



LCC
welcomes
new staff
>>10



Dignitaries including Governor Tim Walz, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey join business owners and developers in celebrating the reopening of the Coliseum at E Lake St. and 27th Ave. on June 19 four years after it was damaged in the Uprising following the murder of George Floyd by 3rd precinct officers. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Coliseum rises from the ashes around East Lake St. and Minnehaha Ave., models new way of doing business and development

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

It's been four years since the Coliseum building was damaged in the Uprising following the murder of George Floyd around the former 3rd Precinct site at

E. Lake and Minnehaha. On Juneteenth 2024, people gathered there to celebrate the renovation and reopening of the building that marks a new way of doing things in the city.

"Like the phoenix, we will rise from the ashes and here we are today," said

Carol A. Behmlander as she stood looking at the area where so many buildings were damaged and destroyed. She lives a few blocks away from Lake and Minnehaha.

"This building and the process is only the beginning," said Taylor Smrikárova of Redesign, a nonprofit community de-

velopment corporation based in greater Longfellow that will be occupying the third floor of the building. "So today, we celebrate."

From the beginning, the purpose of

LIKE A PHOENIX >> 2

INTERSECTION OF IDEAS ON INTERSTATE 94

Community discusses Rondo landbridge, boulevard conversion, bus lanes, expansion and reconfiguration of 7.5-mile stretch between downtowns

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

As MnDOT evaluates its upcoming Interstate 94 project, community members are talking about how they live, work and play along the corridor, and what they envision for the next 50 years. It's part of the

INTERSECTION OF IDEAS >> 3

KINSHIP AND COMMUNITY ON JUNETEENTH



SIMS performs at the Hook and Ladder during the third annual Soul of the Southside festival on June 19. Presented by The Legacy Building, the celebration of Black liberation offered drum circles, live music, food trucks, a Black-owned marketplace, and spoken word shows. >> SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8 AND ONLINE. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

City reviews off-duty police officer rules

By CAM GORDON

The Minneapolis City Council is taking another look at how to better manage the decades-old practice of allowing city police officers to make money while working independently when they are officially "off-duty."

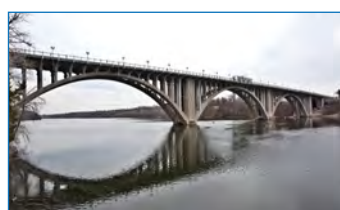
Scrutiny into freelance police work followed two police killings in Minneapolis. When Mohamed Noor started his 10-hour shift as a Minneapolis police officer on the night he killed Justine Ruszczyk in southwest Minneapolis, he had just finished a seven-hour shift working off-duty as a security guard. After Derek Chauvin killed George Floyd, he also pled guilty to tax fraud related to not declaring off-duty

OFF-DUTY POLICE RULES >> 5



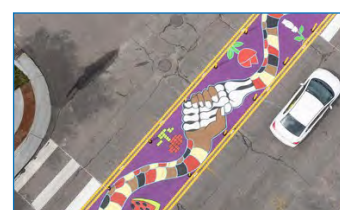
Neighbors weigh in on Minnehaha Academy field updates

PAGE 5



Help the watershed with these tips on what you can do at home

PAGE 6



SUMMER IN THE CITY Check out a round-up of events and activities

PAGE 12

MEET THE WOMEN OWNERS OF THE COLISEUM PROJECT

COMMONSENSE CONSULTING@WORK

CommonSense Consulting@Work is a woman and Black-owned practice that utilizes the skills of diverse and seasoned consultants located around the country. Owned by Janice Downing, they match their consultants' skills and experiences to most efficiently and effectively meet their clients' needs.

ABOUT LAGNIAPPE AND DU NORD COCKTAIL ROOM

Lagniappe is a new funky, cool restaurant serving New Orleans cuisine in The Historic Coliseum Building, co-owned by Shanelle Montana. The Du Nord Cocktail Room is a full service-bar where everyone is invited and everyone belongs.

ABOUT REDESIGN, INC.

Redesign is a geographically-based Community Development Corporation working in the five neighborhoods of Greater Longfellow in South Minneapolis. Redesign's mission is to build economic justice in collaboration with the community

by developing and sustaining affordable housing and commercial real estate, investing in entrepreneurs, and creating living wage jobs. Redesign envisions an inviting community woven together by collective community voice where housing is affordable for all and local businesses thrive. Leading the Coliseum project was Taylor Smrikárova.

ABOUT URBAN DESIGN PERSPECTIVES

Urban Design Perspectives is a woman and Black owned, environmental justice firm that uses the framework of architecture, project management and community engagement to create equitable and sustainable spaces that fuel your mind, body, soul and spirit. Alicia Belton is the principal architect.

SHOWN AT RIGHT: (left to right) Janice Downing of CommonSense Consulting@Work, Alicia Belton of Urban Design Perspectives and Taylor Smrikárova of Redesign. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



LIKE A PHOENIX >> from 1

this project has been to create generational wealth for BIPOC-, women-owned, and small business owners who are also often othered (LGBTQIA+, Veterans, etc.), through the equitable redevelopment of a site that bears the scars of the community's pain. The historic building has been brought back to life, ensuring long-term affordability for up to 30 BIPOC and other local entrepreneurs/small businesses, pointed out Jessie Roeming of Redesign.

"Juneteenth marks a day to reflect on where this country has come," said Smrikárova, and "hope for the future."

"The last four years have been a reckoning in this state," said Governor Tim Walz. He observed that the murder of George Floyd brought to light systems operating as they were designed to do that created gaps in homeownership, education, and more between Black and White. Project like the Coliseum building help in equitable distribution of resources, he said.

"It's amazing what powerful women can get done," stated Governor Walz.

Black-owned community development is a right that so many White businesses have had for generations, pointed out Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey. "That should be a right for everyone," he said. "That starts to change right here. You are all making a difference. ... Let's keep the momentum going."

Robin Wonsley recalled standing outside the 3rd Precinct in May 2020 demanding justice for George Floyd. "In that moment, it became clear that I wanted to run for office," she said. She now serves as the Ward 2 City Council member. "How can we bring this area back?" she asked. It was done through the "fierce leadership of black women," she praised. "I thank all of the co-owners for being a beacon of hope."

Co-owners include Alicia Belton (Urban Design Perspectives), Janice Downing (CommonSense Consulting@Work), and restaurant/cocktail room owner Shanelle Montana (Lagniappe & Du Nord Cocktail Room) who have partnered and co-developed the Historic Coliseum Building with nonprofit community development corporation Redesign, Inc.



DIVAS co-founder Clarisa James said, "I remember coming to this building in 2021 when there were no walls. You could see the beauty of it, the beautiful floors that had potential." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



"Like the phoenix, we will rise from the ashes and here we are today," said Carol A. Behmlander as she stood looking at the area where so many buildings were damaged and destroyed. She lives a few blocks away from Lake and Minnehaha. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

MEET A TENANT: DIVAS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

DIVAS (Digital Interactive Visual Arts Sciences) empowers and inspires youth living in underserved communities to use tech and visual arts to promote social justice and become change makers in their communities.

While the organization's commitment is to work with both girls and boys in its community, its name DIVAS (an acronym for Digital Interactive Visual Arts Sciences), remains relevant as women have been and continue to be anchors for community building in neighborhoods across the

United States. The organization itself, which was founded by women, continues to be led by women who are fostering social justice change.

Tools made available include a makerspace for collaborate project work and classes, computers, sewing machines, VR/AR equipment, 3D printers, videography/photography tools, and more.

Founded in New York City, DIVAS will open its satellite office inside the Coliseum building in south Minneapolis.

More at www.divasforsocialjustice.org

WORK AT THE FORMER U.S. BANK SITE

A block away from the Coliseum is another project that aims to also create generation wealth for BIPOC-, women-owned, and small business owners. At E. Lake and 28th Avenue, the former U.S. Bank site is undergoing a transformation into affordable housing, commercial and outdoor retail, non-profit and arts.

Redesign is advancing a first-of-its-kind in the

U.S. Aquifer Thermal Energy System (ATES) at the Coliseum and 2800 E. Lake St. sites. When combined with wind or solar power, this will provide carbon-free heating and cooling to multiple buildings in the area including development on the 2800 E. Lake St site, the Coliseum Building, and other nearby properties. The system will be managed by a customer-led nonprofit board.

DIVAS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Clarisa James has been a Prince fan since she was nine years old. After he died in 2016, she began traveling from New York City to mark the anniversary of his death with events in Minneapolis. She made friends and connections in Minneapolis, and in 2021, she met the women leading the effort to renovate the Coliseum.

James co-founded DIVAS for Social Justice after she started mulling over the digital divide and how it intersects with social justice. "How do you show people that their voice can contribute to community?" she pondered.

DIVAS uses a makerspace model to connect youth living in underserved communities with computers, sewing machines, VR/AR equipment, 3D printers, videography/photography tools and more – things they otherwise wouldn't have access to.

After talking about her work with two

of the Coliseum building developers, Alicia Belton (Urban Design Perspectives) and Janice Downing (CommonSense Consulting@Work), James said she wanted to bring the DIVAS to the Coliseum building in South Minneapolis. "Our visions aligned," she said. "I knew it was something I wanted to hold out for."

James added, "I remember coming to this building in 2021 when there were no walls. You could see the beauty of it, the beautiful floors that had potential."

DIVAS will be on the second floor, and will be led by board member George Suratt, who resides in the Twin Cities. "People of the community will be involved in doing participatory design workshops," said James, and give input into what they want the space to be. They are also collaborating with University of Minnesota professors Dr. Nathaniel Stewart, Dr. Elliot James, Dr. Nicole Dillard, and Dr. Stephanie Sisco.

✦ MORE PHOTOS online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com



DRAGONS WYND
Environmental Entomology

For hire: Presentations, parties, insect safaris, garden consult & more

www.etsy.com/shop/DragonsWyndInsects
jessica@dragonswynd.com

~ AWARD WINNING ~

OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS & DETAILS






INTERSECTION OF IDEAS >> from 1

Rethinking I-94 project.

ReConnect Rondo has proposed creating a community land bridge around the site of the historic Rondo community. Our Streets has suggested replacing the existing freeway with a multi-modal boulevard and returning the surrounding land to neighborhoods. Recently representatives from the three groups presented to the Midway Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held on the ninth floor of the former Central Medical building/Concordia University building with views of I-94 in both directions.

RONDO LAND BRIDGE

ReConnect Rondo aims to fix some of the wrongs done when Interstate I-94 carved through a Black middle-class neighborhood, according to Marvin Roger Anderson and Keith Baker.

A northern option for the interstate would have followed Pierce Butler Route, but the southern route was chosen through Rondo, which was designated as a slum.

This political and intentional decision resulted in the loss of 700 homes and 300 businesses between 1950 and 1969, including the home at 1021 Rondo Ave. that Anderson's grandfather lived in until it was taken. He and three of his friends had also owned four lots at 989 and 995 Rondo that they constructed 12 townhomes on. Today, the loss of property in Rondo is about \$250 million in unrealized home equity. There is an annual earning gap of \$370 million.

"Why did they feel like they could come into our community?" Anderson asked.

"Minnesota ranks next to Mississippi in racial disparities," pointed out Baker.

Baker worked at MnDOT for 18 years and is now the ReConnect Rondo Executive Director. When the Central Corridor rail line, now called the Green Line, was proposed in 2009, there were no stops in Rondo, he stated. The idea emerged then: "Not only do we want stops, why not replace the land that was taken in the 1950s," said Baker.

In 2018, a five-day advisory panel by the Urban Land Institute recommended creating up to 21 acres of new land over the I-94 freeway from Lexington to Rice St. They also advised creating an African American cultural enterprise district around the new land bridge that would be constructed and maintained by MnDOT.

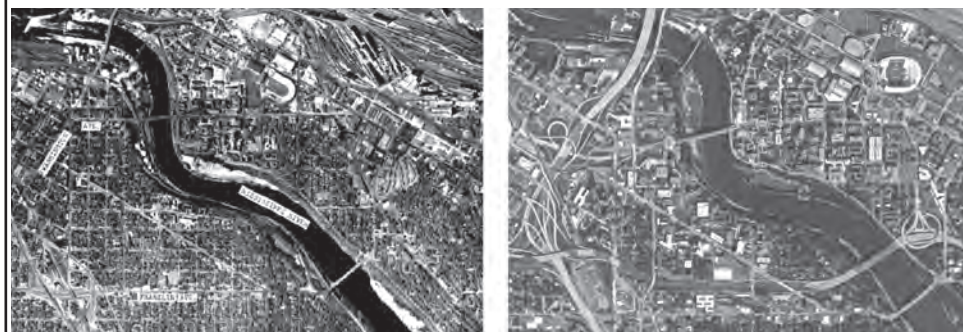
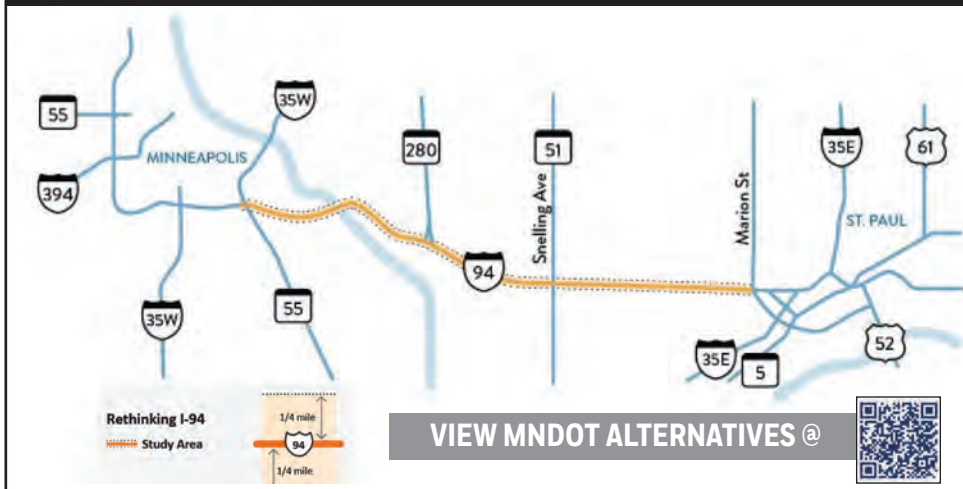
ReConnect Rondo envisions a community-led development that emphasizes community ownership, history and cultural strengths, 21st century innovations (bringing broadband to Rondo), and the assets of the historic Rondo area. "When the community is the developer, the community becomes the beneficiary," said Baker.

They have done a number of studies, including an anti-displacement and community investment study. In order to keep residents and businesses in the neighborhood, a Community Reinvestment Fund will be created to use revenue from the land bridge to support community assets. A Community Investment Trust will enable the Rondo Community to benefit from future development on and off the land bridge. A Right to Remain and Return for people who were displaced and their descendants will be established. Together, these initiatives will build wealth. "It's a systems approach," said Baker.

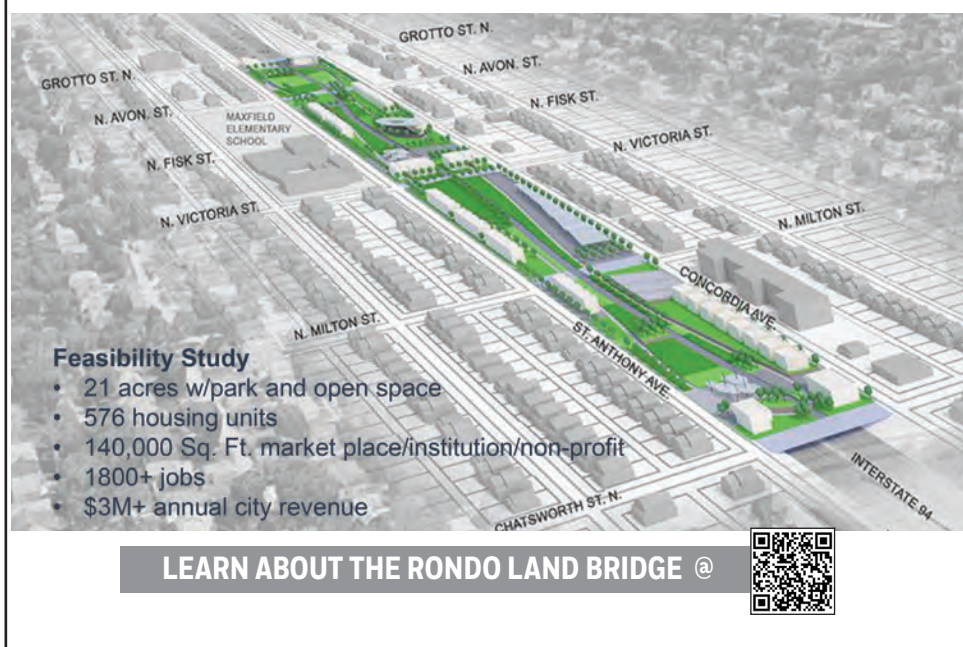
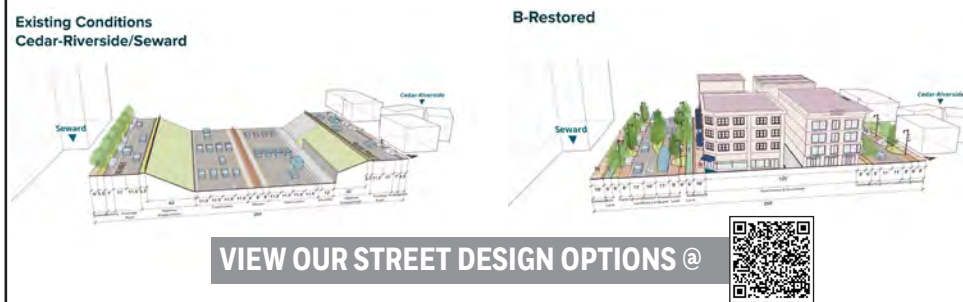
Now in the planning phase, the land bridge will include 21 acres, parks and open space, 576 housing units, and 140,000 square feet of marketplace/institution/non-profit. It will add 1,800 jobs to the city with over \$3 million in annual city revenue. Construction could begin in 2026 and be completed by 2030.

The land bridge (sometimes referred to as a "cap" or "lid") fit within all of the Rethinking I-94 options that have been presented by MnDOT except for the at-

COMMUNITY RETHINKS INTERSTATE 94



Cedar-Riverside before and after Interstate 94. At left 1956, at right 2003.



- Feasibility Study**
- 21 acres w/park and open space
 - 576 housing units
 - 140,000 Sq. Ft. market place/institution/non-profit
 - 1800+ jobs
 - \$3M+ annual city revenue

grade options and expansion A/B alternatives. ReConnect Rondo staff pointed out that there have not been traffic analyses or modeling of daily vehicle movement for at-grade options that will fill in the trench and bring the roadway back to be a city street. They also have mobility and safety concerns.

In Minnesota, there is a cap over Hiawatha Ave. in Minneapolis, providing space for Longfellow garden. In Duluth, a cap over I-35 is filled with a park and gardens. There is a similar park (Klyde Warren Park) over the Woodall Rodgers Freeway in Dallas, Texas. The first highway cap ever built was in 1976 in downtown Seattle.

The "Stitch" in Atlanta, Ga. plans to cap the I-75/I-85 Downtown Connector with green space and buildings spread over 14 acres on a three-quarter-mile platform. Construction is planned for 2026-2030.

OUR STREETS: CONVERSION TO BOULEVARD

Our Streets is proposing that the interstate be eliminated, the trench filled in, and a boulevard created in its place. The reclaimed land could be used for new housing, businesses and parks via a community land trust. They are proposing a similar model for Olson Highway in north Minneapolis (the Bring Back 6th initiative). According to Our Streets, the original concept of the U.S. highway system was to bring people to the edge of cities, and then the network of streets and boulevards would carry people into and through cities. Plans changed, and interstates like I-94 were built through urban neighborhoods.

Our Streets Executive Director José Antonio Zayas Cabán pointed out that they have done door knocking and talked to 30,000 people in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Neighborhoods along the interstate

have some of the worst air quality in the Twin Cities area. With that come health disparities as residents suffer from asthma, dementia and lower life expectancies.

I-94 interrupts the street grid, and it interrupts local access, observed Our Streets Advocacy Coordinator Yasmin Hirsi.

Every day, 120,000 people travel on I-94. Twenty-five percent of the trips on I-94 are less than two miles, and those trips don't begin or end on I-94.

"Most people are going out of their way to use I-94 for short trips," said Hirsi.

Other cities have removed their freeways. Construction on removing Interstate 81 in Syracuse, N.Y. through the downtown area will begin this year. When Central Freeway in San Francisco, Calif. collapsed in an earthquake, it wasn't rebuilt as a raised interstate. Instead, it was replaced with an at-grade boulevard with side access lanes for parking. Some predicted that commute times would increase by two hours, but instead congestion improved. Over half of the car traffic "evaporated," according to the Our Street presentation.

The right of way that could be reclaimed over the 7.5-mile stretch of I-94 between Minneapolis and St. Paul is equal to 50 Allianz Field stadiums, said Hirsi. That's 10 acres in Cedar-Riverside, 26.1 in South St. Anthony Park/Merriam Park, 27 acres in the Midway, and 32.8 in Rondo.

"There is so much space to consider for better use than a freeway," remarked Hirsi.

Cabán pointed out that I-94 is not serving its intended purpose of long-distance, inter-city travel.

Our Streets questions MnDOT's modeling for I-94 traffic projects, and they believe a boulevard conversion can adequately serve transportation needs. They would like to see a "Restored Network" option added to the I-94 alternatives so that the potential for land use is factored in. Our Streets is pushing for a broader study area that includes both downtowns, additional parallel streets, and the portion of Highway 280 south of Energy Park Drive. They want to see the model account for short-term behavior changes and long-term land use changes following highway removal.

RETHINKING I-94

The 7.5 miles of Interstate 94 from Marion Street in St. Paul west to Highway 55/Hiawatha Ave. in Minneapolis is set for construction in 2029.

MnDOT is evaluating 10 possibilities for the roadway, from maintaining the existing roadway to upgrading it to current standards. MnDOT is also looking at removing the freeway and replacing it with an at-grade roadway with dedicated bus lanes. Or, they could separate local traffic roadway on either side of the freeway. The freeway could be reduced, reconfigured, or expanded.

Rail transit is not being considered.

MnDOT is planning for walkability and bikeability improvements within the corridor. MnDOT is also coordinating with ReConnect Rondo on a potential land bridge, and is creating a lid/stitch/land bridge working group.

"We understand the importance of this corridor not only to the people who live along the corridor but to the region," said Rethinking I-94 Project Manager Mark Lindeberg. MnDOT is focused on getting people to where they're going in a reasonable amount of time, he said.

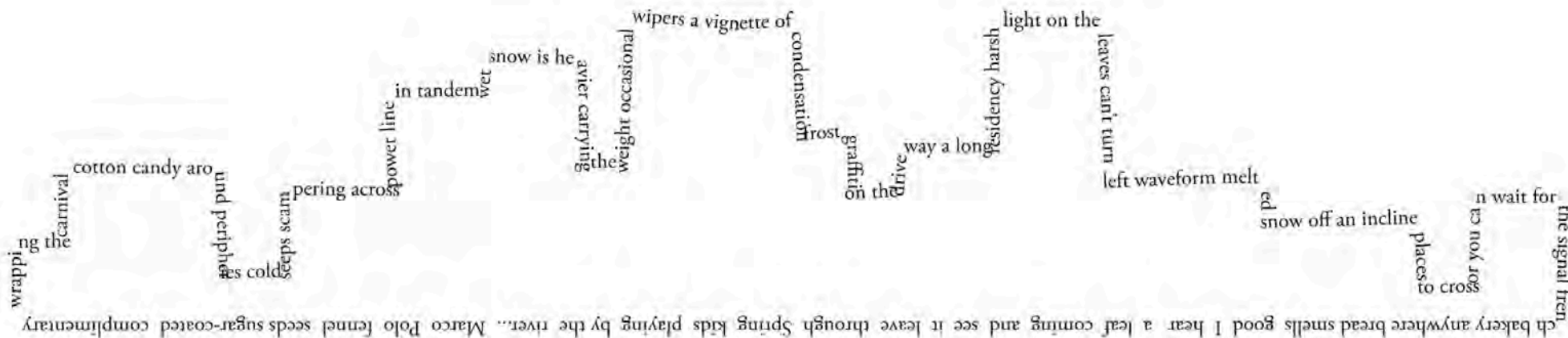
The alternatives on the table right now followed input from 3,350 surveys, 25 presentations, 21 community events, and 2,008,046 impressions on media platforms including newspapers, the project social media, website and digital advertising between June and November 2023. "We are working to get out there," said Renee Raduenz, Rethinking I-94 Communications & Public Engagement Manager.

The 10 alternatives will be evaluated and refined. Provide feedback at talk.dot.state.mn.us/rethinking-i94.

SHARE AN E-EDITION WITH A FRIEND.



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



This piece of concrete poetry/#vispo by Longfellow resident Jerome Berglund was inspired by the Minneapolis skyline. Berglund has worked as everything from dishwasher to paralegal, night watchman to assembler of heart valves. Many haiku, haiga and haibun he's written have been exhibited or are forthcoming online and in print, most recently in bottle rockets, Frogpond, Kingfisher, and Presence. His first full-length collections of poetry

"Bathtub Poems" and "Funny Pages" were just released by Setu and Meat For Tea press, and a mixed media chapbook showcasing his fine art photography is available now from Yavanika. He operates JB Photography.

Follow him at <https://www.instagram.com/berglundjeromehaiku/> and <https://www.facebook.com/JeromeBerglundPhotography/>.

Stories and Journeys



BY DONALD L. HAMMEN

RECONNECTING, STREAMING, THINKING IN PICTURES

car trip to Des Moines.

STREAMING MY CAR TRIP TO DES MOINES

In a previous column I wrote that one of my end of life aspirations was to make a return visit to my home town of Des Moines - specifically the north side of Des Moines where I "grew up." I wanted it to be time spent without the duress of it being a weekend visit for the committal service for my deceased brother in 2022. In other words, to stay longer and linger. I wanted to re-visit my paper route from back in the year I delivered the Des Moines Register and Tribune newspapers. Most importantly, I wanted to test out my idea that my cervical spine fusion and de-compression surgery last year stabilized my spine so I could tolerate the 4.5-hour car trip with minimal or no pain.

Well, dear reader, I can now write that the trip did take place May 24 to May 31, and I did tolerate the car trip to north Des Moines and back to south Minneapolis with no pain. Mission accomplished thanks to the driving of my niece, Crissy, and my sister-in-law, Carol. I did it!

Now the first thing I discovered upon arrival at my sister-in-law's house is that she doesn't watch television the same way I do. She uses a remote that I do not understand that causes what I call "streaming channels" to show up on a large screen in her living room. At any time day or night she can click on one of these channels that she has subscribed to and watch whatever.

Now I have written that my life is like a free movie which I call "As Life Goes By" which I can watch any time and now it turns out anywhere. Since returning to south Minneapolis I have discovered I am now starting to remember my Iowa trip as pictures on a screen that I can stream into my awareness. Part of my ongoing movie "As Life Goes By."

THINKING IN PICTURES

Dear reader, do the words "thinking in pictures" apply to you or someone you know as to how they process the world? Tell yourself, tell others or tell me via tesha@tmcpub.com. It's a part of me that I am beginning to explore. There are times when I am writing Stories and Journeys I find my self mentally stepping back to see how the column is looking. I have other examples. Maybe you have some of your own.

THE LONG GOOD BYE OF DEWAYNE AND MARCEA - HELLO TO A NEW REALITY

What started out as a once-a-month reason for myself, DeWayne Townsend and Marcea Marianni to stay in touch evolved into what today is Elder Voices. Today things are different. DeWayne's Parkinson's disease plus other health issues has led him to be admitted to a facility where he can receive 24-hour care. This has presented his wife Marcea with a hard truth, a bitter pill to swallow as she moves forward with their life together.

There are those besides me that know that DeWayne and Marcea have devoted much of their life time and energy to making Greater Longfellow a better place to live, work and play through their work and service via the Longfellow Community Council. My impression: It will take a village/neighborhood to support them on this end of life journey.

SPOKEN AT ELDER VOICES.

Dorothy and Judith, Messenger readers from Nokomis and Greater Longfellow neighborhoods respectively showed up to tell their stories and share their journeys. Topics of conversation included history of Elder Voices and Medicare Advantage plans.

Dorothy wanted to talk about Medicare Advantage plans. We talked about the recent "die in" at United Health carried out by health justice advocates.

Elder Voices (Telling Our Stories/Sharing Our Journeys) will meet July 26 and Aug. 23 (not the last Friday this month), 10-11 a.m. at Turtle Bread, 4205 E 34th Street. Look for the table with the All Elders sign. If you want to celebrate anything do show up.

In gratitude always.

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK? EMAIL LETTERS, GUEST COMMENTARIES, PRESS RELEASES AND NOTES TO TESHA@LONGFELLOWNOKOMISMESSENGER.COM

GOT OPINIONS ABOUT THE ELECTION?

We will be printing letters in future editions that are under 200 words. Unsigned letters will not run. We will also not run letters that are part of letter-writing campaigns, and prioritize letters from local residents who inform residents why they support particular issues and/or candidates.

ARE YOU A CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

We will include announcements in future editions from candidates who are running for office in local races. Word limit 300 words. Email Tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com. Announcements will not run once we begin publishing our Voters Guides.

LOOK FOR OUR VOTER'S GUIDE

We are collaborating again with the League of Women Voters and VOTE 411. Our Voter's Guide will appear in two parts, and run in the October and November editions of the Messenger. Candidates will receive questionnaires from the League of Women Voters/VOTE 411. Information will be cross-published by VOTE 411 and

the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger. Candidate ads will support the publication.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

We want to know what you're looking for in election coverage from your neighborhood newspaper. Email tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com with suggestions and ideas.

Messenger
5139 34th Ave. S. #17097
Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-345-9998
longfellownokomisessenger.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LongfellowNokomisMessenger/
Instagram: LongfellowNokomisMessenger
News for you!

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

Story ideas always welcome.

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

Owner & Editor:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-345-9998, tesha@longfellownokomisessenger.com

Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183, denis@longfellownokomisessenger.com
Sandra Mikulsky, 612-260-7967, sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com

Design & Layout:

Tesha M. Christensen

Printing by: ECM/Adams Publishing Group

This issue is printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink. Approximately 95-97% of material that enters the print facility is recycled.



Delivery:

612-235-7197, delivery@TMCpub.com
Mail subscriptions are available at \$40 a year.

Contributing Writers & Photographers:

Jan Willms, Jill Boogren, Cam Gordon, Donald Hammen, Terry Faust, Iric Nathanson, Talia McWright, Jane St. Anthony, Aamira Redd, Margie O'Loughlin, Terbutu Ochothow

The Messenger is for profit and for a purpose - and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertis-

ers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve. All rights reserved. The contents of the Messenger cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2024.

Member of Minnesota Newspaper Association, Midwest Community Free Papers, Longfellow Business Association, Seward Civic and Commerce Association, and Nokomis East Business Association.



Planning commission finds path forward for contentious Minnehaha Academy field plan

By CAM GORDON

The city of Minneapolis Planning Commission has approved most of Minnehaha Academy's requests to make their proposed field improvements, but not the one needed to install a new synthetic turf field.

The field is located on the school's north campus at 3100 W River Pkwy. S, 3105 46th Ave. S, and 3106 47th Ave. S in the Cooper neighborhood of Ward 12.

Following a lengthy public hearing and discussion on June 10, 2024, the commission approved variances and a conditional use permit that will allow the school to install floodlights, larger bleachers, a press box, and a taller scoreboard. But they denied a request to increase the maximum amount of impervious surface on the site that would have allowed them to install an artificial, synthetic turf field.

On a 5 to 3 vote, commissioners found that an athletic field is not a unique circumstance of the property and that choosing to use synthetic turf is a "design choice." They also noted the heat island impact, and that the request "does not meet the spirit and intent of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan." Commissioners Bill Baxley, Aurin Chowdhury, Angela Conley, Alyssa Olson, and Chris Meyer all voted to deny the variance that would have allowed the artificial turf.

Aurin Chowdhury of Ward 12 is the city council appointee to the commission.



Some neighbors concerned about toxins from a proposed artificial turf field at Minnehaha Academy testified against it during a planning commission meeting. (Photo by Gabe Gordon)

Angela Conley, who is also the county commissioner for the area, is the appointee of the Hennepin County Board.

For many speakers, the use of plastic and ground up tires in the astroturf was their main concern.

"They're known carcinogens, mutagens and endocrine disruptors," said John Guerra, who lives with his spouse and three young children on 47th Avenue S, north of the school. "I don't want them building up on my sidewalk, in my yards or in my river."

The school indicated that the artificial turf would be safer for players, easier to maintain, and could be built to allow water to drain through it.

Concerns also included light pollution, noise and more. "Issues of parking, traffic, and litter, which already introduce stress into the neighborhood, will only grow worse," said Bob Victorin-Vangerud who lives at 31st and 45th Ave.

Supporters of the school also spoke. "I feel like Minnehaha has been not just a good neighbor, but a great neighbor to the neighborhood," said Nicole Sheldon, who has worked at the school for six years and lived in the area for 11. "They have listened to concerns, they have addressed those concerns, and want to work with the neighborhood to be a great neighbor."

Salamina Brenner, who lives near the school with her partner and two chil-

dren, disagreed. "Minnehaha Academy has made no effort to address our concerns in the past, and I have no confidence this will happen in the future," she said.

Margo Paul lives a block from the academy but attends an area public high school. She talked about "micro plastics and toxic chemicals" in the proposed field. "My generation has enough environmental problems that have been given to us," she said. "This is a chance for our community to stop some of the problems ahead of time."

The approved conditional use permit will allow the school to install four light poles higher than the permitted 35 feet. They plan to put in two that are 70 feet high and two that are 80 feet high. The approval is conditioned on having full cut off fixtures on the lights, using them only when the field is in use, and having them shut off by 10:15 pm. This was approved on a 6 to 2 vote with Chowdhury and Planning Commission President Chris Meyer voting no.

The commission approvals of the variances that would allow the larger bleachers and scoreboard passed unanimously.

Since the planning commission meeting and within the 10-day requirement, the school did not appeal the commission's decision. Nearby property owner Saumya Verma is appealing the height of the lights. The appeal will be heard by the council's Business, Housing and Zoning Committee on July 9 at 1:30 p.m.

OFF-DUTY POLICE >> from 1

income. Chauvin was also identified as an officer who helped coordinate and assign this kind of work.

The work occurs when a city law enforcement employee works as a Minneapolis police officer for another agency or private entity as an independent contractor in their spare time. It usually involves security or traffic control.

On May 23, 2024, the council instructed their staff to perform a fiscal analysis and make recommendations on how the city might administrate fees to recover costs related to such off-duty work. The report is to be made by July 24.

This follows a similar directive and report from 2023 that led to few reforms, including more efforts to track the hours worked.

"Unfortunately, that directive came back incomplete," said Ward 2 Council member Robin Wonsley, "so this week I reintroduced this work as a legislative motion, which will move it to the Policy and Research division of the legislative department."

"I support the ongoing evaluation of off-duty police work. And I support the ongoing work to increase transparency and accountability surrounding this off-duty police work," said Ward 11 Council Member Emily Koski. "I do believe the city should be properly compensated or reimbursed for the use of its resources, vehicles, tech, etc."

Concerns about how it is managed are not new and are shared by some small business owners as well as police reform advocates.

"It's absurd that Minneapolis cops get to use taxpayer funded squad cars, weapons, equipment, etc., for freelance work that the city has no control over," said Kevin Brown, who owns a small business in Seward.

"Taxpayers currently fund the use of squads, fuel, equipment and liability for off-duty work while deriving none of the benefits," said longtime police reform advocate Mitchell Gross of Citizens United Against Police Brutality.

The Department of Justice report released last June found that "off-duty employment also undermines supervision at MPD. Private entities can hire off-duty



3RD PRECINCT BUILDING REUSE

The city held an open house on June 10 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center at 1530 E Franklin Ave. to share a city proposal to use the former 3rd precinct police station building at 3000 Minnehaha. The proposal includes relocating the city's Elections & Voter Services from the space they are now renting in northeast Minneapolis. The building that was damaged during civil unrest in 2020 has been vacant and fenced-in ever since. Several staff from various departments were there to answer questions and share information, including senior project manager Alexander Kado and City Operations Officer Margaret Anderson Kelliher.

The proposal includes building a new warehouse space to store election equipment. It would also house election staff and house an early voting center.

At the open house, the city was also gathering feedback on how to use the roughly 8,000 square feet of the space for a yet-to-be-defined community use or uses. The facility could open in 2026. People may provide input through an online survey on the city website at www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/minnehaha-3000/.

MPD officers to provide security. In Minneapolis, these jobs can pay significantly more than overtime at MPD – up to \$150–175 per hour, according to a commander. MPD allows officers to use its squad cars (and gas), and the officer keeps all the compensation. The city has nothing. Some patrol officers manage these opportunities, deciding who gets the lucrative work. Because MPD allows patrol officers to control whether supervisors get off-duty employment opportunities, supervisors have ample disincentive to hold officers accountable.

Previously, there was a city auditor's report in 2019, and Mayor Jacob Frey established a task force in January 2020 that has yet to produce any work product.

"After the audit was released in 2019, Frey set up a Task Force, with Chief of Police, union rep, mayor's rep,

and Palmisano as City Council rep," said Brown. "About a year later, I tried to follow up with the mayor's office, and I think they said there had been one meeting, but it was not public, and this was at the height of COVID-19, so I don't think it ever went anywhere."

Ward 13 Council Member Linea Palmisano was reported to say at the time that reform needed to be negotiated in the police labor contract.

The new contract, however, says only that "full-time personnel may also work off-duty jobs, subject to the terms of the MPD Policy and Procedure Manual." The manual is controlled by the police leadership and clarifies that working independently using city resources is allowed.

It also stipulates that "all MPD employees who pursue off-duty employment must apply for and receive approval, be-

fore the off-duty employment commences." Officers working off-duty are also required to handle police calls that are brought to their attention while working off-duty, as they would if they were working on duty. This is one reason people support the current practices.

In 2023, the police reported that rates and hours are negotiated directly between employee and the off-duty employer, and that the city "does not have a fiscal analysis of off-duty work as the hour and wage information is not received by the department from the off-duty employers or employees."

When Brown contacted the city about hiring off-duty officers a few years ago, he was told to arrange that directly with an individual officer he knows.

"Off-duty work for the MPD is decentralized to the precincts and the job of managing it has historically been handed down from one person to the next. It is considered a plum role because it puts enormous power into the hands of the person who has that role," said Gross.

Minneapolis and Brooklyn Center both use a decentralized approach where businesses and organizations contact officers directly, and officers independently handle scheduling, rates and payment. St. Paul, Duluth, Bloomington and Rochester use a centralized approach where the local businesses or agencies request off-duty officers through the local police departments and pay those cities for the work, with negotiation and scheduling done by the department. Edina is an example of a city that uses a partially centralized model where the department manages work for particular venues or events and coordinates scheduling facilitate payments, while other off-duty work may be managed by officers independently.

Brown and Gross both prefer a more centralized approach. "In St. Paul, all off-duty assignments go through the police department, for obvious reasons," said Brown. "Why are we the outlier here?"

"This police coverage should be arranged through the city, billed by the city and paid to the officers through city payroll," said Gross. "There would also be more fairness to the officers because off-duty work wouldn't just be assigned to the buddies of the person in charge of it."

"I don't believe we'll ever reform the Minneapolis PD without reforming the off-duty rules," said Brown.

Tips on small choices in your yard that add up to big differences

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

What is a watershed?
 What is our local watershed called?
 Where does it begin and end?
 What is the largest watershed in the U.S.?

According to board chair of the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region, Mary Ellen Miller, "We all know our zip code and our area code. We should all know our watershed."

Everybody lives in a watershed, and ours is called the Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR). The League held an educational session where listeners could learn more about UMRR on Tuesday, March 26 via Zoom.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AT WORK

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in American democracy. Additionally, they work in and around these other four key issues: the environment, health care reform, the census, and immigration.

Members of the League of Women Voters advocating for environmental issues this year are focused on reducing nutrient pollution in the UMRR. They are concerned about both surface and ground water in the Mississippi River, and the threats posed to the environment and to human health.

Miller said, "Some issues are best understood and dealt with on a regional level that transcends political boundaries. That's especially true for water issues, because water contamination doesn't stop at municipal or state lines. What goes into the Upper Mississippi River is determined by decisions, actions, and choices made by many people over a very large region."

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

According to the U.S. Geologic Survey,

A WATERSHED MOMENT



A rain barrel collects roof runoff so you can save the rainwater for later use. Reroute downspouts away from pavement and onto grass, a rain barrel or a rain garden. (Photo courtesy of the University of Minnesota Extension)

a watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or point along a stream channel.

The northern-most boundary of our watershed starts at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park, Minn. It extends south to Cairo, Ill., where the Ohio River enters the Mississippi River channel. Along the way, it gains strength from major tributaries including the Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, St. Croix, Chippewa, Black, Wisconsin, and Kaskaskia rivers, and creeks and streams too numerous to name.

UMRR is made up of five states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. It is the largest watershed in the US. Its network of streams, floodplains, lakes and uplands comprise the largest area of contiguous freshwater wildlife habitat in the central United States.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The Mississippi River Valley is a vital migration corridor for 40 percent of North America's waterfowl and 60 percent of its bird species.

It provides habitat for more than 125 fish species and 30 species of freshwater mussels.

More than 30 million people live and work in the UMR basin and rely on it for food, transportation, power production, and drinking water.

WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM

The cumulative effects of water pollution in the UMRR (and everywhere) are overwhelming. What can individuals do to improve the health of our watershed?

Whether urban, suburban or rural, our homes and yards are all connected through water. The effects of how we steward the places we live show up far beyond our property lines. Our small choices add up in the big scheme of things. As the gardening season approaches, consider doing one or more of the following:



Both Minneapolis and St. Paul are part of the Upper Mississippi River Region watershed and what happens in individual yards affects the entire watershed area. The Mississippi River flows through the Ford Dam, just north of the confluence of the Mississippi and the Minnesota rivers. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

1. Plant native plants to help keep soil in place. To get through Minnesota's hot summers and (usually) cold winters, prairie grasses like big bluestem grow deep roots to reach nutrients and water below. These roots act like an anchor for garden soil. Native plants and grasses are more drought tolerant, benefit pollinators, are beautiful and low maintenance.

2. Aerate your lawn once a year to break up the soil so nutrients and water can more easily reach roots. Mulch your leaves or "leave the leaves" in place in the fall.

3. Install a rain barrel to collect roof runoff, and save the rainwater for later use. Conserving water and preventing runoff into the storm water system is a double-win. Reroute downspouts away from pavement and into grass, a rain barrel, or rain garden. Conserve water indoors too by fixing leaks, turning off faucets when lathering hands and brushing teeth, and generally being more aware of water consumption.

WATERSHED >> 7



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LANDSCAPER!

Gardening Angel Garden Design

Design • Install • Maintain

Residential & Commercial



Margi MacMurdo 612.206.7089 gardeningangel612@gmail.com



MN Lic. BC750502



BRING NEW LIFE TO YOUR ORIGINAL WINDOWS

- Wood combination storm windows
- Sash cord repair and tune-up
- Weatherstripping
- Restoration and refinishing



SCAN ME

hayeswindows.com 612-259-7855

NELSON

ELECTRIC INC.

EST 1963

Service is Our Specialty

FREE - estimates

Call today for an appointment

Office Space for Lease

- Residential
- Industrial
- Restaurant
- Lighting Retrofits
- Commercial
- Solar

Robert Nelson - Owner

www.nelsonelectricinc.com

612-724-9500 or 763-444-1523



Contractor's Lic. #20636575
 Electric Lic. #EA001304



Kiwi plant (at left) and red currants are two unusual fruits local gardeners can grow.

Unusual fruits for your Minnesota garden

THE CITY GARDENER



BY LAUREN BETHKE,
Master Gardener

You probably know that many different fruits are commonly grown in Minnesota, like apples, raspberries, and grapes. But did you know we can also grow kiwis? Read on to learn about some unusual fruits that can add fun and flavor to your landscape.

First, as I mentioned above – yes, you can grow kiwis in Minnesota! These are not the traditional large fuzzy fruits that you often see in the grocery store, but a related cold-hardy version sometimes referred to as “kiwiberries.” They grow on vines and produce grape-sized berries with a distinctive kiwi flavor. Their skin is thin and smooth, and they do not need to be peeled before eating.

In order to produce kiwiberries, you need to plant a male and a female vine (or one male vine for each 6 to 8 female vines, if you want to grow multiple plants). There are two species of sweet kiwi that can be grown in our climate - *Actinidia kolomikta* and *Actinidia arguta*. *A. kolomikta* is more compact and has beautiful green, white, and pink variegated foliage. The most common variety of *A. kolomikta* is called Arctic Beauty. *A. arguta* is slightly less cold-hardy and may be sold under the names Bower Berry, Issai, or simply Arguta.

You may think of apricots and peaches as strictly southern fruits, but there are varieties we can grow in our northern climate! Cold hardy apricot varieties include Westcot, Scout, and Moongold, and cold hardy peaches include Reliance, Contender, and Intrepid. The challenge with growing stone fruits in Minnesota is that they bloom early in the spring and the blooms are delicate, so if we have a late frost, the tree may not produce any fruit that year. However, if you're comfortable with the idea that some years may be a bust, it can be really fun to grow these trees at home. In the years that you do get fruit, you will probably get a

lot of it, and there's nothing like eating a warm peach straight from the tree. These trees are fairly easy to care for – the biggest thing to watch out for is birds eating the fruit before it ripens, which can be prevented by placing netting over the trees in June through August. Also, keep in mind that you will generally need to plant at least two trees that are compatible with each other in order to produce fruit. A reputable nursery or garden center will be able to help you choose varieties that work well together.

Currants, gooseberries, and jostaberries are great fruit bushes that produce delicious berries without taking up as much space as a fruit tree. Currants grow on bushes that are generally 3-6 feet wide and tall, and produce clusters of small pea-sized berries that may be pink, white, red, or purple/black, depending on the variety. Many varieties are self-fertile, meaning that one plant will produce fruit even if there are no other currant bushes nearby. Gooseberries are similar, but produce larger grape-sized fruit that may be light green, pink, or red when ripe. Gooseberry bushes have thorns, so be careful when pruning and harvesting! Powdery mildew and pine blister rust can be a challenge for currants and gooseberries, so look for resistant varieties such as Rovada (red currant), Honeyqueen (red currant), Blanka (white currant), Titania (black currant), Poorman (gooseberry), and Invicta (gooseberry).

Jostaberries (pronounced YUST-a-ber-ry) are a cross between a black currant and gooseberry. This is one of my personal favorite fruits for the home garden! Jostaberries are sweet, mostly thornless, disease resistant, and easy to grow. Jostaberries are self-fertile, so you only need to plant one bush, and they are shade tolerant, making them very versatile additions to the landscape. The berries are grape-sized and turn nearly black when ripe.

As you can see, if you'd like to branch out this year and try growing some interesting fruits, you have many great options! For more information, check out the University of Minnesota Extension Yard and Garden website. Extension resources are written by experts and contain the latest and most reliable research-based information. Happy gardening!

to protect water resources in the Twin Cities? Here are three of the approximately three dozen watershed organizations at work in the metro area:

- St. Paul's Capitol Region Watershed District: www.capitolregionwd.org
- In Minneapolis, the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization: www.mwmo.org, and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District: www.minnehahacreek.org

Gretchen Sable is the League of Women Voters communications director. She said, “Water is the most important resource on our planet. The League of Women Voters works at all levels of government to build public awareness and understanding of water-related issues, so that citizens can engage in promoting positive solutions.”

WATERSHED >> from 6

4. With climate change accelerating, when it rains now – it pours. If you have a lawn, you can help reduce runoff by keeping rain where it lands. Mow your lawn to 3' inch high, or more. The taller the grass, the deeper the roots; the deeper the roots, the more water absorption there is into the soil. Leave lawn clippings in place to encourage richer, more absorbent soil.

5. Spend time in and along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Learn to love what is too easy to take for granted.

WATERSHED RESOURCES

Want to learn more about UMRR or get involved with organizations working

612.729.7608 • www.buck-bros.com

BUCK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION
MN license #4593

We design & build
in your neighborhood

Kitchens, Baths, Additions
Restorations

6 of 10 readers say they frequently purchase products and services from ads that they see in the Messenger.



Support your neighbors, live a more sustainable life, and build community.

Tell them you saw it in the Messenger.

John Njoes
REALTOR®
612.419.4576
john.njoes@lakesmn.com

Lakes | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Your Neighbor since 1984

Home ownership is within reach.

Let us show you the possibilities.

The team at CorTrust Mortgage is ready to explore available loan programs that can make purchasing a home possible. We'll work to uncover down payment and closing cost assistance programs in your area.

Stop by or scan to learn more. We would love to see you!

CorTrustMortgage.com
Member FDIC • Bank ID 405612
NMLS 458038



Phil McGraw is the owner of Plant Bar Cafe, a juice bar that delivers fresh and nutritious drinks. McGraw highlights the importance of health and safety, as well as how much he has benefitted, and he uses this to teach and motivate others about the importance of diet. (Photo by Terbutto Ochothow)



Priscilla Momah performs live on stage. A Minnesota native currently residing on the Big Island of Hawaii, she connects with her West African ancestors to display and explore her diversified experience as a young, melanated, free-spirited Queen. (Photo by Terbutto Ochothow)



(Left to right) Ronnie Spann, Genesis Williams, and Olivia Funkhouser Reynolds of the Open Road Fund assist Black individuals, families, and communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota in building community and intergenerational wealth. (Photo by Terbutto Ochothow)



Everything he creates is from scratch, said Abdi Ahmed, owner of Sambusa Express. Earlier in the day, Ahmed had the largest line of customers waiting to order crispy, golden, delicious sambusas. Sambusa Express is located in St Paul. (Photo by Terbutto Ochothow)

Longfellow's Soul of Southside celebrates Black Liberation with food, music, dance and more.



Marianne McCulloch is CEO of BrazilianFunky. She has been making handcrafted jewelry since she was a child, which has helped her see beyond the dark clouds to the color in her art. (Photo by Terbutto Ochothow)



Bossy Barbie Dollz Dance Studio students perform indoor at the Hook and Ladder during Soul of the Southside on Juneteenth, June 19, 2024. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

MORE PHOTOS online at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com



**SAINT HELENA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
GRADES PK-8
NOW ENROLLING!**



**WHY SAINT HELENA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL?**

- Academic Excellence
- Small Class Sizes
- Authentic Catholic Values
- Caring, Joyful Environment
- Emphasis on Spanish, Music, and Arts
- 4-Star Rated Preschool Program
- Affordable Tuition & Financial Aid



612-729-9301 3200 East 44th Street, Minneapolis

ACE
HANDYMAN
SERVICES™
Bringing Helpful To Your Home

To schedule an appointment or get a quote, call us at

612.822.9952

We are always looking to add talented craftsmen/craftswomen to our growing team.



**NOKOMIS EAST
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**



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

OUR GIVING GARDEN



Volunteers weed, water, plant and harvest food at the neighborhood Giving Garden, located at Trinity Lutheran Church. (Photo submitted)

Eight years ago, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association worked with the community to create the Giving Garden. The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association's Gateway Garden and Nokomis Naturescape had been so successful that the environment committee decided to create a similar garden, but instead of working as a community to help our local pollinators, this garden would grow fruits and vegetables for our local food shelves.

This garden has been volunteer-run and consistently provided 500-600 pounds of food to both the Minnehaha Food Shelf and Nokomis Food Shelf since its inception. Heidi Davis, garden volunteer and member of the Nokomis East Giving Garden Committee, has been working in the garden since it began and has been part of a group that ensures it runs smoothly. Watching Heidi calmly pull weeds in what felt like a green oasis in the middle of our city provided a clear sense of calm for me. "Every year, it feels like a miracle when things come up," she said humbly. Last year, she doubled the garden's output by growing 1,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables for our food shelves. She said she did this because she planted more tomatoes later in the season,

and serve, and nutritious, goes a long way. This is why she does not simply measure her success in pounds – she also measures it in nutrients and how it is received.

How does the garden committee decide what to grow? They ask the food shelves what their guests would like to see. A simple survey to show which foods would be culturally relevant, easy to cook

and serve, and nutritious, goes a long way. This is why she does not simply measure her success in pounds – she also measures it in nutrients and how it is received.

This year, the garden is run by a committee of five people and has a group of 40 volunteers. "Many hands make light work and many people pitch in," Heidi said. She observed that like her, people often sign up to come in after work to pull weeds and water the garden. She described having a purpose and a soothing thing

to do before heading home at the end of the day. She has been doing this for eight years. When I asked her how she was able to do this for so long, she pointed to all of the global catastrophes occurring. Then she pointed to her oasis. "I know I can affect right here," she said referring to our community, "...and if you have something, share it." This year she's installing a drip irrigation system to help the garden grow larger and save water. She clearly does her research and wants to have the best outcome for both people and the environment.

About three years ago, the garden moved to Trinity Lutheran Church. "The church has been so wonderful. Everything we propose, they ask, 'how can we help you?'" she said, then began listing all of the ways they have helped, including building a beautiful sign so people walking by can see what the garden is for. When asking her about future plans outside of the new irrigation system, she pointed to some overgrowth behind the garden and said maybe there'd be raspberry bushes, native flowers, and perennials.

"I don't know if people know, but they can donate to the food shelf from their own garden," Heidi pointed out. "Prices of vegetables are so high. Everything is appreciated." She said most of the food goes to the Minnehaha food shelf, but a large part of it also goes to the Nokomis East Food Shelf. "We would love to have more volunteers; we would love to have more people," she said about the garden. If you're interested in volunteering, email nena.giving.garden@gmail.com.

CITY BRIEFS

2633 MINNEHAHA SAFETY CENTER UPDATES

City staff reported on a first round of engagement about the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center at 2633 Minnehaha Ave that is expected to include police department staff dedicated to serve the southside's 3rd precinct area once it opens in 2025. Staff identified the five most supported social services to be those focused on mental health, homeless resources, drug addiction services, youth, and affordable housing. The five most supported other building uses included legal help, community meals, community meeting space, medical services, and childcare for people using services at the center. To learn more see www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/community-safety-centers/.

Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley is hosting a meeting on July 11 at 6 p.m. at Matthews Park to discuss the proposed 3rd Precinct/South Minneapolis Community Safety Center that will be opening next year at 2633 Minnehaha Ave in Seward.

POLICE CONTRACT

The Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis voted to ratify a new proposed contract with Minneapolis that is expected to be voted on by the City Council in July following a public hearing set for June 25 starting at 5 p.m. The contract includes a 21.7% pay increase over the three years. If approved, the contract would be retroactively applied to Jan 1, 2023, and expire on Dec 31, 2025.

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET

On June 11, the Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Education approved a capital funding plan and an operating budget that addressed a \$110 million dollar loss in revenue by cutting \$47 million through reductions in staff and some programs and using \$55 million from the district's fund reserves. They will increase the class size by three students in those schools where fewer than 70% of the students are on free or reduced meals, but did not cut a popular 5th grade band program and three assistant principals as first proposed.

ANISHINABE ACADEMY

The Minneapolis School Board has approved a resolution, authored by board member Adriana Cerrillo, that will establish an Anishinabe Academy Facility Advisory Committee to make recommendation next November of potential sites for the Academy move to so that it will have its own building for the 2025-2026 school year. For the past 14 years, the Academy has shared a building with the Anne Sullivan STEAM School at 3100 E 28th St.

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

The Minneapolis Public School District announced plans to shorten the school year next year. The last day of school in spring of 2025 will be June instead of June. In response some schools will likely extend their school day to meet state requirements about time in school.

CITY BUDGET PROCESS BEGINS

Minneapolis elected officials are beginning their budget process with an estimated \$21 million shortfall in predicted revenue due largely to decreasing property taxes from downtown. Mayor Jacob Frey will present his 2025 proposed budget in August with final budget approval set for December. The council also shared priorities of individual council members. Southside council member priorities follow.

- Wonsley, Ward 2: Emergency Housing, City Policy Traffic Calming, Sidewalk Plowing, Dinky After Dark;
- Osman, Ward 6: Graffiti Removal, Indigenous Wealth Building Center Project, Homelessness Prevention, Opioid Response;
- Jenkins, Ward 8: 38th Street Thrive, George Floyd Square, and Pillsbury Creative Commons;
- Chavez, Ward 9: AVIVO Village, Tamales y Bicitetas, Latino Center for Community Engagement;
- Koski, Ward 11: Maintain or Lower Levy, Police Hiring & Retention, Auto Theft Prevention, Traffic Calming, Small Business Labor Standards project, Fire Station Alerting Systems;
- Chowdhary, Ward 12: Transit Safety Coordinators, Neighborhood Associations, Zero Waste Initiatives, Small Business Support During Road Work, Public Health Needs Related to Homelessness, Traffic Calming.

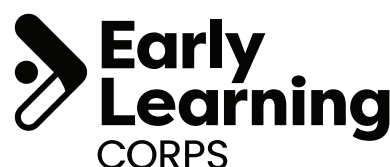
POLICE SHOOTING

On June 12, Minneapolis police officers shot and killed Michael Warren Ristow near Hiawatha and 34th St. According to Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, "Officers responded after a 911 caller reported being threatened by a man with a gun. When they arrived, they saw

the man, later identified as Ristow He ran away and the officers chased after him while telling him he was under arrest. Ristow came up to a fence line and turned toward the officers with a gun in his hand. All three officers fired, striking Ristow." He died of multiple gunshot wounds. None of the officers were injured.

Put Your Passion in ACTION

Become a Tutor!
Join.ReadingandMath.org



Meet Longfellow Community Council's new executive director Joel McReynolds

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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



Joel McReynolds joined the Longfellow Community Council after a decade of experience in nonprofit programming, including youth mentoring, community gardens, refugee outreach, fundraising, and neighborhood development. Through all these programs, he's witnessed firsthand how neighbors can come together to create positive, sustainable social change.

Before coming to LCC, Joel worked at Banyan Community, a community development nonprofit based in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. While at Banyan, Joel supervised the family and community programs, including a block club program, a monthly community breakfast, and violence prevention initiatives.

Joel studied public administration and ethnic and racial studies at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and received his master's in applied community and economic development from Illinois State University. He enjoys being involved in the Greater Longfellow community and fills his free time playing ukulele, riding the bike paths, exploring the outdoors, and following British soccer.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE AND WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

I currently live in the Phillips neighborhood with my partner and two cats. I enjoy Minneapolis' excellent parks system and frequent the parks and lakes to play tennis, relax, swim, and kayak. I love exploring new-to-me restaurants and the performing arts scene, so I appreciate living in a city with access to so many diverse and exciting opportunities. I also love to read and learn from new perspectives, and one of my hobbies is reviewing books from publishers before they are released.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO IN LONGFELLOW?

Choosing only one favorite thing to do in Longfellow is hard, but my most frequented neighborhood activity is biking. I live near the Greenway right now, so I use it to commute to the LCC office and get to the beautiful river bike paths. I love being able to bike around Greater Longfellow easily.

WHAT DREW YOU TO LONGFELLOW AND THIS POSITION?

The Greater Longfellow community is a large, diverse, energetic part of the city that really excites me. It has a great blend of family-focused neighborhoods and innovative businesses. When researching the position, I noticed the incredibly high rate of longevity for Longfellow residents - according to the data, most people who live in Longfellow want to stay and don't move out of the neighborhood. And for good reason! I'm privileged to be able to join the LCC, which has a long and successful history of serving the community by engaging, involving, and empowering residents to improve the well-being of all in the area. I look forward to getting to know the neighborhood better and collaborating with the community to make great things happen.

Contact him at joel@longfellow.org.

Faith

Neighborhood churches welcome you.

Bethel Lutheran Church
4120 17th Ave S • 612-724-3693
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 fun!

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

Epworth United Methodist
3207 37th Ave. • 612-722-0232
www.epworthmpls.org
A Congregation-Led Community
A Reconciling Congregation
Sundays 8:45am - Faith Formation for All Ages; 10am - Worship In-person & Live-streaming on Our FB Page - @EpworthUMCMPLS
Weed & Water Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am in the Epworth Garden for kids 0-8 and their caregivers! Play time & garden fun!

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church
3430 E 51st St. • 612-729-5463
www.faithlutheranmpls.org
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, July 20, 12-2 pm
Senior Exercise Class Mondays 10 a.m.

ISKCON Minnesota Temple
4000 Minnehaha Ave
www.iskconminnesota.org
Mon-Fri - Open 6:30 to 7:30pm
Sunday Temple Service 4:30pm to 7pm (Kirtan, Dharma talk, free vegetarian feast)
Wednesday Night Wisdom Talk 7-8pm
All are welcome. We practice Bhakti Yoga, devotional service to God. Stop by and see what it's all about.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527
www.minnehahacommunion.org
Pastor Kyle Anderson
(Handicapped Accessible)
Reconciling in Christ Congregation
9:30 am-Sunday Worship in person & online
Go to church website for info
12-step groups Tuesday thru Friday evenings

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
3400 Park Ave. • 612-825-6863
www.parkavechurch.org
Senior Pastor Gregg Taylor, Minister of Preaching Steven Belton
Sundays: 8-9am early risers, 10am service, 10-12 children and youth
Livestream worship 9:45-11:30am

St. Albert the Great Catholic
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave. S.
612-724-3643
www.saintalbertthegreat.org
Fr. DePorres Durham, O.P.
Saturday mass 5:00 pm
Sunday mass 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook), 12 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm Saturdays; Or by appointment
Weekday masses at 8:15 am, M, T, Th, F in the chapel

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 or call/text 612-235-7197.

Deliver newspapers. Earn \$15/hr

THEY'RE BUYING ONLINE BECAUSE ITS EASIER.
ADVERTISE IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO BUY LOCALLY.



TRIVIA NIGHT

AUG. 15

& NOVEMBER 7

AT 6PM

HOSTED BY

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

QUIZZES • FOOD PRIZES • DRINKS • FUN

FREE TO PLAY!

tables of 4-8

COME SOLO OR COME AS A TEAM

EAGLES 34

2507 E 25TH ST S

MINNEAPOLIS, 55406

MORE INFORMATION AT LONGFELLOW.ORG @LONGFELLOWCOMMUNITYCOUNCIL

Southside Kickball Tournament

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

July 27th | 9am

Register by July 18th



NOW THEY SEE YOU

IT'S TIME TO ADVERTISE
LEARN MORE



Contact us at 612-345-9998
denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com
tesha@tmcpub.com
sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com
Suzie: ads@swconnector.com



Health

MEN'S WALKING GROUP

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

Pets

DOG WALKING

John's Dog Walking - Daily dog walks, boarding and in home pet visits. 15 years experience, Insured and Bonded. 612-825-9019. www.facebook.com/john-petservice.

DIGITAL FATIGUE.

IT'S A REAL THING.

COMBAT IT BY MARKETING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER.

Home

CRISIS HOTLINE

Call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 if you or someone you know is seeking shelter due to a dangerous relationship or needs to create a safety plan.

GUTTER CLEANING

Gutter cleaning. Let the Rain Drain Away. Call Larry 651-635-9228.

HANDYMAN

Dr. House does it all: From a leaky faucet to a new addition. I can save you money on electrical and plumbing. Call John at 651-231-5652.

HOUSE CLEANING

20/20 Cleaning, Dependable House Cleaning, Family Owned and Operated, Serving the Area for Over 25 Years, 651-635-9228, www.2020cleaningspecialist.com.

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, sidewalks, 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

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

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING

Matthew Molinaro
FREE ESTIMATES
612.239.2508
MolinaroTree.com
lic&Insured | certified arborist MN-4551A

3742 MINNEHAHA AVENUE
SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS

EXPERT GLOVE REPAIR
(651) 399-5155
DJGLOVEREPAIR@GMAIL.COM

Roofing Gutters Windows

40+ years experience, licensed and insured.
Greg Johnson
701-831-1379

Double YOUR IMPACT with Print & Digital ADVERTISING!

Buying

- ★ Free Appraisals ★
- Memorabilia Sports Card Collections**
- ★ Consignment Available ★

Info@minnicandpaul.com
612-208-6405

THINK STUCCO

ADVERTISE WITH THE **TRUSTED SOURCE** YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Jay Anderson
Real Estate since 1993
612-819-7555
jay@CBBurnet.com

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

YOU TAKE GREAT CARE OF YOUR FAMILY

Let us help ensure their safety by taking great care of your car.

Alexander's
IMPORT AUTO REPAIR

2904 E. 35th Street
612.729.2516
www.alexandersimportautorepair.com

WE'RE HIRING. WORK LOCAL.
• Full benefits • No weekends • Competitive pay • Flat Rate Bonus

When quality and price matter, True Blue has your back

• Roofing • Siding
• Storm Damage
• Insurance Experts

Free Estimates Local & Family Owned
763-208-8862 www.truebluebuilders.org

EVENTS

REMOVE BUCKTHORN AT MINNEHAHA PARK

Join the Friends of Minnehaha Park to remove buckthorn Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays, 1-3 p.m. through July 6. Meet at the Wabun Picnic Area free parking lot in Minnehaha Regional Park. Connect with nature, meet new friends, and make a positive impact on the community. Don't forget to wear sturdy shoes and long pants and sleeves. Tools and training are provided.

'LOVE IN A TIME OF HATE'

Nokomis neighborhood resident Alex Hagan will perform in the role of Capulet in the Teatro del Pueblo's presentation of "Love in a Time of Hate," a reimagined modern adaptation of Shakespeare's classic Romeo and Juliet with a Latino twist, June 20-30 at Minnesota Opera's Luminary Arts Center in Minneapolis (700 N. 1st Street). This modern adaptation, with a Latino twist, explores timeless themes of love, power, free-will and hope in a futuristic world where unscrupulous politicians manipulate the masses to stay in power. The music, a unique and lively collaboration between Teatro del Pueblo and Bach Society of Minnesota, will be led by Music Director, Marco Real-d'Arbelles, who serves as the Associate Artistic Director for Bach Society of Minnesota and is participating as part of the collaborative program "Outside the Box" that he created. The performance will feature a fusion of Baroque music and a Latino soundscape, creating an immersive and electrifying backdrop to the story. June 27 and 28 performances are pay-what-you can (suggested \$30 amount). Teatro del Pueblo is a non-profit Latino theater company dedicated to promoting, celebrating, and preserving the richness of Latinx heritage through the creation and presentation of performing arts.



NEW STREET MURALS

The City of Minneapolis Department of Arts & Cultural Affairs has unveiled two new artist-designed asphalt murals on 21st Avenue in south Minneapolis. The murals are located near Folwell Community School and South High and are part of Public Works' Safe Routes to School program. The goal of Safe Routes to School is to make travel safer for kids throughout the city as they go to and from school and around their neighborhoods. "Research suggests that asphalt art can work in combination with other safety countermeasures to help lower vehicle speeds, reduce crashes, and improve traffic safety on our streets," said Minneapolis Public Works Director Tim Sexton. "Over the next two years, we'll evaluate safety outcomes at these two intersections with the goal to provide students with a safer route to school."

Artists Constanza Caraballo and Marco Agüero worked with students from Folwell and South High to design and paint the murals. "We have had an incredible experience working with the students, and their enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication have been truly inspiring," said Caraballo and Agüero. "Watching them come together to bring this project to life has been a rewarding journey, showcasing the power of community and collaboration. We are proud to see their artistic talents shine and grateful for the opportunity to guide and support them in this endeavor."

Mural locations:

- Folwell Community School: Intersection 21st Ave. S. and 35th St.
- South High Mural: Intersection of 21st Ave. S. and 31st St.

LONGFELLOW RIVER CLEAN UP JULY 13

Participate in the Longfellow River Clean Up on July 13 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet at East 36th Street and West River Parkway. Clean up trash and keep the river beautiful and healthy.

PAINT-A-THON BEING PLANNED

36th ART, a resident-led community improvement initiative in South Minneapolis, is deepening its partnership with the Hiawatha Collegiate High School to present Bridging Cultures, a weekend-long paint-a-thon and neighborhood cultural festival highlighting the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 14-15, 2024.

To transform the unwelcoming bridge, 36th ART selected City Mischief Murals, led by Thomasina TopBear. The paint-athon starts on Saturday, Sept. 14. On Sept. 15, as the paint-a-thon nears completion, an afternoon cultural festival will take place in Brackett Park, featuring music, dance, art making, hands-on educational activities, storytelling and more. Students at the high school, 90% of whom are Latinx, will help create and participate in the festival, which marks the first day of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The festival will be produced by Indigenous Roots, a renowned multicultural event organizer based in St. Paul. Bridging Cultures will culminate at 5 p.m. Sunday with the unveiling of the newly transformed bridge.

Leaders at the school, which opened its doors four years ago, are excited to build relationships with its Seward and Longfellow neighbors and grow broader community understanding and appreciation for the many facets of Latinx cultures housed in the school. The gathering will also introduce students and their families to the residents and businesses in the surrounding community. For more information, contact project manager Jack Becker at BeckerJack54@gmail.com.

Sizzling Deals All Summer Long at Seward Co-op

Get grilling this summer with fresh local finds at Seward Co-op. From heritage-bred meats to produce grown on small-scale farms, supporting a thriving local food system never tasted better.



SCAN FOR RECIPES, GRILLING TIPS, AND SALE ITEMS



2823 E. Franklin Ave., MPLS & 317 E. 38th St., MPLS
www.seward.coop

Living 50+

Quarterly in September, December, March and June

CONTACT US TODAY

Denis@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com | 651-917-4183
sandra.tmcpub@gmail.com | 612-260-7967

FUN CITY DOGS

Where a dog can be a dog!

Daycare & No cage boarding

Webcams
24-hour supervision
South Mpls

15,000 sq ft of indoor and outdoor space

612-722-3647 • www.funcitydogs.com

GET READY FOR

NOKOMIS DAYS

THE FIRST WEEKEND OF AUGUST

NokomisEastBA.com

NOKOMIS
NOKOMIS EAST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION