



He's the  
sign  
painter  
>> 12-13

## Police won't move back into Lake and Minnehaha

Third Precinct officers will house with First Precinct at Century Plaza for now, money set aside to evaluate 3000 Minnehaha site

By CAM GORDON

Police won't be moving back into the Third Precinct building at East Lake St. and Minnehaha Ave. that was set ablaze after the murder of George Floyd by Third Precinct officers.



Community said no to this process and lack of transparency. Community said no to these locations. ... The city listened - for now."

Rachel Boeke, LCC

After looking at citizen comment, Mayor Jacob Frey and the Minneapolis City Council announced in July that they will delay plans to locate a new or renovated police station in the southside. Pending mayoral approval, they will not relocate law enforcement staff to

THIRD PRECINCT >> 3

Walk-ins welcome at Bluecrescent Urgent Care; Minnesota Care Counseling offers support



Dr. Abdulqadir Ahmed (at left) and family nurse practitioner Khandra Muse staff the newly opened Bluecrescent Urgent Care at 3809 42nd Ave. S. (Photo submitted)

## NEW SERVICES REVITALIZE FORMER FAIRVIEW SITE

By JANE ST. ANTHONY

Every day at Bluecrescent Urgent Care (3809 42nd Ave. S.) promises a variety of medical issues: a delivery man with a painful sliver in his thumb, the woman en

route to the airport who suspects that she has an IUD infection, a child with croup, a child with a large abscess.

Six glittering exam rooms await patients - walk-ins as well as those with appointments.

When the clinic opened in May, staff was primed to deal with bronchitis and upper respiratory issues, gastric reflux, abdominal pain and stomach concerns including H. pylori, as well as nausea, fever,

FORMER FAIRVIEW BUILDING >> 2



Jimmy Lonetti is the J of D&J Glove Repair at 3742 Minnehaha Ave. He works with his son, Dom. (Photo submitted)

## D&J Glove Repair hits it out of the park

By JANE ST. ANTHONY

D&J Glove Repair welcomes the opportunity to bring back the glory days of your baseball glove.

"As far as I know, our repair business is the only stand-alone shop in the U.S.," said Jimmy Lonetti of D&J Glove, the storefront business in the Longfellow neighborhood that he and son, Dom, opened in September 2022. "If you can catch with it, I'll fix it."

Jimmy's unique shop draws in ball players from Little League to Major League who are in search of professional repair that gives a battered glove a second chance.

Gloves take a beating off the field as well as on it.

"My best customers are dogs," Jimmy said, alluding to the chewy texture and delectable taste of leather mitts.

At age eight, Jimmy Lonetti took his first look at the Minnesota Twins when his dad brought him to watch the team in action against the Boston Red Sox. Jimmy was hooked. His father made the day even better when he bought drawn likenesses of seven Twins starters, now mounted on a wall of the shop.

A former Little League player, Jimmy played short stop. "In those days, every kid had a glove; it was a given," he said. "You could buy gloves at a hardware store."

The shop at 3742 Minnehaha Ave. took 12 years to reach fruition. Jimmy honed the trade in his basement and garage, with an eye on his future business. Now gloves of baseball greats hang in rows: in another spot, gloves of Little Leaguers and other clients wait to return to action.

Jimmy is no stranger to lacings and

D&J GLOVE REPAIR >> 6

City council vote ends effort to put second rent question on ballot in last two years

## What's next step for rent stabilization?

By CAM GORDON

The Minneapolis city council voted in June to end the effort to get a rent stabilization proposal on the ballot this year.

In narrow 5-4 vote, the council rejected sending an ordinance amendment forward into its committee process in order to meet the timeline to get it on the ballot in November. The vote was taken on June 28 and several council members, candidates and activists agree that the timing was poor.

RENT STABILIZATION >> 5



SUMMER IN THE CITY  
Dancers from across state  
show up for SOTA Movement

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NOKOMIS DAYS 2023  
The schedule, special  
offers, and more

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Meet NENA's new  
community organizer,  
Adrian Floury

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## FORMER FAIRVIEW BUILDING >> from 1

rashes, wounds and a litany of other issues that patients present. Sexually transmitted infections and treatment are addressed. Pregnancy testing, EKGs and IV vitamin infusions are available. Labs are picked up daily.

That's the short list of issues that are non-life-threatening but need attention.

On May 17, 2023, Dr. Abdulqadir Ahmed and staff welcomed guests to the clinic's celebratory opening. It is located in the former Fairview Clinic building at the southeast corner of 42nd and 38th. The large turnout was rewarding. Mayor Jacob Frey attended. Amidst the balloons, the mayor stressed the importance of small businesses and investing in them.

"We sent out invitations, yet I had no idea that he would be here," said Aisha Hassan, RN and clinic administrator. "But the mayor is invested in the importance of small businesses in the community."

Before and after the opening, Hassan and Khadra Muse, family nurse practitioner, noted that their predictions regarding client numbers have proved higher than imagined and more patients are arriving.

Another boon: The clinic takes a load off of emergency rooms by treating patients in-house.

"There are a lot of reasons to go to ER, but 80 percent of those in ER don't need to be in a hospital," said Muse. "Many people have a condition that isn't acute, such as food poisoning. It's more practical to come here first if it isn't an emergency."

If a patient is without health insurance, the flat fee for a visit is \$125. Otherwise, clients are billed through their health system.

Bluecrescent was envisioned by Dr. Ahmed, clinic founder and infectious dis-



The Bluecrescent lobby, above, and clinic was officially recognized during a ribbon-cutting on May 17 that was attended by Mayor Jacob Frey (at right). (Photo submitted)



ease specialist who recently practiced at North Memorial Health. A resident of the Longfellow neighborhood, he expresses gratitude for the support he's received from that community and others.

"People call the clinic, asking whether they should come in regarding their issue," he said. "We know when to refer a patient to a larger facility for triage and other needs. Triage determines which problems are the most serious and should be dealt with first."

"The community is learning about us. We're still new, but doing well. And we feel appreciated."

Hours: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday

Call 612-405-3554 or browse <https://bluecrescentclinic.com>.



Housing Case Manager Omar Abdi (left) and receptionist Nafiso Ahmed foster a community drop-in space to ensure all individuals have access to mental health support from peers and counselors. (Photo submitted)

## Minnesota Care Counseling Services aims to uplift

By JANE ST. ANTHONY

A knock on the door at Minnesota Care Counseling signals a need. Rashid Hassan and Nafiso Ahmed, a receptionist plus, strive to offer timely help as well as refer clients to appropriate services from housing to employment to mental health to opioid recovery and much more.

The first Minnesota Care Counseling Services, inspiration of Mohamed Hussein, was completed in 2013. At the second MCC, the work continues.

Those who appear at the door on the south side of the building likely learned about MCC from Snapchat, Facebook, referrals from non-profits, word of mouth and other sources. Inside the clinic they find a spacious and sunny room where bowls of snacks are replenished, lunch appears and coffee is always hot. Already in place: a small kitchen and a room where the weary can nap. A pool table, piano, TV and comfy seating areas create a welcoming space. On the opposite side, seven offices are filling up.

On one day, 20 people in need arrived for information or services. The staff hopes that the number will grow as more offerings are added: newly-hired and skilled staff is on board; soon Alcoholics Anonymous will hold meetings; a group for people leaving opioids behind is in progress.

Today housing is the primary issue. Currently those in need are referred to the original Minnesota Care Counseling, located in Northeast Minneapolis since 2013, or to Minnesota Council of Churches. Families are directed to Mary's Place downtown.

A homeless woman appeared at MCC after her shopping cart and essentials were stolen as she slept outside. The woman was connected with a housing coordinator, but had lost all her "essentials."

"We were able to provide those essentials right away," said Nafiso, noting that big-box stores donate items, as well. "The



Minnesota Care Counseling Services is now open. (Photo submitted)

woman returned to thank us."

Rashid Hassan worked at MCC in Northeast Minneapolis, where he trained in the field of mental health and also worked as a mental health advocate. He's focused on increasing the number of those looking for assistance at the new address.

"We're committed to serving our clients in the best possible way as we collect more ideas to help them," he said. "Many of them are from East Africa. Some of them now live in the suburbs and others live near Franklin Avenue."

Rashid points to the ceiling. "We hope to expand," he said, envisioning space for more services.

As a transplant from Nashville, he found Minneapolis friendly and the snow, abundant. When he learned that Dr. Ahmed of Bluecrescent Urgent Care practices at the front of the building had also moved to Minneapolis after growing up in Tennessee, he said, "Really? I think I'll go meet him."

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (Enter at the back on the south side.) Phone: 612-223-8930.

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## 3RD PRECINCT >> from 1

the former station on East Lake St. and Minnehaha Ave.

This follows the July 17, 2023 release of a report about the public's response to Mayor Jacob Frey's announcement in March that the city would locate a Third Precinct police station at either the former site at 3000 Minnehaha, or four blocks away at 2600 Minnehaha.

At that time DeYoung Consulting Services (DYCS) was hired to gather community feedback. While doing so, DYCS was met with a groundswell of community concern and neighborhood opposition to either location.

The mayor announced his change of mind at a press conference on July 17, even before the report was released to the public. Council members discussed it at length following a presentation at a committee of the whole meeting on July 18.

Following the presentation and discussion, the council unanimously approved a motion made by Ward 8 Council member and president, Andrea Jenkins, to move forward with co-locating police department (MPD) staff currently assigned to the southside's Third Precinct within "other precinct facilities" with a report to the council due by Sept. 5.

At the press conference the night before, Frey and Jenkins both indicated support for relocating Third Precinct staff to the downtown Century Plaza building at 330 S. 12th St., which will also be the new home of the First Precinct. The First Precinct includes downtown and the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. The Century Plaza building is not located in the southside's Third Precinct area, but is closer than the City of Lake building (309 2nd Ave. S.) where the precinct staff currently operate out of.

At the July 18 meeting, the council also voted to refer a resolution, presented by Ward 2 Council member Robin Wonsley, request proposals for non-law enforcement development of the city-owned land at 2600 Minnehaha Ave S. to the council's business inspections, housing and zoning committee meeting on July 25.

Wonsley also proposed that the city support a truth and reconciliation process by moving \$555,000 from the police department to the department of race, equity, inclusion, and belonging for truth and reconciliation programming. It passed and was referred to the budget committee's Aug. 1 meeting.

At the following council meeting on July 20, the council passed a resolution by Ward 9 Council member Jason Chavez to eliminate the former Third Precinct location at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. from any further consideration for a police precinct, and commit to not house any police facility or functions there.

### NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS REJECT CITY'S 2 OPTIONS, PROCESS

Last spring, after the two site options were announced, the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) board passed a resolution demanding a new timeline and process with a focus on restorative justice and defining a shared community vision for a new facility or facilities. Twenty neighborhood groups, businesses, and community organizations joined the LCC in rejecting any decision made through the city's process.

"Today is a win based on community



A significant number of residents (259 comments) considered the recent public input process regarding two sites for the Third Precinct to be inauthentic, according to the report issued by DeYoung Consulting Services. The precinct building remains vacant and fenced. Read prior articles at [www.longfellownokomisessenger.com](http://www.longfellownokomisessenger.com). (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

coming together and voicing their lack of confidence in the process created by the city," said LCC Executive Director Rachel Boeke after the meeting on the 18th.

"Community said no to this process and lack of transparency. Community said no to these locations. Community clearly said that determining a location for a police station must come after police reform and community input on what the future of community safety should look like," she said. "The city listened – for now. LCC will continue demanding that community be a part of each new process to unfold from here – determining a new community safety plan, deciding what

Under no circumstances should we rebuild a precinct at Lake and Minnehaha. At the end of the day, it's just wrong."

Jason Chavez, Ward 9



should happen with the 3000 Minnehaha site to best serve the area, and establishing where and how police should be stationed across our community."

The former police station is located in Ward 9. Jason Chavez, the area's council member, was clear at the council meeting: "Under no circumstances should we rebuild a precinct at Lake and Minnehaha," he said. "At the end of the day, it's just wrong."

### NEED FOR POLICE REFORM

The report covered more than just a station location.

Results from the three versions of the survey, five precinct-wide community meetings co-organized with LCC held in April, and eight smaller conversations targeted for senior, American Indian, Southeast Asian, Latino, LGBTQIA+, East African, and African American community members were analyzed. DYCS also identified several themes beyond location preferences.

They divided themes into strong, medium and weak based on the number of times it was brought up or recorded. Themes commented on more than 75 times was considered strong.

The consultants said that the themes "show that the city faces a more nuanced set of decisions around the Third Precinct rather than a simple decision between the

original and new site."

They found that many people believed that this process is being done in the incorrect order and that police reform and a truth and reconciliation process should come first.

A significant number of people (259 comments) considered the process to be inauthentic – with some believing a decision has already been made.

Many wanted alternative uses for the former site instead of an MPD building. Many commented about how the response of the city and MPD to the murder of George Floyd and the following unrest resulted in deep distrust of the city and MPD.

Another strong theme was that MPD is unresponsive, unhelpful, ineffective, overly aggressive, and generally does not perform their duties of responding to calls, and solving, or preventing crimes. The need for police reform and to transform the MPD into a community-supporting police force and that the current MPD "culture of corruption, violence, aggression, and racism is not sustainable and does not support public safety" were also strong themes.

Next, I am planning to refocus the conversation on what neighbors do want to see happen at 3000 Minnehaha."

Robin Wonsley, Ward 2



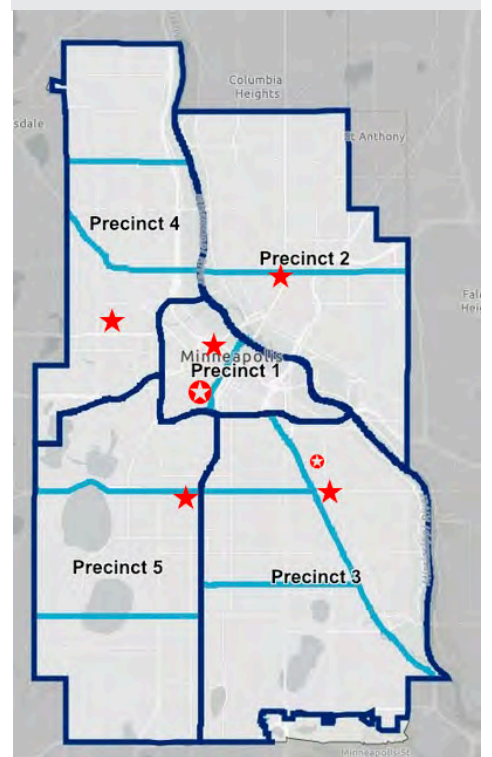
At the meeting Ward 12 Council member Andrew Johnson, while critical of some survey data in particular, appreciated the analysis and highlighted "opportunities that need to happen." These included reconciliation, how the community can influence the use of future facilities to include a more consolidated and integrated approach to safety, and what to do with the former police station building.

"I was able to attend several of the meetings, and think that your report is very accurate," said Ward 11 Council member Emily Koski. She directed questions to staff about how this decision could be informed by work being done in other areas, including recent discussions about community safety centers. Community Safety Commissioner Cedric Alexander (who has announced he is retiring) responded that the city could be "as creative

### CENTURY PLAZA BUILDING

6-story, 300,000-square-foot building on 3 acres at 1101 3rd Ave. S.

- Vacant since 2017
- Built in 1932 for use as a girls' vocational high school, Miller Vocational High School, by the Minneapolis School Board. Named after Mary Miller, the sister of early settlers who built the first house on the west bank of the Mississippi River. Closed in 1976.
- Streamline Moderne design, the same as the Minneapolis Armory and Minneapolis Post Office.
- Hillcrest Development converted it into office and retail in the 1980s. The auditorium was demolished and a parking ramp built.
- Hennepin County purchased building in 1996 and it operated as the central hub for the social services division. In 2017, the county moved out to six service centers – part of a \$41 million project of decentralizing services.
- Entity related to Swervo Development paid \$7.5 million for the 441,840-square-foot building with plans to convert it into a hotel.
- In 2023, Minneapolis announced plans to move its First Precinct into the building, and also house the Third Precinct there.



The stars show where existing precinct buildings are. The circled star in Precinct 1 highlights where Century Plaza is in the downtown area. The circled star in Precinct 3 highlights the second location at 2600 Minnehaha that was considered as a location for a new Precinct 3 building.

as we want to be," when developing such safety centers and that they could include "not just police but an array of community services."

"Huge credit is due to community members who worked hard to engage with the process to ensure that the city didn't manufacture consent for one of the location options," Wonsley said. "Next, I am planning to refocus the conversation on what neighbors do want to see happen at 3000 Minnehaha."

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## RENT STABILIZATION

>> from 1

Two relevant votes were taken at the meeting when three council members were absent. This included the authors of the proposed ordinance, Ward 10's Aisha Chughtai and Ward 6's Jamal Osman, as well as Ward 5 Council Member Jeremiah Ellison. The 28th was also this year's date for the celebration of Eid al-Adha, a traditional Muslim holy day.

"As the three Muslim members of the Minneapolis City Council, we were observing Eid with our families and community when we learned of this news," said the three council members in a joint statement after the meeting. "It is a common practice for council leadership to reschedule meetings that conflict with major holidays."

### VOTING PROCEDURE

The votes themselves were close. The first vote passed with six affirmative votes, which is less than a majority of the council, which is seven, but was a majority of the nine members in attendances. That vote defeated the motion to send the proposal through the committee process. The second vote was to "return it to author" and, according to the city clerk Casey Carl, is a motion to "postpones the item indefinitely." That motion that Carl said "killed" that "item" was made by Linea Palmisano, and passed with only five votes with Ward 12 Council Member Andrew Johnson abstaining and Council Members Elliot Payne, Robin Wonsley, Jason Chavez, and Andrea Jenkins voting against return to author.

"I'm shocked right now. There's three Muslim council members celebrating Eid with their families" said Chavez. "And this is notice of introduction being referred to committee and its not even the policy to be voted on."

"We ought to be ashamed of ourselves as a body for not being able to govern and follow democratic norms," said Payne.

### OPPOSITION TO FRAMEWORK 5 MODEL

Some council members, including Johnson and Ward 11's Emily Koski, stressed that their opposition was tied to the fact that the proposal was aligned with a specific, often called "strong," rent stabilization framework recommended by a work group appointed by the council and mayor last year.

"I do not support, and have never supported, a rent stabilization ordinance modeled after the framework 5 model proposed by the housing/rent stabilization work group with a 3% fixed rent increase cap, no adjustment for CPI [Consumer Price Index], vacancy control, no rent banking, no exemptions," said Koski when asked about it after the meeting ended. "And, I never intended to, nor gave any indication that I intended to, support moving forward a rent stabilization ordinance modeled after the framework 5 model."



The three Muslim members of the Minneapolis City Council were absent for the vote on rent stabilization as they were celebrating Eid al-Adha, a traditional Muslim holy day. (Let to right) Ward 10's Aisha Chughtai and Ward 6's Jamal Osman had authored the proposed ordinance; also absent was Ward 5's Jeremiah Ellison. All members of the city council are up for re-election in November 2023.

The work group voted to recommend the so-called "framework 5" policies in December of 2022, and, in June of this year, the council approved a motion to draft a rent stabilization ordinance in line with those policies.

Several work group members who voted in support of framework 5, wrote an open letter to the council following the city council meeting on June 28. Kadra Abdi from the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, Jennifer Arnold of Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia, Maura Brown from The Alliance, Mary Kaczorek of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, renter Rico Morales, landlord Yolanda Roth, Daniel Suitor of HOME Line, Asale-Sol Young of Urban Homeworks, and José A. Zayas Cabán from Rente wrote, "This vote was Islamophobic, anti-democratic, and empty political gamesmanship. To leverage the faith of three council members against a policy disfavored by the mayor and some council members is an act of anti-Muslim bias."

### 'TAKE IT TO THE BALLOT BOX'

Candidates for city council have also shared concerns.

"My understanding is that the exact date of Eid was determined 10 days prior to the June 28 holiday by a sighting of the moon according to Islamic law," said Ward 12 candidate Luther Ranheim. "Why was that item not delayed to the following meeting, knowing that the three council members would be absent? Why did not one single council member, particularly the ones who said they were shocked and appalled that the vote took place, make a motion to table this item? Personally, I find it very difficult to believe that this meeting could not have been rescheduled or that this item could not have been moved to a future meeting."

"I understand that there is often confusion on the date of Eid, and confusion this year led to a critical vote on rent stabilization authored by two Muslim members to be taken without them," said the DFL endorsed candidate for Ward 12, Aurin Chowdhury. "The clerks did make a good-faith effort to accommodate the holiday, but unfortunately, that was not the outcome. The truly undemocratic part of the situation that we should all be concerned about, is that it could have been corrected in this meeting."

"The negative outcome," added Chowdhury, "is that constituents across the spectrum don't feel that this move rep-

resented their values. Whether they support rent stabilization, are unsure, or oppose it – this was not the way to handle it. We need to grow trust in local government, not undermine it."

The Home to Stay coalition also released a statement following the meeting. "We're incredibly disappointed that this year's path towards rent stabilization ended with today's vote, especially with the way the vote happened," they wrote.

While some focused on the disappointment with the delay, others, including Home to Stay, are also looking to the future.

"Today was incredibly frustrating," they wrote, "but our coalition won't stop fighting until we win a policy that keeps Minneapolis families in our homes and our city truly becomes a place where all of our families can thrive."

"Our sights are now set for 2024," wrote Minneapolis United for Rent Control, another coalition supporting rent control. "To win, we need a movement of renters and supportive homeowners organized building by building and block by block. The Minneapolis City Council members who support strong rent control must use their positions to build a movement to overcome opposition from Mayor Frey and the conservative majority on the City Council."

Chowdhury, who said she wants to "bridge the divide at city hall," sees the delay as an opportunity for potential compromise.

"I have been clear on my position on rent stabilization. I support it as a common-sense renter's protection to stop predatory rent hikes – that in some form as of 2019 over 182 municipalities have adopted. Predatory rent hikes do happen today in our city, and people are being displaced," said Chowdhury. "I see that we have an opportunity in waiting because it gives us more time to weigh the different outcomes of different variations of rent stabilization and engage with stakeholders like impacted renters, small landlords, and the construction and trade unions whose members rely on housing development for jobs. Minneapolis residents and workers deserve for there to be an iterative discussion on the provisions of a rent stabilization policy."

Others, including Koski, appear to see the end of the rent stabilization effort as a chance to focus on other strategies to address housing needs.

"Our city staff, our experts here at city

### VOTERS SUPPORT RENT CONTROL

In the 2021 general election, 53% (or 75,598 voters) approved authorizing city council to enact a rent control ordinance. This was the question on the ballot: Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to authorize the City Council to regulate rents on private residential property in the City of Minneapolis, with the general nature of the amendments being indicated in the explanatory note below, which is made a part of this ballot?"

The City Council can enact an ordinance or the City Council may refer the ordinance as a ballot question.

Minneapolis City Council created the Rent Stabilization Work Group in August 2022. The 25-member group was charged with submitting recommendations on a policy framework for rent stabilization. Members included six renters, three property owners, three developers, and 13 people from organizations that do affordable housing work. They were Ryan Taylor, Jonathan Kim, Jose A. Zayas, Jimmy Lee Harris, Rico Morales, Peggy Clark, Yolanda Roth, Kayla Gibbons, Dan Largen, Asalesol Young, Joseph Peris, Henry Parker, Bruce Brunner, Daniel Suitor, Ellen Sahli, Alex Kane, Cathy Capone Bennett, Kelly Elkin, Kim Smith-Moore, Sue Speakman-Gomez, Kadra Abdi, Maura Brown, Eric J. Myers, Jennifer Arnold and Cecil Smith.

At a December 2022, 56% of the group voted to recommend a policy that caps rent at 3% increases with no exemptions.

The preferred policy framework largely replicates the original adopted policy by St. Paul voters in 2021.

hall, were abundantly clear on this matter: a rent stabilization policy would not effectively address the problem of renter cost-burden, because it does not target relief to those who are experiencing renter cost-burden," she said. She is concerned that a rent stabilization ordinance could hurt efforts to build new housing. "We need to focus on supporting, and furthering our investment in, known effective strategies to relieve renter cost-burden, and a rent stabilization policy isn't one of them," she said.

The city council elections in November could change who is on the council and could make a difference.

"Take it to the ballot box," said Ward 2 Council member Robin Wonsley at the June meeting. "Democracy has failed here."

The work group members say that they "will not allow the events of June 28 to be forgotten as the debate over rent stabilization continues," and "will continue to work to obtain the policy that the people of Minneapolis need and deserve."

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## Local historian publishes pictorial book about street that connects Minnesota's two biggest cities

By JAN WILLMS

University Avenue and its history from the 1880s to modern times are depicted in the latest book by Eric Nathanson, "University Avenue of the Twin Cities."

The book, full of photographs and narration, was something of a challenge, according to Nathanson, who has been writing about local history for the past 25 years and lives in Longfellow.

"I covered both the Minneapolis and St. Paul ends of University Avenue, which plays an important role in connecting the two cities," he said. "This is partly a story as well as a picture book, and combining the two together can be challenging," Nathanson explained. This is his fifth book in a series of pictorial histories published by Arcadia.

"Arcadia is very easy to work with, and they do a very good job of marketing the books," Nathanson said. "And I can pretty much write about what I want."

He said he needs to gather 150 historical photos for each book. "It mostly involves tracking down photos from the Minnesota Historical Society," Nathanson stated. He also utilized the Ramsey County Historical Society and Hennepin Library.

"I track down photos and write some narrative and captions for each of the photos," Nathanson explained. "I take some of the current photos myself – I know how to point and shoot a camera," he joked.

Nathanson said it takes him about a year to complete the Arcadia books. "You have to get high quality photos, and it's a challenge to find historical photos that are interesting and have a high focus," he said.

"I started out this book with sort of an idea of what I wanted to do," Nathanson said. "It took a while to figure out. In the book, I have separate chapters on the University of Minnesota and the State Capitol. In this case, putting together a narrative proved a little tricky. A large section of the avenue runs through the campus.

"University Avenue has a particularly

# STORY OF UNIVERSITY AVENUE



Long-time Longfellow resident Eric Nathanson stands at the Green Line LRT Station at Dale and University. "University Ave. has a particularly interesting story to tell," said Nathanson, "because fortunes have risen and fallen." Over the past 10 years, University Ave. in both Minneapolis and St. Paul has been the site of a huge amount of construction. (Photo by Terry Faust)

interesting story to tell," Nathanson continued, "because fortunes have risen and fallen." He said that for the past 10 years, University Avenue in both Minneapolis and St. Paul has been the site of a huge amount of construction.

"Even with those changes, quite a few historic places remain, which gives the avenue a settled feeling," he noted.

Nathanson said there are some businesses along University Avenue that have survived though the years. "One good example in Minneapolis is Jax Café, which dates back to the 1920s. It's still family-owned and a real destination. It established itself as an important institution and has received strong support from the community," Nathanson stated.

"St. Paul businesses have come and gone, but many of the buildings have survived," Nathanson added. "At 280 and University, the International Court started out as an auto assembly plant during World War I."

Although the Minneapolis end of

University Avenue has major intersections zoned for high rises, such as 25-story apartment buildings, many original buildings remain from the 1940s.

What has disappeared from University Avenue, however, is the large number of car dealers that once competed there. "It was called Auto Row in St. Paul, but that era has come and gone with the construction of I-94," Nathanson said.

According to Nathanson, immigrants from Southeast Asia have had a huge impact on the Saint Paul side of University Avenue. "They saved the avenue, which was having difficult times after I-94 opened. They came in, started businesses and the rents, like along Lake Street, were fairly low. The problem now is how to enable these businesses to survive now that rents along University Avenue are going up." Nathanson said he had some direct experience with University Avenue himself when he was with a nonprofit that worked with businesses affected by the light rail. "We administered grant programs in 2014 and



2015, and it sparked my interest in University Avenue," he said.

Nathanson has done a number of different things during his career. His first job after college was as a community organizer in south Minneapolis. He worked in Washington for a Minneapolis congressman and on a project with Native Americans while the American Indian Movement (AIM) was starting. He was employed by a Minneapolis development agency for 25 years, and worked for Don Fraser. And then he started writing.

"I started out writing about Minneapolis history, but then expanded to covering Minnesota," he noted. He said he has been writing for the past 25 to 30 years, and regularly contributes to the Monitor's sister newspaper, the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger.

"I don't really call myself an historian," Nathanson remarked. "I'm not an academic. I write about history. I sort of try to tell stories where history and journalism intersect."

Nathanson said University Avenue has a story that needs to be told. He cited some of the landmarks like Montgomery Wards, Porky's and the Lexington Ballroom that once graced the avenue. "I view this (book) as an historic preservation effort."

Nathanson is working on another book in his series, "Minneapolis Lakes," which will be published in the spring of 2024.

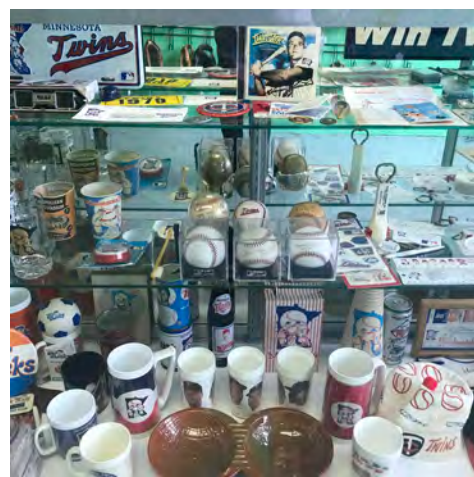
## D&J GLOVE >> from 1

glue, fixtures in both glove and shoe repair. His paternal grandfather – also Jimmy – immigrated from southern Italy and eventually owned a shoe repair shop in St. Paul. Young Jimmy followed the Twins but didn't put gloves and the possibility of business together for decades.

Today he works with leather that's tougher than it was in his grandfather's day, with cows moving to market more quickly due to hormones. Their hides don't have time to mature as in earlier times.

A 1930s Singer sewing machine, similar to the one that Jimmy's paternal grandfather used, handles multiple layers of leather at the shop. Bert, Jimmy's maternal grandfather, always put a humorous twist on catching: "I used this glove to catch grenades during World War II," he would say.

Fans will find Minnesota Twins lore, as told through period photos, baseballs



There's a treasure trove of memorabilia inside D&J Glove. (Photo by Jane St. Anthony)

autographed by luminaries, schedules, scorecards, placemats, yards of colorful laces, vintage slides of Met Stadium, a radio that broadcasts Twins' games live and much more.

The shop caught the eye of Dick Stig-

man, Twins' pitcher from Nimrod, Minn. and others: the son of former Twins' manager, Paul Molitor; a bullpen catcher who told Francisco Alvarez, catcher for the New York Mets, about D&J; many followers of Jimmy on Twitter.

Sentiment may bring sons and daughters seeking a heartfelt gift such as a restored glove for dad on a birthday or Father's Day. Parents of future ball players arrive with kids and gloves in tow. There are hand-held Mattel games to play and a gumball machine that accepts quarters.

There's also a Minnesota music component in this business. In homage to Paul Westerberg and The Replacements – Jimmy's favorite band – posters, photos, drawings and more 'Mats memorabilia, fills a space at the rear of the store.

"I could spend 10-11 hours a day here," said Jimmy, about the delight he takes in work, the 'Mats music and curious customers.

On his last day of school in 1981, Jimmy was one of the half-dozen friends that skipped school at Tartan School in

Oakdale to watch the Twins play their last game at Metropolitan Stadium. Their social studies teacher, Mr. Clyde Deopner, never mentioned their absence. Today, Clyde Deopner is the only official full-time curator in Major League baseball. The two baseball devotees – former teacher/curator and student/glove repairer – have a lot to talk about.

Jimmy's introduction to Metropolitan Stadium, where the baseball bug bit him, created special memories from 1961-1981. Now at the shop, the radio is tuned to WCCO, the same station on which the Twins games were broadcast in 1961.

In 1992, the Mall of America opened on the site of the former Metropolitan Stadium. Now the Twins' original home plate is enshrined on Nickelodeon Universe in the middle of the MOA.

That's one peek at the past. But a visit to D&J Glove Repair combines the past with revitalized gloves. And bobbleheads and tales of the Minnesota Twins and much more.

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Tameka Jones of Lip Esteem aims to help people of all skin tones feel beautiful with the plant-based, gluten free lipstick she sells. (Photo by Aamira Redd)

## She's changing the landscape of beauty

**Tameka Jones launches storefront for Lip Esteem in Rondo, where she grew up, after growing business at Midtown Farmers market**

By AAMIRA REDD

Amidst the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uprising following George Floyd's murder, Tameka Jones, a proud Rondo native and passionate makeup artist, emerged with a strong desire to restore beauty and uplift her community. In 2020, she seized an opportunity to make a positive impact by creating a plant-based, gluten-free lipstick line.

### REALIZING HER PASSION FOR MAKEUP

Jones, 47, owner of makeup company Lip Esteem, has always had a passion for makeup. As a young child during her visits to California, Jones cherished the memories of playing with her grandmother's makeup and the loving encouragement she received.

"It was like a safe and fun place for me, and so ever since I just started doing makeup, even if I was doing it wrong, I was still practicing. So, my love of makeup came from seeing how beautiful my grandma would look when she would walk out the house, and how beautiful my mom would look," Jones recalled.

### A JOURNEY TO SELF-DISCOVERY

After sending her daughter to college in 2014, Jones embarked on a journey to pursue makeup artistry in California.

"I packed my car and I drove to California because I knew I was going to be a

makeup artist to the stars, and my pastor said, 'You think you're going to make over stars, but you're really going to make over hearts,'" said Jones.

While spending time in both California and Atlanta, she gained a sense of freedom and self-discovery. It was during this time that Jones came up with the logo for Lip Esteem, which is a Black woman with natural hair blowing a kiss at a butterfly. For Jones, the logo represented something much more significant than what meets the eye; it represented her hopes and dreams.

Jones's experiences in these cities not only helped her find her purpose, but also laid the foundation for her transition into the lipstick business. Driven to make her mark in the beauty industry, she ventured into cosmetics with Lip Esteem.

The name of Jones's brand, "Esteem," holds a deeply personal significance. It represents embracing and feeling good about one's lips, regardless of their size or appearance.

"I had a lot of insecurities about my lips and so I would try to come up with ways that I thought would make them look smaller, like putting black lip line around and that looked crazy!" Jones recalled. "Eventually I was around 19 years old and someone complimented my lips, which was something I've always felt insecure about. So, I went in the mirror and I looked at my lips and I had a cute gloss on and I was like... there's nothing wrong with my lips."

### PRIORITIZING INCLUSIVITY

In 2020, in the midst of the pandemic and civil unrest, Jones felt called to take her destiny into her own hands and start her business. With the help of being featured on a television series, "Small Business Revolution," and participating in



Kijana Jones works with her mother, Tameka Jones, (not shown) to help find the perfect shade of lipstick for clients at the Midway Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon on May 17 at Carondelet Center. At the storefront at 876 Selby Ave., they host make-up tutorials and group gatherings. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

entrepreneurial cohorts, she achieved her dreams.

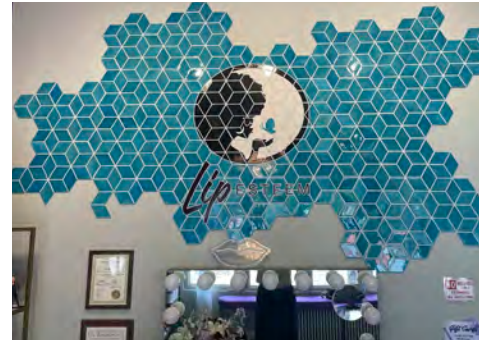
Starting out at the Midtown Farmers Market in Minneapolis, Jones established her business from modest beginnings and garnered significant support from the local community.

The encouragement and validation she received played a crucial role in shaping her entrepreneurial journey. However, despite residing in South St. Paul, Jones felt a profound need to reconnect with her roots by opening Lip Esteem in the Rondo neighborhood, which is located right on Selby and Victoria. For Jones, it's a tangible connection to the community that holds an immense impact on her life.

Initially, she attempted to create the lipsticks herself, but encountered difficulties. Realizing the importance of a personal connection to her brand, she decided to pivot and seek out a manufacturer who could bring her vision to life. For Jones, the quality and ingredients that went into making her products was key, as she wanted to be inclusive as possible.

Driven by a genuine commitment to cater to individuals of diverse skin tones, Jones embarked on a transformative journey to establish a brand that not only embraces but celebrates the beauty of every individual.

"I make sure that everyone is repre-



The name, Lip Esteem, holds a deeply personal significance to founder Tameka Jones. It represents embracing and feeling good about one's lips, regardless of their size or appearance. (Photo by Aamira Redd)

“

I make sure that everyone is represented – all ages and races. The whole vision and mission of my business is to being people of all nationalities and colors together.”

Tameka Jones

sented – all ages and races,” said Jones. “The whole vision and mission of my business is to bring people of all nationalities and colors together.”

Jones not only strives to incorporate diversity into the brand but also works to be inclusive towards individuals with different health and lifestyle needs.

“When the thought occurred about having a business, I wanted to make sure that I had the best of the best and so, being plant-based and gluten free was very important,” said Jones. “I have friends that have Celiac disease and so they were always talking about how they couldn't use certain lipsticks. So, when I thought gluten free, I was like, oh, this is perfect!”

### INSPIRING OTHERS TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS

Through her story, Jones encourages others to follow their dreams relentlessly. She emphasizes the importance of forward momentum, leaving the past behind, and trusting in timing and purpose.

“I would encourage people to follow their dreams. If you're not in a place where you want to be, don't worry. Keep moving forward. Don't look too much behind you because you left for a reason,” Jones said.

With her own experiences as a testament, she dismisses societal pressures and shows that age or circumstances should never hinder one's pursuit of passion and success.

“A lot of people in their 30s are like, 'oh, my God, my life is over! I'm not where I should be.' And that is foolishness. It's about timing. It's about purpose and plan, and so you can't get caught up on your failures. All you can do, is do the best with where you are, because everything will end up falling in place. I know it because I've experienced it,” said Jones.

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*Dancers from MN Krump and dance organizations across Minnesota host a three-day dance experience called the SOTA Movement.*

By TALIA McWRIGHT

Simone Hall, aka Athena, had the crowd in an uproar. The audience surrounded her, cheering louder than the music Texas-based Dj, Al Metro, was playing from the overhead speakers. The 20-year-old had just won both the rookie and heavy hitter dance battles on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center in Saint Paul. This was her first ever tournament win.

"I dance because it's fun," Hall said. "Above all, I love to release any emotion I feel through movement."

The Uprising battle was curated by MN Krump as a part of a three-day event called The SOTA Movement – a Minnesota street dance festival. The event started June 9 with an evening gathering hosted by TruArtSpeaks that included food, music and art. Attendees were encouraged to mingle and meet new people. The krump battle, The Uprising, on June 10 was hosted in the evening by MN Krump. On the final day, a free dance workshop took place at the Ordway Center for Performing Arts. That evening, Maia Maiden hosted the final show, "Rooted," at the Ordway where dancers and choreographers showcased their talents in celebration of hip hop.

"It's really uplifting to see all the different talents and people coming together, showing love and being like a community and a family," said Uprising audience member Jasmine Grant.

The krump battle on June 10 was free and open to the public, hosted by Herb Johnson aka Fair Warning and Ololade Gbadamosi-Alashe aka Gambit. Dancers competed for \$200 in the rookie round and \$1,000 in the heavy hitters. Hall walked away with both. Her dance career started in 2018 after a friend introduced her to a hip hop dance class. Her first introduction to krump came after connecting with Herb Johnson, aka Fair Warning, the leader of dance crew, 10k. Johnson and others associate krump with the acronym Kingdom Radically Uplifted Mighty Praise as the art is not only emotional, but spiritual.

"The people that are closest to me in my life, I initially connected with through dance," Hall said. "And I am super grateful everyday for that."

Johnson, Gbadamosi-Alashe and others started MN Krump in 2013, with the intention of building community and teaching people about the style of krump. Johnson is originally from Chicago, but now lives in north Minneapolis, and Gbadamosi-Alashe was born in Minnesota and currently lives in Bloomington. The two have been dancers since the early 2000s. This is the fifth Uprising event, and the second Uprising event connected to



Dancer Simone Hall, aka Athena, dances in front of an audience during The Uprising krump battle on Saturday, June 10, 2023. More photos online at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com). (Photo by Talia McWright)

# THE SOTA MOVEMENT



Dancer Tearra Osos performs Bomba style dance on the Ordway stage during the SOTA Movement on Sunday, June 11. More online at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com).



AT RIGHT Dj Al Metro plays music during The Uprising krump battle on Saturday, June 10, at the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center in Saint Paul. (Photos by Talia McWright)

the SOTA Movement. The Uprising event is an opportunity for new and veteran krump dancers to experiment with battle dancing. The space is designed to be inclusive and encouraging for all dancers.

"Krump is important to me because it

is an outlet for me to be able to create and live in my own world, express any emotion and tell any story," Johnson said.

Krump is a dance style charged with passion. The dance is heavily influenced

by emotion, and this is evident through powerful sharp movement along with exaggerated facial expressions. Movements are often freestyled, though they can be

SOTA MOVEMENT >> 9



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**SOTA MOVEMENT** >> From 8

choreographed to music. The events included both. During the battle, the audience and dancers were so in tune with the emotions of an artist that, at times, a crowd would run to the dance floor cheering them on in support.

"I love competing as a whole," dancer Guns said. "I like the fellowship and I like seeing people upgrade their dance styles every year."

Maiden of Maia Maiden productions is a Twin Citie-based performing arts pre-

sender, and works as the director of arts, learning and community engagement at the Ordway. Maiden is a dancer and choreographer herself, and created a dance team at Apple Valley High School in 1995 called the Infinity Hip Hop Dance Team. Maiden's work and roots are based on hip hop, and she credits the history and evolution of hip hop to the Black community. She created Rooted in 2009, and has partnered with dance and hip hop artists and organizations to put together events like the SOTA Movement.

"When Rooted came on the scene in 2009, it changed the game for dance and

hip hop," Maiden said.

At the Rooted show, Maiden asked the audience to engage and participate in the movement. Audience members were pulled on stage to demonstrate their dance moves. Throughout the show, and during intermissions, people of all ages in the rows danced with smiles and laughter. Dj Digie mixed music on his turntable throughout the night, as he co hosted with Maiden. Performances included a large variety of musicality and dance styles from breakdancing, to ballet, krump to rap opera.

"Hip hop is so big now that you can't

contain it," said artist Desdamona.

Minnesota communities have a deep rooted history of hip hop culture and artistry. The SOTA Movement aimed to make elements of hip hop accessible to a wide audience. For some it was a source of inspiration, like the Grant family who attended The Uprising battle to inspire their youngest child, Daniel, to pursue his passion of dance.

A third SOTA Movement is being planned for 2025.

"A lot of people from out of town shared that this was the best dance event they've ever been to," Johnson said.

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scenes from 2022



Lots of tries but only one big winner in the first round of Mini-Trivia at the Bull's Horn parking lot party 2022.



The Underdog Rescue event returned to the event space behind Nokomis Tattoo. View adoptable animals at [underdogrescuemn.com](http://underdogrescuemn.com).



Cub Scout Park 38 had archery and more at their booth in the Oxendale's parking lot.



There was music and beer and more at the parking lot party outside Town Hall Lanes.

AUGUST 4-6

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# NOKOMIS DAYS 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**FRIDAY, AUG. 4**  
**5pm-8pm - Kick-off Concert** sponsored by Hiway Credit Union & NEBA, in partnership with Nokomis Tattoo & McDonald's Wine & Liquor. Located behind Nokomis Tattoo.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 5**  
**6am-2pm - Rick's Coffee Bar** - Discounted drink specials.

**10am-2pm - Oxendale's Vendor Fair** - Vendors, businesses, & organizations, including Ax Fitness, Cub Scout Pack 38, Fit to Live, Joanies Rocks, & WebVolta.

**10am-3pm - New Branches Indoor/Outdoor Party** - Family-friendly games, refreshments, sitting area, & air conditioning.

**10am-4pm - The Workshop** - Pottery Throwdown (10-11:30), Sale/Open House (11:30-4pm)

**11am-2pm - Natalie Lyon Farmers Insurance** - Giveaways & a "Go Fish" for event for kids!

**12pm-3pm - Nokomis Makers Market** at the Shoreview Triangle (5342 - 25th Ave S)

**12-3pm - McDonald's Liquor & Wine Classic Car Show!**

**12pm-4pm - Lady and the Beard Salon** - Family-friendly carnival with prizes and more!

**12pm-4pm - Tippy Steer** - Kid-die & Doggy Duck Ponds with prizes! Food & drink specials SAT & SUN.

**1pm-3pm - Fusion Fun!** - NENA, the Mounted Police (horses and humans!), and the new Fusion Pancake House & Bistro!

**1pm-5pm - Riverside Evangelical Free Church Community Picnic.** Free food, eye screening for children, and more!

**2pm-4pm - Nokomis Tattoo** - Underdog Dog Rescue Event.

**2pm-5pm - Town Hall Lanes** - Beer, wine, food, & chalk art in the parking lot with DJ & live music!

**SUNDAY, AUG. 6**  
**10:30am - Trinity of Minehaha Falls** - Outdoor community worship at Lake Nokomis rec center, free coffee & donuts.

**11am-3pm - Wellness Center MN** - Free chair massages and giveaways. Tour our space and float therapy pod!

**11am-5pm - Bitter Buffalo** - Pull a print or make a custom shirt or camp flag.

**11am-8pm - Grande Sunrise** inflatables (11am-8pm), food & drink specials (2pm-4pm).

**2pm-5pm - Bull's Horn Parking Lot Party with Venn Brewing beer collab,** SunBean Coffee, flea market, BBQ pork and chicken, and DJ Truckstache.

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**Crema Coffee** - Special "Nokomis Days" refreshments!

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**#NokomisLife** - Watch for merch sales & giveaways at event locations.

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## scenes from 2022



Dylan, 9, Olivia, 7, and Allison Osmark enjoy free root beer floats courtesy of Trinity Lutheran Church in the Oxendale's parking lot.



Mini donuts were the theme of a specialty drink at Tippy Steer, which also had a duck pond with prizes.



Shoppers found sidewalk sales at Nokomis Surplus and Nokomis Shoe.



Riverside Church Pastor Prince Lee's sister, Betty Lee, grills hot dogs.

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# THE SIGN PAINTER

*Forrest Wozniak's skills are more popular now than ever*

By JAN WILLMS

The Great Depression was over long before Forrest Wozniak was born. But that time period serves as a backdrop to his career as a sign painter.

Wozniak, who was born and raised in South Minneapolis, said that as a kid coming of age in the '90s, he and his friends were exposed to a lot of vibrant color in the city. "Me and my friends would find rusty objects and paint them with garish designs and have art shows," he recalled.

Simultaneously, Wozniak said he was inspired by the Woody Guthrie era. "You could ride the rails or hitchhike or travel across the country with a sign painting kit," he said.

"I don't have a traditional art upbringing and did not go to school for art," Wozniak stated, "but I was inclined to do art my whole life growing up." He started by working with a furniture company while still in high school. He built Scandinavian Modern furniture, now called router furniture. "It is really boxy, with built-in cabinets and drawers," he explained. He worked in masonry, roofing, as a handyman, and then in construction.

However, the art of sign painting continued to appeal to him, and he began working with it as a part-time opportunity. "I was doing sign painting 30 percent of the time, and the rest I was doing construction. But in 2009, I made the leap to full-time sign painting, and I never looked back," he said.

## ROADTRIP THROUGH THE SOUTH

Although Wozniak did not have formal training in his field, he credits the mentors he has had throughout his career with being important factors in his professional life. "I had great mentors in masonry, construction and sign painting," he said.

Phil Vandervaart, a noted Minneapolis-based sign painter, has been a great influence in Wozniak's profession. "We worked together for 17 years, and we are still great friends," Wozniak said.

He began by painting signs for friends "Fortunately, I learned to sell my body of work like an old-fashioned business person, by word of mouth."

Wozniak said one of his first jobs was with his friend, sign painter Ira Coyne.



"I don't have a traditional art upbringing and did not go to school for art," said Forrest Wozniak, "but I was inclined to do art my whole life growing up." (Photo Terry Faust)



Signs around town that Forrest Wozniak has painted include CSPS Hall in Northeast Minneapolis, Hayes Window Restoration in Longfellow, and Hope Breakfast Bar in St. Paul. (Photos submitted)



"He has a lot of natural talent, and I had enough common sense that I could help him," he noted. It was for a bookstore, and Wozniak said Coyne painted the sign, and he filled in with books and clouds.

He and Coyne hitchhiked and rode freights to Nevada, New Orleans and New Mexico. Wozniak painted a sign for a place called Whitey's Bar in New Orleans. "The sign was at the end of a baseball field, and featured a ball player in an old baseball uniform hitting a home run. If you hit that sign with a home run, you could drink at Whitey's for the night for free," Wozniak recalled.

## HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL SIGN: MAYDAY CAFE

He considers his first professional sign to be one he worked on for the May Day Café at 13th and Bloomington in Minneapolis. "A friend had bought it, and I was going to replace the old signs," he said. "I painted them and showed them to Phil. Phil said they were terrible. He said to come over to his house and follow his directions." Wozniak and his friend, Sven

Lynch, went over and completed the signs with Vandervaart's guidance. "That was my first professional sign, and it is still in my portfolio today."

Reflecting on some of the strangest signs he has ever painted, Wozniak said he was painting for the Basilica Block Party. The Fallon Design Agency was promoting the concert and had hired a helicopter so the work-in-progress could be filmed.

"We were painting the entire roof of a beautiful old building that has since been torn down. Fallon was doing a stop motion filming, and we were painting the words 'Confession to God' within M.C. Hammer's pants."

Wozniak said the painters were wearing white gloves because of the extreme July heat. "That was one of the weirdest signs I remember."

He said the roof was coated first in a sort of skin used to protect women's

shoes. "It's like a movie set product. You can coat a school bus with it and paint on it, then peel off the whole skin. For that roof, we had 40 bags of that skin peeling when we were done."

Another strange sign painting experience Wozniak recalled is when he worked on a sign for an animal rendering service. Semi-trucks would carry dead animals that were transformed into bone meal and pig meal.

"I can't unsee what I have seen," he said. He said he had an aerial view of the animals and a constant smell of the ammonia that was used. "It was disgusting," Wozniak said of the odors and views. "I

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## SIGN PAINTER >> From 12

Painted beautiful cow heads and turkey silhouettes, but that job lasted for weeks, and it was traumatizing."

### 'PACE YOURSELF, REST YOURSELF AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY'

Wozniak said his signs consist of a lot of his original work, as well as restoring old signs.

He just completed a job for an architectural firm, which required him to go 45 feet up in the air.

"The higher you get, the safer you are in the way your equipment gets more and more sophisticated," he said. "I have painted silos that reach 200 feet." In such jobs he is harnessed in and uses OSHA-oriented safety precautions. He is on a platform that can hold 600 pounds.

"The most dangerous jobs are when you are only 16-20 feet in the air, where you do your own rigging," Wozniak said. He said painting from heights high above the ground comes with the job. "If you want to make a middle-class living from the trades, you have to do certain things. Part of my obligation is working from heights, painting in extreme weather and using chemicals."

He said the patterns of his work are somewhat cyclical. Many of his jobs are delivered and completed now. And he is in his workshop setting up future contracts.

"I am more organized now as a business person, so I don't do outside winter jobs if I don't have to," he noted. "I do a lot of big board signs and interior signs during the winter."

This past snowy season found him making interior signs for Huxley Eyewear. He also does consistent interior jobs for purpose-driven restaurants, such as Hope

Breakfast Bar – signs that read 'Believe in Breakfast' done in gold and black.

According to Wozniak, the career of sign painting can be physically exhausting, but he has no complaints. "You pace yourself, rest yourself and take care of your body," he said.

He teaches a continuing education class in sign painting at Minneapolis College of Art Design (MCAD) and said he has adopted some interns from that course.

"An intern is highly valuable in the modern transformation of my skills," he said. "I don't have computer skills, and what an intern can do in 20 minutes with Photoshop would take me six hours."

Wozniak said he has a lot of support between interns and a sign company called SignMinds in northeast Minneapolis that builds signs for him. "Sometimes an intern apprentices with me, but I do the sign painting myself. Typically my help is on the back end."

Wozniak said that when he started, there were fewer sign painters in the Twin Cities. "Sign painting has always been a dying art, but at the same time poor people, common people, urban people, small town people, community people have always needed sign painting and sign painting has always survived in these little nodes of micro-commerce. In some ways there is this microcosm so there's a tendency for art culture, socioeconomically a little wealthier, to feel like they have found something because they found it. So, sign painting's never been dead."

"It is only now popular."

*"The most dangerous jobs are when you are only 16-20 feet in the air, where you do your own rigging," remarked Forrest Wozniak. For the taller ones, he is harnessed in and uses OSHA-oriented safety precautions. (Photo Terry Faust)*



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## Talking healthy school lunches with U of M

All students in the state of Minnesota will get free breakfast and lunch starting this next school year. With more children now likely to eat two meals a day at school, many parents are grateful for the provided food, while simultaneously wondering how to ensure their kids are getting good nutrition and healthy options away from home.

Leonard Marquart, Ph.D., director of graduate studies for the Master of Professional Studies in Applied Sciences Leadership in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies and associate professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, answers questions about how school leaders, caregivers and community members can come together to make healthy school meals a priority.

**Q: How can I know if my child is getting proper nutrition when eating school meals?**

Dr. Marquart: We all know how important it is for children to get enough calories for growth and development, but it's important to consider the quality of those calories too. The best thing parents and caregivers can do is talk to their children and find out what they're eating when away from home. What did they eat for breakfast and lunch? What foods did they enjoy and what foods did they avoid? Did they have any fruits, vegetables or whole grains with their meals? These are great questions for car rides to and from school or extracurricular activities. Finding out what your child is offered and what they choose to eat can help you better advocate for nutritious choices in the cafeteria. It's also important for caregivers to educate children about how they can choose healthier options.

**Q: How can I advocate for healthier cafeteria food in my school?**

Dr. Marquart: Parent advocacy is best

done through an understanding and communicative relationship with the food service director, who is your friend and advocate. They are responsible for the production of nutritious and delicious meals in the cafeteria, while also adhering to all governmental regulations. As you can imagine, it's an extremely complicated job with many different factors dictating the food that ultimately ends up on the lunchroom table. To complicate things further, food service directors must also balance offering meals that are both nutritious and palatable for children. For example, adding more whole grains is beneficial for kids because whole grains include fiber, vitamins and minerals, and promote digestive health and well-being. Unfortunately, most children don't enjoy 100% whole grain products. So a potential solution could be to offer bread that is 50% whole grain and tastes similar to familiar white bread, then gradually increasing the amount of whole grains as student tastebuds adjust.

**Q: What barriers do schools face when providing healthy meals for kids?**

Dr. Marquart: Providing healthy school lunches requires collaboration from the entire food system. Schools must have access to healthy foods that fit within their budget. Staff must have the knowledge to choose healthy offerings and the skillset and equipment to prepare these foods in a way that kids will actually eat. However, we as community members, businesses and society must all believe and care enough to allow school meals to be all that they can be. The next big breakthrough in nutrition will come when we figure out how to intentionally work together toward food security. How to allow the healthy choice to be the easy, affordable and tasty choice. By identifying and breaking down those barriers, we can allow the right food to be in the right place at the right time.

**THE CITY GARDENER**



BY LAUREN BETHKE,  
Master Gardener

# Creeping Bellflower and other invasive plants

If you've taken a walk outside recently, you've probably noticed purple flower stalks popping up all around the neighborhood. Although they are beautiful, what you may not realize is that this is Creeping Bellflower, an aggressive non-native plant that can take over your flower beds and is very difficult to eradicate. Read on for more information about Creeping Bellflower and other aggressive, invasive, or noxious plants that are common in our neighborhoods.

First, some background. In Minnesota, the main list of invasive species is maintained by the Department of Natural Resources. These are non-native species that cause economic, environmental, or health-related harm; or threaten natural resources. Separately, the Department of Agriculture maintains a list of "noxious weeds," which are highly regulated by law and must be eradicated in certain circumstances. Additionally, there are a number of other plants commonly referred to as "aggressive" or "nuisance" plants, which do not fall under the technical definition of an invasive species but can be just as much of a problem for home gardeners.

So, back to the plants. Creeping Bellflower is an aggressive/nuisance plant that is extremely common in south Minneapolis. It has bell-shaped purple flowers on 2-3-foot-tall stalks and is in bloom from July to October. Its leaves are heart shaped, and its stems usually have a reddish color. It spreads quickly, and is difficult to remove



Plants such as Buckthorn (above) and Creeping Bellflower (at right) may look pretty, but they can take over a garden and are very hard to eradicate. At a minimum, try to remove the flowering stalks from the Creeping Bellflower before they go to seed. Each plant can produce up to 15,000 seeds which disperse by wind, creating a host of new plants each year.

because of its extensive underground root system, including large, tuber-like storage roots that can be a foot or more underground. Even if you pull the stalks, the plant will regrow from those storage roots if you don't dig them up – which is not an easy task.

As you can imagine, fully eradicating Creeping Bellflower is difficult. If you are able, the best practice is to use a garden fork to loosen the soil at least a foot deep and then gently remove the plant and its entire root system. However, this is not always practical if the plant is intertwined with other plants you want to keep or if it's covering a large area. In this case, there are some herbicides that can be used, but



you may need to reapply multiple times if the storage root is not killed after the first application. Check out the University of Minnesota Extension website for advice on specific herbicides. If neither of those options appeal to you, I would recommend at least removing the flowering stalks from Creeping Bellflower before they go to seed. Each plant can produce up to 15,000 seeds which disperse by wind, creating a host of new plants each year. Even if you aren't able to eradicate Creeping Bellflower in your own yard, removing the flowering stalks helps prevent this nuisance plant from spreading even more widely.

Another common problematic plant in our area is Buckthorn, which is on the

Restricted Noxious Weeds list. Buckthorn is a fast-growing perennial shrub. It was introduced to the United States in the 1880s for use as an ornamental hedge, but it has since become a serious threat to native forest ecosystems where it outcompetes native plants. The leaves of a Buckthorn plant are 1-2 inches long and generally egg-shaped, with serrated edges and a pointed end. It is easiest to identify by its clusters of small round black berries that ripen in August and September. These berries are very attractive to birds and other animals, who eat them and spread the seeds widely. Small Buckthorn plants can be uprooted using a root extractor or simply dug out with a shovel. Another option is to cut the plant down and use a small amount of herbicide on the cut stem. The University of Minnesota Extension website has advice on specific products and application methods to minimize risk to humans and wildlife when using herbicides.

Other common invasive and noxious plants in our area include Queen Anne's Lace (which has lacy white flowers and carrot-like roots), Bull Thistle and Canada Thistle (spiky plants with purple/pink flowers), and Creeping Charlie (the common lawn weed with small purple flowers). Although it may be surprising that invasive plants are an urban issue, it's important to be aware – and each of us can do our part to reduce the spread of these plants!

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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Check the State Fair schedule for the dates and times of Russ Henry's presentations on the Dirt Stage.



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Minnehaha Falls Landscaping creates outdoor environments that grow beauty, and support health and wellness. From this foundation grows our garden division, Giving Tree Gardens and our advocacy branch, Bee Safe Minneapolis.

# Pickleball courts added next to Lake Nokomis rec center

Six new outdoor pickleball courts are open next to the Lake Nokomis Community Center. These courts are the first dedicated pickleball courts in the Minneapolis park system.

A celebration was held on Wednesday, July 12 to commemorate the new courts opening. Following a short pickleball overview from a local pickleball instructor, there was a friendly tournament featuring local elected officials.

The courts are located next to the recreation center at 2401 E Minnehaha Parkway. They are free and open to all on a first-come, first-served basis, dawn-dusk daily, unless there are scheduled lessons or leagues. Currently the Nokomis courts host lessons on Thursdays, 9-11 a.m. through mid-August.

Learn more about parks with pickleball courts at the Minneapolis Parks Pickleball Page.



# Park Board proposes 5% tax levy increase

At its July 19 meeting, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners voted unanimously to support a tax levy increase request to the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) of 5.51 percent. If passed, the levy increase for the MPRB will result in a 0.97 percent increase in city property taxes overall, which amounts to an approximate \$18 annual increase in property taxes for owners of a median \$329,000 value home.

"Taking care of the park assets we have is a priority for this Board of Commissioners. We need to continue providing park services that Minneapolis residents use and that have made us one of the top park systems in the nation," explained Meg Forney, MPRB President.

The proposed tax levy includes two distinct elements that combined provide for the 2024 maximum property tax levy request. The first is to maintain current service levels, including \$681,700 for inflationary pressures impacting the MPRB budget and \$226,000 for increases in fees MPRB pays to the City of Minneapolis. The second element is \$372,000 to support the board-adopted Strategic Direction to care for park assets to meet evolving needs and practices. This investment will provide professional staff, two project managers and one systems analyst, to identify and implement asset lifecycles to maximize maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and capital investments.

"We provide parks and facilities to enrich the lives of every Minneapolis resident. With more than 30 million visits to the park system each year, we need to maintain current service levels and invest in how we track, assess and care for park assets within almost 200 parks located throughout the city," said Al Bangoura, Superintendent for the MPRB.

Currently, of every dollar homeowner's pay for property taxes, 7.8 cents go to the MPRB.

As required by State Law, the BET sets the maximum tax levy for the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Municipal Building Commission and the Public Housing Authority on an annual basis. The BET is scheduled to set these maximum property tax levies on Sept. 20, 2023.

If approved by the BET, the Superintendent will present a balanced 2024 recommended based on a 5.51 percent property levy increase on Oct. 18, 2023. The Board will consider the Superintendent's budget and adopt the 2024 tax levy and 2024 budget on Dec. 5, 2023.

# CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES ARE ON THE BALLOT AGAIN

## What has changed since 2022?

Because of the redistricting process completed in 2022, every Minneapolis City Council member will be up for reelection this year to serve a two-year term. In 2025, council candidates will be back on the ballot returning to the traditional four-year term. And this will be the first time the 13 city council members will be elected following major changes to the city charter (the city's constitution).

Charter Amendment No. 184, passed in the municipal election of 2021, has redefined the city structure. Before this process, the Government Structure Work Group described the city "as a complex patchwork of existing laws that has been in place since 1920." Known for years as a "Weak Mayor-Strong Council" system, Minneapolis has been transformed into an "Executive Mayor-Legislative Council" form of government. But what does that mean? What role will the city council play now?

In the 1980s, Mayor Don Fraser failed to pass a Strong Mayor Charter Amendment, after multiple attempts had been made throughout previous decades. He devised a compromise which passed. He proposed an Executive Committee made up of up of the mayor, the city council president,



and up to three city council members. Together they had a say in hiring or firing department heads. But this was described over the years as an unruly "governance by committee". In 2004, Steve Berg, writing in the Star Tribune, called the city's structure "one that makes no one accountable and puts no one in charge." He called it inefficient and costly. Close to 20 years after that article appeared the situation has changed.

The 2021 Charter Amendment No. 184 has consolidated all administrative authority under the office of the Mayor - the city's chief executive officer - in a single chain of command. The Executive Committee has been eliminated. All department heads are chosen and supervised by the mayor alone. The city council confirms all of these appointments. Previously the mayor had appointed only the chief of police.

Removed from the day-to-day operations of the city's administration, the city council, the city's legislative and primary policy-making body, is charged with enacting local laws and public policies. Council members serve ward constituents as advocate and ombudsman. The city council appoints the city clerk, establishes an independent Audit Committee, and has general oversight authority, holding the Administration to account. Under the charter "neither the city council nor the council committee or member may usurp, invade, or interfere with the mayor's direction or supervision of the administration." Clear lines of authority and responsibility have been drawn.

While the mayor represents the entire city, each council member serves a ward of about 34,000 people. Your council person is your public advocate - a link to your community and its' specific issues. Who you elect can determine the outcome of which policies you care about; policies that are not only heard, but ultimately incorporated into decision making.

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Classics Lost 'N' Found Theater Company performs outdoors in June 2023 at Nokomis Park near the recreation center. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Panina and Dahlia Orthmann perform in "Dick Whittington and His Cat," one of the original productions by Classics Lost 'N' Found Theater Company. (Photo submitted)

## My experiences with 'The Little Theater Company That Could'

### GUEST COLUMN

BY STEVEN LAVIGNE



Little did I know that day in 1982 when I walked into the Corcoran Neighborhood Center in south Minneapolis that it would become a huge part of my life. Their ad stated they needed a director for "Blithe Spirit" – a play I knew well. After my interview with John Dickinson, the park's director, I was hired to stage the play for a new theater group called Corcoran Park Players. This was CPP's second show (the first was "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe"). Neighborhood residents (mostly) made up the cast of "Blithe Spirit," and the production was so well received, John told me I'd be asked back to direct again.

In early 1983, a board of directors was assembled, and we scheduled a season of five productions – including three summer shows in a building that wasn't air conditioned. I was pleased to direct Garson Kanin's comedy "Born Yesterday," which worked quite well as a dinner theater production. It was a busy year, but our development as a theater group had begun.

Over the years, I generally directed one show a year – including such favorites as "The Good Doctor," "Moon for the Misbegotten," "Anna Christie," and "The Dress-



Lisa Phelps and Don Larson perform in "The Miser." (Photo submitted)

er." Our theater gradually did fewer shows, but usually much more lavish productions. In 2002, we made the decision to leave the park, and concentrated on doing smaller shows at Minneapolis Fringe Festivals, MACT-Fests and FASTFests. Our venues included Dreamland Arts, the Lowry Lab, and the People's Center, as well as performing at MACTfests in Albert Lea, St. Cloud, Fer-

gus Falls, and others.

I took time off to earn a master's degree in education, but returned in 2005 to direct Paul Osborn's beautiful play, "Morning's at Seven." I also was lucky enough to direct the last official production, "The Rivals" for CPP and the first official play, "Miss Lulu Bett," for our now re-imagined theater, Classics Lost 'N' Found Theater

Company.

Yes, indeed – it was in 2017, during rehearsals for "The Rivals," that we realized that all of us involved wanted to go back to producing full-scale productions again. We also made the decision to change our mission statement to concentrate on producing little-seen classical plays and/or original scripts by company members. "Romeo and Juliet" and Moliere's "The Miser" (updated to 1930s Paris) were two such classical scripts I directed for CLNFC, as well as several of my original scripts for "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus," "Queen Enid," and "Dick Whittington and His Cat." My adaptation of the Sherlock Holmes mystery, "The Hound of the Baskervilles," was produced by CLFTC in 2021, and I'm now at work on "Frankenstein," our upcoming 2023 fall production.

Classics Lost 'N' Found Theater Company is now happily ensconced at our very welcoming new home at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in south Minneapolis, and we currently perform four full-scale productions a year – including an annual outdoor production at Nokomis Park. We now attract actors, techies, and audience members through the Twin Cities and suburbs, and we are now in the midst of planning our 42nd year, including a hopeful return to 2024's FASTFest!

From humble beginnings in a city park's community building, we've always been "the little theater that could!" and we'll continue for as long as possible.

Learn more at [classicslostnfoundtheatercompany.org](http://classicslostnfoundtheatercompany.org).

## Rallying in Solidarity for Equity: Why we need health equity in South Minneapolis

### LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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



Minnesota often is ranked as among the healthiest states in the country, but not for everyone. The significant disparities that Minnesota has in housing, education, and income are reflected in the disparities in our health. Minnesota has some of the greatest health disparities in the country between white people and BIPOC.

A study from the Minnesota Department of Health showed that neighborhood, income, education and race all matter in the larger picture of health outcomes. Socio-economic factors are the biggest contributors to health.

"To be healthy, people need peace, shelter, education, food, income, and social justice," the MN Dept of Health 2020 report says. "Minnesota's significant and long-lasting health inequities cannot be

explained by bio-genetic factors and personal choice. These health differences have in part resulted from structural racism, which refers to racism that is built into systems and policies, rather than individual prejudice."

Health, as defined by the World Health Organization, is a state of complete physical, social and mental well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Ongoing research, however, also confirms that health, although typically viewed as the characteristic of a person, is actually better understood as a characteristic of communities.

While Minneapolis and Minnesota have passed legislation and policies that work to reduce structural inequities that contribute to health – paid family leave, a higher minimum wage, increasing transit systems – the rejection of rent control, attempting to advance projects that exacerbate environmental racism, and the years of disinvestment in certain neighborhoods mean that we aren't creating a healthy community for all of our residents.

Minneapolis does have the benefit of a robust healthcare system and healthcare organizations. Many of these organiza-

tions are working to decrease health inequities and creating programs that increase access to healthcare.

Seward Neighborhood Group and Longfellow Community Council wanted to host an event to provide health information and resources as a way for our South Minneapolis community to take a step toward health equity.

Rallying in Solidarity for Equity (RISE) will take place Sunday, August 20th from 11am to 3pm at Brackett Park, 2728 S 39th Ave. This event is for everyone, but especially those who need health services and our unhoused neighbors. There will be health screenings, naran trainings, haircuts, free food, dental screenings, and so much more.

We wanted to highlight some of that work and also bring to light the benefits, programs and services that are available to our community, especially to those who are uninsured, underinsured or in need of financial assistance. For example, we will be providing seniors in Minneapolis who are missing out on Medicare benefits and other subsidies. We partnered with Trellis who provides information and support they need to apply for them.

Housing and access to transportation are often some of the most important factors to health. Thanks to Metro Transit, we are able to provide free transit to this event. Use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BrackettHealthFairAug20> or the qr code to take a survey and unlock free transit on August 20th. If you don't have access to internet or can't get to the link - call us at 612-722-4529.

But this event isn't just about providing healthcare services or resources. We also wanted to provide services that contribute to health like a clothing giveaway, community yoga, art, music and food. Health is holistic, and while we know this event won't solve the disparities our communities face, we hope that it can help address them.

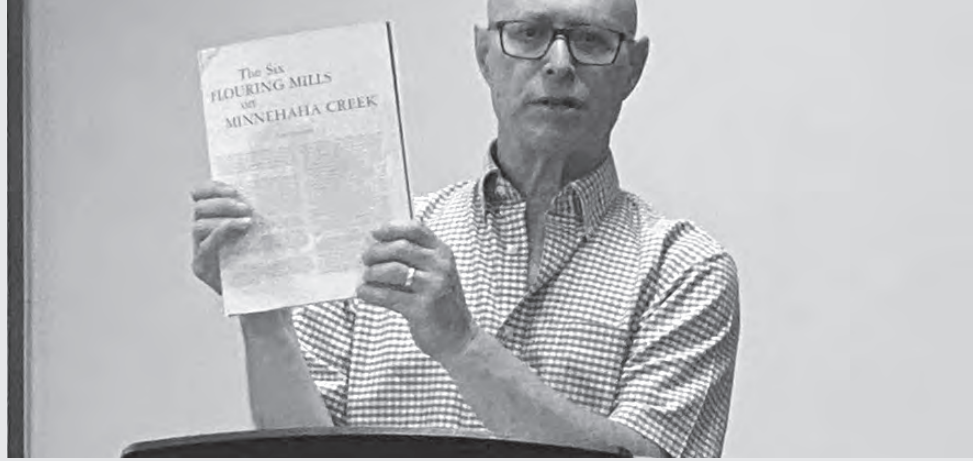
Health is created in the community by people working together to create just economic, social and environmental conditions. Health as a community issue, not an individual one – so let's come together as a community and invest in our health.

This event is made possible in part by a grant from Hennepin County with support from KRSM and Metro Transit.



**FRIENDS OF MINNEHAHA PARK GROUP FORMS**

Richard Kronick (far right) discusses the seven flour mills that used to be located on Minnehaha Creek during a presentation on June 10, 2023 at Washburn Library. It was the first event by the fledgling Friends of Minnehaha Park. Susan Glenn is in the process of lining up additional speakers and creating a website for the city's newest friends group. The Friends of Minnehaha Park (FoMP) Stewardship Agreement with the Park was approved on June 13. "The agreement is focused on the natural environment and engaging with the public to promote park stewardship and knowledge of the natural environment at the park," explained Glenn. "That means that we will be able to partner with the park to organize stewardship events, and recruit partners and volunteers through networking and social media."



places, a greatly loved destination for many people (more than 850,000 annually) throughout Minneapolis and the entire region. But it's sorely in need of some community involvement and support.

"I put on my librarian's hat and did some research and a lot of networking. There is no existing Friends group supporting Minnehaha Park.

Really? In contrast, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, another Regional Park and local treasure in Minneapolis, has a Friends group that is in its 71st year!!

"Everyone I connect with agrees that Minnehaha Regional Park, home of the majestic 53-foot Minnehaha Falls, is a gem. I'm hoping to find others, who like me, are passionate about the park and consider it to be a beautiful and sacred gathering place of natural beauty, historic significance, and local and regional importance to the community, which enhances our quality of life."

Check out the Facebook page at "Friends of Minnehaha Park." (Top photo by Tessa M. Christensen)



Glenn (at right) explained on a social media post: "Well I guess retirement didn't suit me. I have a new project. I'm working on starting a non-profit, @Friends of Minnehaha Park. It's one of my favorite

**Celebrated Indigenous chef joins food lab**

Minneapolis non-profit North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS) and its co-founder Chef Sean Sherman are hosting Navajo chef and author Freddie J. Bitsoie (at right) as the inaugural chef-in-residence at the Indigenous Food Lab by NATIFS in Minneapolis. Bitsoie, previously executive chef for the Mitsitam Native Foods Café at the National Museum of the American Indian, is author of a new cookbook, "New Native Kitchen," which explores Indigenous cuisine in modern form.



Bitsoie will consult with NATIFS and the Indigenous Food Lab through October 2023 to help further the non-profit's mission to promote Indigenous foodways education and facilitate Indigenous food access to help develop and grow Indigenous food-based businesses. He will also contribute valuable knowledge to the NATIFS library of training and cooking videos.

NATIFS has opened The Indigenous Food Lab in the Midtown Global Market on historic Lake Street in Minneapolis. For more, visit [www.natifs.org](http://www.natifs.org).

**CITY BRIEFS**

**36TH AVE. BRIDGE MURAL**

The city arts commission has approved an application for SPRAYFINGER teaching artists to work with youth from Hiawatha High School's public art club after-school program to install murals on the east and west walls under the 36th Ave. Midtown Greenway railroad bridge. The project was conceived by 36th ART, a group of volunteer residents from the Seward and Longfellow working to improve aesthetics, wayfinding and safety in the corridor.

**CLIMATE PLAN**

On July 20, the city council approved the 2023 Climate Equity Plan with some changes since a draft was released this spring. Changes include better connections between goals and strategies as well as more clarity on implementation with a timeline for the first year. The plan sets 2030 goals of insulated 5,000 homes, reducing fossil fuel emissions by 35%, having 100% renewable electricity city-wide, supporting 1,000 Minneapolis residents for union jobs, recycling and composting 80% of the city's waste, expanding tree planting and increasing trips taken by walking, biking or transit.

**LAKE STREET CONSTRUCTION**

B Line construction work on the north side of Lake Street between West River Parkway and Minnehaha Avenue continues. In early August, work will shift to the south side of the street. Two-way traffic is being maintained with lane and parking restrictions. Later this summer, construction will include a mill and overlay, as well as lane restriping. Sidewalks will remain open on at least one side of the street and pedestrian access will be maintained to homes and businesses.

**CRISIS RESPONSE CONTRACT**

The City Council has approved a one-year contract extension through August 2024 with Canopy Roots to operate the city's Behavioral Crisis Response teams. The current contract was set to expire this summer.

**LISTENING SESSION ON POLICE**

The U.S. Department of Justice has issued the results of their investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department and

hosted a community listening session on July 25 to hear people's ideas and concerns about what should be included in the consent decree they will be negotiating with the city in the weeks ahead. People can also share input by emailing [community.minneapolis@usdoj.gov](mailto:community.minneapolis@usdoj.gov) or calling (866) 432-0268.

**MORE MONEY FOR MPD LEADERSHIP**

In June, the City Council approved an 8% pay increase and a \$6,500 bonus for upper level, non-union, appointed leadership positions, excluding the police chief, in the police department (MPD) who remain with the department through September. This includes city employees with titles of assistant chief of police, deputy chief of police, police commander, and police inspector.

**AIRPORT PLANNING**

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has opened a comment period on the the MSP Airport 2040 Long-Term Plan that they began drafting in 2019. The plan will outline future facility and infrastructure needs at the airport as well as how to address future environmental factors including noise. On July 11, there was a public presentation at the Sabathani Community Center and written comments on the draft plan are being accepted through an online form, by email, or by mail until 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21. To learn more visit [www.msppairport.com/](http://www.msppairport.com/) long-term-plan.

**BLACK PLASTIC PHASE OUT**

By the end of the year, black plastic to-go containers will no longer be accepted under the city's Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance that limits what can be used as take out containers in Minneapolis. They will be added to polystyrene, plastic lined paper cups and plates and styrofoam containers that have been banned since 2015. The material cannot be sorted or sold by recycling facilities and they are not being recycled.

**311 SYSTEM CHANGES**

Starting July 19, people calling 311 will be greeted with "Thank you for calling Minneapolis 311. To continue this call in English, say 'English' or press 1. [In Spanish] For Spanish, say 'Spanish' or press 2. [In Somali] For Somali, press 3. [In Hmong] For Hmong, press 4."

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

**Faith**

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

**Bethlehem Covenant Church**  
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768  
[www.bethlehemcov.org](http://www.bethlehemcov.org)  
Pastor Colleen Nelson  
(Handicapped Accessible)  
Traditional Service - 9 AM  
Contemporary Service - 10:30 AM  
\*Beginning June 11 to fall: one  
Combined Service at 10 AM  
All sermons can be found online

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
[www.epworthmpls.org](http://www.epworthmpls.org)  
Sundays 10am - Worship In-person  
& Live-streaming on Our FB Page  
- @EpworthUMCMPLS  
8/6 - Worship - Holy Communion  
8/20 - Outdoor Worship - Blessing of  
the Animals  
PLUS - Weed & Water Wednesdays  
- 9:30-11:30am

**Faith Ev. Lutheran Church**  
3430 East 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jared Yagerst  
Sundays - Service times on website  
(Communion 1st and 3rd)  
Mondays: Exercise Class, 10 am  
AA, 6:30 pm  
Wednesdays: NA group, 7:30 pm

**Minnehaha Communion Lutheran**  
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527  
[www.minnehahacommunion.org](http://www.minnehahacommunion.org)  
Interim Pastor Matthew Johnson  
(Handicapped Accessible)  
9:45 am Sunday Worship in person  
& online. Info on church website  
12-step groups Tuesday thru Friday  
evenings

**Park Avenue United Methodist Church**  
3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863  
[www.parkavechurch.org](http://www.parkavechurch.org)  
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of Preaching Steven Belton  
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[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)  
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Saturday mass 5:00 pm  
Sunday mass 9:30 am (also live-  
streamed on Facebook), 12 pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40  
pm Saturdays; Sunday 11:30-  
11:50 am; Or by appointment  
Weekday masses at 8:15 am, M, T,  
Th, F in the chapel

**Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls**  
5212 41st Ave. S. • 612-724-3691  
[www.trinityfalls.org](http://www.trinityfalls.org)  
Pastor Matt Oxendale  
Centennial Year  
Worship 10 a.m. (June-Aug.)  
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 p.m.  
\*August 6 worship at Nokomis Rec  
Center Pavilion

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\*National Newspaper Association Survey

# MEET NENA'S NEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

**NOKOMIS EAST  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

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



Nokomis East Neighborhood Association is proud to announce we have a new community organizer. If you see Adrian Flourney running around town, make sure to say 'Hello!'

Adrian is from Minden, La. He is the eldest of five siblings; his parents are A'Dovian Johnson and Adrian Flourney. Growing up in Louisiana, he enjoyed being outside with friends riding bikes and going on four wheelers with his cousins. He also would go to his uncle's farm and ride horses with his cousins. During his high school years he played two sports – football and basketball. He was a 3-year letterman in football. Outside of organized sports, he was in a high school fraternity called Epsilon Rho Kudos. They did many philanthropy events, such as a sickle cell drive and giving toiletry items to the elderly.

Adrian has always been interested in politics. Majoring in political science with a minor in history, he took on working at Nokomis East Neighborhood Association as a logical next step in his career. He noted that many politicians skip the grassroots steps when going into politics. "I kind of want to go through all the steps and pro-



*Adrian Flourney recently spent a year living in Puerto Rico, where he spent his weekends going "waterfall hunting." He is the new Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Community Organizer. (Photo submitted)*

cesses, because if you go through all of them you understand the world around you. A lot of politicians are disconnected from the people they represent," he said, stating that his biggest interest in politics is how politicians represent their constituents.

When I asked him what triggered his interest in politics, he said, "There aren't a lot of people who look like me in these positions. And all I could think is: 'Why not?' It was always 'why not for me.'" When I asked him if he had any heroes, his first answer was John Lewis, who also started his

career as a community organizer. He also listed Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and any person who is trying to "forward the mission for equal opportunities for minorities."

"I look at it like a baton. The last generation tries to put things to the next generation," he said thoughtfully, mulling over the fact that 50 years ago, when his older family members were his age, they were living in the best situation that had ever existed for African Americans in the U.S. Today, he is currently living in the best situation for Afri-

can Americans in the U.S. "We just want to continue that trend," he said, marking that politics is one avenue to fast-track equal rights.

Adrian is not one to back down from a challenge. He recently came back to the United States from working for a year in Humacao, Puerto Rico. He described teaching high school in a monastery with a rigorous schedule which included waking up at 5:30 a.m. to pray before mass at 6:30 a.m. followed by high school courses, afternoon prayer, sports, and nightly prayer. "I like putting myself in hard situations. I feel like you learn a lot about yourself when your back is against the wall...I just wanted to do something hard and feel good about it afterwards."

He described being on the island during hurricane season, where the power would go out for hours at a time. His twin-sized bed wasn't long enough to accommodate him, so his feet would hang off at night. Sometimes, it would be so hot, he preferred to sleep outside where there was a breeze. Even though it was a hard year, he had several take-aways from the island. "Animals and humans were in such better harmony than it is in the cities." He described the different animals there – there's a small, loud frog called a 'coqui' frog that would say "coqui" every night all night. He would go "waterfall hunting" on the weekends, and find himself climbing tall mountains with hardly any trails in search of the views.

After his year-long contract, Adrian decided he wanted to work in his own community, where he could build long-term relationships and help people who are nearest to him. He is most excited about going out and meeting our community and helping in any way he can.

## EVENTS

### TRIVIA NIGHT BENEFITS LCC ON AUG. 3

Challenge your friends and neighbors in a game of trivia and raise money for your neighborhood organization! Join Longfellow Community Council at Eagles 34 for a trivia night fundraiser including a silent auction, food, and drinks on Thursday, Aug. 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m. and trivia will get going around 6 p.m. There will be prizes for the top three trivia winners. Trivia registration is \$10 per person in advance, \$15 at the door. Register online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/longfellow-community-council-trivia-night-fundraiser-registration-667154094857>

The silent auction will have items

from small area businesses, autographed Twins merchandise, and more! All proceeds benefit LCC. Can't make it? Donate directly on the website: <https://longfellow.org/donate/>. LCC is the neighborhood organization for the Greater Longfellow Neighborhood (Cooper, Howe, Hiawatha, and Longfellow).

### STREET ART BOARD EXHIBIT

Becketwood will host a free outdoor exhibit of the street art boards that were created during the uprising following the killing of George Floyd on Saturday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The boards are provided by Save the Boards Minneapolis whose founder, Kenda Zellner-Smith, will give a presentation at 12:30 p.m.

Save the Boards' vision is to uplift local artists and serve as a safe space for community education, reflection, and sto-

rytelling, allowing viewers to connect with art through their own experiences, voices, and personal journeys. The band Brass Solidarity, which was founded in 2021 in response to the movement for Black lives, will also perform.

### BIPOC SHARED SPACE

BIPOC Shared Space is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 5 p.m., at the Ivy Arts Building (2637 27th Ave.). BIPOC residents and business owners are invited to join to the BIPOC Shared Space. The goal of this space is to create and facilitate a healing space for BIPOC community members where joys, struggles, expression, and ways of being are not just welcome, but centered; an environment where BIPOC can be their full, authentic selves without fear.

On Tuesday, Aug. 29: Massage/Body-

work from Oshun Center for Intercultural Healing with food from India Kutir. On Tuesday, Sept. 29: Arts and crafts with food from Habanero Taco. On Tuesday, Oct. 24: A two-hour transformative healing session led by Creatve Kuponya with food from Galapagos.

### 'BIG DOGS: LARGE STORIES' AT VINE

The Vine Arts Center (2637 27th Ave. S.) is pleased to present a show of art by Jennifer Fisher Jones open July 8 to Aug. 5. After the opening on July 8, the gallery will be open on Saturdays July 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Big Dogs: Large Stories" is an evolving traveling collection of large format oils on canvas which represent a unique collaboration between dogs, their human companions and contemporary artist.

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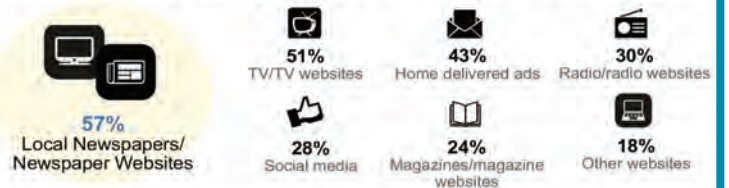
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