



## Shake-up on police oversight commission

*Southside members resign, cite issues with leadership*

By CAM GORDON

Two southside commissioners, AJ Awed and Fartun Weli, have resigned from the city's new Community Commission on Police Oversight (CCPO).

Awed (Ward 6) and Weli (Ward 8) submitted their resignation within days of the unexpected firing of the Civil Rights Director Alberder Gillespie on Feb. 16, 2024, and the subsequent resignation of the Office of Police Conduct Review Director John Jefferson.

Both Weli and Awed included the firing of Gillespie and a lack of mayoral leadership as contributing to their decisions to resign.

Weli wrote that "concerns over the politically-motivated removal of the Civil Rights Director; the risk of diminishing the contributions of BIPOC staff and leaders within the city administration;" and, "inadequate mayoral leadership and support compromising the effectiveness of our framework" were the reasons for her decision.

Awed noted that he was leaving primarily because he no longer lives in Min-

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Fartun Weli (top) and AJ Awed (Photos submitted)

*April named Limb Loss Month in Minnesota during action day at State Capitol*



Mobility clinic participants demonstrate agility and strength during the "So Every BODY Can Move MN" event. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

## THOSE WITH LIMB LOSS PUSH BACK AGAINST 'NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY' DURING DAY AT CAPITOL

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

There are over 35,000 Minnesotans living with limb loss, and thousands more living with limb difference and mobility impairments. Many are unable to access prescribed orthotic and prosthetic care due to a lack of insurance coverage, forcing individuals and families to incur huge

out-of-pocket costs.

Some of their stories were shared at the state capitol on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

The day-long event, called "So Every BODY can Move Minnesota" drew more than 100 advocates for two bills affecting people with limb loss and limb difference.

The goal of the two bills is to change the climate of insurance denials for or-

thotics and prosthetics prescribed by physicians for the health of their patients.

### NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Elsa Keeler is a retired pediatrician. Five years ago, she was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer that required a full leg amputation. She received a pros-

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Mark Rivard, at right, holds up the first skateboard art he drew with a sharpie. Next to him, his mom, Lorelli Byrne, holds up an iconic piece he did on another skateboard. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

## Disrupting education with skateboards, art, and experiential learning

*It's not easy to connect with youth today. Mark Rivard has found a way.*

By ERIC ORTIZ

Mark Rivard is not your typical educator. He never went to college. He was not that good a student in high school. And he calls himself "uneducated."

But he has found a way to connect with young people through art and skateboards, and he is disrupting the education system just the way he disrupted the art

world.

Rivard, a Longfellow resident, began his art career drawing on skateboards with Sharpie markers in the early 2000s. That led to an international endorsement campaign with Sharpie in 2011. A year later, he launched Do Rad Things, an active lifestyle brand, educational platform, and way of life. He has been inspiring others and doing rad things ever since.

"The journey," Rivard explained during a "Let's Connect" event in February, "goes from initially just drawing on skateboards and doing art shows and learning about the art world to eventually getting into some galleries and things like

that. And then eventually endorsement deals with companies like Sharpie. And then ultimately starting a skateboard company in 2007. I actually started the company Rivard Art LLC and then inadvertently landed myself in schools.

"And now I'm running a kind of full-time art education business."

Rivard Art LLC is the parent company of Rivard Art Education, an arts educational program that offers experiential learning opportunities for young people around the world. That business has become Rivard's passion.

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Holding Governor Walz's declaration are (left to right) lobbyist Sam Walseth, Wiggle your Toes founder Aaron Holm, So Every BODY Can Move organizer Teri Kuffel, and mobility advocate Tom Degree. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Two young athletes listen to speakers in support of legislation that will shape their futures. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Coach Adam Warden led a mobility clinic in the capitol rotunda on his running blade. Warden is a dedicated multi-sport athlete and coach for Wiggle your Toes, Courage-Sister Kenny Institute, and the Protez Foundation. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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thetic leg with a microprocessor knee, which was expected to last five years. Keeler is an active outdoors-person who loves to paddle in remote places like the Boundary Waters Canoe area. Her first prosthesis began to wear out after three and one-half years. When her doctor wrote a prescription for a replacement with a waterproof micro-processor knee, the claim was denied as "not medically necessary."

These are three words that every person living with limb loss or limb difference quickly learns to dread. Being denied an orthotic or prosthetic device prescribed by one's physician brings a range of feelings including frustration, disappointment, shame, and anger.

Like many advocates throughout the day, Keeler told stories about non-disabled relatives who received hip and knee replacements routinely so they could maintain their previous lifestyles. Artificial hips and knees are internal prosthetic devices. Keeler said, "People needing external orthotic and prosthetic devices should have those same privileges, too."

BILLS RECEIVE BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT

It's estimated that about 500 Americans lose a limb every day. Limb loss can affect anyone at any time. Senator Karin Housely (R) co-authored the senate bill, and met with advocates including several orthotics and prosthetics tech students from Century College, which is in her senate district.

The chief author of the senate bill is Senator John Hoffman (D), whose daughter Hope Hoffman was born with spina bifida. Her neurological condition has required multiple surgeries and prosthetic devices. Along the way, her family has had to push back against insurance claim denials that added to the frustration of living with a congenital condition.

The bills before the house and senate are asking to amend current Minnesota law. They ask that state insurance plans be required to provide coverage at a rate equal to the federal Medicare program.

Insurance premiums across the board would only be expected to rise 39 cents per member per month, on average. Thirty-nine cents per month would make it possible for amputees to receive a waterproof limb to use while showering, or optimize their ability to bike, run, swim, or play any other ambulatory sport.

The final speaker in the rotunda was Governor Tim Walz. For the third year, the governor declared April as Limb Loss Month in the state of Minnesota.

MOVEMENT IS MEDICINE

In the last activity of the day, coach Adam Warden of the non-profit Wiggle your Toes led a mobility clinic with games for kids, and high intensity exercises for participants of all ages.

According to data from the Amputee Coalition, half of adults with disabilities get absolutely no aerobic exercise, and children with disabilities are twice as likely to develop obesity as those without.

By contrast, people with disabilities who are physically active are more likely to be employed, advance in their careers, and have improved physical and mental health.

Seven other states are introducing similar legislation for fair insurance compensation this year, and five others passed similar legislation in 2022 and 2023.

To learn more about the bills before Minnesota's house and senate, go to www.msopp-mn.com. The home page has a Call to Action. If you wish, you can push a button to email your Minnesota legislators and show your support of House File 3339 and Senate File 3351.

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## Musician focus of local filmmaker's MSPIFF film fest entry

*'Laurel Massé: How Can I Keep From Singing' took nearly two decades*

By JAN WILLMS

A film that has been long in the making will premiere during the Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) running April 11-25 at the Main Cinema, 115 SE Main in Minneapolis.

Local filmmaker Reilly Tillman has crafted a long and growing connection with a member of the vocal jazz group, the Manhattan Transfer, into a film that explores her early career, her time with the group, the challenges she has faced and the redeeming qualities of her voice and perseverance.

Tillman has footage that he started shooting 18 and a half years ago to create the documentary "Laurel Massé: How Can I Keep From Singing?"

"My first exposure to the Manhattan Transfer was when I was a freshman in high school," Tillman recalled in a recent interview. "Their song, Single Operator, was playing in the top 20. I loved that song but did not explore the group any further." In his junior year, Tillman was part of a swing choir that did a version of "Java Java," a song from the Manhattan Transfer's first album. In college, Tillman said he was visiting a friend and heard someone playing their album. "I couldn't believe I had not discovered how great they were," Tillman said. "I ran out and purchased the album and found that all the members of the group were fantastic singers with a distinctive style. Laurel's solos, the purity of her voice, and the lushness of her tone resonated with me. I started reading about them and found that Laurel had left the Manhattan Transfer. It was not until five years later that I found a copy of her first solo album in New York. Then I was really hooked."

That summer, Massé performed at a jazz club in Minneapolis half a block from Tillman's home. By this time he had attended enough of her concerts that she recognized him, and she joined him and a friend at their table. "I thought 'Okay, now we are friends.'"

Tillman completed his first documentary film on a drum and bugle corps.

"In 2004, I was looking for a new project," Tillman said.

"I had bought some of Laurel's CDs, and her tour de force solo album called



Reilly Tillman (at right) started filming over 18 years ago for his recently released film on Laurel Massé (at left). The documentary will be shown during this year's Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival April 11-25. (Photos submitted)

'Feather an Bone.' It was mostly a Capella, recorded in a beautiful music hall in upstate New York. She sang ancient hymns and spirituals, mostly unfamiliar songs. It was different from what she had done. She took poems and put them to music. The very last song had bagpipe music, and at one point Laurel sang like a bagpipe. She vocalized to sound like an instrument."

Tillman said he started thinking that Laurel, her life and music would be a wonderful subject for his next film. "I knew her music and career and a lot of her story, so I sent her a copy of my first film, and she was just on board. It took no additional coaxing," Tillman said.

He started shooting in 2005 at her home in New York. Tillman was introduced to her friends Jay Unger and Molly Mason, whom he called world-class American Roots musicians. "They run a summer music camp where Laurel teaches, and so in 2018, I went with her to the camp and spent a week filming.

"I thought it would make a nice foundation for the film to span the week's activities in the camp throughout my film, but in different split-up segments. It gives it more apparent structure," Tillman said.

He said Massé was a dream to interview. "I got so much interview footage."

Tillman said he thinks the most challenging parts of doing a documentary are knowing when to stop and doing the editing. He went through all the interviews and transcribed them, picking out the most significant. "It is quite a process," he said.

"Today a film is never finished," Tillman noted. "In the digital age you can

make changes forever. You finally have to say "This is the finished product I will show to the world."

Tillman has acknowledged a proclivity to music-themed projects. His previous documentary is "Madison on Tour," a film about a two-time world champion drum and bugle corps. Tillman joined a brass drum and bugle corps in Minnesota after he completed the film. "I have a lot of choral singing, musical theater, symphonic and marching experience in my background," he said. Tillman graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.A. in communications with an emphasis in radio, TV and film. He is currently the deputy director and education director at Film North in Saint Paul.

"There is something to be said about filming what you know," he commented. "Initially I was going to hire someone else to edit my film on Laurel, and this person helped me sort through the footage and was going to start editing, but was overwhelmed with work. I realized I knew Laurel so well, and her story so well, that of course I had to edit the documentary. And that worked out for the best."

Tillman said he had to pick a subject for his films that will keep him so engaged and interested that he will not get tired of it. "I have to be willing to make sacrifices I would not normally make. With this film, I never get tired of looking at the footage, and I am so grateful that is the case." Tillman's next steps with the film are to work on distribution. He said he plans to go through the BBC, since Manhattan Transfer was a superstar group in Great Britain and most of Europe.

## FILM FESTIVAL APRIL 11-25

By JAN WILLMS

The 43rd annual Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) at the Main Cinema, 115 SE Main in Minneapolis will include 140 feature films from more than 100 countries and cultures, according to MSP Film Society Executive Director Susan Smoluchowski.

"We are unveiling our new website which lists online all the films that will be shown at the festival for people to peruse at will," she said.

Finding that selection of films and preparing for the festival is nearly a year-long process. "We give ourselves a couple of weeks after the festival ends before we start working on the next one," Smoluchowski said. "But nowadays the preparation overlaps very significantly with everything else because we are programming all five screens, so it's a monumental task."

She said seven programmers, led by programming director Jesse Bishop primarily work on MSPIFF but also Cine Latino, and numerous other events held throughout the year. "We get well over 1,500 submissions for MSPIFF through the platform we use, or people we know and don't know just send us films," Smoluchowski said. "We watch all of them."

Of the 140 features selected for the festival, only about 20 percent of them are submitted. "All others we find around the world at different festivals," she said. Smoluchowski, who is on the team of programmers, said they each travel to a number of festivals but also are able to watch a lot of films online to pick selections.

The opening night film is "Sing Sing," a movie about the upstate New York prison and a theater rehabilitation program for its inmates. Oscar nominee Colman Domingo stars as an inmate imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, who finds the theater program offers him hope. The closing film also deals with rehabilitation through theater. "Ghostlight" tells the story of Dan, a construction worker who finds himself drifting apart from his wife and daughter. He finds solace as he joins a community theater production of Romeo and Juliet. "The actors are in real life a family of mother, father and daughter," she noted.

A special event during the festival is the awarding of the Al Milgrom award to famed cinematographer Sir Roger Deakins, whose range of films run from the "Shawshank Redemption" to "Bladerunner 2074" to numerous works with the Coen brothers. Deakins has been nominated for 16 Oscars and has won two. Deakins and his spouse, James, will participate in three events at the film fest.

"We've got a new film by Agnieszka Holland, who was one of Al's favorites," Smoluchowski remarked. She was referring to Al Milgrom, who was a part of MSPIFF for decades. The film is "Green Borders," and is about the migration on the Belarus and Polish border. "It tells about the people coming through to get to western Europe and the corruption of the border guards in both countries."

For all information on MSPIFF, including ticket sales, parking, a schedule of films and events, go to [mspiff.org](http://mspiff.org).

## 'No One Asked You' mixes abortion and comedy

By JAN WILLMS

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Ruth Leitman calls her latest film "The Lovely Beast."

"It was a beast and a bear to make," she reflected.

Her film, "No One Asked You," is a documentary about legendary Minnesota comedian and activist Lizz Winstead and the path she has taken for the past several years focusing on abortion rights. Winstead, co-creator of The Daily Show, leads her group Abortion Access Front (AAF) across the country to help women and clinics in their attempts to access and pro-

vide abortion services. The film will show at the Minneapolis Saint Paul Film Festival (MSPIFF) at The Main Cinema, 115 SE Main in Minneapolis.

Leitman felt the issue of access to abortion needed to be looked at with some humor, and she started filming Winstead on her tours across the country. She filmed for six and a half years.

"The film coming out now is so important," Leitman stated. "We're able to help Lizz and the AAF build the movement and galvanize audiences."

✦ READ THE FULL STORY online at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)



Minnesota comedian and activist Lizz Winstead is the subject of the documentary "No One Asked You."



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## guest column



BY MICHAEL WILSON

As an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011, I, like many Wisconsin emigrés, experienced significant upheaval around Wisconsin Act 10. Under the guise of a "Budget Repair Bill," Act 10 is primarily known for removing the collective bargaining rights of public employees. Act 10 introduced me to the importance of public-sector labor unions. I was shocked to learn that basic collective bargaining rights for public employees at the University of Minnesota are also in a state of precarity.

At a Minnesota State Senate hearing on March 7, 2024, English Lecturer Heather Holcombe lamented, "I hold a Ph.D. in my field, and last year I earned \$38,000 as a full-time instructor. For most of my time at the U, I have received no benefits of any kind. There are over 1,500 'contingent faculty' like me at the U." Believing Minnesota to be a secure place for public employee collective bargaining, I assumed that faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota could navigate systemic problems through their union.

"Seeking to improve this situation," explains former Academic Advisor Ian Ringgenberg, "in 2015, staff and faculty

# PELRA bargaining groups at U of M need reform

organizing to address these and other concerns signed union cards with SEIU Local 284, and that's when I first had to learn about PELRA." In the 1980s, the Minnesota Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) mandated 13 statutory bargaining units that University of Minnesota workers had to organize within if they chose to unionize. In normal labor unions, employees who choose to organize determine who is in their bargaining unit. Under the anomaly that is PELRA, workers are told through a legislative mandate who is in their bargaining unit, regardless of whether they are in a union yet or not.

If this sounds confusing to you, you are not alone.

This structure puts the "bargaining unit" cart before the "unionizing" horse. Mr. Riggenberg continues, "Under the current system, I'm categorized as a P&A [Professional and Administrative] employee with UMN head football coach P.J. Fleck but not with an entry-level advisor who may do nearly identical work to what I do."

Dr. Holcombe adds, "My bargaining unit, unit 11, consists of no fewer than 199 job categories. To have a union, I would need to organize thousands of HR, IT, marketing, research, and student services staff. One group you won't find in unit 11 is the tenure track faculty who teach down the hall from me. We do the same work, yet we are prohibited from

bargaining together."

A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota Senate Higher Education Committee (SF 4597) and in the Minnesota House Labor and Industry Finance and Policy (HF 4508) that would amend the definition of "public employee" and modify the UMN employee bargaining units in PELRA to allow worker self-determination in deciding their bargaining units. "This bill is about fundamental labor rights," author Senator Jen McEwen explains. "Over two-thirds of the U of M workforce are trapped in 'catch-all' bargaining units that make unionization effectively impossible. ... As currently written, PELRA prevents over 23,000 faculty, staff, and student workers at the University of Minnesota from coming together with their coworkers to form unions."

Medical residents are another group specifically hindered by the statutory bargaining units. "We are your doctors, and we need a voice," pleads Kaitlin McLean, M.D. "We often push the boundaries of 80-hour work weeks, but I'm not here to debate the finer points of specific job protections. We are here because the appropriate way to dispute these conditions through collective bargaining isn't unattainable for us."

In addition to this confounding patchwork of bargaining units, the current law removes collective bargaining rights from university workers who receive financial aid, participate in work-study

programs, or are awarded fellowships. Denying collective bargaining rights to state workers because they have financial need is a regressive policy I have learned to expect from Scott Walker Republicans, not from an established Minnesota statute.

State Coordinator of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), Shae Horning, recounts, "USG managed to increase the student minimum wage to \$15 an hour in 2022, a fight that took over a decade, and it's still less than minimum wage in Minneapolis. While USG's purpose is to advocate on behalf of students, student workers should be allowed to advocate for themselves." In response, UMN VP of Human Resources Ken Horstman claimed credit for the \$15 an hour student minimum wage, and said they are undergoing a project to be more competitive with salaries and benefits. After an allusion to the potential future cost burden of doing more bargaining, he conceded that PELRA is due for review.

As this issue goes to print, legislators continue to weigh PELRA reform bills against the backdrop of a labor upsurge in the Twin Cities. Let us take a moment this Mayday to reflect on the right for workers to collectively bargain in a union configuration of their choice on our side of the St. Croix River.

*Michael Wilson is an organizer at Twin Cities DSA, and resides in the Hiawatha neighborhood.*

## Stories and Journeys



BY DONALD L. HAMMEN

So far in 2024, I have been showing up for more meetings and events in-person or via Zoom. In person showing up has been enabled by three factors. 1) The mild winter weather enabling me to be out and about. 2) My health issues staying in the background of my life. 3) Transportation support from friend and former co-worker Samuel Fadina. Here a few encounters and conversations that stand out for me so far. But first things first.

Virginia J. has reached out to me via [Tesha@tmcpub.com](mailto:Tesha@tmcpub.com) to tell me her Medicare story. Here are some quotes that capture my take aways. "Hi, I've been following your columns in the Messenger and agree with you about Medicare Advantage Plans.... My husband and I intend to stay in traditional Medicare. Some of my concerns are whether the supplement will get too expensive or whether the doctors will all become parts of groups owned by insurance companies and will decide not to accept traditional Medicare." Note: I share those concerns.

### ENCOUNTER AND CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUTH POSSIBLY

Dear reader: what in your life experi-

# ENCOUNTERS AND CONVERSATIONS

ences promotes/constitutes conversations/dialogue with youth out side of family. Tell yourself, tell others or tell me via [tesha@tmcpub.com](mailto:tesha@tmcpub.com). And if you have read this far you have taken the plunge into the river(flow) of life experiences which is Stories and Journeys.

### A ZOOM MEETING AND LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, Feb. 29, I attended a Zoom meeting of a sub-committee of the Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council (AFL-CIO) Committee on Ageism. The conversation explored how are conversations/dialogue with youth possible in our culture and how does conversation with youth come about in the context of the MRRC or in general throughout our community.

Later on the same day, I stopped by the Longfellow Community Council Open House. There I encountered and conversed with Trever Born. Turns out he writes online Longfellow Whatever: Neighborhood News So Specific, It's Only Interesting to Us. I also encountered and have had two conversations with Ben Howery, LCC Community Organizer. Turns out that he believes there is possibly an opportunity for elder-youth conversation/dialogue in Greater Longfellow. Stay tuned.

### ENCOUNTERS AND CONVERSATIONS AT THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AGING

Samuel Fadina has been transporting me to the state capitol for the last two (Feb. 9 and March 8) of these monthly meetings. Representative Ginny Klevorn is chair. Senator Kelly Morrison is vice chair. A report to the legislature is intended to come out of these meetings. With people over 65 constituting the fastest growing segment of the population in Minnesota, there seems to be growing interest within the task force for creating a Minnesota Department on Aging. Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council President Leif Grina delivered a well-received testimony advocating for the creation of a department on aging, which drew applause from those in attendance (including me) at the March 8 meeting.

I belong to three organizations that have been showing up at these task force meetings, so it's highly likely I will keep showing up as long as I stay healthy and have transportation. They are the Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council (AFL-CIO), the SEIU Health Care for Minnesota/Iowa Retiree Council, and All Elders United for Justice.

### OPEN HOURS WITH REPRESENTATIVE SAMANTHA SENCER-MURA AT DOGWOOD CAFE

I made my way to this event thanks to Metro Transit. There was a small group. Among other things, I got to make my point about people over 65 being the fastest growing segment of the population

in Minnesota. She got to make her point about the importance of attending my Precinct Caucus Feb. 27 at South High, which I did thanks to transportation from Samuel Fadina.

### THE PROGRESSIVE POPULIST ARRIVED

Two articles jumped out at me. One by Hal Crowther, a journalist, who has won writing awards too numerous to mention here. The article is entitled "An Incurable Disease? The Mystery of MAGA." In this article, he raises the following question: "How is it possible that people cheer and celebrate the most transparent fraud, the most outrageous liar, the most straightjacket-ready psycho ever visited on the body politic?"

The other article is by Jake Johnson, a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams. This article is headlined, "Trump Allies Plan to Privatize Medicare Draws Alarm and Outrage."

The Progressive Populist is an independent journal published out of Storm Lake, Iowa. Check it out at <http://www.populist.com>

Reminder: Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements and do not contribute to the national debt. Also, Elder Voices (Telling Our Stories/Sharing Our Journeys) continues to meet the last Friday of each month, 10 to 11 a.m. at Turtle Bread, 4205 E.34th Street. Look for the table with the Elder Voices sign.

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

# Messenger

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### Story ideas always welcome.

Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be e-mailed to [tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com](mailto:tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com). Unsigned letters will not run.

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## Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice

BY MICHELE BRALEY  
executive director



Mark your calendars for an anniversary celebration, Thursday, May 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Vine Arts Center in the Ivy Building. Stop by for food, drinks, updates about SLRJ, and to view a gallery exhibit by We Are All Criminals. Stay tuned for more details!

We are also thrilled to introduce Erika Linder as the new program manager of Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice. Erika has been involved with SLRJ as a volunteer since 2016. She lives in Seward with her spouse and dogs.

Since 2004, SLRJ has been at the forefront of promoting restorative justice values, primarily focusing on youth engagement. It has become apparent that merely providing restorative services is not enough. To truly achieve justice, SLRJ must engage more deeply in broader systemic change.

Here is a sampling of the ways SLRJ is building a society where restorative values are not just a program but an integral part of how we understand, respond to, and prevent harm at every level.

To expand restorative justice options across the state of Minnesota for youth who break the law, SLRJ contributed two

# Restorative Justice group adds program director

years of committee participation and legislative advocacy, culminating in the creation of the statewide Office of Restorative Practices. This statewide office will provide guidance, financial resources, and technical assistance to communities seeking to expand restorative justice. We continue to work to ensure that this office achieves its potential and that restorative justice will not only flourish but be fully integrated into our justice system. By fostering collaboration and sharing best practices, we aim to create a network of support that empowers communities to implement restorative practices effectively.

At the request of a surviving family member, SLRJ facilitated a restorative process with a driver responsible for a pedestrian death in downtown Minneapolis. The 18-month process exceeded everyone's expectations and gained the attention of the Minneapolis City Attorney's office. In response, the City Attorney's Office is initiating an option for survivors of crime to choose a restorative path – led by SLRJ – instead of a legal one. To hear an interview on Minnesota Public Radio with the participants of the restorative process that led to this fundamental change in how the city of Minneapolis responds to crime, go to <https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2023/07/13/after-a-fatal-car-crash->



Erika Linder, new  
program director

a-maple-grove-man-turns-to-restorative-justice.

In response to inquiries from survivors of gender-based violence, we are working across Minnesota to increase the options available for survivors who request restorative justice. Each month we convene a workgroup of restorative justice practitioners and advocates in the field of gender-based vio-

lence to build connections and collective knowledge to grow restorative justice options for survivors. I co-authored a study about restorative justice and gender-based violence, and you can access the summary report and research paper on our website: <http://www.slrj.org/gender-based-violence.html>. I am a frequent speaker on the topic of restorative justice and gender-based violence, including at the recent Reimagining Justice Conference hosted by the Minnesota Justice Research Center.

At the same time, we have not forgotten our commitment to offer restorative processes to youth who break the law and to community members seeking our support. We collaborate with RJ programs across Hennepin County to divert youth from the legal system and into restorative justice processes. We also accept requests from community members for restorative processes in place of the involvement of

### REACH OUT, DONATE

Please continue to reach out to discuss a referral, consult, or request training. Michele@SLRJ.org or 612-202-0027 or Erika@SLRJ.org.

To learn more about SLRJ visit the website [www.slrj.org](http://www.slrj.org) or follow SLRJ on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SLRJ>.

To ensure that SLRJ remains a vibrant part of the neighborhood, please consider a financial donation at <http://www.slrj.org/donate.html>

the police or the legal system.

Throughout Minneapolis and beyond, communities are reckoning with an over-reliance on policing and are yearning to create life-giving, equitable, and compassionate ways to respond to harm and crime. Replacing the current system of policing, built over more than 150 years, requires committing to the long view and the deep work of creating new ways of living together and of defining accountability.

It was the vision and creativity of residents of Seward and Longfellow that launched SLRJ. With continued support from the neighborhood, SLRJ will persist in transforming how we understand and experience justice.

Let's continue this journey of community-building and justice together!

## POLICE OVERSIGHT

>> from 1

neapolis. "My resignation is further motivated by recent unsettling developments within the city's administration, particularly the dismissal of the Civil Rights Director. This decision strikes me as not only politically motivated, but also influenced by pressures from a small fringe and radical group of advocates for abolishing the police."

This, he said, "coupled with what I perceive as a lack of decisive leadership from the mayor's office and a failure to provide the necessary support and direction to city staff and leadership, has led me to question my ability to serve effectively within the current framework."

The CCPO was established last year and is made up of 15 members. Thirteen are appointed by the city council, one per ward, and two are appointed by the mayor. The commission makes recommendations regarding police practices, collective bargaining agreements, training, complaint investigations and the performance of the chief of police. The members of the commission also serve on the panels that review police complaint investigations and make disciplinary recommendations.

The commission is also required to conduct a public hearing, at least annually, on police department policies and procedures. It provides the public with its analysis of proposed changes to all policies and procedures that govern use of force and other matters in police-involved federal or state court orders or settlements.

Phil Strum and Stacey Gurian-Sherman are two southside CCPO commissioners who did not resign.

"I am actually surprised there haven't been some headline-generating resignations until now," said Strum (ward 11). "Personally, I had to fight through the same doubts some have had about remaining on the commission, given the general lack of enthusiasm shown by the city regarding the CCPO."

He added, "I would say that AJ Awed brought his experience and savvy to the commission process, and helped move things along and knew how to deftly maneuver groups through conflict."

Awed is the executive director of the Cedar-Riverside Community Council and serves on the Community Mediation and Restorative Services Board of Directors. He was a candidate for mayor in 2021 and

city council in 2020.

Gurian-Sherman (ward 9) agreed with Awed's assessment that the dismissal of the Civil Rights Director may have been politically motivated, but she disagreed that that it was influenced by people advocating for abolishing the police. "This I sternly reject," she said. "He incorrectly suggests that people who believe in abolishing or defunding the police are disingenuous about their advocacy to finally get police review and oversight right in this city."

"Fartun Weli is a true gem as a person, and, as the founder of Isuroon, a pillar of our community," said Gurian-Sherman. "Isuroon's website tells us that the word means 'a woman who cares for herself.' This guiding principle ties right into their mission to give courage and resources to Somali women and their families so they can overcome obstacles including racism. Again, it should not escape us how racism within MPD was so keenly identified in the US DOJ and MDHR findings. I know this mission also informed and guided Commission Weli's work on the CCPO."

"Ms. Weli brought a gravitas of perspective to the commission by her experience with the community, and ably spoke for those she represented," said Strum. "It is certainly a loss for the commission to lose her insight and community credibility."

Weli also serves on the board of the Seward Community Cooperative and describes herself on their website as "an independent thinker and an activist for the common good. I am allergic to racism, so I am an advocate for radical change."

Gurian-Sherman thinks that the departure of the fellow commissioners, as well as Gillespie and Jefferson, may affect the work of the CCPO and the public's trust in it. She wanted a discussion of it to be added to the March 11 agenda, but her request was opposed by the chair and voted down by the commission.

In a memorandum she sent to the commission and city council prior to the meeting she said, "I believe the departures of Directors Gillespie and Jefferson warrant a deeper look into fundamental changes into the CCPO ordinance."

One argument for keeping the discussion off the agenda was that it was a personnel matter involving information that could not legally be made public. On

the day of Gillespie's firing, however, the city released a seven-page document to the press that includes details used to justify the termination. "There were absolutely no qualms about confidentiality and this being a human resources personnel matter [then]," said Gurian-Sherman. "Yet, at the March 11th CCPO meeting the very first order of business was for CCPO Chair Mary De-



Alberder-Gillespie  
(Photo submitted)

deaux-Swinton to announce, and no doubt in strict coordination with the city, that nothing in this document could be discussed by commissioners."

She pointed out, "The CCPO is the first tangible reform instituted after the upheaval from the torture and murder of George Floyd, and the present and pending consent decrees. I agree strongly with Commissioners Weli and Awed that the CCPO is not living up to expectations, promises, and mandates. Mayoral leadership goes beyond 'inadequate' to the deeply troubling aspect of actual interfer-

ence. How else to explain the obstacles with public comment, work groups operating behind closed doors outside the mandates of the Minnesota Open Meeting law, and trainings being so flawed and haphazardly provided to commissioners?"

"I think the CCPO has one advantage past commissions didn't," said Strum. "We have the feds breathing down our necks, and lawyers and judges waiting to give people failing grades for non-compliance with the consent decree process."

"We are the 'independent community oversight' that is so critical to essential police reform. We must make it work as best as possible, even when that includes challenging the obstacles put in our way," said Gurian-Sherman.

Currently the two seats for southside representatives on the commission are open. Any Minneapolis resident may apply to fill the vacancies.

On Feb. 20, City Council President Elliott Payne initiated the process for CCPO ordinance revisions that the CCPO has also been working on.

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# RECYCLE YOUR LEFT-OVER PAINT WITH PAINTCARE

PaintCare accepts all brands of paint, stain and varnish

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Did you know there's an option for recycling leftover paint in Minnesota? That's right, recycling, not just disposing of leftover paint.

Since 2014, the non-profit PaintCare has been partnering with local paint stores in Minnesota to reclaim and recycle paint products through more than 260 drop-off sites across the state – and more than 100 of those sites are in the seven-county metro area.

The American Coatings Association (ACA) is a national trade association representing the industry, including manufacturers. ACA created PaintCare as an alternative to paint disposal 14 years ago. Think of it as an industry-led paint stewardship program.

Oregon was the first state to establish a PaintCare program. Since that time, California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, Washington, and Vermont have enacted legislation to do the same, and Illinois will soon join the ranks.

A key element of the legislation is that all retailers in participating states must charge a fee to that covers the cost of collecting and managing left-over paint.

Look at your receipt next time you buy paint or another coating product; the fee is based on the size of the container purchased. It is often, but not always, listed separately on a printed receipt.

- 1 gallon or smaller: \$ 0.49
- 1-2 gallons: \$ 0.99
- 2-5 gallons: \$ 1.99

### FIND A DROP-OFF SITE

Go to the interactive map at [www.paintcare.org/drop-off-sites](http://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-sites) to find the drop-off location nearest you.

Jacob Saffert is the PaintCare program

manager for Minnesota and Illinois. He said, "Leftover paint is typically the largest volume product collected by municipal household hazardous waste programs. From the data we filed with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency last year, PaintCare collected about 900,000 gallons of paint across Minnesota in 2022. That's pretty typical for us."

In Minnesota, PaintCare's contracted waste haulers transport paint to a recycler in Fridley to process the paint they collect. There the paint is sorted by color, filtered, and blended to create an assortment of standard colors. The gallon and five gallon containers of recycled paint are mostly sold to Habitat for Humanity Re-Use Stores; the colors cannot be re-tinted.

When asked about why the paint industry was early to get on board with a paint stewardship program, Saffert said, "One benefit the industry saw was that if you're proactive, you get a seat at the table to make sure the final program is one that works for everyone."

### DEALING WITH OIL-BASED PRODUCTS

According to Saffert, about 80% of paint products collected by PaintCare are water-based and 20% are oil-based.

Oil-based products are more complicated to dispose of because there aren't any recyclers that can deal with them. Household Hazardous Waste sites make efforts to resell them, but Saffert estimates that only about 10% of what counties collect actually gets re-used by consumers. Oil-based paint that can't be reused is typically burned for energy.

Oil-based paints have higher levels of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and stronger odor than their water-based counterparts. Oil-based paint clean-up requires chemical solvents, and turpentine

PAINTCARE >> 8



Jill Carmody is a senior manager at the Habitat for Humanity's Minneapolis ReStore. They are both a drop-off site for leftover paint products, and a retailer for the Amazon brand of recycled paint. Carmody said, "PaintCare has made it easy for people to recycle their left-over paint, which is the right thing to do for the environment." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



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**MARK RIVARD** >> From 1

It's funny the way life works. After Sharpie helped put Rivard on the map as an artist, he got invited to speak at schools. He never much cared for school when he was growing up, but when he visited elementary schools and high schools, locally in Minneapolis at first and then around the world, Rivard realized that talking to students in schools was really interesting.

"I just saw myself in a lot of these kids," said Rivard. "I wasn't the best student. School didn't come naturally to me. And seeing myself and a lot of those students was pretty inspiring for me. So I just started to really kind of gravitate that route. It felt good."

Rivard found that art was a great way to break the ice with youth: "I think of my art as storytelling more than anything. To sit down and draw a skateboard, these are all a story. All of my paintings, pictures, whatever the case may be, I tell kids all the time this is storytelling, and you all have a story to tell. It kind of breaks down the idea that art is just a strictly sort of solo thing that you do and only certain kids do. Because when you get a lot of these kids to start telling stories, it gets pretty interesting."

**DO RAD THINGS**

Rivard recommends society gets creative to fund schools and creative programming. Like the time he took students on a field trip to a screen print shop and printed T-shirts that said "Do Rad Things," then had kids sell them after coining the phrase during a learning session.

"I just said, at the end of the day, you just got to do rad things. And the phrase came out, and it became the classroom model. Just do rad things," Rivard re-

**WATCH THE WHOLE INTERVIEW**

You can watch the "Let's Connect" conversation with Mark Rivard on the Southwest Connector website, [www.swConnector.com](http://www.swConnector.com).

called. "It doesn't necessarily matter where it's gonna lead. We'll figure that out when we get there. As long as it's awesome, whatever we're doing right now, as long as we're doing rad things, we're gonna find a good route to wherever we need to go."

"So I bought all the shirts, I paid for the screen printing, and then I said it's your job to go and sell these at school. I need to make my money back, and you guys can keep the profit. I ended up paying the kids the profits, and they went out and sold all the shirts. That becomes an entrepreneurship lesson."

Kids are still wearing those "Do Rad Things" shirts around town. But even more than that, they are living the mantra.

That is education, believes Rivard. And that is how to reach and teach more kids today.

 **READ THE FULL ARTICLE** online at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

**CITY BRIEFS****HIAWATHA-LAKE INTERSECTION**

The intersection of Highway 55/Hiawatha Ave. and Lake St. (County Road 3) will be reconstructed beginning in April. The hoped for result will be a simplified intersection with improved accessibility for people walking, biking, rolling and using transit. The work will include new signal systems with improved accessibility at Lake St. and Snelling Ave. and Lake St. and 22nd Ave., as well as reconstructed ramps connecting Hiawatha and Lake. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is leading the work.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTERS**

On March 27, the Longfellow Community Council, Lake Street Council and Seward Civic and Commerce Association hosted a public meeting with city staff from the Department of Community Safety to provide more information about the creation of two future Community Safety Centers, one on East Lake Street and one at 2633 Minnehaha Ave. They gathered feedback from residents and business owners about their community safety concerns and how a safety center could best serve the area.

**MINNEHAHA WATERSHED DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP**

A cooperative agreement has been signed between the city of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) that is intended to align the planning and investments to improve the Minnehaha Creek watershed area. It includes establishing a steering committee and "Partnership Implementation Plan," and will evaluate the Penn Newton Morgan, Nicollet, and Bloomington Cedar areas to be the initial focus of the partners' work over the next five years.

**POLICE MONITOR CONTRACT**

The city council and Mayor Jacob Frey have unanimously approved a \$1.5 million per year contract with Effective Law Enforcement for All, Inc. to be the independent monitor for the city's settlement agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights related to discriminatory police practices. The non-profit firm's president is David Douglass who is a former Assistant United States Attorney and Department of Justice Civil Rights Prosecutor. He was deputy monitor for the consent decree between the City of New Orleans and the Department of Justice. The city may terminate the contract following a two-year evaluation.

**THE COLISEUM BUILDING**

On June 19, there will be a grand opening for the renovated 107-year-old building that was damaged in the 2020 civil unrest at corner of 27th and Lake St. There are still leasing opportunities for retail, meeting, event, or office spaces in the building. It will also be part of the Doors Open Minneapolis event on May 18-19. For updates you can sign up for Redesign's newsletter at <https://bit.ly/redesign-newsletter>.

**TENNIS COURTS**

Three banks of tennis courts, all currently in very poor condition near Minnehaha Creek between Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Regional Park, will be removed this spring. The courts at 30th Ave. will be converted to a pollinator lawn this year. At 32nd Ave., the area will be prepared for a future clay tennis court. At 34th Ave., MPRB plans build a bike skills course that will complement other courses such as those at Hall Park, Bryn Mawr Meadows Park, and Perkins Hill Park.

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

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**NICOLLET HARDWARE**



At the ReStore, there are 20 different colors of recycled paint to choose from at \$18/gallon or \$90 for a five-gallon pail. Colors cannot be re-tinted. Carmody said, "Sometimes you just don't need all those choices. We sell two shades of white, three shades of grey, and a nice selection of 15 other colors at a great price." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

**PAINTCARE** >> from 6

and paint thinner should never be poured down the drain.

The industry is phasing out oil-based paint products for these reasons.

**BETTER STORAGE, LONGER LIFE**

Paint lasts longer when properly stored. Choose a dry location that won't be subject to extremes of temperature and humidity, and make sure containers are

sealed.

PaintCare sites accept all brands of leftover house paint, stain, and varnish. Containers must be five gallons or smaller, and customers may not drop off more than five gallons of paint per visit. Leaking, unlabeled, and empty containers are not accepted at drop-off sites. Make sure all paint containers have original lids and labels. The program includes container recycling for both plastic and metal paint containers

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LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By ANDREA TRITSCHLER, communications andrea@longfellow.org



# FREE THE DEEDS AND WORKING TOWARD REPAIR

It's a 60 degree day in March, and I've just returned from a walk along West River Parkway. The signs of spring have begun to awaken along the path - budding flowers and grasses, leaves returning to barren branches. As a newer resident to the neighborhood, my regular walks along the river have become an enriching ritual, but there is an ugly history to this charming stretch of scenery.

Minneapolis has one of the largest gaps between Black and non-Black homeownership rates in the country. The effects of systemic housing discrimination like redlining and racial covenants still permeate our housing landscape today. Longfellow Community Council took on the Free the Deeds project over a year ago in an effort to right some of the wrongs of the past.

The Greater Longfellow neighborhood has one of the largest rates of racial covenants in the city, and it's not just the housing along the river. These covenants are scattered throughout our neighborhood and our city. Racial covenants are clauses that were inserted into property deeds that were made to prevent people of color from buying or occupying the land that the deed covers.

Longfellow resident, Selam, bought her house in 2021. As she would walk her dog around the neighborhood, she would see signs saying 'this house has a racial cov-

enant.' The signs brought questions, and when she read an article about Mapping Prejudice and the work they did mapping these covenants around the county, she looked up her property.

"It's really hurtful language in these documents that are alive and present," Selam said. "They are racist and unwelcoming... However unenforceable, to have the language that someone like me couldn't live in that home, it's hurtful."

The language of these clauses vary. Some covenants list out specific races, while others use more general language like 'persons not of Caucasian race' or restrict only Black people. When Melissa discovered she had a racial covenant on her property, she went to find it in her deed.

"It was hard to see [the racial covenant] in print, even knowing there was one on our house and knowing that these were such a prominent tool for segregation here," Melissa said. "It's so yucky to have the link to racism. It's so blatant and hard to ignore and we just have to sit with the yuckiness of it."

Both Selam and Melissa went through the process to discharge these covenants with the City of Minneapolis' Just Deeds program. This free legal service helps property owners through the process of discharging this language from their deeds.

"The process was super straightforward so that was great," Selam said. "The language had specifically written about an African American and a Black person owning the house, and as a Black person residing in that house I felt very strongly about removing it."

Melissa too said the process to dis-

charge the racial covenant was simple. While it took a couple of months, most appointments could be done virtually and once the process started, it moved quickly.

And while racial covenants haven't been enforceable since 1953, when they were banned by the State Legislature, removing them still matters. They represent the damaging injustices of the past, and discharging them is an act of repair.

"[Discharging the covenants] is symbolic but symbols matter," Melissa said.

"Symbolically, I think that covenant removal and street renaming are trying to do the same thing; while the acts by themselves may not remedy the racial homeownership gap or put food on the table for families in a material way, metaphorically they say that we don't tolerate bigotry in this community, that everyone is welcome and belongs here, and they we collectively do not worship city 'founders' like Edmund any more," Free the Deeds Volunteer Jordan said. "Symbolic steps like these are crucial political education opportunities and build local support for more substantive, material change at the neighborhood level, and I think that's the real benefit of the work, getting community members to see the connections across different kinds of issues that have at their core the same or similar causes and effects."

When LCC started the work of Free the Deeds in late 2022, there were 1,111 racial covenants in the Greater Longfellow neighborhood. Over 200 covenants throughout the community have been discharged.

"Free the Deeds offers a tangible way of promoting racial justice where I live,"

said Jesse, another Free the Deeds volunteer. "The spread of covenants is a story of how systems shape the places we live in. I think most people agree that where you live has to do with your health, how you raise your kids, when you can retire, who will influence you. Covenants changed these fundamental things. As a White homeowner who thinks about the harm racism may do in their kid's generation, I have an obligation to act."

"Our individual deed might not have an effect on someone else," Melissa said. "But if we can remove all of them or most of them, that makes a huge statement. All of us together, the more that are removed the bigger the symbol and that matters."

"A lot of work has already been put in for Free the Deeds to work: artmaking, storytelling, research, scraping all the addresses together. It is a cumulative thing. My part is going out to encourage people to think about how they can play a role. It's not abstract. It's personal, small steps, and you can do a little or a lot," Jesse said.

If you think your house might have a racial covenant on it, you can look it up on the Free the Deeds website, freethedeeds.org under the "Participate" section or you can contact us and we can look up your property for you.

If you want to volunteer with our door knocking campaign, please send us an email at ben@longfellow.org or sign up on our website. We will be door knocking all April, talking with homeowners and connecting them to Just Deeds. It's also a great way to get to know your neighbors and improve your community, one deed at a time.

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## PAINTING

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

## ROOFING

30 years experience hail and wind damage specialist. Replace or repair. Free estimate. Licensed/insured. 612-724-3934

## SERVICES

Concrete work: Steps, side-walks, patios, driveways. Licensed, bonded, insured. Call Tom Seemon, 612-721-2530.

## STORAGE

MPLS Storage located in the Longfellow neighborhood has units for rent at low rates. Locally owned and family operated. 1/2 block from Lake and Hiawatha. 612-333-7525.

## WINDOWS

Window washing, inside and out. "You will see the difference." Call Larry. 651-635-9228.

## YARD HELP

Grass cutting. Customer supplies lawn mower. Jim 612-202-5514

# Buying

★ Free Appraisals ★

Memorabilia  
Sports Card  
Collections

★ Consignment Available ★

Info@minnieandpaul.com  
612-208-6405

## 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.



AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. JUST \$1 A WORD.

Treating your house like a home.

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Plaster / Sheetrock Repair
- Wood Stripping & Refinishing
- Ceiling Texturing / Repair
- Wallpaper Stripping / Wall Repair / Skim Coating

FREE ESTIMATES

(612) 827-6140 or (651) 699-6140  
WWW.PAINTINGBYJERRYWIND.COM

# Home & Garden

Coming in May. Contact us today!

Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com | 651-917-4183  
sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com | 612-260-7967  
ads@swConnector.com | 612-255-1180  
tesha@tmcpub.com | 612-345-9998



## SPRING FOOD TRUCK RALLY

May 18th, 4pm-7pm  
5019 S 34th Ave, Minneapolis

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
4120 17th Ave S • 612-724-3693  
[bethel-mpls.org](http://bethel-mpls.org)  
Rev. Brenda Froisland  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
LGBTQAI+ Friendly Congregation (Accessible Building)  
Sunday Worship 10am  
In-person and online  
Committed to sharing all we have from our Little Free Pantry/Library and Labyrinth, to FREE Community meals.

**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 – 10:45 AM  
All sermons can be found online

**Faith Ev. Lutheran Church**  
3430 E 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jared Yogerst  
Sundays – Service times on website (Communion 1st and 3rd)  
Mondays: Exercise Class, 10 am AA, 6:30 pm  
Wednesdays: NA group, 7:30 pm  
Blind Ministry Sat April 20, 12-2 p.m.

**Epworth United Methodist**  
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232  
[www.epworthmpls.org](http://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  
Rummage & Bake Sale - Fri & Sat - April 19 & 20 9am-3pm

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

**Park Avenue United Methodist Church**  
3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863  
[www.parkavechurch.org](http://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](http://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 • 612-724-3691  
[www.trinityfalls.org](http://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.

### 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

## HIRING: CARRIERS FOR WALKING ROUTES



### Get exercise.

### Work flexible hours.

Save up for that trip. Support democracy. Say hi to your neighbors.

TMC Publications is looking for newspaper delivery carriers for walking routes in Longfellow and Nokomis. Reliable car needed to pick up papers, or we can drop off to you. Routes available nearly every week.

Email Delivery@[tmcpub.com](mailto:tmcpub.com) or call/text 612-235-7197.

Deliver newspapers. Earn \$15/hr

GET THE WORD OUT. GET A CLASSIFIED. JUST \$1 A WORD.



Ads must be received by the Messenger by Monday, April 15 for the April 25 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Classified ads will also be automatically placed on the Messenger's website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

# Lake Street Art Drop



## Discover Art and Local Businesses

First Thursdays | April - October 2024 | 6:00 pm



Free scavenger hunt using photo clues on social media for artwork prizes by Benja Wuest, Luis Fitch, Pablo Kalaka, Lauren Callis, and more local artists!



@VisitLakeStreet

#LakeStreetArtDrop

VisitLakeStreet.com/ArtDrop



**see you THERE**

# Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

**Sunday, April 28, 2024  
8 am-noon**  
\$12 Adults - \$6 Kids 6-18  
FREE ages 5 and under  
Tickets sold at the door or online  
[www.southhighfoundation.org](http://www.southhighfoundation.org)

**Delicious Food & Door prizes**  
\$5 Yearbooks  
Student made Ceramics & Lots of Fun



**South High Foundation**  
MINNEAPOLIS

South High School | 3131 19th Avenue So | Enter on 32nd Street

Founded in 1991, **Springboard for the Arts** supports artists with the tools to make a living and a life. Working from our offices in St. Paul and Fergus Falls, MN, we offer a variety of resources for creative business owners, including:

- FREE in-person and virtual workshops
- Artist Career Consultations
- Health, job, and legal resources
- Fellowships and Cohort programs
- Informational toolkits and guides
- Artist-led projects and events
- A Growth Fund for Minnesota artists to sustain and scale their creative businesses

Join us for the following FREE community events hosted at Springboard for the Arts in St. Paul:

**Artist Resource Fair**  
Saturday, April 20, 10-3pm

**SpringPOP Artists' Market**  
Saturday, May 4, 11-4pm

Explore our full calendar at  
[www.springboardforthearts.org](http://www.springboardforthearts.org)



@SPRINGBOARDARTS  
262 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103  
OPEN TUESDAY-FRIDAY, 10AM-4:30PM



**MSP FILM**  
PRESENTS

# MSPIFF

**APRIL 11-25 2024**

MSP IFF43 Minneapolis St Paul International Film Festival43

**get carried away.**

200+ international films  
parties / panels / special guests



**THE MAIN CINEMA**  
115 SE MAIN ST, MPLS

StarTribune **KNOCK**

[mspiff.org](http://mspiff.org)



**Seward Co-op**

# CSA Fair

**Sat. 4/27**  
11 am-2 pm  
in the Seward Co-op Creamery parking lot




**Meet your local farmers**

Pick a CSA share & learn other ways to help support a resilient local food system

**Join us for family-friendly activities**

**Seward COMMUNITY CO-OP**

[www.seward.coop/csa\\_fair](http://www.seward.coop/csa_fair)

