



Let's celebrate
a long-time
business
»»2

MPS FACES \$100 MILLION SHORTFALL

*Rising costs, declining revenue
challenge school budget*

By CAM GORDON

Lisa Sayles-Adams, the new Minneapolis Public School (MPS) Superintendent, has been on the job for less than three months and has already participated in two major contract negotiations. Plus, she is facing a 17% budget reduction next year, from this year's budget of \$643,890,246.

In March, the MPS school board received details of declining revenues that will result in a \$110 million shortfall next year due to decreased enrollment and an end to federal aid. District staff predict that 413 fewer students will enroll next September, compared with enrollment from this February. Increasing costs in salaries and benefits, transportation, special education programming, implementing the state's new reading education requirements, utilities, software licensing and English learning support to students new to the district make the problem even worse.

MPS BUDGET »» 8



Bob delMas and Mary Laurel True opened their second-hand store True Finds in May 2024. With a mutual interest in recycling clothing and community building, the idea of the neighborhood store captured their imaginations. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Temporary police station coming soon to E. Lake

*Smaller site will remain open
until 2633 Minnehaha
building is ready*

By CAM GORDON

What's next for community safety in the 3rd Precinct? Over 70 people gathered at the Lake Nokomis Community Center on May 23, 2024 to hear about two new safety centers planned for south Minneapolis.

Over the past three months, city staff have conducted meetings throughout the southside to help design the community safety center at 2633 Minnehaha Ave. that will replace the building at E. Lake and Minnehaha that burned following George Floyd's murder. A smaller safety center on Lake St. will open by the end of summer.

According to Director of Community Safety Design and Implementation POLICE »» 3

Lovingly curated second-hand store opens in Longfellow

*True Finds open the second
weekend of each month*

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

When Longfellow resident Mary Laurel True was only five years old, her mother taught her how to recognize a bargain

and how to dress with style. True said, "I'm the oldest of six children, and we grew up without a lot of money. My mom loved thrifting – and she loved beautiful clothes. I didn't know there was any other way to shop."

True and her partner, Bob delMas, opened a second-hand store in Longfellow called True Finds on May 17, 2024. Located

at 3600 42nd Avenue South, True Finds will be open for business on the second weekend of each month.

According to True, "There are very few second-hand stores left in the Twin Cities. Most have packed up and moved to the suburbs. There are a handful of consign-

TRUE FINDS »» 3

Show combines neurodiversity, art and science

By JAN WILLMS

Anxiety, restlessness, being a superpower and feeling free and unchained are some of the emotions Saint Paul actor Michael Wolfe experiences while waiting for a bus.

Wolfe, who identifies as a Black, queer performer with autism, will share the feelings he goes through on a daily basis at a performance June 2 at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

"Thresholds: Art, Science and Neurodiversity" will offer two short films and a live performance featuring Wolfe. Neu-

roscentist Guadalupe Astorga will talk about her research on the neurodiversity of visual perception. Both Wolfe and Astorga will share insights about their unique processes. The event is being presented by Beth Graczyk Productions (BGP). Graczyk is the director.

Wolfe said he has wanted to have a career in movies and television since he was a child watching Batman films. "The one starring Michael Keaton, as well as other movies, sparked my interest in acting," he said. "Every time I watched a movie that I loved, I told myself that I could do that some day. Unfortunately, I was born on THRESHOLDS »» 8



"Thresholds' is supposed to explain to multiple audiences how the autistic brain comprehends and takes in sight, sound, smell and touch as opposed to the non-autistic brain," said Michael Wolfe. (Photo by Hanne Vaughn)



OPINION
Don't fall for 'The
Fall of Minneapolis'

PAGE 4



HOME & GARDEN
Let's talk about how
to care for your lawn

PAGE 6-7



Rise and Remember
honors memory
of George Floyd

PAGE 5

Celebrating business longevity in changing times

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

There's always a buzz in the neighborhood when a new business opens, but what about celebrating a business that has shown real staying power?

RoseLee Buechler (Rosie) has owned and operated Nokomis Hair Design for 44 years, and in that time she has seen a lot of change. Her salon sits on a hill overlooking Lake Nokomis in a pleasant cluster of shops along 50th Street. Nearby neighbors are the Nokomis Beach Coffee Shop, the Nokomis Beach Gallery, and Nokomis Yoga. Those brick facades have housed different businesses over the years, but Nokomis Hair Design has been a steady neighborhood presence.

STICK-TO-ITIVENESS PAYS OFF

When Rosie bought her business in 1980, there were five other hair salons within easy walking distance, and an unknown number of barber shops. She mused, "Who'd have thought we'd be the last one standing?"

Rosie said, "In my family, everybody stays in the same job forever. I worked for the owner of Irene's Beauty Shoppe, which was previously in this location, for 10 years before I bought her business and changed the name. So, I guess I've been coming to work in this same building for 54 years. I've never taken more than a one-week vacation. I'm always here."

DEATH OF THE WEEKLY SET

Nokomis Hair Design is, and has always been, Rosie and her full-time employee Roxie. When asked what their bread-and-butter was back when they started, Rosie said it was all about the "weekly set," something that women of a certain age had done to their hair every week. The majority of female customers



Customer Annamary Herther enjoyed the friendly conversation that comes with a haircut from Rosie Buechler at Nokomis Hair Design. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

had perms back then and came to the salon to have their hair washed, set with rollers, dried, and styled.

"Back combing," was how Rosie described the process, "and lots of hair spray

to make their hair stand up tall." She added, "We had a customer who claimed she'd never washed her own hair once in her whole adult life."

According to Rosie, "Pretty much all

Nokomis Hair Design's Rosie has been working at the same building for 54 years

we did in those days was weekly sets. It was one right after the other all day long. Most of the customers were older and they would come on the same day each week at the same time. They got to know each other, and had concern for each other. Customers used to come in weekly for a set, and now they come in every 5-6 weeks for a haircut. It's hard to make up the difference in that math, but haircuts are definitely the number one thing we do these days."

TRENDS COME AND GO

Hair styles go in and out of popularity as often as styles of clothing. Rosie laughed and described the stand-out hairstyles from decades past. "In the 1980s, there was the mullet. Remember that one? We thought of it as all business in the front and a party in the back. In the 90s everyone wanted to look like Jennifer Aniston from the TV show Friends, with wispy layered hair. Then came the 2000s, and hair was supposed to be flat as an ironing board, followed by the 2010s which were all about curls and natural texture."

When asked about the decade we're in, Rosie said, "There's really no 'look' right now. Anything goes!"

CUSTOMER LOYALTY

Annamary Herther rides the bus from the North End of St. Paul to get her hair cut at Nokomis Hair Design, where she is a longtime customer. She said, "I admired a haircut on a friend years ago, and asked where she'd gotten it. 'Don't you know Rosie and Roxie?' the friend answered in surprise. 'They're hair goddesses.'"

NOKOMIS HAIR >> 3

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- 3rd place – Longfellow Nokomis Messenger: "Residents Speak up to Say 'No'" by Tesha M. Christensen (LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)
- 3rd Place - Southwest Connector: Best Original Photography for Loppet Luminary by Tesha M. Christensen



Established in 1955, Midwest Free Community Papers (MFCP) is the oldest Free Community Paper association in the nation. MFCP was founded to help its members with every aspect of their publishing business. MFCP is led by an elected board of directors whose focus is on providing the utmost value to members.

POLICE >> from 1

Amanda Harrington, the city is currently negotiating a lease for a storefront space, and are not sharing the proposed location at this time. The smaller facility will cost \$500,000 and will be open until the larger site opens at 2633 Minnehaha.

The 3rd precinct area includes most of south Minneapolis east of I-35W and west of the Mississippi River.

"The community safety system is really a network of community and government working together to help address crime and safety and those underlying issues," said Harrington. "And that network has to address three buckets of work – services that relate to prevention, response and restoration."

The discussion on May 23 focused on services the city may provide in addition to traditional police station functions. It was hosted by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) and Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA). Ward 12 Council Member Aurin Chowdhury and Ward 11 Council Member Emily Koski attended.

A meeting on May 20 was held for residents of Hale, Page and Diamond



Minneapolis Council members Aurin Chowdhury and Emily Koski speak on May 23 at Lake Nokomis Recreation Center about the city's upcoming plans to open a small police station along E. Lake St. this summer. It will close when the larger site at 2633 is ready for use. The former 3rd Precinct building at E. Lake and Hiawatha will not be use for a police station again. (Photo by Cam Gordon)

Lake neighborhoods; and one is coming up for residents of the Field, Regina and Northrop neighborhoods on June 19.

So far, some services have been mentioned more than others and attendees

were asked to identify priorities. These included services related to addiction, housing, mental health, economic support, education, food security, harm reduction, mentoring and support for youth.

OPEN HOUSE FOR MINNEHAHA 3000

The mayor has proposed converting the former 3rd Precinct building into an Election and Voter Services Center. Learn more about the proposal on Monday, June 10 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E Franklin Ave.

Harrington pointed out that the community-oriented public space will have a "welcoming entrance" that will be staffed by 311 city employees. Other possible elements include art, a memorial, charging stations, quiet resting areas, office space for neighborhood contractors, homework hub, child care for people getting services, medical services, technology access, gun buy-backs, community meeting space, legal services, and tool/toy lending libraries.

The information gathered at the meetings, according to Harrington, will help develop the next set of recommendations about what services could be in both the community safety centers. There will be additional opportunities for input this fall on the 2633 Minnehaha site.

TRUE FINDS >> from 1

ment stores, but those prices tend to be higher because the stores are paying a percentage of the sale price back to the original owner. There are thrift stores, but they don't tend to be curated like ours will be; and there are vintage stores too, but their clothing tends to be on the smaller side."

Walking through the front door of True Finds, you'll notice that the clothing is arranged by type, not by size or gender. True said, "Sizes vary so widely by brand that the numbers are almost irrelevant these days." There are also shoes, jewelry, wall art, cards, and an assortment of other treasures for sale. The store dog Ollie will likely be there to welcome you, along with the store owners.

LOCATION MATTERS

True Finds sits in a lively small business corridor along 42nd Avenue. They are in good company with proximity to the Blue Door, the Riverview Theater, Mother Earth Gardens, and the soon-to-open Lynette's Restaurant (in the former Riverview Café and Wine Bar).

True said, "It's important to us that we're part of this neighborhood. We like the idea of connecting the dots when we can. When the Riverview Theater showed the Bob Marley film 'One Love' recently, we did a Jamaican window – and we weren't even open for business yet."

Another strong neighborhood connection will be apparent when you go to the cash register with your purchase. It's possible to make a round-up donation to the Soup for You Café!, soon to re-open at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. If you've never been, Chef Judah serves up soup and bread for lunch Monday-Friday at no cost. And all are welcome.

A SECOND CHAPTER

Both co-partners had long careers in higher education before becoming shopkeepers. Both were also married to other spouses, and widowed at about the same time. True worked as director of community engagement at Augsburg University, and delMas was a statistics professor at the University of Minnesota until he retired.

While working at Augsburg, True was involved with helping start the Sisterhood

Boutique on the West Bank: an entrepreneurial venture of young Somali women in partnership with Pillsbury United Communities. Ten years later, it's still going strong. She also worked with the annual rummage sale of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, a fundraiser of epic proportions, and managed a non-profit second-hand store in Northfield, Minn. for almost two years.

DelMas said, "In my academic work, I worked 60 plus hours a week – most faculty do. I was able to be creative in certain ways: writing curricula, assessments, and research studies, but I didn't see myself as being entrepreneurial. I started this adventure with Mary Laurel because I wanted to support her passion for clothing, recycling, repurposing, and building community. As we've gone along, I've found that I have skills to contribute, too. I love problem solving, and there always problems when you own a small business; and I love fixing things that need fixing. We've found that we complement each other in so many wonderful ways."

GOOD FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In addition to being a welcome addition for shoppers who enjoy buying gently worn clothing, True Finds is also a great place to donate clothing in the neighborhood. Donations can be brought to a drop-off box on the 36th Street side of the property, or arranged by emailing truefindslongfellow@gmail.com. Clean items in good repair are welcome. True said, "We know we aren't going to make any money doing this, but we hope we can become an integral part of the community while having fun together."

She offered these suggestions for people who are just starting out shopping second-hand. "Going to a second-hand store isn't like going to a big box store, where each item comes in multiple sizes and colors. In a second-hand store, each item is one-of-a-kind. The clothing at True Finds will be natural fibers, and good quality brands at fair prices. Every month there'll be plenty of new things to choose from, so come often."

Credit/debit cards and local checks will be accepted at True Finds, but not cash. Hours will be Thursday and Friday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

NOKOMIS HAIR >> from 2

She continued, "Rosie and Roxie have something special going on. In terms of a haircut, I think it's a great value, but it's also high value in terms of personality and caring. When I tell my friends about this place, I describe it as multi-generational, welcoming, retro-hip and fun. You know how you go into someone's house and you just feel comfortable? That's how it is here."

In addition to friendly service, Nokomis Hair Design offers a full line of Paul Mitchell hair products, a little free library, Girl Scout cookies available for purchase in the spring, and a selection of greeting cards made by customers for all occasions.

Music plays softly during the workday at Nokomis Hair Design and, as Rosie said, "You can make requests by decade." For no additional cost, Rosie and Roxie will sing along, much to the enjoyment of their customers.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Many aspects of being a hair stylist and a small business owner have changed since 1980. According to Rosie, "The hairstyles have changed; the products have changed; the equipment has changed; even the capes we put on our customers are different."

But one thing has remained the same. When asked what it was, Rosie answered without hesitation, "It's the people. We've been so spoiled by our customers. They

bring in treats, they offer to help us fold towels, some even insist on sweeping the floor after their haircut. We know our customers and their families, and they know us."

Nokomis Hair Design is open Monday-Saturday. Call 612-722-5857 for an appointment. A real person will pick up the phone after just a ring or two, and talk to you. Their address is 2724 East 50th Street. Free on-street parking is available. All are welcome.

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guest column



BY JILL BOOGREN

DON'T FALL FOR 'THE FALL OF MINNEAPOLIS'

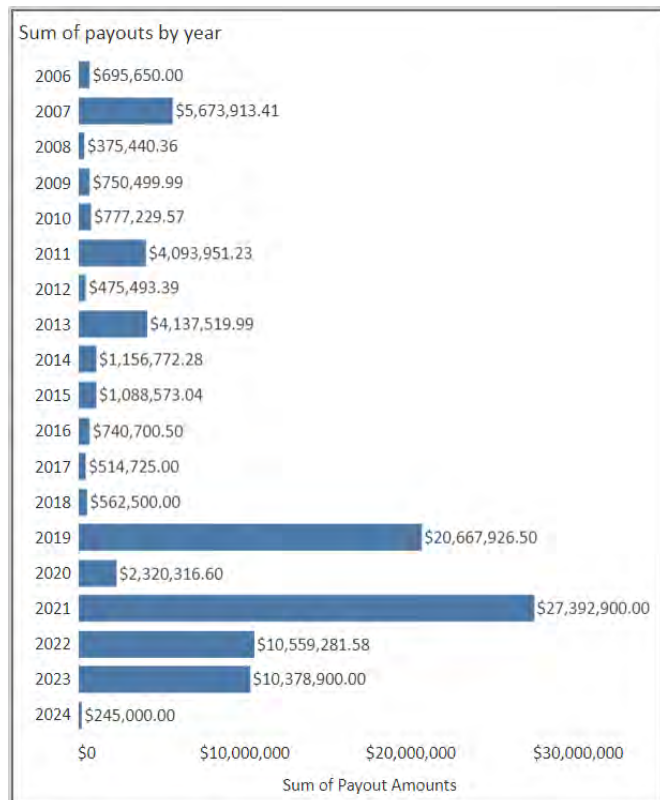
In November 2023, Alpha News released a program by former local news anchor Liz Collin called "The Fall of Minneapolis." In the hour and 42-minute documentary, interviews with (mostly) former Minneapolis police officers are interspersed with footage from body-worn cameras, the trial of Derek Chauvin, protests and the civil unrest. Overall, Collin attempts to rewrite history by painting George Floyd as responsible for his own death on May 25, 2020, police officers as victims during the subsequent uprising, and the conviction of Chauvin in Floyd's murder as unjust. Ultimately the documentary is as telling for what it doesn't say as what it does.

The tone is set within the first minute and a half, with a closeup of Floyd's arrest record dating back to 1997 in Texas. It's irrelevant to his 2020 encounter with Chauvin, but its inclusion here does serve to impugn Floyd's character. The documentary then plays and replays footage of Floyd saying "I can't breathe" during a previous arrest, as well as before he was held to the ground by Chauvin. During each incident, he is visibly distraught, seemingly panic-stricken. For the purposes of the documentary, it doesn't seem to matter that in the first incident Floyd is not held face to the pavement for nine minutes or that in the second, when he is actually killed, he is.

The documentary selectively highlights words and passages of official documents to underscore points, while often leaving off key information. A couple of examples relate to Floyd's autopsy. Here Collin revisits the argument that Floyd's cause of death was drugs and a preexisting health condition and not his interaction with Chauvin (all of which was examined and cross-examined during the trial). One sequence shows a memo of a conversation that took place between Hennepin County Medical Examiner Dr. Andrew M. Baker and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. The camera zooms in on Baker's statement that drug levels found in Floyd's system could be called an overdose if he were found dead at home alone with no other apparent causes. It highlights all text except "and no other apparent causes." It also pans past Baker's follow-up statement which reads, "I'm not saying this killed him."

In another memo, in which Baker opines that the cause of death may be multifactorial, the words "coronary artery disease," "stimulants" and "exertion" are highlighted. Not highlighted is the rest of the third item, which reads in full, "The exertion caused by Mr. Floyd's encounter with the police officers." It goes on to say (again, not highlighted in the video), "In [Baker's] experience, overexertion of the heart is one of the reason [sic] police departments avoid using the type of hold at issue."

Glossing past this detail is significant, given the assertion by officers in the documentary that the Maximal Restraint Technique hold used by Chauvin is part of Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) training. These remarks are juxtaposed with



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gunshot Wound Victims	551	658	544	416
Homicides	85	94	79	73
Carjackings	177*	655	524	305

*this data began being tracked in September 2020

then-Police Chief Medaria Arradondo testifying at the trial, "It is not." Chauvin's mom, Carolyn Pawlenty, who was also interviewed for the documentary, pulls out an officer training manual that shows an illustration of the restraint. The insinuation here is that Arradondo is lying, and Pawlenty says so. But what the documentary leaves off is the testimony by both Arradondo and Lt. Johnny Mercil, who teaches use of force at MPD. Each say that even if the method is initially used to gain control, the officer should stop and move the person into a recovery position as soon as there are no signs of resistance – which was indisputably the case when Floyd was no longer responsive and lay motionless for the last three minutes Chauvin held his knee to Floyd's neck.

This, too, is examined and cross-examined during the trial. In his testimony, Baker reiterates his stance that Floyd's death was from a cardiopulmonary arrest caused by law enforcement's "subdual, restraint and neck compression."

Collin seems to dismiss the use of video taken by bystander Darnella Frazier (and a still image from it, Exhibit 17) in favor of the highly-obstructed view from former officer J. Alexander Kueng's body-worn camera, even though Frazier's footage offers a clearer view of Chauvin and Floyd. The documentary suggests that body cam footage was withheld in the trial. Minnesota Reformer's Deena Winter, who was

among reporters in the press pool viewing the trial (I was not), writes in "I watched 'The Fall of Minneapolis' so you don't have to" that she was asked by a national news outlet to count the number of times video of Floyd's death was shown at the trial – she counted 166 clips. It's noteworthy that the documentary never once shows the full nine minutes immediately preceding Floyd's death.

At another point, Collin shows a clip of Mayor Jacob Frey asserting that "crime is down" and cuts to data showing the opposite – a spike in the number of carjackings, gunshot wound victims and homicides in 2020 and 2021. The implication is that the mayor is lying, though a closer look at the data on screen shows a drop in 2022 in all three categories to levels lower than those reported in 2020 (except carjackings, which weren't tracked separately until September 2020). According to the MPD Crime Dashboard, these trends continued further downward through 2023 (see table above).

OFFICER MISCONDUCT

Other information is noticeably omitted as well. Collin does not disclose her marriage to former Minneapolis Police Federation union head Bob Kroll. Kroll willfully defied Minneapolis policy in 2020 by openly encouraging officers to participate in "warrior-style" training – a practice that was banned for both on- and off-duty officers.

Collin uses her access by interviewing officers who had not yet talked to the media, including Chauvin who spoke to her by phone from prison in Arizona and who called the trial and sentencing a "sham." If Collin considers Floyd's prior arrest record is relevant, then so is the history of officers who were interviewed – most of whom had a number of complaints filed against them. As tracked on the Communities United Against Police Brutality website: Lindsay Herron had 10 complaints; Scott Creighton, 16; Jason Reimer, 28; Al Williams, 32; Derek Chauvin, 32. With the exception of Chauvin who was fired and is incarcerated, these officers have all retired.

Sgt. Rich Walker, who chose to remain on the force, has had nine complaints. According to the Police Discipline Decision Dashboard, Walker was suspended in 2023 for failing to report derogatory remarks made by two officers during a 2021 arrest (who were also suspended). Other records show that in 2015, a trial jury awarded a plaintiff \$66,000 in a settlement against Walker for use of excessive force during a 2013 arrest.

In fact, the City of Minneapolis has a long history of paying out cash settlements for claims of misconduct and use of excessive force by the MPD – more than \$50 million from 2020 through February 2024, when the City's Officer Payouts Dashboard was last updated. These include the \$27 million awarded to Floyd's family in 2021, as well as \$7.5 million awarded in 2023 to John Pope for alleged use of excessive force by Derek Chauvin; Pope was 14 years old at the time.

Kroll, who was not interviewed for the documentary, also had a long list of complaints lodged against him – 52 during his 32 years on the force. He retired in January 2021. A lawsuit brought against Kroll for his role in the police violence against protesters in 2020 was settled in April 2023 on the condition that Kroll not serve as a police officer nor in a leadership role for any law enforcement agency anywhere in Hennepin, Anoka or Ramsey counties for 10 years.

Another \$950,000 was just awarded in February 2024 to journalists who were injured or wrongfully detained by police during the 2020 protests.

Overall, the documentary is designed to elicit sympathy for Minneapolis police officers, many of whom have since left the job. In their interviews, some express feelings of abandonment by the city when they were instructed to leave the Third Precinct during the protests.

"Cops do not run away. You run to," says an emotional former Lieutenant Lindsay Herron in recalling how it felt to evacuate the Third Precinct upon order from the higher ups. She speaks to the feeling of being trapped inside the fencing behind the precinct building with no clear exit. They had inadvertently kettled themselves in. (This practice is frequently used by law enforcement against protesters – such as that which trapped 646 people for more than five hours on I-94 in November 2020. It is terrifying; no wonder many officers left their positions claiming post-traumatic stress disorder.)

And then there are the blatant omissions. In April 2022, well before the release of this documentary, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MnDHR) issued its findings that the City of Minneapolis and MPD engage in a pattern or practice of race discrimination in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act. In March 2023, the MnDHR reached a court enforceable agreement, a consent decree, with the city of Minneapolis to implement specific changes. In June 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice issued its findings of civil rights violations by the city and MPD, which will also result in a consent decree; the two-page table of contents in the DOJ report is by itself a scathing indictment of the culture of the MPD.

Neither of these investigations is mentioned in the documentary.

In attempting to make the case that Chauvin was doing the job as he was trained to, "The Fall of Minneapolis" – by its own omissions – ends up hitting on precisely the point advocates have been making for many years that is now corroborated by state and federal agencies: that the MPD as an institution must be overhauled.

Messenger

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LETTER

WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAS DONE AT GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS

A question was posed at the end of a recent George Floyd Square Visioning Workshop: What do you want to see memorialized?

I want to see the catalyst of our change memorialized.

The murder of George Floyd at the hands of MPD sparked global protests not just for how clear and cruel it was with the video, but also because it was a familiar story across this country. We were the epicenter for a traumatized nation that found some bond to our neighborhood. Everyone here at that time remembers what it did to our city. Memorializing that pain is important because it marks what we hopefully will heal from. I remember how my block organized to look out for each other, which we've stayed connected since.

After the climax of the uprising and the arrest of the four officers, people continued to hold ground in the area from 37th to 39th St. and Elliot to Little Crow (aka Columbus Ave.) because it was deeper than George. There were flawed systems and societal forces in play before he was even born that ultimately led him on that trajectory as they do with so many others, which is how the 24 Demands (bit.ly/georgefloydsquare-a) were developed by asking everyone living and working within those bounds what they wanted to see out of the protest. People formed project teams around which ones interested them, and got to work doing research and making connections. Meanwhile, thousands of people kept coming from around the world to pay respects in an autonomous zone, so people of the neighborhood had to figure out how to keep things as safe, sacred, and sanitary as possible and formed teams around their strengths, whether it be building, gardening, clean up, cooking, etc.

A fist sculpture was put in the center of the intersection, a memorial to George and greenhouse for donated planters was put in the bus stop where he was killed, a vegetable garden was

put in three parking spots in front of the space now known as The Square, a clothing donation was started in reclaimed bus shelters, names of other people murdered by police were painted down the middle Chicago Ave, and a memorial for more victims was put in the drainage overflow.

All done with the help of community coming together through their trauma in hopes of achieving something bigger.

The city by way of the police had slowly murdered a man in broad daylight on tape and then injured and maimed people who had stood up for justice, so the people took a part of the city to try things another way. There were large concerts, candlelit vigils, clothing and food drives, art and wellness events, political education, skills trading, mutual aid, community meals, twice daily meetings to figure out what to do - everything with a focus on caring for people. The people helped save Miss Linda's house, got Patrick a new roof, got people in treatment and housing, and even made a video promoting all the businesses within the zone. Of course, as with any effort to do good in the face of power, the world is harsh and things weren't perfect. Some of the well-intentioned would get further traumatized, burnt out, and fall off but others still remain and maintain things as they are.

Memorializing those efforts is also important because they can serve as the inspiration for future generations, the starting model of what could be done as a neighborhood, fostering the connections that weave a fabric strong enough to hold everyone up. As more and more people buy into the concept with their bits of contributions, the stronger the community culture gets, which in turn buys the political power to get what we really need.

The details of the physical memorial are entirely negotiable.

Phi Khalar



RISE AND REMEMBER 2024

On May 25, Singer Kashimana and Brass Solidarity led a joyful procession from the solidarity fist at 38th St. and Chicago Ave. to the Say Their Names cemetery, where 400 candles were placed around headstones there. The vigil marked four years since George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police in 2020 and a movement for justice that continues there today.

Earlier in the day, artist Mari Mansfield led volunteers in repainting the 169 names of stolen lives on the "Mourning Passage" on Chicago Ave. from 38th to 37th St. Artist Antonio Jenkins completed a new mural on the street where Floyd took his last breath. A mutual aid drive provided free clothing from the People's Closet, the Phoenix Steppers energized the crowd, and Vine Raynell and Star Child delivered spoken word. Visitors heard from Floyd's family members as well as pilgrimage guides Marquise Bowie, Jennie Leenay and Kia Bible. Amity Dimock, co-founder of the Daunte & Kobe No More Names Initiative, spoke about the loss of her son Kobe Dimock-Heisler who was killed by Brooklyn Center police in 2019, and read the names of other lives taken by police violence.

Rise and Remember, the name of the annual event, is now the official new name of the George Floyd Global Memorial, chosen to better reflect their work. "We want to continue to rise to the occasion and keep remembering George Floyd and all stolen lives," Floyd's cousin and co-chair Paris Stevens told the crowd at the vigil. "So everyone, stick together, love on one another... Keep lifting each other up. Lift your voices." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

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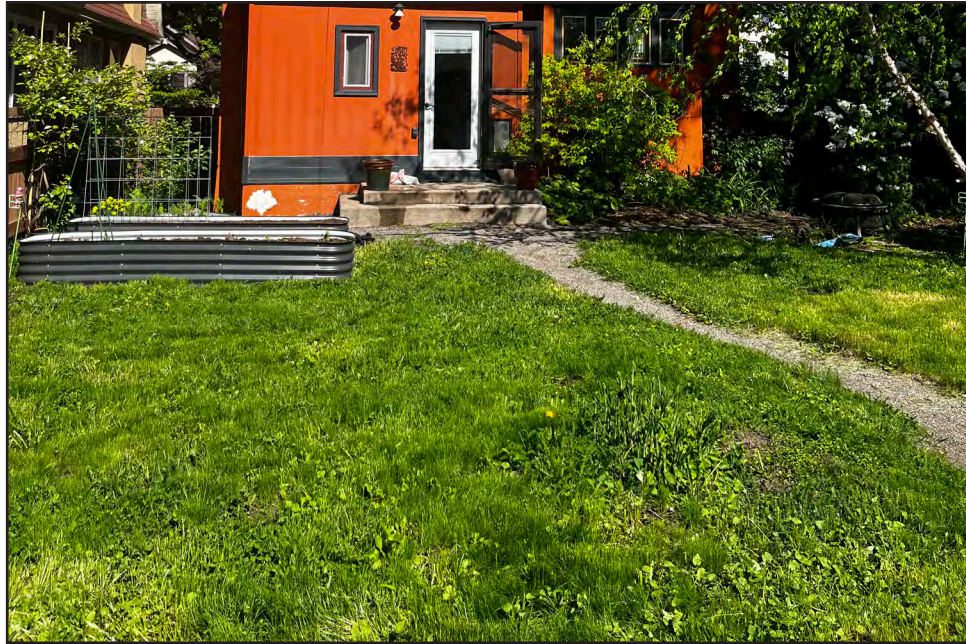
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THE CITY GARDENER



BY LAUREN BETHKE,
Master Gardener

SLOW MOW SUMMER



White clover, self-heal, ground plum, violets and pussy toes are some low-growing flowers that you can incorporate into your lawn to support pollinators year-round.

You've probably heard of "No Mow May" – a slogan designed to encourage everyone to avoid mowing their lawns until June and letting spring flowers bloom to support pollinators. But with our historically warm winter, overall changing climate, and new pollinator research, "No Mow May" is out and "Slow Mow Summer" is in! Read on for updated guidance and advice for managing your lawn with pollinators in mind.

Spring is a critical time for pollinators – in particular, many bees begin to come out of hibernation in May and need flowers available as a food source. The idea behind "No Mow May" is that many lawns contain flowering plants (or weeds, depending on your perspective) such as dandelions and clover, and these flowers could provide food for pollinators at an important time of year.

The problem with "No Mow May" is that lawns can grow a lot at that time of year, especially in a year like this one, with a very mild winter and early spring thaw. If you don't mow at all in May, you could end up with 12-18 inches of grass in early June, which is a challenge for even the most advanced lawn mowers! In addition to the practical considerations, cutting your grass by more than one-third of the plant's height at one time can stress the lawn, making it more susceptible to damage and

disease. Very long grass can also retain excessive moisture and block airflow, creating ideal conditions for fungus to thrive. So, for several reasons, it's not ideal to let your grass get extremely long and then cut a large portion of the plant in one mowing.

This year, the University of Minnesota Bee Lab released updated lawn mowing guidance that provides a more long-term perspective on pollinator health. Rather than not mowing at all in May and then mowing regularly the rest of the summer,

the Bee Lab now recommends "Slow Mow Summer." Essentially, "Slow Mow Summer" involves planting blooming flowers in your lawn, and allowing those flowers to bloom before mowing. Additionally, this approach encourages mowing less often all summer long. Instead of focusing on flowering plants only in the month of May, "Slow Mow Summer" provides support for pollinating insects throughout the spring and summer.

White clover, self-heal, ground plum,

violets, and pussy toes are some low-growing flowering plants that you can incorporate into your lawn to add blooms and support pollinators all summer. If you're concerned about flowering plants spreading and taking over too much of the lawn, you can always mow after the plants have bloomed, but before they go to seed. This will help reduce spreading while still providing support to pollinating insects. In my own yard, I have plenty of yarrow planted among the grass. It has small white flowers and also soft, feathery green foliage – so it still looks a lot like a traditional lawn when freshly mowed. I also have quite a bit of creeping thyme, which is very low growing, has cute purple flowers, and smells great when you walk on it!

The Bee Lab also has advice for protecting pollinators when cleaning up flower beds in the spring. Some pollinators hibernate under leaves and in last year's plant stems, so it's best to wait a bit longer to clear out any dead leaves or stems. Once you see a lot of blooming trees and flowers, and notice bees and other insects out and about, that's a good sign that it's ok to clean up dead leaves. Certain types of bees nest in stems, and they may not emerge from hibernation until mid-June or later. If you decide to remove last season's stems before mid-June, place them in a pile in your yard rather than tossing them in the yard waste bin. This will give overwintering bees a chance to finish their hibernation.

For more information on the Bee Lab and Slow Mow Summer, visit beelab.umn.edu/slow-mow-summer and the University of Minnesota Extension Yard and Garden website. Extension resources are written by experts and contain the latest and most reliable research-based information. Happy gardening!

People are getting back into our yards and gardens, with pent-up demand following a long winter. University of Minnesota Extension Educator Jon Trappe has tips for yards that accomplish multiple goals, including promoting pollinators, climate action and a lovely look.



Q: Why do our yards matter?

Trappe: For many people, their lawn is their first and most frequent point of contact with nature. The benefits of nature-based therapy can literally be found in their backyard. They're safe, convenient and private places for children and pets. Many people enjoy working in their yard as a hobby or as a connection to the outdoor world.

There are environmental benefits behind the turf that make up our yards. They protect surface and groundwater by serv-

Talking lawn care with U of M

ing as living filters. They grow well in suburban and urban areas that are often dominated by impervious surfaces, while helping cool these areas that tend to hold heat. Yards are incredibly efficient at storing carbon in the soil as organic matter, playing an important role as a carbon sink for greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide and methane.

Q: Should I use lawn fertilizer? Are there organic alternatives?

Trappe: We encourage some supplemental fertilizer in lawns because it can help ensure a healthier turf. A healthier turf can be more resilient to stresses like foot traffic and allow the lawn to crowd out weeds like crabgrass. How much fertilizer to be applied can depend on a lot of

things like the lawn species, soil type, or even how much shade you have. A good starting point is to have your soil tested. This will tell you the nutrient levels of your soil and the most beneficial type of fertilizer product.

From the plant's perspective, it doesn't care if the fertilizer is synthetic or organic. However, your soil might benefit from an organic-type fertilizer product. Check your soil test first. Many organic fertilizers have phosphorus, which cannot be applied unless the soil test shows phosphorus as deficient.

Q: What about watering, especially if we have a dry summer?

Trappe: Many of the grasses that grow in Minnesota or the upper Midwest can

get by without any extra water beyond what nature supplies. The lawn may get a little dry and the turf may get a little tannish, but this is likely the grasses going dormant. If we go more than 30 days or so without rain, consider watering to keep the lawn alive until the next rainstorm. When the lawn is stressed from lack of water, try and stay off it to reduce stress and it should be able to bounce back just fine. If you are going to water, don't do it by a set schedule. By watering "deeply and infrequently", you can actually train the grass roots to go deeper into the soil. This just means that if you are going to water, it is better to do it less often but with a higher amount. If you have an irrigation system, look into using a smart controller that can adapt to local weather conditions. It will save you water and make your lawn more resilient.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

THRESHOLDS >> from 1

the mental disability spectrum with autism, so all of a sudden I had a problem. How could I get a career in the entertainment industry, when no one wanted to work with someone on the spectrum? It was kind of a curve ball thrown to me."

Wolfe also said that he has been singing his entire life. "When I was a kid I would sing to myself all the time," he said. "It would often annoy others around me. I was very introverted and kept to myself. But then I joined the choir in high school and began to take singing more seriously. I thought maybe I could have a career in singing, too."

After graduation, he joined the Metropolitan Men's Choir in 2007 and has been singing with the group ever since.

"In 2012, my mom looked up the Interact Center online. It is a professional theater company that employs performing artists who are on the disability spectrum," Wolfe explained. "At first I didn't want to join, because almost everyone there looked more disabled than I did. But I decided to swallow my pride and try it, and I am very glad that I did. Interact has become a very important part of my life, and I am happy to have it."

It was during a workshop that Graczyk was doing at Interact in 2018 that she met Wolfe. Graczyk is a choreographer, performer and scientist who has created her own production company. She has collaborated on over 60 productions nationally and internationally. She and Michael started working together.

"This led us to creating a production called the Hear Them Now project," Wolfe said. "It explored the members of the disability and LGBT+ community." Wolfe said Aaron Gabriel, a generative theater artist



and theater/dance composer, connected the two again for the Thresholds project.

"Beth gave me an assignment," Wolfe said. "She asked me to come up with movements that I do while I am waiting for a bus. She asked me to then exaggerate those movements and make them bigger."

"Part of the project is to invite people to share experiences, whether they are on the spectrum or not," Graczyk said. "It's the idea of what Michael does on a daily basis and amplify what he is already experiencing. We developed a lot of material in studios and other spaces in Minneapolis. And we took it outside. Where Michael narrates his movements is really special. He describes what he is thinking and feeling."

Wolfe said the minimal movements that he makes while waiting for the bus become bigger and bolder and become a kind of dance, and this is shown in one of the short films. Thresholds is supposed to explain to multiple audiences how the autistic brain comprehends and takes in sight, sound, smell and touch as opposed to the non-autistic brain," he said.

Wolfe said it is easier for him to com-

THRESHOLDS: ART, SCIENCE AND NEURODIVERSITY

- Sunday, June 2, 2024
- Parkway Theater
4814 Chicago Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55417
- 6 p.m. doors open, 6:30 p.m. show
- \$10 advance tickets, \$17 at the door

Thresholds is a project of Beth Graczyk Productions. BGP offers complimentary tickets to those who identify as part of the neurodiverse community.

municate his feelings through a performance than through ordinary conversation. "I have a little bit of difficulty expressing my needs to people who can do something about those needs," he remarked.

Graczyk said she has been collaborating on this project since 2020 with Wolfe, Gabriel, Astorga and Hanne Vaughn as video editor. "Hanne was a crucial part of our film making. And Michael grew so much in his ability to express his needs, as well as put in this performance.

"Communication starts with how we are experiencing the world; we do not give ourselves the time to share (those experiences.) We don't understand how we perceive things differently or similarly," Graczyk continued.

Wolfe explained that he sees autism as a gift, although it has hindered him in a lot of ways. "A lot of things people without autism can do, I will never be able to do," he said. "But at the same time, it has enlightened me. I do plenty of singing in Interact. I would like to record my own album some day and tour all over the world and sing songs from that album. It

all comes down to the same thing. There are not a lot of people in the music industry who want to work with somebody who has autism."

According to Graczyk, much has been done over the past 20 years regarding the area of autism. "It's not so much a lack of awareness," she said. "There are a whole bunch of people on the spectrum who do not want to be medicalized. It's similar to being a queer person and finding the world is not accommodating. It's not being given a chance because of stigma or a sense of difference. The more we can talk about it, the more we can understand rather than putting people in categories. The more dialogue we have, the more we can erode the differences."

Wolfe recalled the bullying he faced when he was in elementary school and middle school. "A lot of people in the world tease and taunt and make fun of things just because they don't understand those things they are making fun of," he said. "I have a bit of resentment about that."

Graczyk said she believes her interests of artistry and science are very similar. She stated, "In both, you observe and then develop an experience."

Wolfe said he is grateful to be a part of the Threshold project. "This is the very thing we need in order to help audiences understand what having autism is like, and to understand what having a disability is like."

Graczyk said she is looking forward to presenting the live performance and films at the Parkway. "We've been working on this for two to three years, and it feels like a beginning, an opportunity to grow with the community. Hopefully, each audience member will feel like they are on their own journey and find out about themselves."

SCHOOL >> from 1

"MPS, like districts across the state and country are grappling with the loss of unprecedented federal COVID-relief funding, and it's not been easy. What's within our control is how we divide the pie we have," said Collin Beachy, at-large school board member and board chair.

"It's very frightening," said school board member Adriana Cerrillo. "I fear for our children and our city, everyone in this city."

Cerrillo represents the school system's fourth district that includes downtown and southwest areas. "I don't see enough people fighting," said Cerrillo. "I'm not going to sit down for solutions. We need to go to the governor; it's just that simple and the federal government needs to step in, as well. We have money for war, we have money for everything, but we don't have money for education?"

The proposed budget cuts \$47 million and includes reductions in staff and some programs, but no school closings. Staff propose to cover the remaining costs by using \$55 million from the district's fund balance reserves, as well as not hiring people for currently funded but unfilled positions to save another \$13 million. The proposal also calls for increasing the class size by three students in those schools where fewer than "70% of the students are on free or reduced meals."

"These past few years, for the first time in my decades-long career in public education, we actually had a level of resources close to what we need," said Beachy. "In MPS, that was over \$250 million during the pandemic, so the size of the pie grew substantially. My school board colleagues and I are committed to ensuring we make the difficult and necessary decisions to balance a budget for next year, and we'll also keep working on expanding the size of the pie through continued advocacy with the state and federal governments, by asking voters to approve an increase to our technology levy, and by growing enrollment."

The recommended budget includes school allocations and building, or capital, improvements.



Minneapolis Public School Superintendent Dr. Lisa Sayles-Adams gathers feedback at the Sanford Middle School listening session on May 9. (Photo by Cam Gordon)

Next year, southside capital improvements include \$5 million for a new entrance at South High School, \$400,000 for classroom improvements at Sullivan/Anishinaabe, and \$1.5 million to support career and technical education at Roosevelt.

PER PUPIL BREAKDOWN

Under the proposed budget, funding for individual schools varies depending on the number of students and a few other considerations including the Title I funding the school qualifies for, support of English language learning, and special education. Some schools qualify for the district's "racially isolated school support." Per pupil allocations range from \$7,912 to over \$19,000.

As a point of reference, two popular private schools with campuses located in Minneapolis, Blake and Minnehaha Academy, charge \$40,607 and \$28,900 respectively for 9-11th graders.

In the proposed MPS budget, the per pupil allocation will be reduced for all MPS schools next year including those located on the southside. Roosevelt, for example, will be reduced by 10.17% from \$10,625 to \$9,544. South High School's per pupil allocation will go from \$14,986 to \$13,289. The largest reduction, however, will be to the magnet school allocation, which is going down 22.74%, from

100 DAYS WITH NEW SUPERINTENDENT

In April and May, Superintendent Sayles-Adams convened a series of tours and listening sessions at six Minneapolis public schools, including Northeast, Folwell, Bethune, Sanford, Anwatin and Justice Page schools. These are part of her 100 day plan and will help inform priorities for the future of the city's public schools. More at www.mpschools.org/about-mps/administration/100-day-plan

\$17,507 to \$13,968. Camden High School is going from \$19,740 to \$16,393 – a 20% reduction.

The budget cuts will likely impact all schools, and some more than others. "Any time there's this significant a year-over-year variation in the budget, there will, of course, be an impact," said Beachy. "One area where many schools will see this change with fewer resources for academic intervention teams. This was a program made possible by federal COVID relief funding, and while a scaled-back version of the program has been retained in Title I schools, it's a big change for other schools."

BUDGET REVISIONS ADDRESS EARLIER CONCERNS

School board and community members raised concerns about the initial budget. This includes centralizing the magnet

coordinators who are currently located in the magnet schools, cutting assistant principals in elementary schools, and eliminating fifth grade band. Objections have also been raised to the proposed \$777,120 new investment in "breakthrough teams" that are intended to reduce academic disparities by providing professional development at racially isolated school sites.

Lori Norwell is the school board member representing district 5, which includes the majority of greater Longfellow and Nokomis. At the March 26 meeting, when the budget was first formally presented, Norwell expressed concerns about the proposal to cut fifth grade band, as well as cuts in coordinators for each magnet school. She also questioned funding the breakthrough teams. "I've been thinking a lot about the breakthrough teams," said Norwell, "and something I keep thinking about is starting a new program with the cuts we're making."

These concerns appear to have resulted in some changes to what is now moving forward. On May 21, the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) board's finance committee voted to recommend a budget to send to the full board of directors for possible approval at the June 18 meeting.

Each magnet school has some discretion with their budgets and at least one, according to Superintendent Lisa Sayles-Adams, has already found a way to fund their coordinator.

"The superintendent and her team have been very responsive to board and community feedback, and we've seen that reflected in the changes they've made to the proposed budget. This includes restoring funding for the fifth grade band program and for three assistant principals at certain elementary schools. I was a proponent of these changes and I'm grateful they've been made, though I do recognize that reductions will need to be made in other areas to offset them," said Beachy.

"With Dr. Sayles-Adams at the helm, and together with this school board and a community that we all know cares deeply about MPS and public education, I'm excited about where we're headed. We have momentum, and despite the challenges before us, the future of MPS is bright," said Beachy.

NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



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

Nokomis Library is more than just a place to borrow books; it's a vibrant community hub where children's imaginations come to life, especially during the summer. This year, the library's dynamic Youth Services Librarian, Lisa Stuart, is on a mission to make summer reading an unforgettable adventure for school-age kids. With her infectious enthusiasm, Stuart crafted a three-point plan focused on engaging young readers through free book giveaways, interactive reading clubs, and strategic partnerships. Last summer, the library distributed 400 books, and this year, Stuart aims to surpass that milestone, ensuring every child finds something that sparks their interest.

"Summer at the library, we really focus on school-age kids because we know how important it is to do your own reading and learning based on your interests," said Stuart, a wide grin spreading across her face as she displayed the books she ordered for this summer. "Every time kids come in, they can get a free book." The themes ranged from unicorns to nonfiction. The crisp new books looked ready to be devoured by small hands. Stuart ensures the books are from diverse authors, aiming to make all children feel welcomed. She also lined up stickers, pencils, and activity books.

This year they're revamping their reading clubs, tailored by age. My First Book Club for kindergarten to first grade meets every few weeks to read a book and do a related activity, such as reading "The Wonderful Towers of Watts" by Patricia Zelter, then creating mosaics and putting them on display at the front of the library. When showing me the book, she automatically

JOIN A READING CLUB THIS SUMMER AT NOKOMIS LIBRARY



Librarian Lisa Stuart is on a mission to make summer an unforgettable adventure for kids. (Photo submitted)

held it up the way a school teacher would where we could both read and look at the pages. It was clear that she's a natural.

The second book club, for second and third graders, features themes like magical creatures and robots, with activities such as creating robots from various materials.

The third club, for grades 4-6, focuses on genres. The first meeting is for science fiction, the second is for mystery, and the children will vote on the third meeting's theme. Allowing children to choose their books gives them the chance to explore new genres while letting them feel included and learning in the way they learn best. "Kids that love to read graphic novels will read graphic novels in that genre; kids that love thick books will read those," Stuart explained, emphasizing inclusion and diverse learning styles. "All of the book clubs are either Friday or Saturday, so more working parents can bring their families. ... I used to avoid Saturdays, because so many families go up north, but now I want to provide

something for the families who don't or can't go up north." This considerate scheduling maximizes opportunities for children to participate and benefit from the library's programs.

The third prong of her approach is partnerships. Nokomis Library is collaborating with Minneapolis Kids and Rec Plus, summer camps offered through the public school system and parks department. Both groups will visit the library twice a month. "Let's maximize our impact with the people who work with the kids the most," Stuart said. These collaborations not only enrich the library's offerings but also strengthen ties within the community, ensuring that children have access to engaging educational experiences beyond the classroom.

The library features sections for children and teenagers. One section offers toys that change monthly, like garden tools and playhouses, while the teen section has lounge chairs and pamphlets on where to find books that cover topics that teens may

be uncomfortable asking about.

On top of an amazing physical setup, and a new summer plan, Stuart also planned one-time events this summer:

- June 20, 6:30 p.m.: Meet the Author Drew Brockington, author and illustrator of "Catstronauts"
 - June 27, 2-3 p.m.: Discover Chemistry in Color workshop (grades 3-5)
 - July 13, 2-2:45 p.m.: Lalo's Lunchbox: Stone Soup Saturday, a family-friendly show
 - June 18, 6:30 p.m.: Build a Fairy House (grades 1-5)
 - July 19: Slime Table Fun (grades 2-5)
- Monthly meetups include:**
- 1st Saturdays, 2:30-4:30: Lego Lab
 - 3rd Saturdays, 2:30-4:30: Read with an Animal
- Weekly meetups include:**
- Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.: Nature Trading Place
 - Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.: Chess Club

The library is one of the only public places that I know of where people can go and not be expected to spend money. This gives patrons the power to come as they are without having to worry about outside influences. Adding to the feeling of inclusion, Stuart emphasized that to get a library card, people only need to show proof of address. If they would like a different name on their library card than any previous form of ID, the name can be changed - no questions asked. The library also stopped charging late fees to encourage more patrons to check out books. It's a space that provides so much to the community.

In a world where so many services come with a price tag, Nokomis Library stands as a beacon of accessibility and inclusivity. It's a testament to the power of public resources to bring people together. Its robust children's programming serves as a testament to its dedication to nurturing young minds and fostering a love of learning in all.

CITY BRIEFS

NEW CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR

The city council has approved Mayor Jacob Frey's nomination of Michelle Phillips to be the next director of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights. Phillips will be leaving her position as Inspector General for the City of Oakland, Calif. to oversee the department of 46 employees who help enforce city ordinances, investigate discriminatory practices, protect civil rights, and manage the Office of Police Conduct Review.



10. The changes could allow the school to expand their athletic schedule to host night games and to rent their field to external, third-party organizations.

42ND STREET REPAVING

Hennepin County is planning to repave 42nd St. E between Cedar Ave. and Minnehaha Ave. in 2025. The design work is underway and the county is considering adding bike lanes near Cedar and 28th Ave. to close the bike lane gap. This would eliminate some on street parking on one side of the street near these intersections. The planning and design stages for the repaving are expected to be completed this summer.

STORM PIPE REPAIR ON NOKOMIS AVE

In Ericsson, on Nokomis Ave. S from 45th St E to Minnehaha Creek the city will continue work to replace over 800 feet of storm water sewer main that has deteriorated and the drain outlet to the Minnehaha Creek.

WATER MAIN WORK

This spring and summer, the city will be cleaning and removing rust and relining water main pipes in Morris Park and Minnehaha. Temporary waterlines will be installed during the cleaning, and the water supply will be monitored during the project to ensure it meets city drinking water standards.

36TH AVE. FREE TREES PROGRAM

This spring, free tree planting services have been offered to people who live on 36th Ave. between 25th and Lake Street. On May 19, on 36th Ave. at Brackett Park, an arborist met with neighbors to discuss trees selections that include evergreens, flowering, fruit or shade trees. On June 3, trees will be delivered and planted. The initiative is part of the 36th ART group as a way to improve the street appearance, create shade and calm traffic.

GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE

May 25th was the 4th anniversary of the police killing of George Floyd and plans to redevelop George Floyd Square, where he was killed at 38yh Av and Chicago Ave., continue. Ward 8 Council Member Andrea Jenkins reports that there will be an approved vision for the area by the end of the year. This could include a set of guiding values, criteria for the future use and ownership of the Peoples Way site, decisions about places to preserve for future memorials and a layout for the streets and sidewalks. There will be a Visioning Workshop on Tuesday, June 25 from 5:30-8 p.m., at The Square at the Chicago Ave. Shops.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY SEEKS FIELD CHANGES

Minnehaha Academy is seeking to make changes in the design and use of their upper campus athletic field located in the Cooper neighborhood at 3100 W River Pkwy. The school has applied to the city for several variances and a conditional use permit to install floodlights, an astro-turf field, new bleachers, a press box, and a taller scoreboard. The applications have raised concerns about noise, light pollution and traffic from some neighbors, and are expected to be reviewed by the Minneapolis City Planning Commission on June

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

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Lighting way to a safer neighborhood

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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



A couple years ago following the upsurge in our community, the Longfellow Community Council and the Longfellow Business Association joined together to help businesses and residents feel safer in the neighborhood through our Business Security Lighting Program and our Home Security Lighting Program.

Finding ways that our community could help keep each other safe was critical after the destruction and trauma radiated throughout our neighborhood and left many of us unsure and afraid. Working with our neighbors and businesses, we were able to provide some small piece of mind to the community through our security lighting programs.

Both projects are intended to support those who might otherwise find it difficult to afford lighting improvements to their property or business. Our Home Security Lighting Program has almost \$2,000 left to give up to \$500 in support to eligible property owners. The application must include a list of items to purchase and evidence of actual pricing for items and/or work to be purchased/completed. All property owners in the Cooper, Howe, Hiawatha, and Longfellow neighborhoods are eligible to apply.

Thanks to a partnership with the Long-

fellow Business Association, we were able to expand the funding to businesses as well, who have many of the same security concerns, but are in need of more funds to help with the expense of covering a business property.

Eligible business and commercial property owners may apply for up to \$2,500 in matching grant funds. This is a 1:1 matching reimbursement program – LBA/LCC will match business expenses dollar for dollar up to a maximum of \$2,500 with the intent of helping to reduce crime and increase safety for businesses in our community.

All business and commercial property owners (including non-profits and faith communities) located within the boundaries of the Greater Longfellow Neighborhood are eligible to apply for grant funding. Business owners that rent space must work in coordination with or receive a signature of approval from the property owner. LBA recommends that businesses and property owners schedule an assessment with a Community Crime Specialist to look at the property and help determine which security improvements will have the most effective impact.

Find more information on the Home Security Lighting Grant on the Longfellow Community Council's Grant page on our website: longfellow.org/grants. Information for the Business Security Lighting Grant can be found on the Longfellow Business Association's website: longfellowbusinessassociation.org/security-matching-grants/ or you can email andrea@longfellow.org with questions.

EVENTS

SHADOW FALLS ART FAIR JUNE 8

Shadow Falls, a little neighborhood just across the Lake Street Bridge in St.

Paul, is hosting its third annual Shadow Falls Art Fair on Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Artistry includes ceramics, pottery, photography, fabric art, painting, textiles, weaving, and more. Food and area musicians will be a part of the fair, as well.

HEALTHY SENIORS OPEN HOUSE JUNE 13

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) is commemorating its 30th anniversary with an open house on Thursday, June 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. inside Bethel Church, 4120 17th Ave. S. RSVP by calling 612-729-5499.

POETRY AND JAZZ JUNE 29

The fourth annual Poetry and Jazz in the Holy Ground will be held at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery on June 29, 2 p.m. It will feature Margaret Hasse, Patrick Cabello Hansel and Dralanda Larkins.

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Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.org
Interim Pastor Matthew Johnson (Handicapped Accessible)
Reconciling in Christ Congregation
Sunday Worship in person & online
June 2 only: 9:45 am service
June 9 onwards: 9:30 am service
Info on church website
12-step groups Tuesday thru Saturday evenings

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

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

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church
3430 E 51st St. • 612-729-5463
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, June 15, 12-2 pm
Senior Exercise Class Mondays 10 a.m.

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

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
Weed & Water Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am in the Epworth Garden

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
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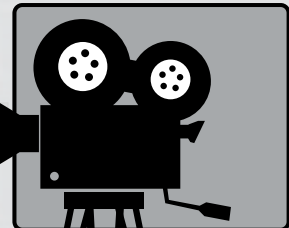


LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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TRILINGUA CINEMA

Founders aim to build community over movies in multiple languages, including English, Spanish and Hmong

By JAN WILLMS

Trilingua Cinema is about bringing together lots of different kinds of people who maybe wouldn't mingle in their everyday lives. And they are brought together to share the experience of film.

The nonprofit offers films in English or Spanish or Hmong on the east side of Saint Paul, since those are the predominant languages spoken in the neighborhood.

Geordie Flantz started Trilingua Cinema in 2019 and co-directs with Sid Stuart and Ismail Khadar

The organization showed its first movie in the summer of 2019. In winter of that year, Flantz received a grant from the Metro Regional Arts Council.

"Then COVID hit, and we collaborated with the Freedom Library and held a screening outside on its front lawn," Flantz explained. "From the beginning we have tried to collaborate with social action groups on the East Side," he continued.

Early on Trilingua connected with Mary Anne Quiroz from Indigenous Roots and did a festival of short films by local filmmakers on East 7th. Dayton's Bluff Housing Services had a parking lot where films were shown.

"From there, we slowly grew every year," Flantz said. "We connected with Sia Vang who puts on Hmong American Day, and we have been collaborating for the past three years. Last year we showcased Southeast Asian film directors."

"Last summer we showed films twice a week at Sculpture Park near Swede Hollow. We brought hot dogs and lemonade and gave away free food with every screening. It was a nice way to meet the neighbors and show films," Stuart said. "Sometimes we had a deejay come out and play music pre-screening. There was a graffiti festival, and we set up to show a movie."

Stuart said films were shown every other week last summer. This winter there were screenings twice a month indoors at the Freedom Library, which continued into spring.



Geordie Flantz, Sid Stuart and Ismail Khadar co-direct Trilingua Cinema, a nonprofit that offers films in English, Spanish in Hmong on the east side of St. Paul. (Photos submitted)

He said the films shown last summer, with grilling outdoors and families and children in attendance, drew a very diversified crowd of all ages.

Because Spanish, English and Hmong are the predominant languages on the East Side, Flantz said the organization has focused on films in those languages. "It is a little harder with Hmong, because there are fewer films, but there are a lot of local Hmong filmmakers," he stated.

Stuart said the co-directors debate about what films to show, and other times field suggestions from their audiences. The films can range from current top movies such as "Past Lives" and "Oppenheimer" to a 2015 film about the Amazon, "Embrace of the Serpent?" which featured up to 10 different languages. "Every event is an ongoing experiment, and we keep evolving our theory of what people want to see and what works," Flantz said.

"I don't know if we have met our goal of building community," Martin noted, "but every time we show a movie and people come, it is an awesome experience. We see what it's like to watch a movie with other people as opposed to streaming it at home. You react to something with other people in the room, and that's kind of special."

Flantz said the ultimate goal of Trilingua Cinema is to open a brick and mortar theater on the East Side. "We've talked about starting a youth job training program to help youth learn what it's like to work in a theater," he said. "We have also talked about the idea of having an employees cooperative. We have a lot of ideas. We're always trying to get the word out and build a bigger audience."

Flantz added that Trilingua Cinema is all made up of volunteers. "We can always use more financial support," he said.



The co-directors debate about what films to show, and other times field suggestions from their audiences. The films can range from current top movies such as "Past Lives" and "Oppenheimer" to a 2015 film about the Amazon, "Embrace of the Serpent?" which featured up to 10 different languages. "Every event is an ongoing experiment, and we keep evolving our theory of what people want to see and what works," said Geordie Flantz. (Photo submitted)

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