George Floyd and the events that followed. In the past three years, we've had robust conversation and process among neighbors, community, and business partners, facilitated by vari-

ous groups and organizations, about the issues we face and development plans that meet our neighborhood's needs. If the city of Minneapolis wants to say that concerned residents and business owners engaged in the process of deciding where to locate a future Third Precinct building, it has significantly more work to do."

### RUSHED CONVERSATIONS

Many asked why the city is rushing to do some-  
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"Our communities have expressed their distrust of the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department, and are demanding to be heard and included in the decision making process," said J Randolph of the Phillips West Neighborhood Organization. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

## Coffee FOR A CAUSE

By JANE ST. ANTHONY

Inside the gleaming Rick's Coffee Bar at 5402 43rd Avenue South, baristas blend coffee with heart.

With every swallow and bite, a portion of each purchase – from drip coffee to the local Gray Duck Chai to the baked goods from La Boulangerie Marguerite in St. Paul – benefits Every Third Saturday, or ETS, a military non-profit business that assists veterans in finding new purpose after military service.

"After we pay our costs, 100 percent of our proceeds go to the vets," said Jennie Limmer, the coffee shop manager who revels in coffee, purpose and monthly promotions. Mill City Roaster roasts the beans and delivers the coffee. ETS provides the motive and mission to foster hope and to support post-traumatic growth for veterans. Every month Limmer heralds a new twist on coffee. In February, "Love Hurts" celebrated the month of valentines with a cherry and cherry whipped cream mocha; March roared in with "Spring Fling," a white mocha with coconut and almond.

Before Rick's Coffee Bar arrived, there was a storefront – also named Rick's – one block east of the new coffee shop.

That business honored Rick Gus-

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE >> 16



## B LINE: 'LIVING-YOUR-LIFE-IN-THE-CITY LINE'



Politicians from Minneapolis and St. Paul throw shovels full of dirt as they celebrate the ground-breaking of a new Bus Rapid Transit Line that will connect the two cities. The B Line is expected to be operational in 2024. Work will primarily be done east of Hiawatha Ave. this year, and to the west next year. The new line will mostly replace the busiest bus line in Minneapolis, the 21. View photo gallery at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com). (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

### Ground breaks for Bus Rapid Transit B Line along Lake Street, connecting Bde Maka Ska to Union Depot

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Lake Street will be torn up over the next two summers to create the new 12.6-mile Bus Rapid Transit B Line.

The majority of construction along this line will be done east of Hiawatha this year, and west of Hiawatha next year. The line will open in 2024.

"Riders deserve fast and reliable service, and that is exactly what we are bringing to the B Line corridor through this significant investment," said Metropolitan Council Chair Charlie Zelle. A ground-breaking for the new line was held at E. Lake and 27th on Monday, May 8, 2023.

The B Line will run every 10 minutes, seven days a week during the day and most of the evening, and will mostly re-

place Route 21. It aims to make travel time 20% faster along the route.

"It is one of many bus rapid transit lines that we are building throughout the community," said Zelle, who lives in southwest Minneapolis. "This is not a commuter line. This is a living-your-life-in-the-city line."

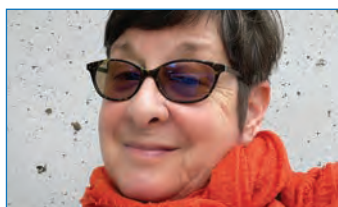
Fellow southwest Minneapolis resident, Senator Tina Smith, stated, "This project is about connecting people to their lives. ... This community is so worthy of this investment."

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A living catchment at Bde Psin/Lake Hiawatha to trap garbage

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AGING WELL  
Columnist Susan Schaefer bids a fond farewell

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SUMMER IN THE CITY  
Art, games, community and more!

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# METRO

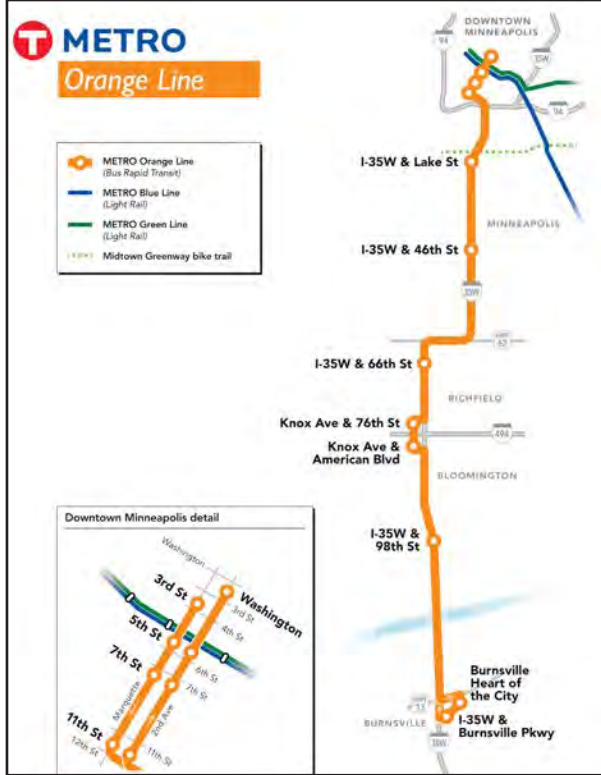
## B Line

March 2022



### FEATURES OF BRT

- Faster, frequent service
- Pay before boarding for faster service
- Neighborhood-scale stations with amenities
- Enhanced security
- Low-floor buses and raised curbs at stations, plus wider bus doors and boarding from the front and back, speed up boarding
- Extending the curb at stations saves time. Buses can merge more easily into traffic after serving a station
- Signal priority allows buses to move through traffic lights faster
- Larger and specialized vehicles



### B LINE >> from 1

"The B Line's construction is an important step on Lake Street's road to recovery from the dual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest," remarked Lake Street Council Executive Director Allison Sharkey. "The B Line will help more people reach the corridor to experience its cultural and commercial vibrancy while improving service to people who use transit for commuting, shopping and daily life."

"Expanding public transit is an economic, racial, and climate justice priority. Having the B Line Rapid Transit on Lake Street also represents a significant investment in the East Lake Street corridor recovery after the uprising," stated Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley.

District 61A Representative Frank Hornstein pointed out that even in the midst of the pandemic, travel along the existing bus rapid transit lines remained stable.

"Transportation is one of the things that – if done right – will create economic prosperity," said District 61 Senator Scott

Dibble.

"This is the line I will be taking to work and this is the line I will be taking home," observed District 63A Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura.

"The world is on Lake Street and Lake Street is the world," said District 3 Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene. She pointed out that the B Line will connect with others, including the Blue Lightrail Line, Green Lightrail Extension, Orange BRT Line and coming BRT E Line. "Not only can you find the world here on Lake Street, but you can access the world beyond Lake St."

"I am feeling the energy here," remarked Ramsey County Commissioner

Rena Moran.

The B Line will have about two to three stops per mile. The initial plan called for ending the line at Snelling and University; but the city of St. Paul and other stakeholders requested that it go all the way to downtown St. Paul. Planners also considered whether to route the line through the Midway along University as the Route 21 bus line does now, but ultimately decided upon Selby instead.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter shared that for his first job after college, he took the bus along Selby Ave. He still remembers the people he saw daily on the bus, and the sense of community he felt. If he

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### PROJECT SCHEDULE

- 2020: Project station locations approved
- 2021-2023: Design of stations and other improvements
- Spring 2023: Construction starts on stations and improvements east of Hiawatha Avenue
- Spring 2024: Construction starts on stations and improvements west of Hiawatha Avenue
- Late 2024: B Line service begins

### 5 EXISTING BRT LINES

- Orange Line follows I-35W between Burnsville and downtown Minneapolis.
- Red Line travels on Cedar Avenue between Apple Valley and Mall of America.
- A Line travels mainly along Snelling Avenue and 46th Street, linking Rosedale with the METRO Blue Line's 46th Street Station.
- C Line travels mainly along Penn Avenue, linking downtown Minneapolis with Brooklyn Center Transit Center.
- D Line links Brooklyn Center Transit Center and Mall of America, serving north Minneapolis, downtown Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington along the way.

### COMING BRT LINES

- B Line on Lake Street and Marshall and Selby avenues, scheduled to open in 2024.
- E Line on Hennepin and France avenues, planned to open in 2025.
- Gold Line will connect St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury generally along I-94 and is scheduled to open in 2025.
- F Line on Central and University avenues is advancing through project planning and is scheduled to open in 2026.
- Purple Line will connect St. Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, White Bear Township, and White Bear Lake and is scheduled to open in 2026.
- G Line on Rice and Robert streets is advancing through project planning and is scheduled to open in 2027.



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7 out of 10 voters say so when making election decisions

\*National Newspaper Association 2022 Survey

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missed a day, "my day would be off because I didn't get a chance to do my morning routine with the people on the bus," he recalled. "One of the things we don't talk about enough is the amount of community building that happens on the train or bus."

"It's not about the buses," agreed Zelle. "It's about the community inside the buses."

More than 30 stations will be built between Union Depot in St. Paul and the Uptown area of Minneapolis. In Minneapolis, stations will be at West Lake St. (connecting to the Green Line lightrail), Lagoon and East Bde Mada Ska, Lagoon and Hennepin, Lyndale, Nicollet, Interstate 35W, 4th/5th, Chicago, Bloomington, Cedar, Midtown, Minnehaha, 31st, 36th and 44th. In St. Paul, they will be at Marshall and Otis, Cretin, Cleveland, and Fairview; Snelling and Dayton; Selby and Hamline, Lexington, Victoria, Dale, and Western-Arundel; John Ireland and Marshall; and six locations in downtown St. Paul before ending at Union Depot.

Stations for BRT lines are not in turn lanes or parking lanes like other bus routes. Instead, they are in traffic lanes, which eliminate buses merging in and out of traffic.

Bus-only lanes will be implemented on portions of Lake Street, Lagoon Avenue and Marshall Avenue.

The first BRT line to operate is the A Line that begins at the 46th and Hiawatha lightrail station (Blue Line), proceeds across the Mississippi River into St. Paul and then follows Snelling Ave. up to Rosedale Mall in Roseville.

"The new B Line will make it easier for Saint Paul residents to get to work, school and recreation by increasing service and reducing travel times. Efficient transit is key to reducing the emissions that contribute to climate change. The new B Line is a win-win for our community," said Russ Stark, chief resilience officer for



*E. Lake Street is torn up in front of the East Lake Library, as work begins on new Bus Rapid Transit stations. Work will primarily be done on the route east of Hiawatha into St. Paul this year, and west of Hiawatha next year. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)*

the city of Saint Paul.

**562,000 RIDES IN FOUR MONTHS**

In the first four months of 2023, there were 562,000 rides on the 21, pointed out Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey. "It is the most ridden line in the city." He added, "When you have a diversity of transportation options, more and more people will decide to take that trip."

Four open houses were held in 2019 to solicit community feedback, at South High and Walker Library in Minneapolis, and Merriam Park Library and Oxford Community Center in St. Paul. Additional meetings were held along Selby Ave. in St. Paul in the summer of 2019. Over the next few years, Metro Transit used postcards, flyers at bus stops, limited in-person conversations, emails to subscribers, and targeted social media posts. About 660 comments were submitted on the draft plan, and approximately 160 comments were submitted on the recommended plan.

The B Line will use 60-foot "articulat-



*Minneapolis resident and U.S. Senator Tina Smith, said, "This project is about connecting people to their lives." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)*

ed" buses with wider aisles, more seating capacity, and additional doors.

A fiber optic network will be built along the length of the whole corridor to link technology at stations.

Pedestrian and signal improvements will be constructed at an additional 50+ intersections.

Lake Street and Lagoon Avenue will be resurfaced to improve pavement conditions.

In Minneapolis, construction will be

staged to allow two-way traffic flow on Lake Street at all times, as well as allow traffic flow in the Lake and Lagoon sections of Uptown.

In St. Paul, construction on Marshall Avenue will be staged to allow two-way traffic flow at all times. On Selby Avenue, intersections will be fully closed to auto traffic for about a month with additional lane restrictions for longer time periods.

There will be bus detours during construction.

Construction is being coordinated with other projects in the area:

- The B Line will serve stations in downtown St. Paul that will be constructed in 2023 and 2024 as part of the METRO Gold Line project.

- Stations at Lake & Nicollet, I-35W & Lake, and Lake & 4th/5th Avenue were mostly constructed as part of the METRO Orange Line project in 2020-2021.

- Stations at Lake Street / Midtown Station are being constructed through coordination with Hennepin County's Hi-Lake Improvements project in 2024.

The B Line is fully funded through a mix of federal, state, and Metropolitan Council funds. The estimated cost of the project is \$65 million.

Local bus service on Route 21 will continue to run every 30 minutes along Lake St. between Hennepin Ave. and Minnehaha Ave. A new route 60 will run every 30 minutes in St. Paul to connect Selby Ave. with the Midway area and the State Capitol area. Changes to Route 53 along I-94 will be evaluated as the B Line approaches implementation.

Sign up for construction updates at [www.metrotransit.org/b-line-project](http://www.metrotransit.org/b-line-project).

"This doesn't stop here," said Frey. "When you think about Lake St., not only is it an important corridor but it is going to shine. Let's keep the momentum going."



**VIEW MORE PHOTOS** in the online version of this story at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

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thing now after three years of silence, in a month before the third anniversary of George Floyd's murder.

The city held five conversations on the Third Precinct that were organized in only six weeks, and were limited to discussing two options for a new building to house the Third Precinct. One is renovating and expanding the site at Lake and Minnehaha at an estimated cost of \$12 million that will take three years, or building a new building at Minnehaha and 26th that will cost \$24 million and take five years.

The LCC was contracted by the city to help organize locations for community meetings, inform residents and get people into the room. "LCC had to wait until the city's webpage about the full outreach plan was live to share information about the community conversation meetings," pointed out LCC Executive Director Rachel Boeke. "That meant we weren't able to promote these events until 13 days before the first was scheduled to be held."

"As a neighborhood organization, LCC has to give community members a 21 day notice for big community decisions - like electing our board membership or large funding decisions. The future of the Third Precinct building is an incredibly critical decision and deserves so much more than this current process has allowed."

"LCC wanted to be involved in this community engagement process to include as many community members as possible believing that any decision about the future of the Third Precinct site needs to be made by the people."

"The city process became the opposite of that, which is why the LCC Board of Directors passed a resolution rejecting any decision made through this effort about the Third Precinct building until a new



*Community leaders speak at a press conference at city hall on Tuesday, May 16, and push for a new community engagement process around the Third Precinct. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)*

community engagement process has been carried out - an intentional and respectful community-led process with a focus on restorative justice.

"LCC demands the development of a new timeline to define a shared community vision for a new facility or facilities, and how the former site of the Third Precinct should serve the community."

**BUSINESSES SUPPORT PEOPLE OVER PROPERTY**

Sam Gould of Confluence Studio helped organized neighbors to care for one another and to do the work that needed to be done in the midst of the protests. Neighbors gathered supplies and fought fires that the Minneapolis Fire Department couldn't get to. Gould pointed out that the violence done by officers at the Third Precinct existed for decades before George Floyd was murdered. "Here is a moment for us to do things differently," said Gould. "Our neighborhood - we experienced something the world watched. We have a moment now to change that

narrative. To do something different."

Nickey Robare has an art studio in the Ivy Building, and worked to put out a fire there during the protests that followed the murder of George Floyd. "The effects of the night in 2020 when the Third Precinct burned have stayed with me - I find myself and many of my neighbors continue to struggle with PTSD from the MPD's behavior before and throughout the uprising following the murder of Mr. George Floyd," she said. "The community members of the Third Precinct are traumatized. Last month, I saw a room full of business owners in tears because the city is pushing forward a return to the status quo without any attempt at building trust and addressing the community's trauma."

"There has been a narrative created that business owners who lost property during the uprising blame the protesters. But for myself and many other local business owners, that could not be further from the truth. The commitment to the fight for Black lives and an end to state violence remains steadfast. We need to see that the city of Minneapolis cares about us before they even begin to consider rebuilding the Third Precinct. People over property, always."

Anna Tsantir owns Two Bettys Green Cleaning, which operates from two sites in Longfellow, one .3 miles down Minnehaha Ave. from the Third Precinct building. "This community has been through a lot, and it deserves more transparency, and (above all else) a vision for the future to pull us through and into an innovative future where safety is for everyone," said Tsantir, who also serves on the Longfellow Business Association Board. "The void that has been created by a lack of those things has only deepened divisions and mistrust."

**IN SOLIDARITY**

"Phillips West Neighborhood Organi-

zation (PWNO) stands in solidarity with our neighbors at the Longfellow Community Council and request that the resolution put forward by LCC be honored and adopted by the City of Minneapolis," said J Randolph. "The issue of the Third Precinct is not an isolated one. The systemic racism identified by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights will continue to thrive if our neighbors are ignored and denied their right to representational governance. Our communities have expressed their distrust of the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department and are demanding to be heard and included in the decision making process; we believe that that is the minimum our communities are owed and we will fight for community autonomy and self-determination until we are heard and the demands are met."

"We want our residents and businesses voices to be heard," said Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association staff member Kate Gens, pointing out that it will build trust and justice.

"At this time, the Seward Neighborhood Group opposes locating a Third Precinct building at either 3000 Minnehaha Avenue or 2600 Minnehaha Avenue. Further, the Seward Neighborhood Group requests that the City of Minneapolis pilot new ideas for the delivery of public safety services in the Third Precinct, including but not limited to a decentralized approach to housing Third Precinct staff," said Seward Neighborhood Group Board President Lisa Boehlke

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Executive Director Brandon Long stated, "Let the community make a real decision."



**Read full statements by community leaders and the LCC resolution online at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com).**

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](mailto:tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com).

## GIVE ME A MINUTE

BY VALERIE FITZGERALD  
Howe resident



# I'M READY TO GET INTO NECESSARY TROUBLE

In April, the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger reported on a series of meetings held to discuss rebuilding the Third Precinct. I went to one of these meetings at Roosevelt High School. There was concern about crime, about limited options for the location of the new building, and a sense that decisions were being made by outside forces over which we have no control.

Being in these meetings brought back that time three years ago. When video of George Floyd's murder at the hands of a police officer was circulated, I expected protests. I remembered the death of Jamar Clark in 2015, and the 18-day long encampment at the Fourth Precinct. I did not expect that domestic terrorists would come from as far away as Texas to hide behind peaceful protesters and incite the widespread unrest that took place.

The Minneapolis Police Department has been investigated by both the Federal Department of Justice and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. On March 31, a 144-page settlement agreement was completed between the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. It is hoped that the guidance from this agreement will improve the culture of the Minneapolis Police Department. However, our larger culture, which created the abuses of power associated with George Floyd's death, was hundreds of years in the making.

I developed a better understanding of how that culture developed thanks to historian Heather Cox Richardson's daily Letters from An American. I have come to depend on Richardson's calm, comprehensive analysis of current events, linked to their historical origins. I began to learn more about how the concept of race originally developed. Long before establishing independence from Britain, the colonies created laws that associated legal, economic and social rights with skin color and nation of origin. These historical foundations of race and racism are woven throughout the systems that keep our society functioning. They have worked their way into our traditions and our culture, creating a hierarchy that gives people of European descent an unfair advantage and others a corresponding disadvantage.

The greatest advantage by far has gone to the wealthiest Americans. I always believed that the U.S. is a country where people who come from poverty can achieve economic success, and to a certain extent this is true. However, it is also true that wealthy people have disproportionate political power, which some have used to prevent less influential Americans from gaining even minimal economic stability. Unfair advantage in the competition for wealth has historically contributed to economic and social instability.

In her daily letter of March 7, 2020, Richardson wrote: "When our lack of government oversight of the economy leads to the rise of extremely wealthy people who take over our political system and use it to promote their own interests, a crisis lays

bare the misuse of the government for the rich." She described three times in U.S. history when wealth became concentrated in the hands of a few and led to such a crisis.

- The first occurred in the 1850s, when wealthy landowners in the South who depended on the labor of enslaved African Americans forced the unpopular Kansas-Nebraska Act through the legislature. Although this act did not explicitly call for the expansion of slavery into new states and territories added to the U.S., that would have been its effect. This led to the secession of Confederate states, and the Civil War.

- In the 1890s, wealthy industrialists had gained significant political influence, resulting in hazardous working and living conditions for laborers. President Theodore Roosevelt enacted much stricter regulation of business in the early 20th century.

- In the 1920s, government regulation of business had once again weakened. Initially, business boomed and investment in the stock market grew. When the stock market crashed in 1929, a number of forces came together to cause the Great Depression. In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt put together the New Deal, legislation designed to assist farmers and workers, and strengthen the economy.

We are once again in a period of social and economic instability. Foreign affairs expert and author Fiona Hill calls it a "cold civil war." This year, there have been three high profile bank failures. As I write this, the debt ceiling has yet to be raised

to prevent the U.S. from defaulting on our loans. High levels of inflation, initially attributed to supply chain problems, now appear to be caused by corporations that are increasing markups, simply because they can, and enjoying record high profits. Mass shootings are a weekly, if not daily, occurrence. We are experiencing drought, fires, floods, and massive storms, intensified by worsening global climate change.

All of these conditions are held in place by public policy, sometimes arrived at through corrupt means, sometimes backed up with force. Policy – even policy that is rooted in centuries of tradition – can and does change. I grew up believing that my vote was the best tool to create change, and I've seen the power of protest to disrupt unfair systems.

For most of my life, I've avoided expressing potentially controversial opinions out of fear of offending others or hurting their feelings. I'm also afraid that someone who is better informed and more articulate will disagree with me, and I'll feel stupid. I still have all those fears, so why speak up now?

As I look back at the turning points in my life, they have involved recognizing my fears and acting in spite of them. My motivation has not been courageous, altruistic or noble. Rather, it's realizing that the only thing worse than making a change is not making that change. So, instead of keeping these thoughts to myself, I risk sharing them, putting my faith in the words of John Lewis: "Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

## SIGNS OF SPRING

### STORIES AND JOURNEYS

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN



Dear Reader: This column is about signs of spring showing up in my life experiences and awareness. So, buckle up! If you have read this far you have taken the plunge into the river (flow) of life experiences which is Stories and Journeys.

#### A RABBIT AND A DREAM. ANIMALS AS TEACHERS IN MY LIFE.

This spring, a rabbit keeps appearing in the yard next to my house. One sign of spring. It appears to be the same rabbit. It keeps showing up in the same place. My neighbor and Messenger reader Julie thinks it is looking for a place to nest. I am experiencing feelings of kinship with this rabbit. I juxtapose this real life rabbit experience with a rabbit dream I experienced recently.

In the dream, I am in the kitchen of my house. I am standing at the sink with the cutting board out. On the cutting board I am holding down a rabbit. I am about to cut off its head. Suddenly, I realize I can't do it. Something deep inside of me causes me to stop. I cannot take the life of this living being. I proceed to set the rabbit free. I have just been reminded of a core piece of my identity coming from my life experience with animals.

Lessons taught to me by animals showing up in my life as teachers. My first cat, Peepers, taught me that I am not the superior species only a different species. With Peepers I discovered the reality of the human-animal bond. Later at the U of M Center for Spirituality and Healing I would learn about the human-animal bond as an alternative healing modality.

While browsing in the book store as a volunteer back in the day at the Animal Humane Society, I discovered and was inspired by a book about St. Frances of Assisi, a friend to all creatures. And from the animals (cats) in my life, I experienced and learned unconditional love. I recently found a bookmark I had picked up one day at Lake Harriet Veterinary where I used to take my cats for treatment, including acupuncture. It contains the words, "Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." - Anatole France

The core lesson for me is the trust of an animal is sacred.

#### HILARITY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Another sign of spring for me is the current Minnesota legislative session is came to a close May 22. I watched it on TPT week days. Now I have a reputation for being a source of levity/hilarity in people's lives. I have experienced hilarity in some of the floor speeches I have listened to coming from the Minnesota Senate. One, in particular, that stood out was delivered by Senator Steve Drazkowski. In a floor speech, he asserted, without evidence, that the Minnesota AFL-CIO and affiliated unions are guilty of money laundering. I found this assertion to be hilarious. I find many of his assertions to be hilarious.

I am a member of the Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council (AFL-CIO). I like to think we would know about any money laundering going on.

#### CELEBRATING FARMER'S MARKET OPENING

Midtown Farmers Market opened for 2023 on May 6. Another sign of spring. I'm celebrating the woman who came up to me as I was placing my omelet order with Jonathan at the Kabomelette venue. She identified herself as someone who delivers Meals on Wheels to my house and

she identified herself as a reader of Stories and Journeys in the Messenger.

I'm celebrating another woman who came up to me. She identified herself as a former front desk staff at Lake Harriet Veterinary. She recognized me. I remembered her. We did some carching up.

Catching up with folks at the market for me included what has happened in my life since last October. Spine surgery, COVID-19 and, most recently, emergency hospitalization to remove my gallbladder due to gallstones.

I'm celebrating the return of Havliceks Orchard. I was out of apples. I am celebrating the discovery of Urban Forge as new to the market this year. Finally I am celebrating the DJ playing music. For a brief moment, I broke out in a dance move.

I'm looking forward to future markets be they Midtown, Fulton, Kingsfield or Nokomis.

So, dear reader, what signs of spring as summer approaches have showed up in your life experiences and awareness? Tell yourself, tell others or tell me.

In gratitude.

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

# Messenger

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

612-345-9998

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#### Owner & Editor:

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

#### Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183  
[denis@longfellownokomisessenger.com](mailto:denis@longfellownokomisessenger.com)  
Sandra Mikulsky, 612-260-7967  
[sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com)

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#### Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Penny Fuller, Chloe Peter, Cam Gordon, Donald Hammen, Susan Schaefer, Terry Faust, Iric Nathanson, Amy Pass

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# B-Line buses and cars shouldn't share one lane on Lake St.

## GUEST COLUMNIST

BY DAN KENNEDY  
Longfellow business owner



In a case of good intentions backfiring, Hennepin County has planned a B Line express bus route that will crawl along Lake Street at the pace of stalled traffic. This will result from its lane reconfiguration that was planned without consulting those who live and work along this busy county road.

People generally like the idea of faster bus service. I have used the A-Line on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul to hasten my trips to the state fair; I think it works well. Snelling has two lanes of traffic in each direction, so cars can pass buses that are, after all, designed to stop for passengers even when the light is green.

Hennepin County will have none of that nonsense. Eastbound, the county plans just one lane of through traffic. When the bus stops at a green light, the cars behind it will stop at a green light. Worse than that, the design has most bus stops on the far corner of the stoplight, with the bus stopping in the only lane of traffic. When a bus goes through a green light and stops, cars behind the bus will stop in the intersection on a green light. When that light turns red, the cars cannot budge because there is but one lane of traffic and a bus is blocking it. So, the cross traffic also cannot move.

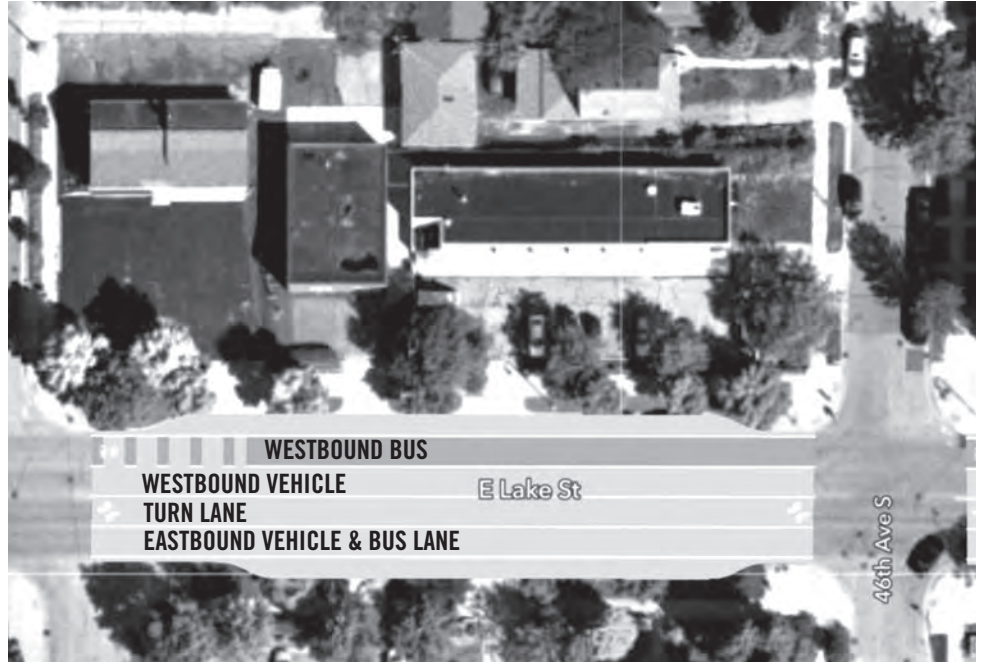
If you think that this configuration is bad for cars but good for buses, you are half right. It's bad for buses, too. Consider Lake Street at the River Road. Eastbound traffic backs up one or two blocks at each red light. That's in two lanes. If you crowd all that traffic into one lane, that doubles the length of the backup. That's bad for

all vehicles that will wait several lights to make it through the intersection – including the buses stuck in that traffic. A single lane to accommodate both buses and cars does not accommodate either.

All of the above discussion assumes that a single lane exists, but we in Longfellow know that for five months every winter we lose the right lane of eastbound traffic. The parked cars obstruct that lane, and the snow is not even cleared from the lane at several intersections. Cars that currently shift to the inner lane to avoid parked cars and mounded snow in winter (and bicycles in summer) will have no place to go.

In the planning for reconstruction 18 years ago, a vocal few wanted to restrict Lake Street to one lane in each direction. Longfellow businesses objected. Hennepin County noted that the state requires four lanes if traffic exceeds 15,000 average daily trips (ADT), and Lake Street exceeded that at Snelling Avenue (20,300) and the river (17,000) and was close at 37th-38th Avenue (12,800, projected then to exceed 15,000 in 2016). In the reconstruction, all four lanes were retained, but the businesses compromised significantly elsewhere by agreeing to construct and maintain enhanced lighting, decorative fencing, trash containers, and benches. It transformed Lake and made it an attractive street. The businesses paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for those enhancements on top of their normal taxes and the steep assessments for the roadway. They still pay an extra \$80,000 annually to maintain these improvements. Getting business support for these assessments was not easy and would not have been possible if Lake Street had been rebuilt with only two lanes.

Perhaps you think that this is not your problem because you live blocks from Lake Street. It will soon become your problem. Even now, driving on 28th or 32nd Street to the river and then to the Lake Street Bridge can save time when eastbound traffic on Lake is backed up.



Note, the B-Line traffic plan calls for only one lane of eastbound traffic, with cars and the buses sharing one lane. There will be a center lane for turning traffic. Travel westbound will have two lanes with one lane designated as a bus lane. This 4 to 3 conversion was piloted on Lyndale Ave. last year.

When that backup doubles in one lane, you can expect traffic on other east-west streets to increase.

The long lines mean gaps in traffic will occur only at stoplights, and then only when Lake Street traffic is not idling in the intersection behind a stopped bus. Elsewhere, nobody will be able to turn left onto Lake or cross Lake on foot or by car.

How was this plan developed? Not in consultation with property owners; I received no notice and learned about the plan from a fellow property owner on Lake Street who received a map shortly before the official groundbreaking on May 8. And not in consultation with the local business community; I am on the board of the Longfellow Business Association (LBA), which was never asked for input. I would have expected county representatives to reach out and (1) inform property

owners that they plan to restrict traffic to one lane; and (2) explain why they think one lane will suffice when their position when Lake Street was rebuilt was directly contrary.

As bad as Hennepin County's process was, the resulting plan is worse. The county should scrap its plan to abandon the current configuration of two lanes in each direction. Two lanes allow cars to pass stopped buses and prevent long backups of traffic that will ultimately slow all vehicles – including buses.

Dan Kennedy serves on the boards of the Longfellow Business Association and East Lake Special Services District, and served on the Hennepin County Project Advisory Committee when Lake Street was rebuilt. He is an attorney with Kennedy & Cain PLLC on East Lake Street, and this column reflects his personal perspective.

## LETTERS

### THANKS FOR MENTIONING IMPACT OF TRAUMA

Thank you for your comprehensive write-up on the Third Precinct. I am an urban planning professor and am not surprised by the attitude of the city. Trauma is poorly understood by urban planners when it intersects with "real estate." The community perceives the building with trauma and building any of the options marginalizes and harms communities.

The land belongs to the Native; they need to be at the table along with the communities. I will use your narrative in my class. I am also writing a chapter on "Trauma-Informed Culturally Sensitive Smart Cities." I am glad I went to Quruxley restaurant where I picked up the Messenger.

I live in San Diego, but I will be coming to Minneapolis frequently. I am writing about trauma in cities. I teach at UC San Diego.

Thank you,  
Sheila Mitra-Sarkar  
DREAM Intersectionality Scholar  
www.getdreami.info

### LOVELY DINNER AT INDIA KUTIR

We just had the most delicious dinner at India Kutir at 36th Ave. S. and East

Lake Street. A Somali restaurant used to be there so many residents, like me, just discovered this new gem. Nice to have something good happening on Lake Street.

Thank you,  
Lynn Balfour

### BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

After planting a variety of native wildflowers along the public sidewalk near my house, I observed the colorful pollinator insects they attracted. To learn more, I took photos and uploaded them to iNaturalist where artificial intelligence and human experts assisted with identification.

What a diversity of tiny wildlife in my small Minneapolis yard! With iNaturalist's help, I've recorded more than 200 species of bees, wasps, flies, spiders, beetles, moths, butterflies and dragonflies, some quite rare. In a similar yard in St. Paul, an observer has identified over 440 species.

Spread the word! Learn about nature! iNaturalist encourages anyone, age 13 and up, to take photos of the amazing critters around us, upload their observations, and contribute to citizen science.

Bob Payton, artist  
Web: www.bobpayton.com  
E-Mail: bob@bobpayton.com

## LIVING CATCHMENT TO HELP CLEAN LAKE



What are these folks up to in Lake Hiawatha? They're planting a living catchment, one piece of a larger project designed to capture litter entering the Lake Hiawatha/Bde Psin. Neighborhood volunteers, along with students from Sean Connaughty's art and ecology classes at the University of Minnesota, planted a variety of items to help catch trash entering the lake through the city's stormwater sewer drain on the northwest side. Plants included willow, rushes, obedient plant, blue flag, and pussy willow. The rest of the project will be installed Saturday, June 3, along with a cleanup and celebration event from 9-11 a.m. "Come pick up trash, canoe, look for invertebrates, make a DIY environmental cleaner, and see what this innovative pilot project is all about!" urge organizers. (Photo courtesy of Sean Connaughty)

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Email letters, guest commentaries, press releases, notes and memories of the newspaper over the years to [tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](mailto:tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

## UNDER THE HOOD

BY SUSAN SCHAEFER



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

Thirty-five years ago, at Thanksgiving, I moved to Minnesota from my Philadelphia home. I relocated back to my hometown in time for Passover and Easter. In November 1988, the Twin Cities were cold and snow-covered. During my big move home, in March 2023, the Twin Cities were cold and snow-covered, making fall and spring hard to distinguish.

### YOUTHFUL OPTIMISM GIVES WAY TO THE WISDOM OF AGE

On the other hand, making such monumental life transitions in the springtime and autumn of my own life provides a contrast that is easy to distinguish.

I arrived in Minnesota in the optimism of my golden youth and have departed in the wisdom of my silver age.

In 1988, as a 38-year-old, my career and my vigor were in full bloom. The economy was thriving, and I had accepted a position as senior vice president of public relations in a Minneapolis-based public relations firm. I was an active member in the national and regional activities of my professional association, the Public Relations Society of America, that provided me meaningful ways to fully integrate into Twin Cities civic and social life. Making workplace friends in one's 30s was easy. And my romantic partner from the area provided built-in family connections.

I look back at that move now with the insight gained by more than three decades of experience.

### 'MINNESOTA NICE' BUT OFTEN NOT INVITING

Even with all of the social and professional advantages of youth, Minnesota's culture was alien. My east coast friendliness and frankness were not readily appreciated. I found it all but impossible to translate my work friends into real ones.

There is a kernel of truth to the sense of exceptionalism that Garrison Keeler baked into Prairie Home Companion's famous tagline. While it's not entirely fair to generalize, Minnesota natives are a very insular group – whether it's due to the Scandinavian cultural influence or flat-out wariness of anyone who chooses to settle in the land of 10,000 lakes, mosquitoes and endless winters, one saying is relevant: "Minnesotans will gladly give you directions everywhere except to their home."

As an extrovert, who also happens to be an only child, I seek friendship and family everywhere I go. Sad to say, for the most part, my inner circle of friends in Minnesota are largely transplants themselves. And believe me, we talked a lot amongst ourselves about "Minnesota Nice" being a misnomer. Nice is as in polite, but not welcoming.

I worked very, very hard at joining organizations and performing public service; therefore, I enjoyed many sandboxes in which to play, but these arenas never translated to personal invitations to sit at the dinner table or to meet the locals closely held, lifelong circles.

Native Minnesotan crime novelist, Catherine Dang, writes of the "dark underbelly of all those polite, respectful interactions" saying, "Minnesotans might be labeled as shy for their reserved behavior, but that distance serves a purpose. Social circles are tight in Minnesota, and outsiders are excluded. People have already established their friends and family, so strangers at best are viewed with indifference. At worst, they're viewed with caution. It's why people new to the state will complain about the lack of meaningful

# FOND FAREWELL

friendships that they make here."

### BUT YOU SEEMED SO HAPPY HERE

And, for the most part, I was.

As a minor public figure due to my many roles which include being a columnist here with TMC Publications CO., or before that my years as a columnist for the beloved Southwest Journal and Minnesota Good Age, or as past president of the Minnesota Public Relations Society, founder and chair of the Creative Class committee for the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board member of the Seward Neighborhood, volunteer for our regional ACLU, and more – overwhelmingly it has been my "transplant" friends who have embraced me as part of their social circle. It will surprise many of my acquaintances to learn how much not ever really belonging hurt. My close friends know this about me.

### COVID-19 WAS A DECIDING FACTOR

It was really during COVID-19 quarantine time that I sensed, even with my full quarter century of skin in the "trying to be a Minnesotan" game, I never totally felt a part of my adopted state. And, honestly, that felt just awful.

Certainly, the factor of "aging" combined with the forced isolation of COVID-19 quarantine exaggerated my feeling of not belonging. During those years of pandemic loneliness and uncertainty, I grew increasingly drawn to my roots.

I formed a weekly zoom group populated with friends from childhood and my teenage years. All were high school chums, and I experienced that sense of familiarity and belonging that had escaped me during my long tenure as a Twin Citian.

### THEN, THERE'S THE WEATHER

It would be insincere not to mention that flying our famous wintertime banner – Hygge – truly is not a substitute for the lack of a true four seasons.

In the past few years, the brutally cold and long wintertime of our region began to take a decided toll on me. And I am an avid outside walker! During my tenure here, I proudly never let the temperatures, even sub-zero, keep me in. My many boastful social media posts were intended to show (and partially irritate) my east



and west coast, as well as my European, friends about how glorious our frozen tundra was, how fit and hearty I was, and how utterly cozy – hygge – my interiors were. Yes, I can be that way!

However, the forbidding ice-covered streets and trails finally prohibited many outdoor winter walks. And in my early 70s, my blood isn't as thick as it used to be, and my skin has truly gotten a lot thinner.

Even pre-Covid, I made an annual pilgrimage around the time of my April birthday to experience Philadelphia's glorious spring. Each time I made this trip, I grew more aware of how much I missed the historic brick and cobbled streets and the overwhelming greenery of the city.

Climate change certainly has reduced the weather rewards of any geographic lo-

cation to a gamble, but the season of my birth, spring, still holds court in Philly. There are the astounding cherry blossoms and foliage lining our French-inspired Benjamin Franklin Parkway – the grand boulevard that defines our Center City. Philadelphia's diagonal Benjamin Franklin Parkway stretches one mile from just beyond City Hall to the Philadelphia Museum of Art at the edge of Fairmount Park, acting as the home of museums, cultural institutions and other attractions. And surrounding the art museum, gracefully situated above the falls of the Schuylkill River and the historic Water Works, is the famous Azalea Garden.

Created in 1952, this thematic garden located between the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Boathouse Row was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to honor its 125th anniversary. It was donated afterward to the Fairmount Park Commission, and now comprises a portion of the Schuylkill Recreation Path which parallels the Schuylkill River in the heart of downtown.

This year I moved in time to experience a glorious, prolonged spring in full bloom.

### MINNESOTA AND THE TWIN CITIES WILL ALWAYS BE MY SECOND HOME

I am gratified for my combined quarter century as a Minnesotan. I marvel at the opportunities I've had to impact the very face of the Twin Cities, from my role in designing the Minneapolis Riverfront: Vision and Implementation project for my longtime and cherished client, Cunningham Group Architects, to creating a newspaper column and a committee for the business chamber that focused on the outstanding Creative Class at the heart of our metro area.

I have lived a full and satisfied life as a member of the Twin Cities community. I enjoy a deep and dear circle of friends and acquaintances whom I will greatly miss and will continue to stay in touch with. And while most of my innermost circle are transplants, I am sincerely appreciative to those Minnesota natives who fully have embraced me as a member of their family of choice.

It is indeed with a heavy heart that I bid farewell to these beautiful cities: to my amazing sunrise view over the majestic Mighty Mississippi River, and to my many colleagues, friends, and acquaintances.

I especially will miss the readers of this great group of community newspapers that provide a top-quality forum for the residents of Longfellow, Nokomis, Midway, Como, Frogtown and Southwest.

During my final year as a resident, it has been this role as contributing columnist that has allowed me to sample the very best of the humanity, culture and nature that the Twin Cities has to offer. Thank you for the privilege. I will be back to visit and hope you come to experience the Cradle of Liberty, this City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection.

Drop me a note if you. I'd like to show you around!

*Susan Schaefer is a widely published independent journalist, creative writer, and poet. Her articles appear in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, PBS' online magazine, Next Avenue, Next Tribe, and beyond. She was columnist and features writer for Minneapolis' Southwest Journal and Minnesota Good Age magazine.*

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# Composting comes with multiple options

## THE CITY GARDENER



BY LAUREN BETHKE,  
MASTER GARDENER

Welcome to a new gardening season! Spring seems to have finally arrived and if you're like me, you're making big plans for this year's outdoor projects. This would be a great time to consider starting or expanding your home composting efforts. Composting is a great way to reduce waste while improving soil health, and your setup can be as simple or elaborate as you like. Whether you're a seasoned composter or have never done it before, read on for some helpful tips.

First, you may be wondering – why bother with home composting when you could just participate in the city's curbside composting program? Personally, I do both. As I'll discuss further below, there are some things that can't be added to a home compost pile, and I'll put many of those in my city compost bin. But I like being able to compost the majority of my food waste at home, reducing the resources needed to recycle it. Plus, it's convenient to have fresh compost readily available without having to arrange pickup or delivery!

So, how does composting work? Essentially, you are creating the ideal conditions for naturally occurring microbes to convert organic waste into a useful soil amendment. When done correctly, you won't have bad smells or attract pests. And the resulting product (i.e. the finished compost) contains nutrients that benefit



*There are lots of options for how to physically create a compost pile. It could be as simple as a pile of organic waste in the corner of a yard, but you may want a structure to keep things contained. (Photo courtesy of mncompostingcouncil.org)*

your plants and soil.

There are lots of options for how to physically create your compost pile. It could be as simple as a pile of organic waste in the corner of your yard (although I would recommend having some sort of structure to keep things contained). Ideally, your compostable materials will be held in a roughly cylindrical shape, approximately three to five feet across. This is a good size to allow the compost to generate heat for decomposition, while also letting air and water penetrate the pile. You could create a cylinder of chicken wire or snow fencing, or stack cement blocks

or bricks with some spaces in between for airflow. There are also many types of compost bins available to buy – everything from a simple plastic bin to a rotating cylinder on raised legs. You can determine what will work best for your space and aesthetic preferences.

Many types of kitchen and yard waste can be composted at home, but not everything! For kitchen waste, you can compost things like coffee grounds, eggshells, fruit and vegetable scraps, and shredded newspaper. Compostable yard waste includes grass clippings, fall leaves, straw, and small twigs. You should not compost

meat, bones, grease, whole eggs, dairy products, pet feces, and diseased plants. These things can spread disease or attract pests. Personally, I also avoid composting most weeds because the pile may not heat up hot enough to kill weed seeds and I don't want to spread them around my yard. And keep in mind that the smaller you cut things up before composting, the faster they will decompose.

To create the best conditions for decomposition, you should aim to maintain a balance of "greens" (nitrogen-rich materials like grass clippings and vegetable and fruit scraps) and "browns" (carbon-rich materials like fall leaves, newspaper, and straw). The exact ratio is not important, but overall, aim to have more browns than greens in your compost pile. If your compost pile smells bad, you probably need to add some browns. If it doesn't seem to be decomposing, add some greens. Also, aim to mix your compost once or twice a month and add some water if it seems very dry. Once you stop adding new material to a compost pile, it will generally be ready to use within a few months. Compost is finished when it's reduced to about half of its original volume and has an earthy smell, with no recognizable food pieces still visible.

In the winter, you can still add things to your compost pile, but they will likely not decompose much when temperatures are low. Personally, I put most of my food waste out for city compost pickup over the winter and resume adding to my own pile in the spring. You can also try indoor composting using worms – also referred to as "vermicomposting." Although vermicomposting may seem intimidating, it is pretty simple and can be a lot of fun!

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

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**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
[www.epworthmpls.org](http://www.epworthmpls.org)

Sundays 8:45am - Faith Formation for All Ages; 10am - Worship In-person & Live-streaming on Our FB Page - @EpworthUMCMPLS  
6/4 - God Is Still Creating! \*Honoring Graduates  
6/11 - Climate Justice  
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**Faith Ev. Lutheran Church**  
3430 East 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jared Yogerst  
Sundays - Service times on website (Communion 1st and 3rd)  
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Wednesdays: NA group, 7:30 pm

**Minnehaha Communion Lutheran**

4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527  
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Word ads must be received by the Messenger by Monday, June 12 for the June 22 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

# THE REMAKE: New website, logo

**NOKOMIS EAST  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

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



As someone who has spent hours of the last few months playing around with graphic designs, I can't even begin to tell you about the sigh of relief I had when I saw the rebranding that WebVolta is doing for Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA). More than two colors? YES, PLEASE. Rebranding is like being able to look in the mirror and see what you always wanted to be. I can't wait to tell you about the magicians that work at WebVolta.

WebVolta, a small business on 54th Street, started out with Brittany Rudquist, her husband Nic Boie, and their friend JD Guzman, who is based in the UK. Yes. You read that right. Our local business is also international.

They each fell into the business in their own unique way. Brittany recounted being in college. "I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up... I love art, but I'm not an artist. I'm too stuck in my head..." It wasn't until a teacher told her she was going to be a graphic designer (and explained what a graphic designer is) that everything just clicked for her. "It's a place where my brain just knew what to do."

Nic, her husband, started playing around with phones when he was three years old. He realized he could talk to people just by dialing numbers. He made his first website in the '90s - just as the World Wide Web became more accessible. When I asked him about it, he found the website.

We both laughed when the 90s font popped on the screen. He noted it was "full of [a] 12-year-old[s] political opinions." He even had a side business of mowing lawns to afford the second dial-up line in his home. It was never a question if he would own his own business or work with computers - it was just a matter of how.

Before JD got into software, he did low voltage network cabling - which means installing items such as cameras into businesses. He took a break from it and joined the Navy to become a boatswain (the person that drives and cleans boats). During this time, he met his wife, who wasn't too enthusiastic about him being deployed for nights on end. He did one deployment, then came home and met Nic and Brittany through a mutual friend. Today, he lives in the UK, but continues to work full-time at WebVolta.

Moonlighting isn't an odd idea to any of these hard workers. They all knew they loved building websites and designing and wanted to work for themselves, but opted to keep their day jobs for security while they started their dreams. "Moonlighting is hard. It's hard to work full-time then go work more after 5 p.m. I think we were all pretty burned out on that stuff. We either had to work full-time or bail," Nic said.

In 2016, Brittany was the first to take the plunge and quit her corporate job to design websites and software applications full-time. "I was ready to work for myself. That was always my goal in whatever capacity that meant." She began to laugh as she said they started getting so much business from the beginning. "People were paying us to build their websites, and we didn't even have time to make our own!" It became obvious that WebVolta would do well, and soon after, Nic and JD joined her fulltime.

Since then, they have moved into an



WebVolta founders include (left to right) Brittany Rudquist, Nic Boie and JD Guzman. The three started off moonlighting and then transitioned into full-time work building websites and doing graphic design. (Photo submitted)

office, survived the pandemic, and have grown into a team of seven magnificent thinkers and creators.

As we are building out the NENA website, they ask probing questions like how would we like the site to look as the neighborhood organization grows. "They [JD and Nic] are good at solving problems. It doesn't even need to be development. The way their brains work, they are problem solvers - they see problems before they even arise," said Brittany. It's clear in their attention to detail and the way they think about what our organization will look like 5-10 years down the line that this is an amazing business, and we are proud to

show off their great work.

Come visit us at [nokomiseast.org](http://nokomiseast.org)!

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

- 6/3/23: Garage Sale Day 8am-4pm
- 6/6/23: Housing/Development 6:30-8:00pm
- 6/8/23: Fundraising/Events 6:30-7:30pm
- 6/13/23: Executive 6:30-7:30pm
- 6/19/23: Environmental 5:30-6:30pm
- 6/20/23 Wellness Engagement 7:30-8:30pm
- 6/22/23: Board of Directors 6:30-8:30pm

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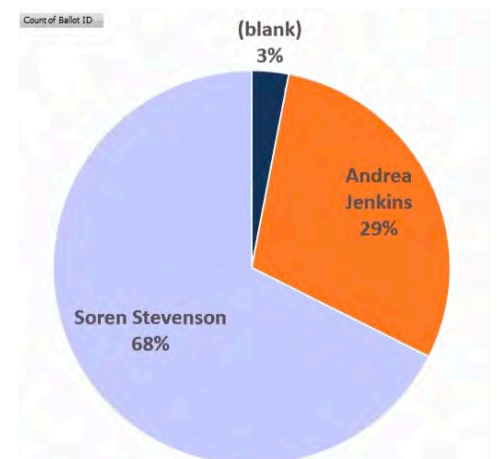
## DFL Endorses Soren Stevenson for Ward 8 instead of Andrea Jenkins

By JILL BOOGREN

Soren Stevenson earned the DFL endorsement for Ward 8 City Council at its convention on May 20. Of the delegates, 68% voted for Stevenson on the first ballot and over 29% for Council President Andrea Jenkins, thus sealing the party's endorsement in just one round.

"This is a clear sign that Ward 8 is ready for new leadership," said Stevenson when accepting the endorsement. "The city is ready for a kinder, safer Minneapolis, and we're gonna take this all the way to November, and we're gonna get that kinder, safer Minneapolis."

Held virtually, the convention began with a Q&A session wherein candidates were given a minute each to respond to about a dozen questions from delegates. Candidates were asked about affordable housing, food instability and accessibility for people who do not speak English as their first language. They were also asked about the best use of the Hiawatha Golf Course. (Jenkins supports its historic nature



and retaining the 18-hole course. Stevenson supports the plan for a 9-hole course, which he said keeps the historic site while better preparing the city for our climate future.)

In response to losing the endorsement, Jenkins said she was "very disappointed" but grateful to the 29% of people who support her. She will continue her campaign through November.

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# NEBA spotlight: Nokomis Makers Market

## NOKOMIS EAST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

BY HEIDI VAN HEEL  
volunteer  
NokomisEastBA@gmail.com



### UPCOMING MAKERS MARKETS

June 1, 8, 15, 22

\* Themed Market June 29 \*

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Shoreview Triangle

When you think of your Nokomis East neighborhood businesses, what comes to mind? Are they brick and mortar locations that you visit? Home-based businesses that you work with from afar? What about all of the artists, makers, vendors, and food trucks?

We're lucky in this neighborhood to have so many community-focused businesses and organizations involved in the Nokomis East Business Association, including the Nokomis Makers Market. This local organization is getting ready for their second season of family-friendly events, and you won't want to miss it.

Nokomis Makers Markets feature local artists, farmers, makers, vendors, food trucks, and special events each week from spring to fall, and they organize special markets throughout the year. And they're all made possible by volunteers in the community who met through the Buy Nothing Nokomis East group.

You can see the markets for yourself this season on Thursdays from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Shoreview Triangle in south Minneapolis near Lake Nokomis (5342 25th Ave. S.). They kick off on June 1 and run through Sept. 28. There are also spe-

cial markets throughout the year for special events and holiday markets.

To learn more about the market, please visit their website, Facebook, Instagram pages (@nokomismakersmarket). If you're interested in sharing your talents with the community as a vendor or volunteer, you can contact them via their website at: www.nokomismakersmarket.com.

Please join us at the Nokomis Makers Market this year! Thank you so much for supporting your local businesses and neighborhood market!

### UPCOMING NEBA EVENTS:

- NEBA Night, third Wednesday of each month: Nokomis Days Planning Meeting: 5-6 p.m. at Nokomis Tattoo; NEBA Meeting: 6-7 p.m. at McDonald's Liquor Event Space

- Nokomis Days, Aug. 4-6, 2023

More at <https://www.nokomiseastba.com>.

*Heidi Van Heel lives in Nokomis and operates a home-based business, hwh Engage!*

## LBA BOARD ELECTS NEW MEMBERS



The Longfellow Business Association (LBA) held its annual meeting at Galapagos Bar and Grill on Lake Street on May 11, 2023 where it held its annual election of board members and officers. Front row, left to right, are newly elected board members: Cathy Heying, The Lift Garage, treasurer; Ken McCraley, KMS Construction, president; Anna Tsantir, Two Bettys Cleaning, vice president. Back row: Dan Kennedy, Kennedy & Cain; Lauren Callis, Curiosity Studio; Denis Woulfe, Longfellow Nokomis Messenger; Michael Cain, Kennedy & Cain; Henry Slocum, The Bicycle Hub Co-op; and Dan Swenson, Alexander's Auto Repair. Not pictured: James Freid from Minnehaha Scoop and Carley Kammerer from Wildflyer Coffee. The LBA will hold its first board meeting with its new slate of board members and executive officers on June 20.

Like many organizations, the Longfellow Business Association has been in a period of reorganization during the depths of the pandemic. It recently entered into a contract with Redesign for new staffing, went through an extensive strategic planning process, and now with the new board and executive officers, will begin looking at activities for the rest of 2023 and into 2024. One of first projects will be the work on the biennial Longfellow Business Directory, which is a joint project between the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and the Longfellow Business Association. Longfellow businesses should expect to receive a survey about their business for classification in the Directory within the next month.

## CITY BRIEFS

### POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY EVENT

The Minneapolis Police Department will be holding a community picnic and barbeque on Thursday, June 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Cedar Field Park, at 2500 Cedar Ave. People are invited to gather with officers, neighbors and others for free food and refreshments. For questions about the event, contact 3rd Precinct Inspector Jose Gomez, 612-673-3644.

### ROOF DEPOT REZONING DELAYED

The City Planning Commission has voted to delay any decisions about the proposed new Hiawatha Public Works facility expansion at the Roof Depot Site at 1860 28th St E; 2717 Longfellow Ave; and 1901 26th St E. This included an application by the city to rezone the property and grant a conditional use permit to allow an expansion to an existing street and equipment maintenance facility. They voted to continue the decision to the meeting on June 26, to allow time for further negotiations about state funding and the possible sale of the property.

### PUBLIC HOUSING LEVY

On May 10, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority presented a proposal for a fully funded housing tax levy to be considered by the Minneapolis City Council, Mayor, and Board of Estimate and Taxation. The 20-year levy proposal would deliver an estimated \$240 million over the next two decades and property taxpayers would pay between \$31 and \$108 more

each year depending on the value of their property. A homeowner at the city median of \$316,000 would pay an additional \$52.87/year.

### CAPITAL BUDGET HEARING

A joint meeting of the Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee (CLIC) and the City Planning Commission was held on May 11 to take input on the proposals for the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program funding. The proposals for next year total over \$268 million and include investments in parks, city buildings, water treatment facilities, streets and other infrastructure. The largest requests from departments for 2024 include \$24 million for Hennepin Ave., \$18 million for stormwater sewers, \$17 million for sanitary sewers, and \$15 million for a new first police precinct building. There is also \$6 million proposed for a Third Precinct police station. The input from the hearing will help CLIC make their recommendation to the mayor and city council as they work on next year's city budget.

### CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN

The city has drafted a new climate equity plan and is now taking public comment through June 5 on its latest draft. You can review the plan, give feedback on specific strategies and make general comments on the overall direction of the plan <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/climate-equity/climate-equity-plan/>. The goal of the plan is to significantly reduce climate pollution by 2030 and make the city carbon neutral by 2050. Strategies include insulating 30,000 homes with 5,000 of them in

Green Zones, reducing natural gas emissions by 30%, supporting 1,000 new green jobs for residents, expanding green space, tree planting, and local food production; and achieving 100% renewable electricity city wide.

### RENTERS' RIGHTS

In May, the city launched a new campaign to raise awareness about renters' rights and the city resources. The city has regulations regarding screening, security deposits, evictions, repairs, and more. The city has support available from rental housing liaisons legal resources and will have information available at community events this summer including the Community Connections Conference, Juneteenth, Somali Independence Day, and Open Streets. People can learn more about the topics below on the <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/property-housing/renting/renters-rights/>.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

The 2023 Community Connections Conference will be held on June 10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. It is a city sponsored event that will run together a 2023 Green Zone Summit for environmental justice. The Community Connections Conference is a free annual event for residents, community groups, neighborhood organizations and local government to build relationships, learn together and create a better Minneapolis. It includes a variety of workshops, an exhibition hall, performances by local artists, and lunch.

### GREEN ZONES SUMMIT

The Northside and Southside Green Zones of Minneapolis are hosting the second annual environmental justice Green Zone Summit at the Minneapolis Community Connections Conference on June 10. Topics discussed at the summit will include climate equity, recycling and zero waste and how to save costs on energy. Organizers hope to raise awareness and build power to advance environmental justice actions in Minneapolis.

### DFL WARD CONVENTIONS

The Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) party has completed its planned rounds of city-ward level meetings to consider endorsing city council member candidates in each ward. The southside ward 2, 9, and 12 meetings were held. There was no endorsement in Ward 2. Jason Chavez and Aurin Chowdhury were endorsed in Wards 9 and 12 respectively. In Ward 12, Luther Ranheim was not endorsed by the party but announced that he will continue his campaign. The Ward 10 meeting was held on May 13, but was recessed before an endorsement vote could be taken due to the disruptive behavior of some participants. In Ward 8, Soren Stevenson was endorsed (see related article on page 12), and Andrea Jenkins announced that she will continue in the race. The Ward 11 online meeting was held May 21 and Emily Koski was endorsed.

The official candidate filing period ends Aug. 15, so there may be more candidates.

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon



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*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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# Blending community, art at Metro Work Center

**LONGFELLOW  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

BY ANDREA TRITSCHLER,  
communications  
andrea@longfellow.org



Sara Hanson and Jess Bergman Tank are greeted with enthusiastic welcomes when they arrive at the Metro Work Center with poster boards and pictures of program participants that reflect the creative partnership between the artists and Metro Work Center. They have been working together to create metal sculptures inspired by the community – a project participants clearly love and enjoy.

Their latest sculpture, three metal silhouettes, is scheduled for installation at the fence surrounding the former site of Gandhi Mahal and will be unveiled during MWC's 55th anniversary celebration on June 6 at 12 p.m.

Metro Work Center Inc. is a non-profit organization based out of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. MWC provides people-centered employment opportunities, life skills development support, community integration, and leisure and recreational activities for adults with developmental disabilities and related conditions.

Sara and Jess have developed a long-term partnership with MWC after eight years of collaborating on sculptures as part of the Community Connects project – a project which aims to increase community connectivity while facilitating creative expression for the participants of the Metro Works Center day program. The result is a public sculpture that serves as a symbolic and cohesive representation of unity within the Longfellow Neighborhood.

These community art projects offer a way to bring differently-abled and dis-



*Metro Works Center, based out of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, provides people-centered employment opportunities, life skills development support, community integration, and leisure and recreational activities for adults with developmental disabilities and related conditions. (Photo submitted)*

abled community members into conversations around the future of the neighborhood; conversations that they are often left out of, according to Sara.

"There's not a lot of outreach and movement, so it's been exciting and rewarding for us to have those conversations," Jess said. "Metalwork and sculptures allow us to engage in a way that is meaningful with casting being such a physical process."

The sculptures are first rendered in clay. The artists and project participants go out into the Greater Longfellow neighborhood and push textures and patterns into

the clay. Participants are also encouraged to include things they love like puzzle pieces, necklaces, and small plastic musical instruments, which are also pushed or included in the clay model.

Using metal detectors, they find all sorts of interesting elements and use this exploration to talk about the history of the neighborhood, especially in light of the recent uprising and the debris and memories that have been left where buildings once stood.

"We're using it as a performative element – talking about surveillance and history and what might be built on this

land," Sara said.

The process of bringing these sculptures into the community involves several steps. Once the sculpture is created in clay, it is taken apart, and put back together with an artistic skill set into a sand mold and then set into metal. The sculptures are dynamic and colorful. The personality of each involved participant shines through in their creation. Some find importance in representing themselves with their wheelchair impressions, while others highlight the joy of a Denny's breakfast. Others are drawn to the texture of mosaics in the neighborhood, imprints from the bike racks on Minnehaha, or a soda tab.

Sara and Jess brought the process boards of old projects into MWC with photos of old sculptures, some of which no longer exist after melting down during the Uprising. A large group gathered around them, excited to see themselves on the board and pointing out their projects and old friends. This year the group took disposable cameras into the community to help document the process, which also included creating silhouettes of themselves with chalk. Sharing imagery and pictures is helpful in remembering the process.

"Getting MWC people out in the community and talking to people is an important part of the process," Jess said. "These business and organizational partnerships can lead to employment opportunities (for MWC folks)."

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Meet the folks at Metro Work Center Inc and check out their amazing sculptures at their 55th Anniversary Celebration and Sculpture Unveiling – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, from 12 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Sara and Jess will be there leading some small castings for those who attend, attendees can get a tour of the space, and more.



## SEE A TURTLE ON LAND? SHARE THE DETAILS ONLINE

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) received more than 300 reports of turtle sightings in 2022, including many impressive photos and videos. MPRB hopes to receive even more this year. Any and all reports help efforts to protect these animals at critical locations in the park system. Turtles are most vulnerable in springtime and when moving about on land.

Migrations of both adult turtles and

tiny hatchlings can take them across roads and paths.

In 2021, dead turtles accounted for 10 percent of reported sightings; among the dead turtles, more than 90 percent were spotted in roadways.

Adults are leaving the water to find summer habitat or suitable nesting spots on land. Snapping and painted turtles, the most common species in Minneapolis, may migrate up to a mile to nest.

Meanwhile, hatchlings are emerging from their nests on land to make their way to water. These spring hatchlings have

waited all winter in the nest (!) to make this journey; in fall, eggs laid in the spring yield a new wave of hatchlings heading to water.

Even softshell turtles, which nest on beaches or other land close to water, can still be vulnerable to predators, including domestic dogs (one reason they must be leashed).

Go to [bit.ly/ReportATurtle](https://bit.ly/ReportATurtle) to report turtles within Minneapolis. Report turtle sightings elsewhere at HerpMapper. Include images if at all possible: They help verify turtle species and activities.

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# SUMMER FUN GUIDE

# Hello, Summer!

### HONOR VETS ON MAY 29

On Monday, May 29, at 10 a.m. at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery honor veterans from the War of 1812 through the Korean War. Music by the Seward Concert Band and readings by students from the Minnesota Transitions Charter School. The program is free and everyone is welcome. At 1 p.m. there will be a seated talk about the history of the cemetery and stories about some of 22,000 people buried there. The cemetery is located at Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. The Lake Street gates, as well as the Cedar Avenue gates, will be open. There is limited parking in the cemetery but plenty of on-street parking nearby.

### MCAD SUMMER SHOWCASE AT IVY BUILDING

The MCAD Summer Showcase, featuring artwork from students enrolled at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and alumni will be at the Vine Arts Center. The show features over 30 artists who work in mediums including photography, painting, sculpture, product design, print-

making, illustration, and more. The show runs May 12-29th. The gallery is in The Ivy Building For The Arts, 2637 27th Ave. S.

### ART DROPS THROUGHOUT SUMMER

The next art drop hosted by Lake Street Council is on Thursday, June 1st at 6 p.m. in Uptown. Get photo hints to help find the art in its stories on Instagram or Facebook @VisitLakeStreet.

An art drop is when an artist leaves artwork in a public place, like a treasure hunt for gifts for the community. While the amount of artwork hidden will change each month, there will typically be up to a dozen pieces to find. The first individuals to locate each art treasure gets to take it home at no cost. Since there is a limited quantity at each art drop, each person is asked to take only one. After the art drop, stay for dinner, drinks, or shopping at a Lake Street small business.

Mark your calendars now for every first Thursday at 6 p.m. now through September for the art drops. Locations will rotate all along the Lake Street corridor and there will be new art pieces each time.

### SHAKESPEARE IN OUR PARKS

Classical Actors Ensemble (CAE) announces a 9th season of Shakespeare in Our Parks with a new production of "Much Ado About Nothing." Directed by Producing Artistic Director Joseph Papke, this comedy will be performed in parks across the Twin Cities, June 16 - July 16, 2023, including partnership performances with Franconia Sculpture Park and the MN Humanities Center.

CAE honors Shakespeare's work by making high-quality entertainment available for all at no charge through its annual Shakespeare in Our Parks program. CAE encourages audiences to bring a picnic to enjoy this free outdoor entertainment for the entire family. In keeping with CAE's aesthetic, this production will include live, modern music performed by the cast.

Local shows include:

- Friday, June 16, 7 p.m.: Lyndale Park Rose Garden, 4124 Roseway Rd. 55409
- Sunday, June 18, 7 p.m.: Matthews Park, 2318 29th Ave. S.
- Saturdays, June 17, July 8, 15, 7 p.m.: Lake of the Isles (Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls)

### ARTS CELEBRATION JUNE 25

The Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts invites you to a celebration of the Southside neighborhood, and a chance to plant beauty in the community. Come and make art that can become Semillas or Seeds of Hope! Learn how to make lanterns for a procession this fall on Lake Street. Local professional artists will be teaching how to make art. Live music by local musicians and open mic. Great food. Free and family friendly. From 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, June 25; followed by an outdoor puppet show by Open Eye Theatre.

Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts is at 2742 15th Ave S. More at <https://www.semillacenter.org/>.

### NEW FREE CHRONIC/MULTIPLE DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP

Do you struggle with chronic and/or multiple diseases? Could you use some support and new ideas on how to cope with your diseases and improve your health outcomes? Healthy Seniors will be holding a new free monthly in-person support group meetings on the first Tuesday of the month from 2-3:15 p.m. on June 6, July 11 (second Tuesday due to Independence Day holiday), and Aug. 1 at St. Peder's Lutheran Church, 4600 E. 42nd Street.

To register, call 612-729-5799, or contact Mary Albrecht at [maryalbrecht@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:maryalbrecht@LShealthyseniors.org).



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**COFFEE** >> from 1

tafson, a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. He took his life in 2015, after struggling with the emotional and mental wounds incurred during 19 years of service. The hangout, a no-frills storefront with two coffee urns (regular and decaf) in the window and a picture of Gustafson on the wall, brought vets, their families and neighbors together. The storefront next door stocked clothing and essentials for vets.

Both coffee bars and the new ETS building came to fruition under the direction of Tom and Jessie McKenna. The ETS building was completed in May 2022; the coffee shop followed in July 2022.

"People may not realize the impact they are having on the veterans' community when they grab a cup of coffee at Rick's Coffee Bar," said T. McKenna. "Rick's was designed to operate as a program of ETS, a non-profit organization which supports veteran and their families. Through a Veteran Internship Program, veterans work for ETS as baristas and facility maintenance interns. The interns are paid \$15 an hour and work an average of 20 hours a week. In addition, the coffee shop is designed to generate revenue for ETS to fund our programs and services.



*Rick's Coffee Bar manager Jennie Limmer makes a cup of coffee. The local coffee shop down the road from the VA supports veterans through a variety of programs, and is part of Every Third Saturday. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)*

"Each time a patron comes in and makes a purchase, their patronage directly supports veterans in the local community, and it is our sincere hope that customers will enjoy their coffee and love the fact that they are truly drinking coffee for a cause."

Today the upbeat staff and open design add to the milieu of the present-day Rick's, which continues to honor Rick Gustafson. The windows – almost ceiling to floor on three sides – expand the view of neighborhood activity. Because the coffee shop offers "grab and go" as well as seating, dogs are welcome to accompany their people indoors as they make selections. The lucky dogs also appreciate

the fenced patio on the sunny south side. On a Sunday, the one day that Rick's is shuttered, a four-legged fan of the coffee bar insisted on peeking inside to confirm that the space was indeed devoid of people and dogs.

Behind the counter, Bob the barista loved his conversations with vets, co-workers and customers alike. At age 17, he had enlisted in the Marine Corps and served from 1961-66. Adjustment to civilian life wasn't easy. Many years later, Bob walked into ETS, where he found programs that focused on helping others, especially veterans. And, to aid his own recovery, he completed Warriors Path, the five-week program that certified him as a Peer Recov-

ery Specialist, focused on mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health. He has moved on to work directly with other veterans.

Barista Dawn also took a circuitous route to ETS. After growing up on the family farm, she left college for the National Guard. "I wanted to be airborne," she said. But her damaged lungs – "too much corn dust" – ended the dream. She missed the camaraderie of the Guard. Although she pursued a career in health care, she bottomed out. While living at Harbor Lights, the Salvation Army's emergency center, she learned of ETS. After completing the internship program, she was promoted to assistant manager at Rick's.

Manager Limmer, who began her coffee career 25 years ago at Archer House in Northfield, Minn., recently introduced three 24-ounce coffee flights. On board: 96 ounces of hot coffee to go.

But underlying the business of coffee is the business of healing.

"This is a place that's integral to ETS, offering employment opportunities for vets through the internships and providing financial assistance to ETS as a resource center for veterans," said Limmer. "We use the community's patronage to help support our veterans who serve our country."

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