



Nokomis residents Kristi Papenfuss and her daughter Sage Houdek enjoy some ice cream treats with volunteer Nicole in China while attending the global competition, Chinese Bridge. Houdek is a student at Yinghua Academy in northeast Minneapolis. (Photo submitted)

Bound by Brass

South Minneapolis quintet looking for two new members

By JANE ST. ANTHONY

Musicians Richard Baldinelli and Dr. Joan Madden exude joy whether playing their trumpets in the 53rd Street Brass Quintet, looking forward or reminiscing. The two musicians capture the delight of a child's birthday party.

One glitch: Their quintet of two trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba will lose the French horn and the trombone very soon. But the enthusiasm of these two founders bodes well for a happy outcome.

Two other bands in which they play – Roseville Community Band and the Minneapolis Police Band – are also looking for musicians.

"In a quintet, there's no backup when there are only five musicians," said Madden. "We don't need to have a professional, just someone who would like to try and have a commitment."

There's no end to what the bands bring to the community.

BOUND BY BRASS >> 2



Dr. Joan Madden and Richard Baldinelli founded the 53rd Street Brass Quintet. (Photo by Jane St. Anthony)

'WE WERE CELEBRITIES'

Local students earn top spots, trip to China

By JILL BOOGREN

In the fall of 2023, two students from Yinghua Academy Chinese immersion school in Northeast Minneapolis went on the trip of a lifetime. Keewaydin resident and sixth-grader Sage Houdek and seventh-grader Kaia Bursell from Dellwood, Minn., spent 10 days in China as part of the global competition, Chinese Bridge.

They earned their spots by first competing in the U.S., delivering a speech in Chinese and a personal talent. (Sage

played the violin and Kaia sang.) Each won the top position in their district to join just four other students from the U.S. and compete at the world level. Part contest, part television show, part cultural exchange, the event showcased the abilities of participants from 97 different countries from primary school on up, while offering a glimpse of life in Kunming, China.

Sage said it was incredible to have been learning Chinese at school (she enrolled at Yinghua in kindergarten) then finally be able to use the language in the

real world. But it was also exhausting. "It was very tiring, because using not your native language all day long makes your brain work more," she said.

Kaia shared a similar sentiment: "It was a really different experience because Chinese is my second language, so it made me have to use my brain, think a little bit more about what I wanna say. I felt like it also really expanded my vocabulary 'cause I'm so exposed to everything."

After an assembly at the school, Yin-
CELEBRITIES >> 6



I am living as an African American in 2023 on a street named after a White man who propagated racism. I am ashamed to bring my relatives to that street."

Steven Belton



Edmund Boulevard: residents debate value of changing name

Black family on street says 'You should know that you need to change that name'

By CAM GORDON

The debate about Edmund Blvd. continued on Dec. 14, 2023 when over 40 people met to discuss how to respond to the racist history associated with the street name.

The lots on this 14-block-long city street running east of West River Parkway

between 32nd and 42nd streets were sold as part of the Walton Mississippi Heights development project in 1909 by Edmund Walton.

Attention turned to Edmund in 2019, when the University of Minnesota-led Mapping Prejudice Project found that Edmund Walton used racially discriminatory – and now illegal – restrictive covenants in deeds to many of the properties he sold.

Walton was identified as the author of what is likely the first racial covenant entered into a property deed in the city. The Mapping Prejudice Project found, "Walton was almost certainly the author of this text from 1910 which became the first racial

covenant in Minneapolis: "The premises hereby conveyed shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian or African blood or descent. Said restrictions and covenants shall run with the land and any breach of any or either thereof shall work a forfeiture of title, which may be enforced by re-entry."

The December meeting was held at Longfellow Community Center and organized, with the help of Longfellow Community Council staff, by Joe Larson and

EDMUND BLVD. >> 3



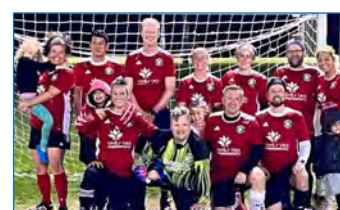
COLUMN:
How we get the newspaper to your door

PAGE 4



Begin planning kids' summer recreation now

PAGE 7



Did you know there is a soccer club in the neighborhood?

PAGE 8

BOUND BY BRASS >> from 1

"It's for the fun of it wherever we are," Baldinelli said. "We play a variety of music: 'We Three Kings Like to Swing' as well as traditional carols at Christmas, The Muppet Show Theme, Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline,' as well as Renaissance and Baroque music." Baldinelli looks to "The Canadian Brass Music" music book series for inspiration.

They have masqueraded as buskers – traditionally, those who entertain for money – without accepting donations. Notably, all of their concerts are free.

Outdoor summer concerts may include performances at Minnehaha Park and Lake Harriet, Como Park, Roseville and more sites. On Thursday nights the musicians play with the Minneapolis Police Band, of which Madden is president. Throughout the year, they bring their music to those in senior living, nursing homes and retirement communities, to churches as well as Mall of America and beyond.

The Police Band practices in the 5th Precinct police station in Minneapolis. And they play an outdoor concert every year for the 5th Precinct Neighborhood Open House.

Both Madden and Baldinelli were steeped in music at a young age. Madden's grandmother played the piano for silent movies before the turn of the last century. Madden gravitated to the violin at age 10 and later to the recorder.

When her father accepted a sabbatical in the Netherlands, Madden's mother and four siblings packed up and moved with him. Much to Madden's delight, the recorder was requisite at her new school in The Hague. Years later, Madden and two other singers in the Minnetonka Choral Society formed a recorder ensemble, The Arden Consort. They added more members and played together for the next 40 years.



Members of the 53rd Street Brass Quintet include: (left to right) Richard Baldinelli (trumpet), Joan Madden (trumpet), Eng Ng (tuba), Mariellen Jacobson (French horn), and Ed Katz-James (on trombone but switching to tuba). Eng and Jacobson are leaving the group. (Photo courtesy of Richard Baldinelli)

When a woman in Madden's choir put her shiny cornet up for sale at a fundraiser, Madden purchased it. She kept it dusted and on a shelf. Eventually she took her shiny cornet to MacPhail Center for Music in downtown Minneapolis for lessons. A chamber music class ensued and, eventually, the brass quintet that Madden and Baldinelli began.

Madden, who lives in Fulton, began playing the trumpet two years before she retired as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Health Partners. She expanded her musical reach, marching with her trumpet in the St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade and playing her baritone horn in several annual Tuba Christmas concerts.

Madden was a Timberwolves and Lynx senior dancer for 10 years: "It was exciting and fun, but it's a lot of work for two minutes in the spotlight."

In elementary school at St. Bernard's

in St. Paul, Baldinelli took music lessons and, as a sixth-grader, created his school's first grade-school band. In high school, he continued with music. At the University of St. Thomas, he played in the concert orchestra and earned a bachelor's degree in music. But he did not see himself as a teacher.

After his father died, Baldinelli decided that a master's degree in business administration would give him the means to help support his mother. He returned to school for the degree. Among the variety of jobs he held were with Schmitt Music, Harmon Glass, Nordic Ware and, lastly, Bio-Tech, which creates serums for research. And he continued to play.

A pivotal shift for him took place after Madden encouraged him to join the Roseville Band. At an outdoor concert, he encountered Mike, a senior at St. Thomas as when Baldinelli was a freshman. They had worked with the same inspirational trumpet teacher. Now Mike was on dialysis. Baldinelli recalled that, at the concert, Mike played the song, "Someone to Watch over Me." The next time that Baldinelli saw him was in the hospital; Mike's leg had been amputated. The next time, Mike wasn't there. He had died.

"After that, I retired from business," Baldinelli said. "I had to enjoy life."

There was a time when he wondered if he would ever enjoy making music again. While riding his scooter in 2012, a truck driver turned left in front of Baldinelli. "There were tire tracks on your back," a doctor later told Baldinelli. But the larger issue was the damage to fingers on both of his hands. Those fingers were totally pinned, but it took a year to recover and play the trumpet.

"There would be a big hole in my life without music," he said. "After the accident, just being in the audience, not playing, ripped me apart."

But he healed. He plays in the bands once again and

COINCIDENTALLY

I turned to Richard Baldinelli when I accepted this assignment. Why? I was given his name and phone number. He was helpful and gracious. At the end of our conversation, he asked me to call his partner in music, Joan Madden.

My heart stopped (but not all the way). Almost 43 years ago, Dr. Madden saved my daughter's life (and mine). My baby girl weighed 4 lbs., 2 ounces at birth. Far worse, no placenta remained. I had passed through many doctor visits, but no one had diagnosed the pain I had from preeclampsia, also known as toxemia.

That night, Dr. Madden's shift began at 6 p.m. The attending doctor had slipped out one minute earlier. Doctor Madden entered and immediately prepped for surgery. My daughter did not die and neither did I. Such gratitude I carry. And now I've had the chance to thank her again.

- Jane St. Anthony

LOOKING FOR TROMBONE & FRENCH HORN PLAYERS

The 53rd Street Brass Quintet is looking for a trombone player. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights near 53rd and Penn at 7:30 p.m. They play Baroque, classical and pop music for nursing homes and churches mainly in south Minneapolis. If interested, email 53rd.st.brass@google.com

is also an associate conductor. And as he continues to dedicate himself to music, he acknowledges that times have changed. As a teen, he played in the brass quartet when Christmas Eve Mass began at 10 p.m.; Christmas carols followed midnight mass. He would return to the church at 9 a.m. for the first mass on Christmas morning. Now at midnight mass, few parishioners attend. He misses the filled pews. But people continue to reach out to music in different ways, he noted.

Baldinelli and Madden, founders of the 53rd Street Quintet, look forward to welcoming new members to any of the three bands.

For Madden, the best part of playing music is playing with the group: "I would miss that, if we weren't able to continue because of missing two members of our quintet."

"We want to bring people together," said Baldinelli, who lives in northeast Minneapolis. "To that end, we're looking for people who play for enjoyment – for themselves as well as the audience."

"Get out the instrument that you haven't played in a while," Madden said. "You might be surprised at what happens."

Reach out to the 53rd Street Brass Quintet at 53rd.st.brass@google.com.

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EDMUND BLVD. >> from 1

Mark Brandt. The duo have been advocating a name change for the street since 2020. Kristen Eddy, who lives on Edmund, helped facilitate the discussion.

Brandt lives in Cooper, and said that “between biking and hiking, I see the name Edmund every single day.”

“After holding a meeting about Edmund Walton and his legacy specifically for Edmund residents in October, we decided the next step was to have a meeting for the broader community,” said Larson.

From those previous efforts, it was estimated that 18 residents living on Edmund wanted to change the name, 8 didn’t, 2 want to rededicate it, 2 were neutral, and 77 households did not weigh in. For a street name change to be applied for by residents, two-thirds of the property owners on the street would need to sign a petition supporting the change.

The discussion focused on the options of leaving it as it is and doing nothing, changing the name, or keeping the name but dedicating the street to another person named Edmund.

“We are hyper-aware that Edmund residents are the ones who shoulder the greatest ‘burden’ of a name change,” said Larson. “We made extra effort to ensure Edmund residents were aware of the Dec. 14 meeting, and that likely led to an out-sized representation from the residents that are opposed to the change. There were impassioned comments, and it was great to hear new ideas and perspectives. It was not, in my opinion, representative of how most people who are aware of the issue feel about it.”

AGAINST A NAME CHANGE

Among the nearly all White and generally older appearing crowd, many spoke against a name change.

Reasons for not supporting the name change included the fact that Edmund is not a last name. “It’s only a first name,” said one participant. “If it was a last name, I’d feel very differently. There are more than 56,000 Edmunds in the U.S. Should we penalize every Edmund?”

Others said that not many people know or care about the issue. Some said that a name change is not a substantive change, and that there are better ways to help and address past harms and discrimination.

Several people commented on how it would be an unfair inconvenience and expense for the people who live on Edmund who would have to formally change addresses to continue getting mail, and update drivers licenses, passports, and other legal documents.

Some made the argument that removing the name would be burying history. David, who identified himself as an historian, favored keeping the name and said, “I want to unbury and learn from the past.”

One Edmund resident, John Lauber, proposed resolving some of those con-

Neighbors gather on Dec. 14, 2023 to talk about Edmund Boulevard and whether it should be renamed, left the same, or re-interpreted. (Photo by Cam Gordon)

cerns by keeping the name, but formally dedicating the street to a different person named Edmund. He identified Edmund Phelps, a city park board member from 1905-1923, as such a person. With a ceremony, plaque, and other efforts he felt a re-dedication could acknowledge a more honorable figure in the area’s history and eliminate the need for any change of addresses.

Lauber also wanted more residents engaged. “I feel very strongly that the 77 people who haven’t yet been heard need to be recognized,” he said. “There needs to be a very conscious effort to survey the people on the street to make sure that there is support from the neighborhood.”

FOR A NAME CHANGE

Several people spoke in favor of an actual name change.

“Yes, it’s just a name, but it represents a huge harm that has been created and still affects people today,” said Maria Hartwell. “I don’t live on Edmund but saying that it’s an inconvenience to you is nothing compared to the people of color who are inconvenienced every day, and who don’t have the same opportunities that we have.”

“I’m 18, I just got back from college in San Francisco, but my home and my heart is my house on Edmund Boulevard,” said Mel Case. “I don’t want to live on a street named after a White supremacist.”

“He had the power to name one of the most beautiful streets in the city after himself. He had the power to shut people out,” said Laura Triplett, who has lived on Edmund for nine years. “I want more of the community to have a voice as well because we who are in this room are a product of what happened and what he did. I think we need to ask the young people and make sure other voices are heard.”

ONE BLACK FAMILY ON STREET

After some discussion, a straw poll was taken. Ten people voted to change the name, 4 said to do nothing, and 20 voted to rededicate it to someone else named Edmund.

Perhaps the most striking comments came towards the end of the meeting.

It was then that Steven Belton, who had been sitting quietly in the far corner of the room all this time, stood up and spoke.

“This discussion deeply offends me,” said Belton, who has lived on Edmund since 1995 and is, as far as he knows, the only Black family living on the street. An attorney, Belton is a minister at Park Ave. United Methodist Church, and led the Urban League from 2015-2022. His wife is former mayor Sharon Belton, and his niece, Lisa Sayles Belton, has just been hired as the new Minneapolis Public School Superintendent.

“Not once has someone thought about the perspective of a Black man listening to this,” he pointed out. He told the group that they needed to “get out of their own shoes for a moment. ... You

should know that you need to change that name.”

Belton added, “I am living as an African American in 2023 on a street named after a White man who propagated racism. I am ashamed to bring my relatives to that street.”

“Re-dedication offends me most of all. All you are doing is dressing up a pig and putting lipstick on him,” he added. “The only hope I have here is that you get out of yourself and think about how it impacts others.”

LEARN MORE

In January, Eddy said, “From the meeting, I learned that there’s more work to do. I’m really happy that so many community members are engaged, even if we don’t all agree on the final outcome. It means we’re talking about the legacy of racial covenants and racism in our city.”

HOW TO CHANGE A STREET NAME

There are a few ways to get a street renamed in Minneapolis. One of them was used in Longfellow when former council member Andrew Johnson petitioned to change the name of Dight Ave. to Cheatham Ave. in 2022.

A street name change can be applied for by a mayor, city council member, public works director, or through a petition presented to the city that contains the signatures of two-thirds of the property owners whose property abuts the street with a \$300 application fee.

The Public Works and Community Planning and Economic Development Departments review requests. A public hearing is held by the city planning commission at least 15 days after notice of the hearing is mailed to all owners of property located within 350 feet of the boundaries of the subject street. Following the hearing, the planning commission forwards its recommendations to the city council for final approval, subject to mayoral review.

She also invited people to visit the website www.reclaimingedmund.com to learn more.

“The meeting went well in that there were passionate opinions expressed on both sides of the issue, and we were able to make contact with people who are now fired up to join us,” said Brandt.

“While a name change is the tangible action in this work, our hope is that more people in the neighborhood will talk about the legacy of racial covenants in this neighborhood,” said Larson. “Racist practices are a part of this neighborhood’s origin story, and the reality is that they inform the make-up of our neighborhood today.”

“It is clear that we have work to do in developing awareness and continuing to build relationships with our neighbors,” said Larson.

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

GETTING THE PAPER TO YOUR FRONT DOOR JUST GOT A LITTLE HARDER

Too much coffee



BY TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN
Owner & editor
tesha@longfellownokomisMessenger.com

Being a small business owner has its good and bad days. In late December 2023, we got some tough news.

Independent Delivery Service (IDS), a staple in the Twin Cities for 40 years, was shutting down effective almost immediately.

Founded in October 1973 by Mike Depe, IDS offered an alternative delivery for third class mail and newspaper inserts. They moved to 440 W Minnehaha Ave. in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul in 1989, occupying a 18,000-square-foot building that provided garage space for 20 fleet vehicles, warehouse space for deliveries, and office space for sales and other staff. At one time, IDS was among the largest alternative distribution services operating in the country. They had more than 50 employees and subcontractors delivering over 50 million pieces per year. Account representatives Mike Tierney and Paul Overson worked at IDS for decades, as did operations manager Brian Amundsen.

Mike Depe died in October 2020 at age 71, and his daughters Bridget Teigland, Heather Favre, and Charlotte Snegosky took over the operation of IDS on top of their other responsibilities.

Last year, MyVillager newspaper in Highland Park decided to stop using IDS to deliver to front doors. They dropped down their print circulation and opted for paid subscribers who get the paper in the mail. Previously, they had been delivering 60,000 papers throughout St. Paul and nearby cities of Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights, with a few thousand papers in the Longfellow neighborhood of south Minneapolis. They shifted their focus to their website, as have other news-

PICK UP A COPY

If you're anything like me, you love a good local read. Check out these newspapers that still print physical copies (and also have e-editions online). We're collaborating with them with on delivery:

1) Northeaster, 31,700 copies, every other week, Northeast Minneapolis

2) St. Paul Publishing: St. Paul Voice, Downtown St. Paul Voice, South St. Paul Voice, La Latina Voz, 37,500 copies, once a month

3) Community Reporter - nonprofit, 9,000 copies, monthly, West 7th Street area in St. Paul

4) TMC Publications: Longfellow Nokomis Messenger (22,000 copies) in Minneapolis and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor (23,500 copies) in St. Paul, monthly; Southwest Connector (25,000 copies), twice a month in Southwest Minneapolis

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPERS

• Alley, non-profit, once a month in Phillips neighborhood, Minneapolis; door-to-door delivery and stacks at local businesses

• Hill and Lake Press, non-profit, once a month in Kenwood, Lowry Hill, Cedar-Isles-Dean and East Isles in southwest Minneapolis; 9,000 copies delivered by mail

• North News, non-profit owned by Pillsbury United Communities, once a month to 14 neighborhoods of North Minneapolis via 400 public bulk drop sites and paid home subscriptions; runs year round internship program for area high school students

• Park Bugle, non-profit, once a month in St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park, St. Paul; delivered to subscribers by mail

• Southside Pride, once a month, 10,000 copies, stacks at south Minneapolis businesses

• Villager, every other week, based in Highland Park, St. Paul; delivered to subscribers by mail

PRINT NICHE PUBLICATION

• Access Press, non-profit, monthly, Minnesota's Disability Community News source, delivered to subscribers by mail and at businesses throughout the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. (*Note: editor is Jane McClure of St. Paul, who also writes for the Monitor and Villager.)

papers who are adapting to survive.

The MyVillager shift came on the heels of a string of local newspaper closures over the years that included North St. Paul-based Lillie Suburban Newspapers (folded September 2019) and the Southwest Journal (shuttered in December 2020). Forum Communications closed papers in Woodbury, Cottage Grove and Hastings, and those have been jump-started online.

There have been other delivery companies that have come and gone over the years, including Lloyd's Delivery, which delivered for the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Midway Como Frogtown Monitor for years, and because of that we had hired IDS to deliver roughly half of the Messenger and Monitor newspapers for the last two years. (And they had de-

livered our newspapers at other times over the last few decades.)

In late fall, IDS learned that the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press were discontinuing their free weekend products, the small editions with lifestyle content, coupons and sale flyers. It was a decrease in about 100,000 weekly deliveries for IDS. The owners decided they couldn't sustain such a decrease in business, and announced they were done as of Dec. 31.

That left four of us neighborhood newspaper in the lurch, those of us still getting newspapers to people's front doors the old-fashioned way: a newspaper placed door-to-door by a carrier walking from house to house in all kinds of weather.

Why do we still want to deliver this way?

We do it because we want everyone

to get a paper, to have the same information and news no matter whether you own or rent, have a big house or a small one, make a lot of money or just get by.

When you blanket a neighborhood like we do, the paper goes to all ages, all races, and all ethnic groups. There is no discrimination. We require no payment. Local businesses support the writers, printing, and delivery through ad sales.

And we do it because we believe it is vitally important.

Newspapers, as my children hear often, are fundamental to democracy, and neighborhood newspapers are a great equalizer. These small little papers are creating community with each issue that comes out.

You might say, they are community.

So, when the Northeaster, St. Paul Publishing, Community Voices and TMC Publications CO (my group of three newspapers that reach over 150,000 readers each month) heard that IDS was shutting down, we came together.

The Neighborhood and Community Press Association folded years ago as the once-strong group of about 40 papers dwindled. But we're reviving a coalition.

We know we're stronger together.

We're working to keep on some of the carriers who used to deliver for IDS and have walked these city streets for years with a bag of papers slung over their shoulders. For some of them, this has been their main job. For other carriers, it is a side gig meant to add something extra to their household income. We have retired folks working as carriers. Parents and children learning the ins and outs of newspaper delivery. People appreciate the flexibility of the gig. They like the fresh air and appreciate a job that moves their body.

If you want to join our group of carriers, send a note to delivery@tmcpub.com.

As we work out the kinks of this new system, please be patient with us. Let us know if you got your paper - and if you didn't. Thank your carrier.

Share your thoughts on the neighborhood and newspapers. Email tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.

LETTERS

WHY ARE WE BEING BRAINWASHED ABOUT MEDICARE ADVANTAGE?

I was so happy to read Donald Hammen's Medicare column in the December issue, because the private health insurance industry saturates every medium with its false advertising campaign for "Medicare Advantage." Why doesn't the Biden administration shut down this Medicare privatization scam? Medicare has the authority to regulate "Medicare Advantage" vendors and has recently invoked it, but Ucare, UnitedHealth and the rest just keep buying every media slot to brainwash the public. It's particularly annoying on Classical MPR, which is supposed to have a nonprofit mission, but every other break features a blurb shilling "Medicare Advantage." It was Minnesota that got the Nixon Administration to approve Medicare HMOs, leading 30 years later to what is now "Medicare Advantage." Minnesota

should pass Senator John Marty's Minnesota Health Plan (<https://mnhealthplan.org/>) while the DFL controls both the Legislature and the Governorship.

Mathews Hollinshead
age 75, Medicare Part B enrollee
St. Paul

LETTER ASKING MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION TO RESCIND GRANT TO ALPHA NEWS

Dear Mr. Rybak: We recently learned that the Minneapolis Foundation acted as a pass-through for donor-directed funds to Alpha News in 2022. Given the timing of the grant, it is likely the funds were used to produce or promote the racist and highly misleading film "The Fall of Minneapolis."

This film uses half-truths and outright lies to blame George Floyd for his own death while denying the police violence that killed him and that caused many injuries to journalists and to community members protesting that violence. At best, the film is a white-wash that harms the community by bolstering the status quo and sullyng the name

of a murdered Black man. Your website is filled with references to cultivating change and building racial equity. It is appalling that you would allow the Foundation to act as a conduit to Alpha News, a group with a proven record of racism. If a donor wanted you to direct funds to the Proud Boys, would you abide by such a request?

We demand that you rescind this grant and apologize to the community. Further, we demand that you review your foundation's practices regarding donor-directed funding.

For justice,
Michelle Gross, Communities United Against Police Brutality (4200 Cedar Ave. S); Nekima Levy-Armstrong, Racial Justice Network; Jaylani Hussain, CAIR-MN Executive Director; Toshira Garraway, Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence; Johnathon McClellan, Minnesota Justice Coalition; Monique Cullars Doty, Black Lives Matter Twin Cities Metro; Trahern Crews, Black Lives Matter Minnesota; Jess Sundin, Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar

ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT ALLOWING PUBLIC COMMENT AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

I was at the Ward 11 "Public Safety Meeting" on Dec. 12. City Council member Emily Koski denied all opportunities for her constituents to ask about or present any community problem. The constituents were forbidden from raising a hand and asking a question. Koski employed many standard government tactics to eliminate public input in government decision making. She chooses the topic and "Safety Guest," accepts only written questions, censors the ones she doesn't like, filibusters awhile, then the meeting is over. Zero community questions were asked or allowed to be asked.

Hennepin County has decided to listen less, as well. Commissioners used to listen three minutes, now it is two minutes or voicemail. Government and people listen to and respect each other less and less every day.

Neil Elavsky
Nokomis

Messenger

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News for you!

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

Story ideas always welcome.

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

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Stories and Journeys

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN



WINTER MUSINGS

new growing season. We told our stories of the recently completed season while sharing our visions for the upcoming season and, in the meantime, how we were surviving winter. Last evening, Christmas Eve, I checked my Weather Guide Calendar to see how many minutes of daylight we were supposed to have gained since Dec. 21.

Christmas Eve Past. My brother and I are awakened by our parents. It's time to go to church for the midnight candlelight service. My favorite time during the service was when the lights were turned down. We would bring back the light by lighting each other's candles.

Christmas Eve Present. I perform my candlelighting ritual. I remember the animals that have blessed my life, six cats and a Cocker Spaniel. I say their names. And I say the names of my brother, Richard Allen Hammen, and my parents, Ruth Mae Yount Hammen and Peter Henry Hammen III. I am very aware that I am the only one left out of that family that used to get up and travel to the midnight candlelight service. I'm experiencing a moment of grief at the loss of that experience. I go to sleep with music of the season playing on classical radio MPR.

Welcome to the start of year three for Stories and Journeys. Welcome to the start of year eight of my retirement journey including Medicare plus supplement. Another reader has told me their take on Medicare via Tesha@longfellownokomismessenger.com. Matthews H. writes, ".....UCare, UnitedHealth and the rest keep buying every media slot to brainwash the public. ... It was Minnesota that got the Nixon Administration to approve Medicare HMOs, leading to 30 years of what is now 'Medicare Advantage.'"

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF LIGHT WHILE EMBRACING SILENCE AND DORMANCY

Solstice. When I was founder/coordinator of Minnehaha Avenue Community Garden, there were several years when some of us gardeners would gather at Gandhi Mahal restaurant. We celebrated the return of light as the beginning of a

And if you have read this far you have taken the plunge into the river(flow) of life experiences which is Stories and Journeys.

SALUTING LOUISE SUNDIN, DESIGNER OF THE MINNEAPOLIS FLAG

I first became aware of Louise, a Southwest Minneapolis resident, when she was hosting her radio show devoted to education matters on AM 950. After I retired in December of 2016, I started attending the monthly meetings of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council (AFL-CIO). I discovered that Louise was part of the MRRC leadership. At one of those meetings, as a reader of the Southwest Connector, she outed me as the writer of Stories and Journeys. Recently, she showed up in a Star Tribune article as the designer of the Minneapolis flag when she was a Southwest High School student. And even more recently a writer of a Star Tribune opinion called for a re-design of the Minneapolis flag. I'm thinking I would be flying it if I knew Minneapolis had a flag.

In the meantime, dear reader, did you know the Minneapolis had a flag? Have you ever seen it flown? Would you fly it? What are your thoughts? Tell yourself, tell others or tell me via Tesha@longfellownokomismessenger.com.

SHOWING UP AT THE MET COUNCIL, METRO TRANSIT LEADERSHIP LISTENING SESSION

While writing this column I learn that Listening Sessions on light rail trains and at select train stops are happening (1-8-24 through 1-12-24). I decide to go to a session at the Lake Street/Midtown Station. There I got to speak with Lesley Kandaras, Metro Transit General Manager, and Charlie Zelle, Met Council Chair. I have been a bus/train rider for a long time. I have never known Met Council/Metro Transit leadership to do any thing like this. It seems like a really good idea.

For now I'll just share my first impressions. I feel like Lesley is the "real deal" – like she is the right person in the right position at the right time. Even better she lives in Messenger territory. There is a good chance I made my points. I observed Lesley taking notes. She gave me copies of the revised Rider Code of Conduct. Charlie seemed to be enjoying being away from meetings and interacting with some of the people who make Metro Transit go – riders. Hopefully this listening session week is not a one and done. I suggested doing one when it isn't winter. Another one of my musings.

In gratitude always.

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

Update on Hiawatha Golf Course

The MPRB began and supported several small but impactful projects at Hiawatha Golf Course while funding for a more comprehensive design effort was secured.

OSPREY TRASH BOOM SYSTEM

Installed in June 2023 and operated by the city of Minneapolis, the three-boom system captures trash entering Lake Hiawatha via the north storm pipe. In four months following installation, it captured:

- 23.7 lbs or 14.6 cubic feet of recyclable materials.
- 232.8 lbs or 40.8 cubic feet of trash.

SUPPORT FOR DAKOTA-LED SITE TOURS AND SPEAKERS SERIES

- Volunteer-led initiative.
- Featured Dakota-led site tours around Lake Hiawatha.
- Identified plants and explained their uses.
- Spoke about their upbringing and the history of the Dakota people in Minnesota.
- Spoke about the treaties between

the U.S. government and the Dakota tribes.

FRIENDS OF LAKE HIAWATHA PLANTINGS

- Volunteer-led experimental planting to engage and educate members of the public.
- Small planting on a sediment island at the outlet of the north storm pipe and along the lake's south shore.
- Local volunteers planted several species of riparian and emergent plants.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS

- Completed installation of four wells in addition to the existing four wells. This will allow the MPRB to download and compile data from a broader area, resulting in high-accuracy models.
- In early 2024, this summarized data will be available.
- This information will be used to better model groundwater and prepare for future design work at Lake Hiawatha.

UPDATED PROJECT TIMELINE

An updated timeline for the project

was presented at the Jan. 3, 2024 board meeting. The work has been broken into two parts, and construction could begin in 2027.

Over the next few months, a Community Engagement Assessment and Plan will be drafted and coupled with a Project Charter. The Charter will include the basic project information, the project purpose and objectives, roles and responsibilities of project team members, major project goals, potential scopes of work for consulting services, project background, project schedule and milestones, and funding sources for the initial phases of design.

Concurrent with the community engagement and charter documents, the MPRB will also be advertising for Statements of Qualification from local and national firms. The project teams will consist of landscape architects, golf course architects, engineers, community engagement specialists, and others that will help the MPRB move forward with design work at Lake Hiawatha.

This next phase of design will begin in spring 2024. Community engagement with neighbors, the golfing community, environmentalists, and indigenous peoples will continue throughout this work.

FROM THIRD PRECINCT INTO MINNEAPOLIS BLACK CULTURAL CENTER?

Gather on Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m., at the Hook and Ladder Theater and Lounge to focus on the transformation of the former 3rd Precinct site into the Minneapolis Black Cultural Center. This event aims to engage local residents, and community leaders in a discussion about the future use and development of this significant space. Through interactive sessions and open forums, organizers will share a vision, and aspirations to collectively shape what will stand in the former 3rd precinct's location.

The Shame to Fame effort is being led by Mama Sheila's House of Soul restaurant owners Fred and Sheila Brathwaite.

SURVEY ASKS RESIDENTS ABOUT POLICE

The Minneapolis Police Department has launched a new public survey tool to better understand local residents' concerns, attitudes, and trust in their police officers. The survey, launched in partnership with Zencity, will appear to Minneapolis residents on their mobile devices. The tool will enable the MPD to more holistically understand local neighborhood safety issues and enhance their responsiveness to community priorities.

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CELEBRITIES >> from 1

ghua Director Dr. Luyi Lien commended the students. "This is really a proud moment for us to know our students are so well prepared for the world. Not just language, but also their way of doing things, understanding other cultures, and coping with any challenges they have faced," she said.

Each student traveled with one parent – Sage with her mom, Kristi Papenfuss, and Kaia with her mom, Cindy Bursell. Bursell, who came to the U.S. from Indonesia and speaks both Indonesian and English, was thrilled to see her daughter excel in her second language.

"I am beyond proud of her, because I can certainly say that she is bilingual," she said. "She was able to help me communicate with other people. She's very competent when people ask her [questions] in Chinese."

In fact, the parents had to rely on their kids for most of their communication.

"It was so interesting to me because I have never been really completely dependent on my child to express my thoughts and ideas," said Papenfuss, who has traveled internationally and is fluent in English and Spanish. "It was really cool to see how responsible my kid was... How much she knew linguistically and culturally and how responsible and mature she was to be able to guide me through situations that I had zero context or ability to function in."

Even during a long layover in Shanghai, the kids took charge. They figured out where to spend their time, how to get tickets for the "super-fast train" and where the stations were. They led their parents on a walking tour around the People's Square in the center of Shanghai, population 26 million.

Since Chinese was the common language of all the contestants, it opened up communications so they could get to know one another.

"I've never been around all these different people from all over the world, and it was really interesting to learn their culture and how they live and how China and Chinese has connected them to the world," said Sage. She also knows Spanish but felt more comfortable speaking Chinese – even with Spanish-speaking students.

"There were so many different people from different backgrounds and different histories, and just to meet them and learn how they live was just a really delightful experience," said Kaia.

IN AND AROUND KUNMING

Each day was meticulously planned. On top of rehearsing and performing for the competition, contestants spent time at a primary school, with a host family,



During the Chinese Bridge closing ceremony, Sage Houdek (at front in center wearing pink) and Kristi Papenfuss (in back wearing stripes) join other guardians and contestants who were given awards. Sage earned first place among U.S. contestants, as well as an Outstanding Performance Award. (Photo submitted)

on a trip to the zoo, a fossil museum, the Old Town, and the Dounan Flower Market – the largest flower wholesale market in Asia. Think Stock Exchange for flowers.

"It was pretty crazy... and it smelled really good," said Sage.

School was a lot different there than in the U.S. Sage said students and teachers were very respectful and would bow and say "Good morning" to each other. It was also very quiet. "The only time anyone talked was when they raised their hand to answer questions, and they stood up and bowed and answered the question then [sat] back down and bowed again," she said.

Due to its year-round mild climate, Kunming is called the "Spring City." So while the school's classrooms are inside, the hallways are outside. "You can feel the fresh air, and it's really nice," said Sage.

Students participated in various activities, such as papercutting, calligraphy, Chinese painting and lantern making. In one unit they studied "time" – the equinox and the way the earth moves – which they were then tested on. This score, along with quizzes from some of their other excursions, was added to their performance scores to determine total scores in the competition.

In addition to having a jam-packed itinerary, the whole experience was filmed. They traveled on chartered buses, 58 primary school students with their parents, with camera crews present and conducting interviews wherever they went. It was essentially a reality TV show. There'd be drones overhead taking pictures, and people followed them with cameras – even at the hotel.

"We were celebrities," said Sage, describing being crowded by people in a park who wanted to take photos with



(Left to right) Seventh grader Kaia Bursell, Yinghua Academy Director Dr. Luyi Lien, and sixth grader Sage Houdek hold their certificates and awards from Chinese Bridge.

the contestants. She said it felt very game show-y, and by the end of each day her mouth hurt from so much smiling.

Overall, Kunming was different than expected.

Sage pictured a lot of temples and old architecture, but except in the Old Town, the city was very modern. It was also very clean.

"We didn't see even one piece of trash," said Sage. Gardens and planters were everywhere, with people watering them 24/7.

Papenfuss said it was beautiful, with high rises next to green space. "It would be like if next to Lake Nokomis we had a 12-square-block area of [20-story] high rises, and then you had the creek and the parks," she said. "We just don't have that here."

It was also not as crowded or chaotic or as loud as she expected. "It was actually really kind of calm... lots of green space and lots of electric vehicles and scooters, which don't make any sound, lots of bikes," she said.

Asked what kind of food they ate, Sage replied, "We ate a lot of noodles. Breakfast, noodles. Lunch, noodles. Dinner, guess what? Noodles."

FAMILY VISIT

Their favorite experience was spending a few hours with a host family in their home, where they shared a meal. For Sage it was awkward at first, mainly because the dad thought she couldn't speak Chinese. It got easier once he knew she could understand him. In their household was another girl Sage's age, 11, a younger sister who was about nine and a little brother who wasn't in school yet. They also had two other siblings in high school.

"It was really neat to see [Sage] just be able to hang out with normal people without cameras, without competition people, without all the hubbub... just in someone's apartment, playing a game with a kid and having tea and having lunch," said Papenfuss. "That was, for me... one of the best things, 'cause it was like just being with regular people, you know, not being on a show."

Bursell also said their visit with the host family was the most memorable thing. "We were very comfortable there, we [felt] very welcome there, [it was] just interesting to see how they live." They provided a home-cooked meal that was cooked "to perfection."

They also made dumplings together. As is tradition, they put a coin in one of the dumplings, which would bring good luck to whoever got it. As luck would have it, Kaia found the coin in her first dumpling.

PREPARATION

Asked how Yinghua Academy helped prepare the students, Dr. Lien said preparation began on their first day of school.

"We are a Chinese immersion school, meaning the students coming to the school starting day one they start to learn Chinese. So they are immersed in the Chinese language and culture," she said. "We think about how we can help them to become not just bilingual, bicultural, but really multilingual, multicultural for them to see the world in a different lens."

Both students encourage others to go if ever they can.

Sage's advice? "Practice, practice, practice. And don't get intimidated by what the other kids do, 'cause you're doing what you're doing, and it doesn't matter what they're doing. 'Cause you know you have practiced enough and can go out there and show them what you know how to do."

"If you ever get the experience to go to this competition or any competition, just take the opportunity," said Kaia. "Life is too short. Just do what you can."

► MORE PHOTOS @
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ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM



Tom Mickelson (coach), Ani McQuillen (state tournament competitor), Eleanor Nervig (state tournament competitor), and Adler Young (Roosevelt debater who attended to support and help prepare Ani and Eleanor for their debates). (Photo submitted)

Jan. 12-13, 2024, the Roosevelt High School Debate team competed in the MSHSL Minnesota State Debate Tournament. Students from all across Minnesota gathered for high quality, rigorous, debate, and we are proud that Roosevelt was there to represent Minneapolis!" said Skye Spindler, the Augsburg Community Debate Liaison.

Many students don't get the opportunity to attend State until they are upperclassmen, but Roosevelt debaters aren't like most students. This is the second year juniors Ani McQuillen and Eleanor Nervig have competed at the MSHSL State Debate tournament – returning to exceed expectations once again. As Ani shared, "Eleanor and I were really excited for State and we debated our best all season. Our goal was to double our record from last year and we met it by winning against teams we didn't think we could beat." Indeed, Ani and Eleanor had some impressive wins at this tournament against nationally competitive partnerships from Edina and South Minneapolis.

Ani also reflected that this season was meaningful because of more than wins, concluding, "It's great to see how far we've come in a year, and we met other goals too, like writing a case with my teammates all by ourselves."

These students are members of the Minnesota Urban Debate League (MNUDL), a program of Augsburg University. MNUDL provides academic competitive debate programming for more than 1,300 middle and high school students in the Twin Cities.

Begin planning kids' summer recreation now

Due in part to high demand, parents who want to place their kids in summer rec programs or summer camps should be vetting such programs and camps well in advance of summer. The following are a handful of tips for moms and dads who want their kids to have fun and fulfilling summers.

- Ask for recommendations. Speak with fellow parents and trusted friends about where they send their children. Personal recommendations can be very helpful, providing firsthand insight into a particular camp or program. Schedule appointments to visit camps that fall within your budget. Take your son or daughter along so he or she can get a sense of what camp will be like.

- Explore all options. Camps come in more flavors than ever before. Certain camps may be faith-based ministries while others may focus on particular sports.

Band camps and art camps may appeal to creative kids. Also, there are plenty of general-interest camps that offer various activities without narrowing in on any particular one.

- Determine your camp budget. As varied as program offerings may be, camps also can vary greatly with regard to cost.

If camp seems out of reach, look into local summer recreation programs at parks or schools. Such programs may not be as extensive as those offered by camps, but they can quell kids' boredom and keep children occupied during the day.

In addition to camp, remember to plan for some free days so children can just enjoy some downtime. Such days can break up the monotony of a routine and provide kids and families time to relax together.



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Feb. 12	Feb. 22
March 18	March 28
April 15	April 25
May 13	May 23
June 17	June 27
July 15	July 25
Aug. 19	Aug. 29
Sept. 16	Sept. 26
Oct. 14	Oct. 24
Nov. 18	Nov. 29 (Friday)
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MAY

Home & Garden
Summer in the City

JUNE

Paws & Claws
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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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Nokomis Pride FC began in neighborhood

NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Sarah Friedman
communications manager
sarah.friedman@nokomiseast.org



I'm sharing information Nokomis Pride FC provided this month:

Established in 2022, Nokomis Pride FC is a soccer team made up of players aged 30 and above, mainly residing in the Nokomis neighborhood. It all began with a small group of parents organizing friendly kids versus parents pick-up games in the fall of 2021 following the end of their kid's fall soccer season. Recognizing the growing interest, Stefanie Beniek took the reins, forming and now actively managing the adult soccer team known as Nokomis Pride FC. Sixteen players play year-round in 7v7 games. In the summer and fall seasons, they play with Minneapolis Park and Rec adult soccer leagues. Then in the winter and spring they play in the 30/35+ league with City Sport Connections. This keeps them busy as games are almost every Sunday year round!

The team's name, 'Nokomis Pride FC,' combines a sense of pride for the Nokomis neighborhood with a nod to the LGBTQ+ community. Originally rooted in Nokomis, the core group resides in this neighbor-

hood, but the team has evolved to include players from all corners of the city. The name reflects their commitment to inclusivity, signifying that while not all members hail from Nokomis, everyone is welcome.

When the team formed in the fall of 2022, a few of the players had never played soccer before, but had played other sports, which translated well into soccer. The more experienced players created various drills and training to get the new players quickly up to speed. "It's a fun way to exercise and hang out with people," said Stefanie Beniek the team's founder and manager. "We are definitely getting in shape while doing it, but it's more interesting than just going to the gym." With each passing season, their skills have elevated. "We have leveled up," Stefanie remarked, emphasizing the team's continuous development and growth. In contrast to some teams that have been established for 15-20 years, they are relatively new to the adult rec soccer scene.

The team has even found sponsors over the years, such as Family Tree Acupuncture, KNO Woodworks, and Town Hall Lanes, to offset registration fees and jerseys. "We might not always win, but we always look good," Stefanie remarked. She said pointing out that the entire team bought Nokomis East Neighborhood Association's latest jerseys last year.

Given that they play every Sunday, having an abundance of substitutes is essential. This not only accounts for the occasional absence of players but also provides flexibility in case of illness or injury. Ste-



Nokomis Pride FC members include Joanna Kohler, Chris Allen, Dennis Lynn, Omer Chudyo, Mark Nervig, Christina Meyer, Tim Hereid, Stefanie Beniek, and Liam Glover. (Photo submitted)

fanie keeps a list of potential substitutes she can text for a game to see if they are available. People looking to get back into soccer should check out 9th Street Soccer & Coffee. Many players from the team play in their 8 a.m. 35+ year old pick up game on Saturday mornings.

Nokomis Pride FC is one of the many things that makes Nokomis East special. It's so nice to know that there are sports teams and pickup games available to anyone who is looking to make friends or get in shape.

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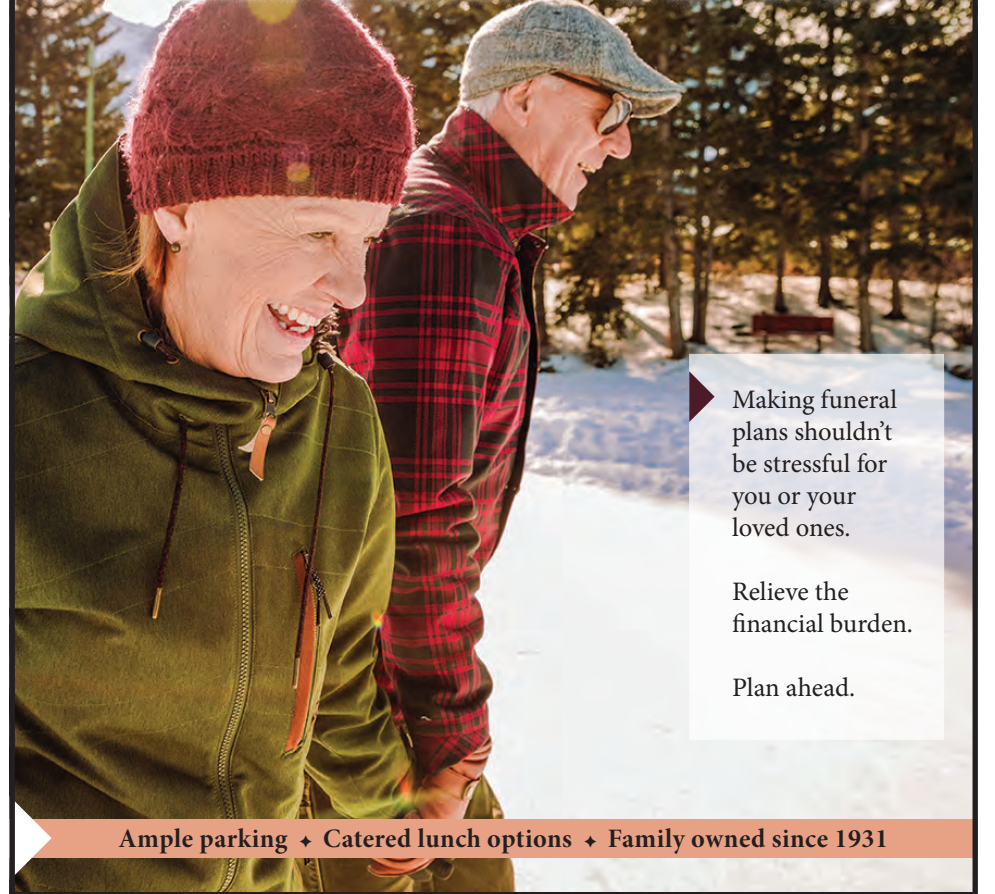
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LCC snow shoveling program connects community with services

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL



By **ANDREA TRITSCHLER,**
communications
andrea@longfellow.org

A typical Minnesota winter has more snow than what we've seen this year (which is almost none). Personally, the snow is what I love most about the cold winter months – the trees sparkle and the streets become quiet under the snow's softness. While beautiful, the snow does have its obstacles: it buries cars, makes any kind of transportation difficult, and it covers our sidewalks in sheets of ice and snow.

Keeping our sidewalks accessible during the winter months isn't easy. This is especially true for those in our neighborhood who are incapable of shoveling due to injury, age, or disability. Snow removal is required by the city. After a significant snowfall, residents are mandated to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours or risk being fined, placing the burden of hiring or finding someone to remove the snow on the property owners. It can be really stressful, especially for low-income homeowners or those on a fixed income.

The LCC Volunteer Snow Shoveling Program provides a free option for residents who need services by connecting

them with nearby neighbors who want to help. Longfellow resident Linny Siems has been a part of the program since 2022. Siems, 73, has been a bodyworker and massage therapist for the last 40 years, which has left her with arthritis and back issues that make shoveling difficult. She enrolled in the LCC Snow Shoveling Network last year after seeing an advertisement for it in the Messenger.

"It's such a humbling and incredible feeling," Siems said. "It's a small lot, it doesn't matter the size, but that they are willing to come out and do it... There's a part of me that appreciates the smile and the wave and the personal aspect of it."

Last year Siems was matched with a pair of volunteers who lived nearby – two younger people who would coordinate among themselves and with her, mostly via text or phone. For Siems, it was more than just the logistics.

"They really wanted to help me and make sure that I was ok," she said. "It has been comforting and it's been a relief. You're dealing with humans with lives and other things and we all need to be flexible. I felt like we were all dealing together."

Her two volunteers would send her messages to make sure she was staying warm and that her sidewalk and walkways were shoveled, especially when she had clients coming to the house.

"The pace of the relationship is interesting, getting to check in with each other whenever snow happens to fall. Last year, that meant I got to check in a lot with

folks compared to this year!" said Dylan Cheever, a snow shoveling volunteer.

Siems has a new volunteer this year, who has been timely and found a neighbor to shovel for Siems while he was out of town. But she still sees one of her old volunteers around the neighborhood walking their dog and they exchange a smile and wave. It really made her feel connected to the community.

"My husband passed away a year ago in September and a lot of the house stuff was his job, so to get the help right after he passed, it made me feel held by the community in a way that I didn't think would have been available," Siems said.

Siems was grateful that in such a time of need, she didn't have to worry about this. Siems re-enrolled in the program this year. It is important to note that recipients and volunteers have to reapply every year.

Many of our volunteers have been a part of this program for years. They have told us that being able to help out neighbors has been a meaningful part of building community and feeling connected to the neighborhood. Volunteers have received thank you gifts from their recipients, have come over to enjoy a cup of tea after the program has ended, or have another friendly face they recognize in the neighborhood.

"Even though I'm not paired with [Linny] this year, we still have that built connection and get to catch up when our walks intersect," Cheever said. "Also, moving around to parts of the neighborhood

means I see other friends around Greater Longfellow that I don't necessarily have those run-ins with."

Our program is always in need of volunteers, especially volunteers in Seward as we have expanded our program to include the Seward neighborhood with help from the Seward Neighborhood Group.

"There are so many benefits for not a big time commitment. Even if you have a full schedule like I do, it's almost always possible to find the time to get out and shovel for 15-30 minutes. It makes your neighbor's day and makes you feel closer with your community," Cheever said.

We work really hard to make sure that every applicant gets matched with a volunteer. Sometimes it can take a couple of weeks, but we would love to make it as instantaneous as possible, which means we are striving to have a big volunteer pool to choose from. It makes a huge difference to our community - not only for those, like Siems, receiving the services, but for those who depend on clear sidewalks to be able to get around.

If you're interested in joining our Volunteer Shoveling Network, email ben@longfellow.org or call us at 612-722-4529. We would love to have you! And for those of you who are volunteering with us this year or have volunteered with us in the past. Thank you! You are part of what makes this community great.

EVENTS

LOLA ART SHOW

LoLa will once again be hosting a winter art show at Squirrel Haus Arts in late February and early March, including a reception on Saturday, March 2. Over two weekends in late winter, LoLa invites its member artists to select a few pieces to exhibit, offering the public a chance to view a sampling of art created in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis.

POETRY COLLECTION TO BE RELEASED

Minneapolis poet and pastor Patrick Cabello Hansel will launch a book chronicling the tumultuous times of 2020, in new collection of poems called "Breathing in Minneapolis." Cabello Hansel served 15 years as a pastor in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. In his

third collection of poetry, he explores the events that defined 2020: the COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, sometimes violent civil unrest, and the often murderous cruelty of American society. In the poems, encounter the sweet scent of lilacs competing with tear gas, immigrant store owners picking up burnt fragments, a young father crossing the Rio Grande on Christmas Eve, a pastor mourning a dying parishioner he cannot visit, a shower of cottonwood blossoms falling like snow.

The book will be launched Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 East 31st Street. Holy Trinity was Ground Zero for the protests at the 3rd Precinct following George Floyd's murder, serving as a medic station and sanctuary. Cabello Hansel will be joined by poets Joyce Sutphen, Walter Cannon, Dralandra Larkins and the Chilean music group Ina Yukka.

Mark Rivard

Come chat on Feb. 9, 9-10am,
Everett & Charlie art gallery
about skateboards, art and
doing Rad Things



- Rivard Art Education & STAGE Culinary teaches young adults to feed the world
- The Postal Express Project worked to bring connection during COVID-19
- Using skateboards as a cultural tool and canvas, Rivard grabs the attention of students to talk about dreaming big



Longfellow Block Leaders Meeting

Thursday, February 22nd
6-7:30pm
Squirrel Haus Arts,
3450 Snelling Ave.

Calling all Block Club Leaders! Join neighbors to share ideas, discuss ways to bring people together, make new connections, and learn how the Longfellow Community Council can support you!

Hot drinks and baked goods provided!



LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

612-722-4529

ben@longfellow.org

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association's State of Our Neighborhood

Featuring:

- School Board Member (District 5) Lori Norvell
- City Councilmember (Ward 11) Emily Koski
- City Councilmember (Ward 12) Aurin Chowdhury
- County Commissioner (District 4) Angela Conley
- State Rep. (District 63B) Emma Greenman

Scan me!



Come hear from your elected officials and ask your questions!

Hosted on Zoom | February 7, 2024

Details 6:30pm-8pm

www.nokomiseast.org/event-1

CITY BRIEFS

NEW NICOLLET REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The City of Minneapolis is accepting proposals until Feb 2, 2024, to hire consultants to help plan the development at the former Kmart site. Consultant teams that submit proposals must have expertise in real estate development and public engagement.

CITY HALL RENOVATIONS

City Council offices and the City Council Chamber have moved out of City Hall this year for renovations. Until construction is completed, council offices and regular council meetings will be in the Minneapolis Public Service Center, 250 Fourth St. S.

NEW CITY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

On Jan. 8, the council elected new leadership, and approved new committee's and committee membership for the upcoming term. Eliot Payne was elected on a vote of 10 to 3 to be the new president and Aisha Chughtai was elected vice president on a vote of 8 to 5.

NEW CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

For this term the City Council has approved 7 committees. They are Administration & Enterprise Oversight, chaired by Robin Wonsley; Budget, chaired by Aisah Chughtai; Business, Housing & Zoning, chaired by Jamal Osman; Climate & Infrastructure, chaired by Katie Cashman; Committee of the Whole and Public Health & Safety, both chaired by Jason Chavez; and, Intergovernmental Relations, chaired by Aurin Chowdhury. There will also be a new Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree subcommittee that will be chaired by Eliot Payne. Ward 11 Council Member Emily Koski will vice chair the Budget and the Climate & Infrastructure committees. Ward 8 Council Member Andrea Jenkins will vice chair the Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree subcommittee.

CHANGE IN SCHOOL BOARD LEADERSHIP

At its first meeting of the year, on Jan. 2, the school board unanimously elected Collin Beachy to be board chair for the year. Kim Ellison was elected vice chair, by a 7-2 vote, Lori Norvell was reelected clerk

and Abdul Abdi reelected to continue as treasurer for the year.

PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 5

The presidential nomination primary will be held on March 5. The election is partisan and only open to candidates seeking to run with one of the three participating major parties in Minnesota: the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, the Legalize Marijuana Now Party, and the Republican Party. Voters must choose only one party to vote in. Early voting started on Jan. 19 and those who are not already registered, can pre-register to vote until Feb. 13. People can also register to vote at their polling place on Election Day by showing proof of residence. For more information, visit www.hennepin.us/residents#elections.

COUNTY RECYCLING GRANT

Hennepin County is offering grants for preschools, K-12 schools, and colleges in Hennepin County to start or improve programs to reduce waste and keep recycling and organic materials out of the trash. The money can be spent on staff time, equipment, or supplies. The first round of funding will be available to qualifying applicants whose applications are due by 4 p.m. Feb. 29. Applications of up to \$15,000 from any and all K-12 schools, preschools, colleges, or universities in the county will be accepted beginning March 20 through Nov. 15. Contact kira.berglund@hennepin.us.

AIR MONITORING

The city is inviting people to take in air quality monitoring projects where three different kinds of air sensors will be placed around the city. This includes PurpleAir sensors that measure particulate matter; AQMesh sensors that measures different gases including ozone, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide; and, SENSIT SPODs that measure volatile organic compounds.

STEP UP YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Employers can hire Minneapolis youth between 14-21 years old to be summer interns at their organization through the Step Up summer youth internship program. More at www.StepUpMpls.org.

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

Faith

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

Bethlehem Covenant Church
3141 43rd Ave. S. • 612-721-5768
www.bethlehemcov.org
Pastor Colleen Nelson
(Handicapped Accessible)
Traditional Service – 9 AM
Contemporary Service – 10:45 AM
All sermons can be found online

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthmpls.org
A Congregation-Led Community
A Reconciling Congregation
Sundays 8:45am - Faith Formation for All Ages; 10am - Worship In-person & Live-streaming on Our FB Page - @EpworthUMCMPLS

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
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
Senior Pastor Gregg Taylor, Minister of Preaching Steven Belton
Sundays: 8-9am early risers, 10am service, 10-12 children and youth
Livestream worship 9:45-11:30am

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S.
612-724-3643
www.saintalbertthegreat.org
Fr. DePorres Durham, O.P.
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; 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. • 612-724-3697
www.trinityfalls.org
Pastor Matt Oxendale
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
AA Sun & Tues 7:00 p.m.

Faith classified ads must be received by the Messenger by Jan. 12 for the Jan. 25 issue. Call 651-917-4183, email or place the order online.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES OFFER

- ↳ **Minnehaha Food Shelf**, Tuesdays, 10:30 am - 3 pm
- Minnehaha United Methodist** • 3701 E. 50th St. • 612-721-6231
- ↳ **Nokomis East Food Shelf**, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 2-4 pm
- Crosstown Covenant** • 5540 30th Ave. S • 612-724-3601

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Health

MEN'S WALKING GROUP

Early mornings from near Riverview Theater, <https://ogwalking.wordpress.com>, ogwalking612@gmail.com

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Home

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GUTTERS

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Painting, wallpaper patch. Interior, exterior. Small jobs wanted. Jim. 612-202-5514

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STORAGE

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Word ads must be received by the Messenger by Monday, Feb. 12 for the Feb. 22 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

Volunteer In Your Community

Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers age 55+ in your area to provide companionship to older adults or mentor school-age children. Volunteers commit to regular weekly hours for a tax-free stipend and mileage reimbursement. Please contact Tina at 651-310-9425 or Tina.Voss@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community.



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