



Calling  
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>>10

## She hated bugs - so she decided to become an entomologist



*Jessica Miller of Dragons Wynd hosts bug clubs and insect safaris*

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Jessica Miller still shrieks sometimes when a spider jumps on her, but the south Minneapolis environmental entomologist has found that makes her more approachable when she's teaching classes on insects.

"People really open up. It disarms them quickly," Miller observed.

She began her career in art history and spent nearly a decade working at places like the American Swedish Institute and Minneapolis Institute of Arts. She learned the craft of production weaving while working for a craftswoman in northeast Minneapolis. Then the economy turned and she pivoted.

"I picked bugs because I really didn't like them," Miller explained. She didn't like being that girl who was scared of insects and decided to do something about it. She enrolled in the University of Minnesota and began taking entomology classes.

Turns out, it fit in well with her concern about water quality and the environment. And it all inspires new art, both her own and her students'.

"I got excited for aquatic insects when I found out they reflect the health of a water," Miller said.

She grew up in Longfellow and has lived along Minnehaha Creek in the Ericsson neighborhood since 1997. As a nine-year-old, Miller lost her leg when a driver hit the gas pedal instead of the  
SHE HATED BUGS >> 5

Ericsson resident Jessica Wyn Miller (right), an entomologist, leads a Bug Club adventure into the world of bugs near her Minnehaha Creek-side home. She has found that her work as an artist intersects with insects. "I got excited for aquatic insects when I found out they reflect the health of a water," she recalled. (Photos by Terry Faust)

## 90 years after the strike that made Minneapolis a union town

*Picnic to mark event at Wabun on July 27*

The 90th commemoration of the landmark 1934 truckers strike that made Minneapolis a union city hits high gear in July with a culminating picnic featuring striker descendants and labor activists, the laying of a wreath at the site of a North Loop massacre and a biking tour of key strike sites.

The 1934 strike broke the power of employers who had successfully resisted unionization. Strikers used tight discipline and innovative tactics to force recognition of Teamsters who powered local commerce as truck drivers and associated workers. The strike led to a contract that improved their working conditions.

It reverberated down through history when strike leaders went on to organize over-the-road truckers and even indirectly led to the Minneapolis Aquatennial.

"It is important for me as a Teamster to remember and honor the men and women of the 1934 strike," said Paul Slatery, organizing director for Teamster Local 120, the successor unit of the local that organized the 1934 strike. "They gave their

90 YEARS AFTER TRUCKER'S STRIKE >> 12



## First tribal college opens in Twin Cities

*Red Lake Nation College's downtown Minneapolis campus is one of first tribal colleges in a major U.S. city*

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

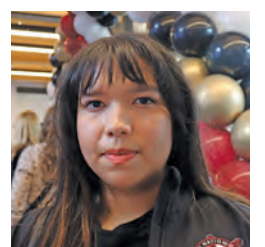
The newly open Red Lake Nation College in downtown Minneapolis is one of the first tribal colleges in a major U.S. city and is reaching a "never-served" community," according to Dan King, Hereditary Chief at Red Lake Nation and President of Red Lake Nation College (RLNC).

"Our grand opening represents a significant step towards providing accessible education to Native American communities living in urban areas," said King. "By establishing our Minneapolis location, we are pioneering a new era of tribal college presence in major metropolitan centers,

offering globally relevant courses steeped in Ojibwe culture to prepare students for success in the modern job market."

Close to the Franklin/Lake St. Native community, the Minneapolis campus at 900 S. 3rd St. across from the U.S. Bank Stadium is near bus and light rail lines. The new facility is a blend of old and new, in keeping with the RLNC vision of honoring and adapting. Two 1905 brick buildings are joined together with a new addition that features the same graphite siding as the U.S. Bank Stadium. The original wood

FIRST TRIBAL COLLEGE >> 11



"Culture is embedded in everything we're learning," stated Marrison Martin. "It all comes down to identity and feeling really safe here."



Activists rally to save historic Bethany Church building in Seward

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Sanford students spread kindness during service day

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## Augsburg University plans to sell former Bethany Church building

By IRIC NATHANSON

For 70 years, Eric Johnson has lived in the shadow of Bethany Church, but that shadow may soon disappear if the building's current owner, Augsburg University, moves ahead with plans to demolish the historic structure at the corner of Franklin and 25th Avenue.

Johnson and a group of his neighbors want to stop that from happening.

"Bethany has played such an important role in the life of this community. It needs to be preserved. We can't lose it," Johnson maintains.

Joel Albers, a long-time Seward activist, shares Johnson's concerns. "Bethany is a sacred place. It was founded by Scandinavian immigrants, whose culture did so much to shape this city's character. The building is a local landmark, but the church is much more than a building. Bethany has long served as a safe space, welcoming, caring and healing the people of this community, particularly its new arrivals."

Bethany traces its origins back to 1902, when its Norwegian Lutheran congregation began building a new home on its current site, only to see the building destroyed by fire. The church was rebuilt and held its first service in 1918. But like many inner-city congregations, Bethany faced dwindling resources and a shrinking membership roll in recent years. In 2021, the congregation voted to disband and gift its building to Augsburg University.

After the school took over management duties, several community-based programs continue to occupy the Franklin Avenue building. They included a unique food program known as Soup for You, and the Minnesota Chapter of the Center of Islamic-American Relations. But those organizations were forced to relocate earlier this year when Augsburg closed the building and made plans to sell the property.

# Activists rally to save historic Seward Church



Joel Albers and Eric Johnson, both Seward residents, are working to save the historic Bethany Church from being demolished. They think the community will regret destroying a historic structure.

One prospective buyer is the Somali Museum of Minnesota, now located on East Lake Street. The museum wants to build a new facility on the Bethany site.

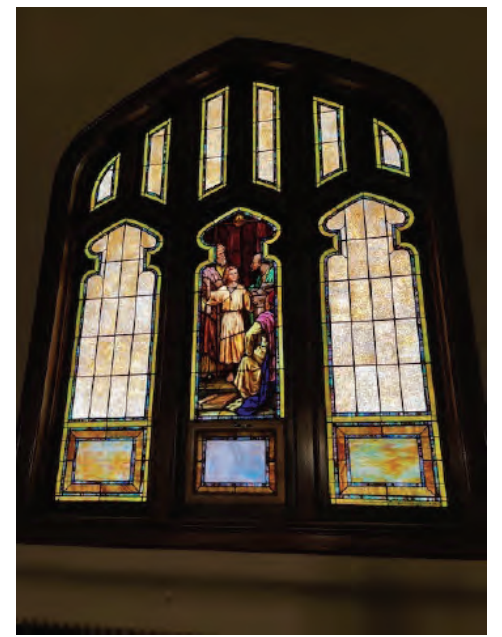
Albers and his group hope to hold off demolition by obtaining designation for Bethany as an official historic landmark by the Minneapolis Historic Preservation Commission. Designation, in and of itself, does not prevent demolition of historic sites, but it does require an extensive evaluation by the commission before the city can issue a demolition permit. The group working to preserve Bethany also hopes to get a large swath of Seward, which includes Bethany and several other nearby churches, declared an historic district.

If his group succeeds in obtaining landmark designation for Bethany, Albers

knows the building needs about \$3.8 million in deferred maintenance before it can be put back into productive use. "That is a significant amount, but it is nowhere near the \$20-\$30 million needed to demolish the existing church and build a new structure on the site."

The Seward preservationists have not yet put together an operating plan for a newly reconfigured Bethany but there are several models they could follow, according to Albers. One could replicate the plan in place for the Walker Methodist Church in Powderhorn Park.

There, the church building, now called the New City Center for Healing Justice, is managed by a nonprofit collective called Grapevine. The collective draws on volunteer labor to help defray the cost



Stained glass windows brighten the interior of Bethany Church.

of maintaining the center, which houses several non-profit organizations, including the Walker congregation.

Albers and Johnson know they face serious challenges as they move ahead to preserve and repurpose Bethany while maintaining its service role. But they are encouraged by the strong support they are receiving from the Seward community.

"Too often in the past, historic buildings have been demolished. Then, in later years, the people of Minneapolis have come to regret that action," Johnson notes. "The Metropolitan Building, which succumbed to the wrecking ball in 1961, is a good example. Bethany Church may not be another Metropolitan Building, but it has a rich history. Let's not make the same mistake with our own historic building that Minneapolis made with the Metropolitan."

"If we do, I know we will come to regret it."

## CITY BRIEFS

### EARLY VOTING

Early voting for the state primary election for Aug. 13 started on June 28. People who wish to vote early can do so in person at the Early Vote Center, 980 E. Hennepin Ave. or by mail. The general election will be held on Nov. 5.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERA PILOT

The city is preparing to provide automated enforcement of traffic laws following the state law change that now allows cameras to be used to enforce speeding and traffic light laws and authorizes a 4-year pilot for Minneapolis and Mendota Heights for speeding and red light running to go from Aug. 1, 2025-July 31, 2029. According to report presented on July 11, 33 people were killed in crashes involving speeding/red light running in Minneapolis in 2022 and 2023. City staff hope to start the pilot with roughly five cameras as early as Aug. 1, 2025 and expand it in 2026. Later this month they hope to apply for federal grant to help cover costs and return to the council for pilot framework approval this fall with more community engagement in early 2025.

### LAKE STREET SAFETY COORDINATOR

The city has selected the Lake Street Council to hire and supervise a full-time Community Safety Coordinator to manage a Lake Street Public Safety Coordinator Pilot Program from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026. The coordinator would work with residents, businesses, other community members and city staff to improve safety along Lake Street from

Pillsbury Ave. to the West, 28th St. to the North, Hiawatha Ave. to the East, and 32nd St. to the South.

### LAKE STREET SAFETY CENTER LEASE

The council has approved a 24-month lease agreement with Wellington Management of \$281,187.77, for the Lake Street Community Safety Center at 2228 Lake St. E.

### VACANT BUILDING ORDINANCE STRENGTHENED

The Minneapolis City Council has amended its vacant building ordinance to better recover costs and, hopefully, encourage property owners to get their properties off the vacancy property list sooner. The new ordinance can result in property owners receiving up to \$2,000 a month in fines.

### COMMUNITY COMMISSION ON POLICE OVERSIGHT

The city council has approved new appointees to their police oversight commission. New southside appointees include Amiin Dakane for Ward 6 and Bridgette Stewart for Ward 8.

### MIDTOWN GREENWAY PLAN

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is exploring the addition of the Greenway to the Metropolitan Council's regional trail system. The draft plan needed to do so is now open for public comment until Aug. 5. A public hearing will then likely be held later this year. The plan needs to be approved by MPRB and Metropolitan Council before implementation. For more information, visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/park-projects/current\\_projects/midtown\\_greenway\\_trail\\_plan/](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/park-projects/current_projects/midtown_greenway_trail_plan/)

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon



### LBA BOARD MEMBERS

At the Longfellow Business Association annual meeting, they welcomed in new board members Andrew Kraft of the Bungalow Club (second from left) and Jamie Schwesnedl of Moon Palace Books (fourth from right). Returning board members include: Board Vice President Anna Tsantir (Two

Bettys Green Clean), Board President Ken McCraley (KMS Construction) Lauren Callis (Curiosity Studio), Michael Cain (Kennedy & Cain Law Firm), and Cathy Heying (The Lift Garage). Not pictured: Dan Kennedy (Kennedy & Cain Law Firm), and Denis Woulfe (Longfellow Nokomis Messenger).

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

## Too much coffee



BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN  
Owner & editor  
tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com

I love finding the small town in a big city.

When I moved down to Minneapolis after working for my hometown newspaper in Cambridge, Minn. for a decade, I was delighted to find that sense of community that I had cultivated at the STAR newspaper within the pages of the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger. And so I reached out to write for the neighborhood newspaper. That was about 13 years ago.

When I heard that Crazy Days/Nokomis Days was getting a reboot in 2021 after a 30-year hiatus, it reminded me of the small-town events I had covered for years and grabbed deals at. There's something about bringing people out all at the same time on the same streets to check out their local businesses, listen to music, participate in fun activities, shop, and eat great food.

That's how we build community.

And so I jumped in, too. I've been serving on the Nokomis Days planning committee and am now a board member of the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA), a group that focuses on connecting local businesses and community members. They were behind the Treasure Hunt during the long COVID-19 winter of 2020, annual tree lightings at Oxendale's, and more. They meet up for happy hours and coffee times, and gather in the lower community room at McDonald's Liquor every third Wednesday at 6 p.m. Reach out to our friendly volunteer Heidi van Heel at nokomiseastba@gmail.com to learn more about the meet-ups and memberships. Or, browse [www.nokomiseastba.com](http://www.nokomiseastba.com).

### SCAVENGER HUNT

This year's Nokomis Days is Aug. 2-4, the first weekend of August. It always rains at some point, but that doesn't stop the fun. Events are spread out around East Nokomis over the three days of the festival, and there's something for everyone. Each business organizes its own piece of the event, whether it is coming up with a great new drink, hosting a parking lot party, or giving away freebies.

Be sure to thank them for their part as

# SEE YOU ON THE NOKOMIS DAYS SCAVENGER HUNT



Nokomis East Business Association Board Members (left to right): Natalie Lyon of Farmer's Insurance, Jackie Sawyer of Nokomis Tattoo, Colin Johnston of Steve's Tire, Heidi van Heel of hvh Engage!, Patrick Jensen of Edward Jones and Tesha M. Christensen of the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger.

they're doing something extra for the community on top of operating small businesses.

At the helm of our planning committee are Heidi van Heel of the home-based hvh Engage! and Jackie Sawyer of Nokomis Tattoo. Jackie's husband, Mike Welch, helped kick start the festival in 2021 after he got to talking with the folks at Nokomis Shoes, who had never stopped having their annual sidewalk sale.

At each event, keep an eye out for passwords. Post to the NokomisEastBA Instagram account with #NokomisDaysHunt for a chance to win.

### ART CONTEST FOR T-SHIRTS

This year's Nokomis Days t-shirt design was created by Nora from Keewaydin, who landed the big one in the first Nokomis Days Kids Art Contest for grades three to five. Order yours at [nokomislife.com](http://nokomislife.com). Not only will you have a unique, limited-edition t-shirt, but you'll be supporting the Wenonah and Keewaydin Community Schools PTA who get a portion of each sale. Pre-orders are open through Sunday, July 28.

Last year, NEBA donated \$600 to Every Third Saturday through the t-shirt partnership with NokomisLife and Bitter

Buffalo.

Look for second-place winner Ilana's designs on this year's temporary tattoos. Other submissions are posted to the Instagram account.

### FRIDAY TO SUNDAY

The festival kicks off on Friday with a concert and artisan market behind Nokomis Tattoo from 5-8 p.m. Performing this year will be Nate Way, Chris and Miguel, and The Quick Fix.

Be sure to get some free gelato earlier in the day at Natalie Lyon Agency's Farmers Insurance. There will also be games, prizes, and swag under the U.S. Bank tent. (And if you're feeling like you need more gelato, head over to Fat Lorenzo's for their special flavor, spicy chocolate, available Aug. 2-4).

End Friday night at the 4th annual Carbone's Music Festival where eight groups will be playing over two nights. There will be pizza slices and Fulton beer from the Fulton Airstream – plus games, prizes, and much more.

On Saturday, start with a pancake breakfast at Trinity Lutheran Church and bring donations for the food shelf housed there, browse through the vendor fair in the Oxendale's parking lot, and pop in to

the Workshop along 34th Ave. to see who wins this year's clay Throw Down.

Head over to New Branches Summer Celebration along Minnehaha Parkway for free hotdogs, chips, cookies, lemonade, games, chalk art, face painting, Quilt Studio To Go, Pride Tent, 32nd Street Jazz Band, All-Ages Drum & Song Circle, Broadway Revue Sing-Along and more.

Check out what's happening at the businesses along 54th St. Watt Cycleworks will be offering tire changing and basic bike maintenance lessons at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Try your hand at the potter's wheel at The Cracked Pot Studio, or create a one-of-a-kind sculpture using a variety of clay texture and sculpting tools.

Bring your classic car or just yourself to the Nokomis Days Classic Car Show at McDonald's Liquor & Wine. Across the street is the Town Hall and NENA parking lot party. Help paint a neighborhood art installation in the parking lot – all while DJ Rock the Monkey spins tunes.

Meet your new best friend in the Nokomis Tattoo parking lot during the Underdog Rescue event. Bring the kids to the Topsy Steer kiddie duck pond for prizes, and enjoy food and drink specials all day.

On Sunday, join neighbors for community worship and a blessing of animals at Lake Nokomis Community Center Outdoor Pavilion behind the new pickleball courts.

The Wellness Center MN will have free chair massage, Float Tank rubber duckie prizes and more. On the sidewalk outside of the Wellness Center MN, Lady and the Beard are putting on a Sidewalk Extravaganza with fun for all ages.

End your Nokomis Days at the Bull's Horn parking lot party with delicious food, coffee from SunBean, vendors, music, and the collab beer with Venn Brewing. When you stop by the Venn tent, get a Nokomis Days coupon for the taproom.

### SEND ME YOUR PHOTOS

Find the schedule, coupons, and more in the special section on pages 8-9 of this month's newspaper.

If you cut the schedule out and put it on your fridge or carry it around all weekend, shoot me a photo! We'll post it on our social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram). Email [tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](mailto:tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com) or tag us.

the spelling in my Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

At a recent meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council (AFL-CIO) Housing Committee I asked, "What can a person do when they turn 80?" Someone answered, "Run for President." For some reason I didn't resonate with that idea. That got a few laughs.

I never plan formal celebrations around my birthdays. I leave that to others. I am extending my birthday observance for at least a month probably until

OCTOGENARIAN >> 5

## Stories and Journeys



BY DONALD L. HAMMEN

### UPDATE REGARDING DEWAYNE TOWNSEND AND MARCEA MARIANNI'S NEW REALITY

Text message from Marcea July 3. DeWayne passed away around 10 p.m. July 2. An important voice and significant pres-

# ON BECOMING AN OCTOGENARIAN

ence is no more in Greater Longfellow. He was always willing to serve in whatever way he could. So, dear reader, what are your DeWayne Townsend memories? What are you celebrating? Tell yourself, tell others or tell me via [tesha@tmcpub.com](mailto:tesha@tmcpub.com).

Messenger readers Candyce and Carolyn have reached out to let me know that they look forward to reading Stories and

Journeys each month and that they appreciate what I have written regarding DeWayne and Marcea.

### ON TURNING 80

It's Saturday, June 29. It's literally 4:10 a.m. in the morning as I am writing these words. I was born at 4:10 a.m. June 29, 1944. It is now 4:11 a.m. It's official; I am now an octogenarian. I had to check

# Messenger

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### Story ideas always welcome.

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

### Owner & Editor:

Tesha M. Christensen, 612-345-9998,  
[tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com](mailto:tesha@longfellownokomisemessenger.com)

### Advertising & Marketing:

Denis Woulfe, 651-917-4183  
[denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com](mailto:denis@longfellownokomisemessenger.com)

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

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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.

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## SHE HATED BUGS

>> from 1

brake and pinned her between two cars.

For her, environmental entomology is "seeing insects as our brethren, and a natural part of our world. To encourage inviting them back to the spaces they were historically."

Her favorite insect is the damselfly. "They need water to complete their life cycle," Miller pointed out.

Insects do things that humans have little interest in doing, such as managing dead things. "Many of our favorite and healthy foods need pollinators, especially native bees like bumble bees," she observed.

There are many issues facing insects today. Among them: "Habitat loss and humans forgetting to invite them back to the land we disturb for our own needs. Chemical elimination would help immensely. Many times insecticides reduce all insects and unbalance an ecosystem that would otherwise manage the naughty and destructive ones," said Miller.

Since completing her master's thesis on Minnehaha Creek, Miller has been heavily involved with implementing actions for improvements in the Twin Cities area. As part of the Master Water Steward Program, she installs rain gardens to aid infiltration and stormwater. These in turn provide habitat for insects such as pollinators which people depend on for food resources and options.

Through the University of Minnesota Beneficial Insect and Environmental Ecosystem, Miller did native bee identification, insect collection management, and outreach activities. She enjoys connecting people and ideas to work towards a healthier ecosystem for humans and insects.

On her eighth season with Mississippi Park Connection, she talks insects with a plethora of National Park visitors at Owamni Yamni/Saint Anthony Falls. "I love being a part of that area and have a great time with the dogs and the people in the neighborhood," said Miller. "The wild-



*Tiny flowers can hide insects. On Sunday, May 19, 2024, Jessica Wyn Miller (right) led a hunt for bugs outside her home along Minnehaha Creek. (Left to right) Morgan Tackett and sister Naomi took a close look while Elowyn Tackett looked on. (Photos by Terry Faust)*

life in the Mississippi corridor in downtown Minneapolis has been refreshing. It aids in my insect-themed chats, helps with my connection to the earth and reminds visually how connected in our space we are."

Metro Blooms continues to be a great partner with insect outreach and education. On contract with them, Miller is working on topics connecting to Monarch butterflies and the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee. "It is so great to see this company grow," she observed.

Miller has been involved in insect survey work with the Prairie Island Indian Community. "I am living my best life. I just identified a Male velvet ant!" she said in 2023.

She started her own business, Dragons Wynd, in 2017 to share the wonder and fascination of insects and the services they provide. She does parties, presentations, and insect safaris. She also offers garden consults. Interested in what insect

you have a picture of? Want to know more about the insects on land you steward? Ask Dragons Wynd.

Miller leads a Bug Club once a month on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings at her home along the creek. Sunday Bug Club is a casual meetup to look at and talk about insects. Participants wander a typical city lot looking at the native plants and insects while engaging in discussions about them. By paying attention, they see insect signs. Leaf chews (holes or caterpillar eatings) are reasons to stop and study. They look closely at flowers to notice who may be pollinating. There might be predators controlling other insects. They seek out insect homes, which can be horizontal or vertical - in dead plant stems, the soil or wood. Participants are welcome to bring show and tell items. Some of the meetings have themes and activities.

During the Saturday nighttime bug club, a giant black light shines on a large

### TIPS FROM AN ENTOMOLOGIST FOR INCREASING INSECT LIFE IN A GARDEN

Jessica Miller of Dragons Wynd encourages people to:

- Plant a tree, a shrub, or a flower.
- Reduce unused lawn. It is not good habitat and has shallow roots that do not allow water into the soil effectively.
- Stop any use of chemicals to manage insects or fungus or plants. They tend to unbalance the nature.

### BUG CLUB

Jessica Miller offers free bug club events at her home May to September, 2-4 p.m.

- Saturday Night Bug Club, 8-11 pm. Aug. 17 and Sept. 21
- Sunday Bug Club, 2-4 p.m., Aug. 18 and Sept. 20.

Email her for the location.

### CONTACT DRAGONS WYND:

612-807-4833  
jessica@dragonswynd.com  
dragonswynd.com



white sheet as Miller and bug club members hang out and wait for the insects to fly in. "Even in a city we can call in insects with a bright light," she pointed out. Night flyers like moths, caddisflies, and beetles are frequent at night lights, as well as some day fliers such as wasps, lady beetles and flies.

Through her work, Miller seeks to inspire respect for insects' behavior, heavy workload, and environmental needs.

## OCTOGENARIAN >> from 4

the next meeting of Elder Voices at Turtle Bread July 26.

### MAKE MINNEAPOLIS GREAT AGAIN?

It's June 28, 2024. I'm at Turtle Bread. I'm sitting at a table with the Elder Voices sign contemplating the prospect of becoming an octogenarian the next day and reading in the Messenger, "Don't Fall for 'The Fall of Minneapolis'" by Jill Boogren. Seemingly out of nowhere I imagine that someone who buys into the "The Fall of Minneapolis" documentary by Liz Collin, someone who is interested in promoting a narrative regardless of the facts, could run for Mayor of Minneapolis under the banner Make Minneapolis Great Again. I have a hunch that there are people out there who, facts be damned, really do buy into the narrative of "The Fall of Minneapolis." I figure you can run for president, facts be damned, as long as you believe the narrative. Why not mayor? A morbid thought, perhaps, but the thought did occur to me.

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

### NOT MY MOTHER'S REPUBLICAN PARTY

It is the 1950s. My mother has pulled my brother and me out of school. We get on a Des Moines city bus which takes us to downtown Des Moines where we find a spot at curbside. Dwight David Eisenhower is running for president and his campaign is running through downtown. Many people are lining the streets so they can get a view of Ike. I remember I did get a view. My mother liked Ike. That all changed when Ronald Reagan became

president. Suffice it to say, she was not a fan. She knew him when they both were living and working in Des Moines. They both participated in the young adult fellowship group at First Methodist Church in downtown Des Moines. When he became president that was the beginning of NOT MY MOTHER'S REPUBLICAN PARTY. She liked Ike.

Fast forward. My mother is deceased. NOT MY MOTHER'S REPUBLICAN PARTY has been remade in the image of Donald Trump. For that story, I'm reading "Tired of Winning: Donald Trump and the End of the Grand Old Party" by Jonathan Karl.

From a distance, I have been listening to Donald Trump's words and watching his behavior. Here's what I see. I see a scared little boy who has spent a life time creating a tough guy winner facade. Unable to feel his feelings, own his feelings and experience the strength of being vulnerable. How do I know this? I am a scared little boy who spent part of my life unwittingly creating a facade made of words and my intellect. In my case a traumatic life experience brought me to my knees literally. I was forced to feel my feelings, own my feelings and experience the strength of being vulnerable.

So much for NOT MY MOTHER'S REPUBLICAN PARTY.

**ELDER VOICES (TELLING OUR STORIES/SHARING OUR JOURNEYS) WILL MEET JULY 26 AND AUG. 23 (NOT THE LAST FRIDAY OF 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.*

## OBITUARY

### DEWAYNE TOWNSEND III, PHD

Born in 1942, DeWayne Townsend III, PhD, of Longfellow, died on July 2, 2024 after a 12-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

He grew up in Brooten, Minn., and graduated from St. Olaf College, the University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota.

He devoted his career to advance scientific knowledge ranging from genetics to bacterial biofilms. He spent 10 years of genetic research with the world's largest albinism population in Puerto Rico.

For 13 years, he was a scout master. Highlights were time spent at his Wisconsin lake home and yearly trips into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. He was deeply involved in community organizing with the Longfellow Community Council to help improve the city's neighborhoods.

DeWayne donated his body to the University of MN for the medical students to be used as a cadaver. After 18 months, his ashes will be returned to his family.

He is survived by sons from his marriage to Stella: DeWayne IV (Melanie) Townsend and Steven Townsend; and the stepchildren of his second marriage



to Marcea Mariani (whom he wed in 1998): Marcellene Berrini (Mike) Wolke and Timothy (Sandra) Berrini. He has a brother, Frederick (Sara) Townsend. His parents were DeWayne II, MD and Clara Viola Townsend.

The memorial service shall be live streamed.

HTTPS:vimeo.com/event/4452726

on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 1 p.m. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2730 East 31st. Street; Minneapolis Please, no flowers. Deceased preference for memorials sent to:

Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036



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# MAKE THE TWIN CITIES MORE BIRD-FRIENDLY

*Birds collide with windows on homes as frequently as those on office towers. Consider making your windows more bird-friendly.*

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Cradling the Mississippi River on either side, the Twin Cities are a critical, yet hazardous, resting place for migrating birds. An estimated 40 million birds migrated through the Mississippi River flyway on their way to northern breeding grounds this spring – navigating obstacles in the human-built environment as they flew. The flyway is one of four major migratory corridors in the US.

Jeannine Thiele is the interim president of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. She said, "A 2019 study revealed that North America's bird population has declined by almost 30% since 1970. Responsible for this are climate change, habitat loss, pesticide use, cat predation, and collisions with glass."

These mortality numbers are so big that they're hard to wrap one's head around. But bird deaths, at least in the last category, can be prevented one crash at a time without even leaving home.

### FLY BY NIGHT

Most migratory birds travel at night, relying in part on the moon and stars to guide them. Night flying has other advantages too: the air is smoother, the temperatures cooler, and the predators fewer. But there is one huge disadvantage – artificial light attracts and confuses birds. When they see it, birds often crash into wherever the light is coming from: houses, office towers, transit shelters, car windows, greenhouses, solariums, and skyways. Collisions with windows on homes are about as frequent as collisions with those on office towers.

So, what can one person do? Close your curtains at night, especially during the migration season, to reduce light spread. And give consideration to your choice of outdoor lighting. Beams of light should only be directed downward, never up into trees, and used minimally as safety needs require.

### FLY BY DAY

Daytime flight has its challenges too. Thiele said, "Birds can't interpret glass.



*What can one person do to help birds avoid collisions with windows? Close your curtains at night, especially during the migration season, to reduce light spread. Make sure outdoor light is directed downward and use minimally. And consider using window markings. (Photos courtesy of Feather Friendly)*

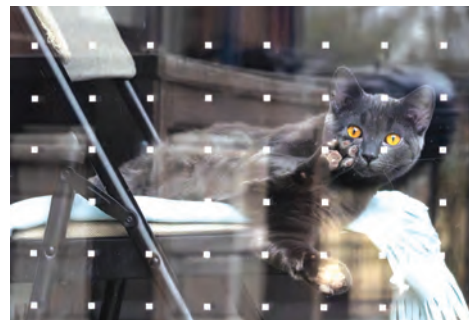
They 'see' the reflections of trees, shrubs, and open skies as real – and try to fly on through. A bird's first interaction with glass is usually fatal, so there isn't much opportunity for learning. Migrating and juvenile birds are especially susceptible to window strikes."

Thiele continued, "Glass looks transparent, reflective, or dark to birds depending on available light. Markers placed on the outside surface of windows makes glass visible to them, while still being transparent to the human eye. Markers placed inside windows are not nearly as effective."



Birds can't interpret glass. They 'see' the reflections of trees, shrubs and open skies as real – and try to fly on through. A bird's first interaction with glass is usually fatal, so there isn't much opportunity for learning. Migrating and juvenile birds are especially susceptible to window strikes."

Jannine Thiele



Research from the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has shown that birds will not fly through spaces less than two inches high and two inches wide. This is the recommended spacing for marking windows to help birds "see" glass, and there are a variety of products to choose from.

### MAKE YOUR OWN BIRD-SAFE GLASS

Feather Friendly ([www.featherfriendly.com](http://www.featherfriendly.com)) is a Canadian company that has been designing window markings to prevent bird collisions since 2006. Visit the small-scale DIY section on their website to see a variety of adhesive products that can be applied to home windows.

In partnership with Feather Friendly, the American Bird Conservancy offers a

### STOP THE 'THUD'

Minneapolis city council member Linea Palmisano (Ward 13) tried to amend the glass at US Bank Stadium during construction to be more bird safe, but the Metropolitan Sports Facility was unwilling to pay for it. The stadium has 200,000 square feet of highly reflective window glass, and is a threat to migrating birds.

Palmisano said, "Bird-safe zoning for our city is an important issue. We need to be incentivizing construction materials and projects that minimize bird collisions. I find it galling that people laud US Bank Stadium as one of the premier sports facility in the country, when it's a 30-story-tall building made of glass right in the Upper Mississippi Flyway."

The city of Minneapolis did pass a Bird Safe Glass ordinance in 2016, which has been used effectively in downtown skyway construction since then.

Local examples of buildings with bird-safe glass include the Bell Museum, Bakken Museum, Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis Central Library, Allianz Field, and Hennepin County Government Center skyways.

product called ABC Bird Tape. The white or light blue vinyl tape can be applied to windows in long strips or patterns of squares. The tape lasts an average of four years, and is translucent enough to let natural light through.

Acopian Bird Savers ([www.acopianbirdsavers.org](http://www.acopianbirdsavers.org)) are a simple solution made of parachute cord hung in two-inch strips across the width of a window. Note that cord should be cut longer than window length, as rain will cause cord shrinkage. Acopian Bird Savers can be purchased ready-made through their website, or you can make them yourself.

And the most economical solution of all? Apply tempera paint (available at most art supply and craft stores) free-hand with a brush or sponge, or use a stencil. Tempera paint is long-lasting, rain-proof and non-toxic, but wipes off easily with a damp rag and a little elbow-grease.

The hawk decals many of us thought were sufficient for alerting birds don't work, it turns out. If you have a window or windows prone to bird strikes, try one of these other methods to prevent bird deaths at home.

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**EVENTS**

**KICKBALL TOURNAMENT JULY 28**

The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Great Southside Kickball Tournament & Fundraiser is on Saturday, July 27, 2024 (Rain date: Sunday, July 28, 2024). Games start at 8 a.m. at Keewaydin Park, 3030 E. 53rd Street. Food trucks will be on-site during games. The tournament raises money for the Renter Support Fund project, which offers direct financial assistance to renters living in Minneapolis.

**VEGAN FEST**

Of the 26 restaurants showcasing all-new plant-based dishes this August as part of the 6th annual Twin Cities Vegan Chef Challenge, about half are in south Minneapolis. Among them are Herbie Butcher's Fried Chicken, Himalayan Restaurant, The Howe Daily Kitchen & Bar, Barbette, Book Club, Gigi's Cafe, Hi Flora!, Lulu Ethio-Vegan, Namaste Cafe, Pat's Tap, Pinoli, and Trio Plant-Based. The competition, organized by local non-profit Compassionate Action for Animals, invites food lovers of all dietary preferences to explore vegan cuisine and rate the dishes online for a chance to win prizes.

The champion of the month-long competition will be crowned at Twin Cities Veg Fest in Harriet Island Regional Park on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.

Diners this year can expect original creations like the mango spring roll from Duke's on 7 in Minnetonka, as well as tasty plant-based twists on familiar comfort foods, like a fried mac and cheese sandwich from Herbie Butcher's Fried Chicken and a vegan salmon bowl from The Howe Daily Kitchen & Bar, both in Minneapolis.

**PLANT-BASED BIKE CRAWL JULY 28**

The second annual plant-based bike crawl takes off from Reverie Cafe + Bar at 10 am on Sunday, July 28. Riders can choose between riding a 12-mile or 30-mile route. The ride includes food samples from plant-based restaurants Francis Burger Joint (for long-route riders), Herbie Butcher's Fried Chicken, Reverie Cafe + Bar, and Trio Plant-Based. Tickets are \$75 for general admission and \$150 for VIP. Compassionate Action for Animals is the local nonprofit that organizes both the ride and Twin Cities Veg Fest.



**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANNY'S TORTAS**

Midtown Global Market is proud to honor one of its original restaurants, Manny's Tortas, and its incredible owners, Manny González and his sister Victoria González, as they celebrate 25 years on Saturday, July 27 from noon to 4 p.m.

Originally from Mexico City, Manny moved to the United States 42 years ago after finishing culinary school. He worked for many years as a chef at a handful of Twin Cities restaurants before opening Manny's at Mercado Central in 1999, and Midtown Global Market in 2006.

Victoria has a background in hospitality

management and business consulting. She maintains the financial stability of the business and the growth strategy to keep the restaurant inside the market. Both would also like to thank the employees who have been a fundamental part of the success and permanence of Manny's Tortas for 25 years.

During the anniversary celebration, guests can experience great food, beer and margaritas, music, mariachi, folk dances, and fun activities and games. Event specials include free torta bites and carnitas tacos. Plus, to celebrate 25 years, Manny's Tortas July special is a limited-edition sandwich, the chicken mole torta.

Fletcher's Ice Cream (306 E Hennepin Ave.) in Northeast Minneapolis from Aug. 9 - Sept. 3. For the fourth year, HFC offered a phone photography program led by Minneapolis photographer Eric Mueller. This summer's class asked members to consider the question, "What Makes Me Happy?" Through a combination of classroom time, group activities, and field trips around the Twin Cities, HFC members explored how happiness can be represented in photography. Their photos show the breadth of the human experience as it relates to one of our most basic emotions.

**GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE COMMUNITY VISIONING**

Community-led visioning meetings for George Floyd Square will be on Aug. 17 (third Saturdays), 10 a.m.-noon, 3901 Chicago Ave., in the community room of the Calvary building. Meetings are open to the public. No reservations are needed, but people can email cct.georgefloydsquare@gmail.com to request agendas and updates. Online participation may be possible for those who cannot attend in person.

**POLICE BAND LOOKING FOR MEMBERS**

The Minneapolis Police Band is looking for more members. The Minneapolis Police Band is a community band as all citizen musicians in the greater Twin Cities are welcome to join. Rehearsals are Thursday nights in the community room of the 5th precinct, a short drive from anywhere in south Minneapolis, at 31st Street and Nicollet Ave. The Minneapolis Police Band plays at a variety of locations. Email mpls.police.band@gmail.com.

**RIVER GORGE FESTIVAL SEPT. 8**

The Longfellow River Gorge festival is one of Longfellow Community Council's longest running annual events. Each fall we honor and celebrate the Mississippi River, its history, and its vital ongoing importance to humans and wildlife. The festival educates community about the River's functions and ecology in a fun and approachable way focusing on restoration and conservation. This year's event is on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, 34th - 36th Streets along West River Parkway, 12 to 4 p.m. There will be guided nature walks, music, activities, ice cream, face-painting, boat rides through Minneapolis Rowing Club, and canoe rides through Wilderness Inquiry.

**LAKE STREET MURAL DAY AUG. 17**

The first ever Lake Street Mural Day is August 17, 2024 from 3-6 p.m. This three-hour free family-friendly event will feature a festive sidewalk atmosphere filled with art, food, music, and activities. Individuals will have access to food and entertainment along Lake Street between 15th and 17th Ave, with a "check-in" area at 16th Ave and Lake Street. Mural tours will be held every 45 minutes or individuals can do a self-guided mural tour with a printed map.


Participation is free but the first 200 tickets get free food samples throughout the mural tour route.

**BLACK ENTREPRENEUR STATE FAIR AUG. 25-31**

The fifth annual Black Entrepreneur State Fair runs Aug. 25-31 at Midtown Global Market. Founded by sisters Destinee and Keandrea Shelby, the Black State Fair aims to empower, celebrate and promote "the talents, achievements, and economic growth of Black entrepreneurs."

**WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY ART DISPLAY**

Photographs by members of Highland Friendship Club, a St. Paul-based nonprofit that provides social and learning opportunities for teens and adults with disabilities, will be showcased at



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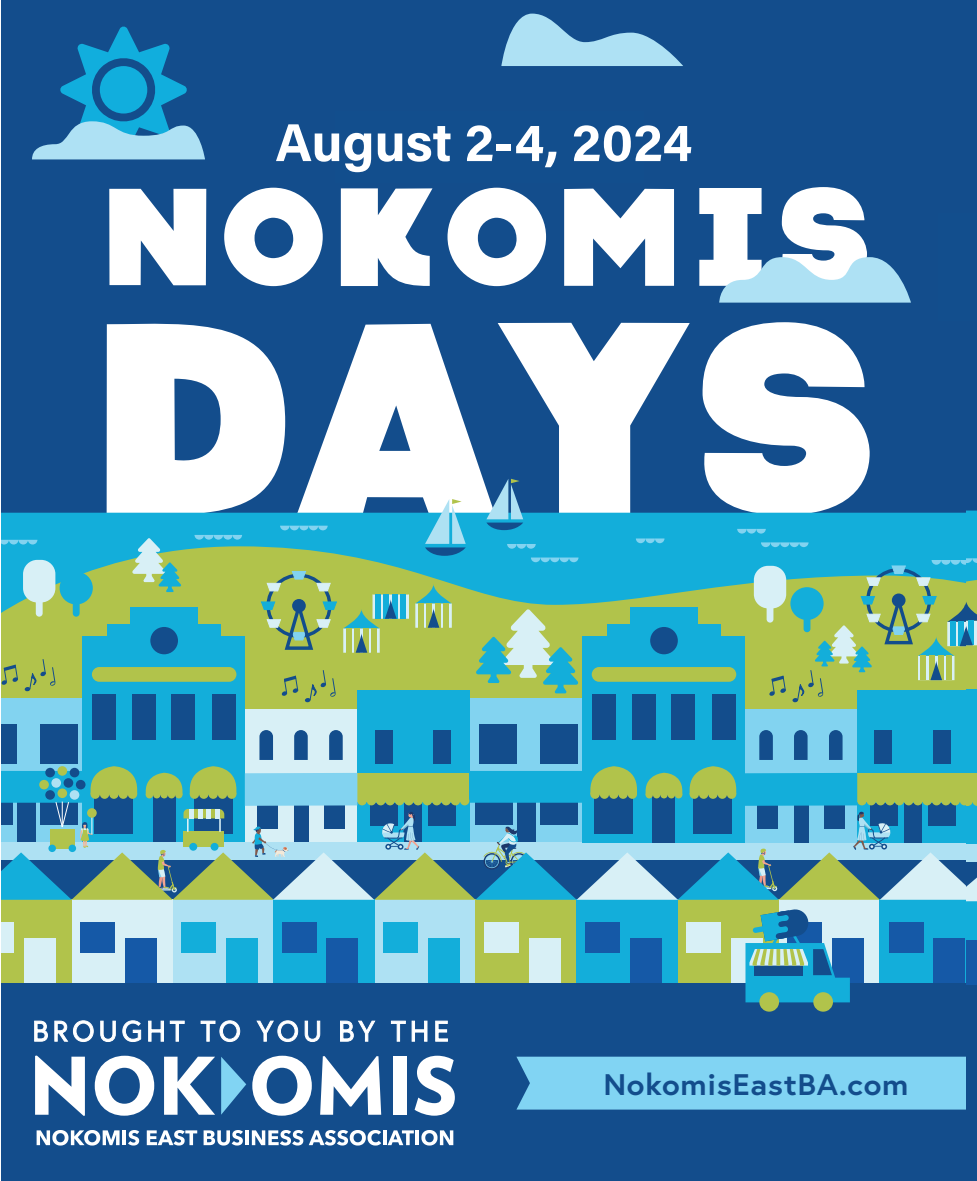
952.445.7361 | RenaissanceFest.com



**Volunteer In Your Community**

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



August 2-4, 2024

# NOKOMIS DAYS

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It wasn't easy picking a winner, but Nora from Keewaydin landed the big one in our first **Nokomis Days Kids Art Contest.**



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Pre-orders and more information available online at [NokomisLife.com](http://NokomisLife.com).

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FRIDAY, AUG 2 - SATURDAY, AUG 3

**BULL'S HORN** FOOD & DRINK

# NOKOMIS DAYS

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Other eats and full bar • Mini Flea Market  
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## 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**FRIDAY, AUG. 2**  
**Afternoon - US Bank Fun, Games & Freebies** - U.S. Bank tent (4930 - 34th Ave S)

**12-3pm - The Workshop Pottery Sale** at The Lab (3319 E. 50th)

**3-6pm - Ice Cream Social** Gelato cart with 3 flavor options complimentary until supplies run out at Natalie Lyon Farmers Insurance (4937 - 28th Ave S)

**5-8pm - Kick-off Concert & Artisan Market** sponsored by NEBA, in partnership with Nokomis Tattoo & McDonald's Wine & Liquor. Located behind Nokomis Tattoo. Music from Nate Way, Chris and Miguel, and The Quick Fix

**5:45-10pm - Carbone's 4th Annual Music Fest** - Music from 8 bands. Pizza slices, beer from Fulton Airstream (4705 Cedar Ave S)

**SATURDAY, AUG. 3**  
**Morning - US Bank Fun, Games & Freebies** - U.S. Bank tent (4930 - 34th Ave S)

**6am-2pm - Rick's Coffee Bar** - Discounted drink specials, "Double Punch" loyalty card. (5402 - 43rd Ave S)

**8:30-10:30am - Free Pancake Breakfast** at Trinity Lutheran. Donations for food shelf accepted. (5212 - 41st Ave S)

**9:30am-4pm - The Workshop Pottery Throwdown** 9:30-11, Pottery Sale 12-4, painting party & pop-in 2:30-3:30 (5004 - 34th Ave)

**10am-2pm - Oxendale's Vendor Fair** - Local businesses & organizations (5025 - 34th Ave S)

**10am-3pm - New Branches Indoor/Outdoor Party** - Family-friendly games, chalk art, face painting, Pride Tent, Quilt Studio To Go & air conditioning. Free hotdogs 11-2, Live music 10:30-3. (5011 - 31st Ave S)

**11am & 1pm - Watt Cycleworks** - Tire changing and basic bike maintenance (4313 E. 54th St)

**12-3pm - The Cracked Pot Studio** - Play Time with clay on the potter's wheel or with sculpting tools (4301 E. 54th St)

**12-3pm - Classic Car Show** at McDonald's Liquor with Nokomis Tattoo (5010 - 34th Ave S)

**12-4pm - Tippy Steer** - Kiddie Duck Ponds with prizes! Food & drink specials Sat & Sun. (5000 Hiawatha Ave)

**1-3pm - Nokomis Tattoo Underdog Dog Rescue Event.**

**1-10pm - Carbone's 4th Annual Music Fest** - Music from 8 bands. Pizza slices, beer from Fulton Airstream (4705 Cedar Ave S)

**2-5pm - Town Hall Lanes & NENA parking lot party** Beer, wine, kiddie drinks with DJ Rock the Monkey. Help with neighborhood art installation in the parking lot. (5019 - 34th Ave S)

**SUNDAY, AUG. 4**  
**10:30am-12pm - Trinity of Minnehaha Falls Paws & Worship** - Outdoor pavilion at Lake Nokomis rec center, blessing of animals

**11am-2pm - Wellness Center MN** - Free chair massages, Float Tank rubber duckie prizes, and Jill Van Sickle painting sale. (4201 E. 54th St)

**11am-3pm - Lady and the Beard Salon** - Family-friendly sidewalk extravaganza with prizes and more! (Outside Wellness Center MN)

**11am & 1pm - Watt Cycleworks** - Tire changing and basic bike maintenance (4313 E. 54th St)

**1-4pm - Bull's Horn Parking Lot Party with Venn Brewing beer collab**, SunBean Coffee, flea market, sandwich competition, selfie station, and DJ Truckstache.

**ALL WEEKEND Nokomis Shoe Shop** - Summer Clearance Sidewalk Sale (Fri 9-5:30, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5)

**Nokomis Surplus** - 3-day tent sale (9am-5pm daily).

**Grande Sunrise** - Nokomis Days Drink Special: free 12oz beer with any purchase

### SCAVENGER HUNT

Search for passwords at all of our events and post them to IG @nokomiseastba with #NokomisDaysHunt for a chance to win!

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AUGUST 2-4th

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## NOKOMIS DAYS

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**AmeriCorp programs match students with tutors in neighborhood schools**

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Less than one-third of Minnesota students test at grade level for reading and math, according to state-wide data. And behind every statistic, there's a student.

Reading Corps, Math Corps, and Early Learning Corps are AmeriCorps tutoring programs that put qualified tutors in classrooms across the state. When students are tutored, the individual attention they get helps them build stronger foundational learning skills.

Many schools in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger readership area need tutors this fall. No teaching experience is needed to become a tutor, though applicants must be 18 years or older, have a high school diploma or GED, and be a U.S. citizen or otherwise lawful permanent resident. Tutors are fully-trained by AmeriCorps (think domestic Peace Corps), and serve on-site at neighborhood schools from 18-35 hours a week.

Tutors are paid a stipend equivalent to about \$15/hour, plus they earn an education award of up to \$5,176.50 annually based on the number of hours they serve each week.

Tutors 55+ may gift their education award to their child, grandchild, stepchild, or foster child to help defray the cost of college or to repay student loans. Tutors who work 35 hours/week may also qualify for additional benefits like free individual health insurance and childcare assistance.

**BEYOND STATISTICS**

Nicholas Abraham is on-staff with Ampact, a national nonprofit that manages AmeriCorps programs on the ground.

# CALLING ALL TUTORS



Former Math Corps tutor and current fourth grade teacher Kelly Collar said, "I felt completely prepared to be a classroom teacher at Howe, because I'd already spent two years tutoring there. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)"

He implements Early Learning Corps, Reading Corps, and Math Corps programs in Twin Cities' schools. He is also a South Minneapolis resident with a child at Howe Elementary School.

Abraham said, "The pandemic definitely made the need for tutors greater.

Nearly 800 tutors are needed across Minnesota this fall, and 300 of those are needed here in the Twin Cities. Of Minnesota's 87 counties, 76 have asked us for help recruiting, training, and placing tutors."

Reading Corps is a program for students in K-3 classrooms. Students who

need extra reading help get 20 minute sessions one-on-one with a tutor five days/week.

Math Corps is for students in grades K-3 and 4-8 who test below grade level for math skills. Tutors in this area work with one student or, in some cases, a pair of students, for 40-minute sessions Monday-Friday.

Early Learning Corps is a pre-school version of Reading Corps and Math Corps, delivered to young learners who will turn five during the school year. Tutors in this setting are paired with a teacher, and are largely responsible for helping students transition between activities such as singing, learning rhymes, and word recognition.

Abraham concluded, "There's a benchmark agreed upon by educators that if kids can't read at grade level by third grade, they're going to spend the rest of their lives trying to catch up. We're doing everything we can to address that with the help of classroom tutors, by getting kids to read at grade level every year."

**BECOMING A TEACHER THROUGH MNGOT**

Kelly Collar graduated from college with an accounting degree in 2014. He went to work for Goldman Sachs in New York City, and was on a successful career path there until 2020. Having grown weary of the world of finance by then, he quit his job and moved to Minneapolis – following a hunch that education might be a better fit for him.

Collar served as a Math Corps tutor at Marcy Arts Elementary School in Southeast Minneapolis in 2020-21. In August 2021, he became part of a program called MN Grow Your Own Teachers (MNGOT) and was placed at Howe Elementary School in Longfellow.

Through MNGOT, tutors who already have a bachelor's degree can earn a mas-

CALLING ALL TUTORS >> 11

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## FIRST TRIBAL COLLEGE

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floors were preserved, and the brick and timber highlighted. New large, storefront glass windows were installed, along with new wood glulam ceilings. The architect on the project was Sam Olbekson of Full Circle Indigenous Planning, an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe.

Construction occurred from April 2023 to April 2024. The tribe paid \$4.2 million for the three buildings, and another \$12 million for the renovation. The \$16.2 million facility is fully paid off. Native-owned Loeffler Construction oversaw the project. RLNC expects to earn revenue through rentals based on their prime location and rooftop views.

According to Minnesota Compass, 44.2% of Minnesota's American Indian population resides in the Twin Cities, yet until now, there was no TCU (Tribal College and University) in the cities that provided culturally-based higher education. RLNC began offering courses through distance education in downtown Minneapolis in fall 2021.

"It's not an under-served community. It's a never-served community," said King during the grand opening on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

### CULTURALLY BASED

"I had been looking for something that was more culturally based," said Marissa Martin, who lives in the Como neighborhood of St. Paul near the State Fairgrounds. She had considered other options in the Twin Cities around where she grew up, as well as going to the Red Lake Nation College campus in Red Lake. But she didn't necessarily want to move and was glad to be able to attend a tribal college near her home when she enrolled last year.

She appreciates the course offerings in Indigenous knowledge and small class sizes. It's also valuable to her to be taking classes with other Indigenous students who have similar goals and to be taught by Indigenous teachers, she said. "Culture is embedded in everything we're learning," stated Martin. "It all comes down to identity and feeling really safe here."

### A PLACE SHE FOUND HERSELF

Minneapolis resident Eliza Washington lives in Mino-Bimaadiziwin Apartments – a multi-use, affordable housing complex in Minneapolis developed by Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians at 2107 Cedar Ave. She was the second person to move in there, and that's how she heard about the new RLNC campus. She started taking online classes in the spring of 2022 when the Minneapolis location was occupying one building. "It's been kinda neat to watch it unfold," Washington said. One year previously, they had stood there



Longfellow resident Eliza Washington said that Red Lake Nation College "gave me a place to find myself and learn about myself, my history and where I come from. They don't teach you that stuff in mainstream schools." (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Digineraries, students and community members gathered to celebrate the opening of the first urban Indigenous college campus on Thursday, June 6, 2024. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen) >> Find more photos online at LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

with a pile of shovels as the project to renovate and unite the two buildings began. She was part of brainstorming sessions to discuss what they wanted in the college campus building. The new campus is bright and open, with natural light from windows with scenic views of downtown. There are indoor and outdoor spaces to study and learn. It has the latest in technology with multiple screens in various rooms.

Washington grew up in Duluth, graduated from a public non-tribal high school in 1996, and moved to the Twin Cities in 2006. She attended Lake Superior College and checked out Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, but she didn't have the same experience at those two schools as she has at RLNC. "Here I feel like I'm more seen, hear and valued. It's like a family feel here," said Washington, who is part of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

She values the Native history and Native language that are part of the core curriculum at RLNC. It's the first time she has learned these subjects in a school setting. "It gave me a place to find myself and learn about myself, my history and where I come from," she remarked. "They don't teach you that stuff in mainstream schools."

Washington is also part of the staff at RLNC, working full-time as a business office specialist. "They like to grow their own," she observed. She has two classes left before she graduates with an associate of arts degree in tribal education.

Initially, Washington was worried about going back to school in her 40s, but she found a student body made up of people ages 20 to 50. "There's a good group of us. We all hang out together," she observed. The student body is expected to grow from 100 to 180 for the 2024-2025 school year now that the construction

### Seven Grandfather Teachings – Ojibwe Values

- Dabasendizowin - Humility
- Debwewin - Truth
- Zoongide'iwin - Courage
- Gwayakwaadiziwin - Honesty
- Manaaji'idiwin - Respect
- Zaagi'idiwin - Love
- Nibwaakaawin - Wisdom

project is complete.

### 73 PERCENT OF STAFF IS INDIGENOUS

Red Lake Nation College (RLNC) was established in 2001 to serve the Red Lake Nation in Red Lake, Minn. Red Lake Nation College offers a range of certificate and academic degree programs designed to empower students and strengthen the Red Lake Nation community in a higher education environment that honors students' Indigenous identities.

About 80 percent of the students at RLNC are first-generation college students. Over 73 percent of staff and faculty are Native. The school seeks to serve students anywhere – which includes a HyFlex option that gives students the ability to attend remotely.

RLNC welcomes students of all tribal backgrounds through its open-enrollment policy.

Their "secret sauce" according to King is small class sizes, personalized, one-on-one attention, intrusive counseling, family connections with students, a Native perspective stemming from the seven Ojibwe values, mentorship and role modeling, and a support system that includes tutoring, counseling, emergency funds and food.

The school is experiencing a 35-40 percent increase in enrollment each year.

RLNC has earned the highest level of accreditation in the United States through the Higher Learning Commission. It involved a 10-year, \$15 million investment. This means that RLNC meets the same academic standards as other major universities, including the University of Minnesota, Purdue University and the University of Michigan. Through academic partnerships, there is an ease of transfer with no cost for RLNC students to transfer to all MNSCU schools and articulation agreements with other four-year universities such as Augsburg University.

RLNC students typically leave with zero debt as there are no loans, only grants. All students receive a tech backpack with a computer and internet access. The average debt load for a two-year college graduate is \$33,000.

RLNC two-year graduate rates are at 45 percent – which is at or near the top 10 percent in the U.S. for two-year colleges.

Students are graduating at the highest rates ever and graduates are transferring to the University of Minnesota, Bemidji State University, Metro State, Augsburg and even

## CALLING ALL TUTORS

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ter's degree and teaching license in two years while continuing to work as a tutor. Tuition for course-work is offered at a reduced rate, scholarships are available, and tutors are paid for their time in the classroom including student teaching. One of the goals of this partnership with the University of Minnesota is to increase the number of BIPOC teachers in Minnesota classrooms, but all students with a bachelor's degree from an accredited college are welcome to apply.

Collar said, "After getting my master's degree in education, I realized that being a fourth grade teacher is exactly what I want to be doing. I took a big pay cut to do this, but I just finished my first year of teaching at Howe Elementary and it went really well. The MNGOT program set me up to succeed."



### CHART A NEW COURSE

Longfellow resident Wendy Johnson was an adjunct writing professor at Hennepin Technical College when COVID-19 hit. Her partner received a terminal cancer diagnosis at the same time; she left her job, and became a full-time caregiver for five months until he died.

She said, "I felt so isolated by the pandemic and by grief. I realized I needed a community around me where I lived. When I learned about the Early Learning Corps at Longfellow High School, a high school for pregnant and parenting moms, I applied. I got a full-time job tutoring preschoolers 1.5 miles from home that I could walk to, and a great health insurance plan that meant I could ditch the expensive COBRA policy from my old job. I felt like I'd hit the jackpot."

She continued, "You may be motivated to become a tutor because you want to help kids, but you'll find that you're helping yourself, too. Everyone who joins as a service member is in transition. You know at the outset that this commitment is temporary – that you can't serve more than four years."

"I found a refuge in Early Learning Corps where I was appreciated, and where I could work with young learners is the most unpretentious occupation there is. The outcome for me was a new and unexpected sense of purpose. I hope to spend my remaining working years with an educational non-profit."

To learn more about the need for tutors with Early Learning Corps, Reading Corps, and Math Corps in South Minneapolis, or to apply, go to: [www.readingandmath.org](http://www.readingandmath.org). The deadline for application is Aug. 9, and the commitment to tutor is for the academic school year. There are also opportunities to begin tutoring in October and January.

Former Early Learning Corps tutor Wendy Johnson said, "The tutoring experience became a bridge to a new stage in life for me." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

## Let's talk about unions

BY MICHAEL WILSON



MPRB Arborists maintain 600,000 trees that cover 29.8% of Minneapolis with an urban canopy. Recent rain, hail, and wind gusts, as well as the LiUNA 363 labor union strike, has highlighted the precarity of our tree canopy, as well as how much work it takes to keep it safe and healthy. Our professionals in arboriculture address widowmakers looming over trails and fallen tree trunks obstructing boulevards and parkways. Urban tree canopies cool our neighborhoods during excessive heat events, aesthetically improve our quality of life, and are even correlated to lower crime rates. But our tree canopy has also become a source of revenue with a very explicit monetary value.

MPRB's Carbon Pricing Program was piloted in 2022 and allows companies to buy offset credits based on the carbon sequestering power of trees. This program is intended to continue the aggressive rate of tree planting MPRB conducted during the Emerald Ash Borer years. That planting initiative was funded by the 2014-2021 Tree Preservation and Restoration Levy. Despite the long precedent of such tax levies, the current political will now has an appetite for a market-based approach.

MPRB has sold 3,872 carbon offset credits to seven purchasers, earning \$103,892 in sales revenue, and this revenue is about to expand rapidly. David Wilson of Green Cities Accord boasts, "One of our prior purchasers... liked the quality of these offsets, so we provided them with a proposal where they could buy a bulk of

# THE VALUE OF TREES AND LABOR

between 3,000 and 6,000 credits." Emerging from the pilot phase, MPRB annual offset credit revenue will increase as both the price per credit rises and the number of available credits goes up. They project about 25,000 credits will be sold in the coming years. Millions of dollars will grow within an Urban Forest Fund that is earmarked for trees and tree maintenance. Money from this fund has not yet been used for this purpose, however, and it is unclear when or how it ever will be. Oppositional commissioners question how one defines "additional" tree planting, and they scrutinize the practices of companies doing the purchasing. While these are valid concerns, another problem is how we conceptualize the additional value that the workers are creating.

In a press release from Green Cities Accord (formerly "Green Minneapolis") announcing the launch of the program, "The MPRB incurs no additional costs for its role in the program; its only obligation is to plant and care for the trees included in these projects for 25 years – work that is already performed by its forestry department." The longevity and quality of arboricultural work is taken as a given. Apart from the moral hazard of letting companies buy credits instead of lowering their emissions, this deal is based on keeping workers on the outside looking in.

Green Cities Accord brokers public-private partnerships for tree canopy "infrastructure," and gets a 10% cut of all credit sales. City Forest Credits is the third-party certifier of these credits and is incentivized with \$1,500 application fees for purchasers and \$4 a pop for each credit. Centerpoint Energy, Nordson, and Xcel Energy get to greenwash their image while they actively commit climate harm.

Winslow Capital, an investment advisor, gets to provide climate indulgences to its investment partners. MPRB gets to squirrel away a hefty sum in its new savings account. Yet, by some economic alchemy amidst all this cash flow, the only ones creating anything of value, the Arborists, are being told that there simply isn't enough to go around.

Casey Roser, an arborist at MPRB, recalls, "I used to be a social worker in Minneapolis. I actually thought that going into arboriculture and working in the trades would be more of a living wage. I've been really disheartened to still be working paycheck to paycheck. I have a two-year-old son, and I don't get to see him every other weekend because I have to work at my second job to pay the bills just to scrape by. And this is one of the most dangerous jobs you can have."

If these trees succumb to the elements before their proposed attrition rate, they aren't eligible for financialization. Sound stewardship of assets would suggest that MPRB, Green Cities Accord, Centerpoint Energy, Xcel Energy, and Winslow Capital would all have an interest in strengthening a safe and stable workforce of arborists to continue producing the urban canopy that is so valuable to them. That would be low-hanging fruit. But alas, MPRB wage studies tell us that they think arborists' pay is exactly where it needs to be, and there is no indication of that changing, regardless of how large the Urban Forest Fund becomes. Sophisticated analyses about half million dollars in "co-benefits and quantified ecosystem services" and over \$800,000 of estimated revenue for just this year's Carbon Pricing Program conveniently disappear when it comes to compensating arborists like Casey with

a wage that keeps up with inflation. The speculative value of future fruits has been picked while the trees fall around us.

Parkkeeper Davion Evans addressed Park Commissioners, "The middle class is under attack. There is no more middle class. It's slipping little by little by little, and you can help us hold on to what we got."

Environmentalists might say that carbon offsets fail because they don't address carbon emissions. Labor advocates might say it fails as long as offset money bypasses the workers. But it was never meant to meaningfully address the climate crisis. It was never meant to benefit the arborists who work, live, and love in our community. That is missing the forest through the trees.

This program works exactly as the market requires. This model of economics, where organizations accumulate wealth for its own sake in endowments and investment funds through speculative gambling, is ultimately the problem here. Our civic tradition of collectively funding arboricultural work is now framed as punitive. The market creatively extracting speculative value from natural resources while sidelining workers is now framed as pragmatic. Growing a fund to generate compounding interest has taken precedence over the interest of workers. The quality of speculative carbon offsets has become more valuable than maintaining the trees they are based upon. As long as we exalt our economic system to wag the tail of our good intentions, the working class will lose, the investment class and their government/NGO enablers will win all the profits, and the temperature will continue to rise.

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

## 90 YEARS AFTER TRUCKER'S STRIKE

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time, talent and even their lives to make Minneapolis a union town." Slattery is a participant in the Remember 1934 Collective, which organized this year's commemoration. A full list of events and background on the strike is available at the Remember 1934 Facebook site.

The culminating event of the commemoration will be the picnic on Saturday, July 27 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Wabun picnic area of Minnehaha Park. This event will feature food, speakers, entertainment, children's games and a display of 1934 memorabilia. Connections will be drawn between past and present labor struggles by speakers involved in present-day organizing and contract fights. Descendants of strikers will attend.

The periodic commemoration of the 1934 strike, which gained national attention for its fierce conflicts between strikers, strikebreakers and law enforcement, is intended to keep the spirit of 1934 alive today, according to Bob Kolstad, a former Teamster and a member of the Remember 1934 Collective. The 90th anniversary commemoration comes at a time of renewed success for the labor movement in organizing workers.

"I hope the commemoration events show people what can be accomplished when they pull together – better working conditions, a higher wage and a fairer shake on the job," said Linda Leighton, a collective member and the granddaughter of Vincent Dunne, a leader in the 1934 strike.

John J. Hanson (son of 1934 "Strike Committee of 100" member) will speak on the night before the picnic at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St., St. Paul. It will include a film screening and a presentation on the historical timeline of the strike. The Friday, July 26 event is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A new addition to the commemo-

ration schedule will offer a bicycle tour of 1934 strike sites. The 90-minute easy-paced tour will begin at 3 p.m. on July 28 at 1900 Chicago Ave. S., the site of a strike headquarters, and end at the site of the plaque in the North Loop. The event is a fundraiser for Socialist Alternative. See the Facebook site for more information.

### 1934 STRIKES 101

The events known as the 1934 Minneapolis Teamster strike actually unfolded in a series of three strikes that year involving drivers and eventually allied workers. They occurred against a backdrop of strenuous efforts by the dominant employers' Citizens Alliance to keep Minneapolis a non-union town.

The strike involved many thousands: members of Teamsters Local 574 plus farmers, secretaries and many others who supported the strike; the business interests and police who opposed the union; and the National Guard and the state and national governments that were compelled to intervene.

In February, the fledgling Local 574 called a midwinter coal delivery strike for union recognition and better working conditions. The winter strike was quickly settled with what turned out to be minor gains. But the job action built confidence among workers and organizers. It also boosted the Local's membership with workers from other local trucking sectors, including allied workers such as helpers and packers.

The strikers were led by workers from the ranks of the Trotskyist Communist League, whose smart planning and strong disciplined leadership won the confidence of members. Their goal was the unprecedented organizing of an industry-wide union that combined those who drove the trucks, those who loaded them and those who worked in warehouses. They prepared for an inevitable second strike by their radicalized membership, opening a strike headquarters that was ready to feed strikers, work on the vehicles of those who confronted scab drivers and even pro-

vide medical care. Local 574 also created a strong women's auxiliary recruited from among the wives of strikers.

Workers presented their demands on April 30, including a closed shop with all workers belonging to the union, shorter hours, standard pay and union recognition. When employers refused to bargain, workers struck trucking firms on May 16.

A key innovation by strikers was the using of flying picket squads of strikers in vehicles who cruised the city to intercept scab drivers trying to deliver goods, forcing them to dump their loads or turn back. There were violent clashes between strikers and Minneapolis police and special deputies recruited by employers to help break the strike.

Governor Floyd Olson stepped in to force a deal reached on May 25. It included a return to work for all strikers, plus recognition of Local 574 as bargaining agent for drivers and their helpers. But lack of clarity over the inclusion of workers inside warehouses soon undercut the deal. Employers tried to discriminate against union members, and refused to negotiate wages or address the status of inside workers.

The third strike began on July 16, erupting in violence four days later on "Bloody Friday" when police opened fire on unarmed strikers trying to stop deliveries in the warehouse district. Two strikers were killed, prompting tens of thousands to march in mourning, and dozens more were wounded, mostly shot in the back. A plaque marks the site of one of the clashes occurred at 701 N. Third St.

On July 25, two federal mediators issued a proposed settlement that affirmed union recognition, set wage rates and clarified the status of inside workers. Local 574 accepted it but trucking firms refused.

Olson then declared martial law, banned picketing, and initiated a permit system for trucks delivering essential goods. Troops raided both the employers headquarters and that of the Local, arresting strike leaders. By early August, the permit system was tightened so that only

### TRUCKER STRIKE COMMEMORATION TO PROCEED WITH SUPPORT OF STRIKING PARK WORKERS

The 90th commemoration of the landmark 1934 Minneapolis truckers strike will go on as planned on July 27 at Minnehaha Park despite a strike by Park Board workers – and with the blessing of their union.

The Remember 1934 Collective has been planning its periodic commemoration event for months but faced a choice whether to move the event when members of LIUNA Local 363 struck their employer.

Dedicated union members refuse to cross another union's picket line, and the Remember 1934 group had begun contingency planning for another site. But according to Bob Kolstad, a convener of the collective, LIUNA leadership encouraged the collective to go ahead with plans to hold the commemoration from 1-4 p.m. in the Wabun area. "They want people in the parks," he said.

In return, the collective is adding support of striking park workers to the commemoration event, which involves labor activists, descendants of strikers and other community members. The Wabun event will include speakers, music, exhibits, food and kids games.

firms that agreed to the mediator proposal got permits. That pressure broke resistance from trucking firms and on Aug. 22 the third strike ended.

Minneapolis was now a union town. *Information submitted by the Remember 1934 Collective.*

# Details emerge for new Southside Safety Center

Center being modeled off others in the United States

By CAM GORDON

The city has shared more details about what the new South Minneapolis Community Safety Center at 2633 Minnehaha Ave. will look like when it opens.

On July 11, Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley held a small community conversation at Matthews Park about the new center that is expected to open early next year.

"We are moving toward a new public safety system, one that emphasizes a comprehensive public health approach that goes beyond policing, and this building will be a physical embodiment of that direction," said Wonsley.

The vision emerging for the large, 78,000 square-foot, single-story building located in the Seward industrial area, has two sections, each with their own entrance and focus. The back, or eastern, half will serve the needs of the police department. This includes an indoor, secure parking garage for the department's vehicles and a pedestrian entrance on the north side of the building.

The police department would use 60-65% of the building, or 40-50,000 square feet, for offices, meeting rooms, lockers, showers and other operational needs in addition to parking.

The remaining 35-40%, or 28-38,000 square feet at the front, or western, half of the building would be designed and used for non-police purposes.

This would be accessed through a larger front entrance that would likely include 311 staff to greet and assist visitors. Inside there would be bathrooms, a drinking fountain, small meeting rooms, quiet/prayer/lactation rooms, a large meeting space, kitchen, medication disposal, a children's play area, flexible office space, a kiosk to apply for county benefits, and a

communication center.

The outside front area would include outdoor parking, art, a bike repair station, signage for marketplace exchanges and a new bus stop.

Amanda Harrington, who is the city's director of community safety design and implementation, shared information about the facility at the Seward meeting and provided an update of the plans to the city council's public health and safety committee the day before on July 10.

At the committee meeting Harrington explained how the results of community engagement, visits to three facilities that have implemented comparable projects, and an assessment of particular needs in the area were used to identify potential non-police uses for the facility.

Harrington noted that the Denver Assessment, Intake, & Diversion Center they visited had a "trauma-informed way to deliver services to people and had secure space for people to store belongings and access to computers to use to apply for services and employment."

City staff also visited the Santa Anna Justice Center. There 14 social service agencies use a non-police section of the center at various times and offer a "one stop shop for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking and elder abuse," according to Harrington.

The city of Santa Anna has agreements with the providers but "the city does not actually pay them, which I found surprising," she added.

Harrington and other staff working on the project have identified 15 potential kinds of services that could use the space. These include services or resources related to affordable housing, food insecurity, human trafficking, medical needs, mental health, youth support, addiction services, domestic violence, human trafficking, legal help, and unsheltered homelessness. In addition to the 311 staff, the building could also serve as an office, or home base, space for the city's safety ambassa-

dors, crime prevention specialists and culturally specific navigators. City behavior crises response teams or violence interrupters could possibly use the facility as well, but that is not currently in the plan.

## COMMUNITY MEMBER VIEWPOINTS

At the Matthews Park meeting a variety of views were shared.

One resident expressed frustrations about the long process and was ready to have a greater police presence in the neighborhood.

Some residents raised concerns about whether people would feel comfortable going into a building with police in it to get help, especially if they were suspicious or fearful of the police.

"Attendees also expressed interest in seeing the creation of a community advisory board that would help oversee and support the safety center itself and the activities within it," said Wonsley later. "My office looks forward to bringing many of the concerns and ideas raised at this meeting back to City Hall, and to city staff."

Another person agreed that mental health services should be a priority, but they wanted to see them available for police. "Mental health is a good thing for police," they said, sharing concerns about the divided facility. "This seems silly if it does not help our police become better," they said, adding that mental health or veterans' services might be a good fit and that the proposed separation would not help police develop better connections with community.

Absent from this meeting was anyone from the city's police department.

"Despite the safety center having policing as a core service, I am not aware of conversations about the safety center that have been held with police and community together to discuss the visions and concerns," said Michele Braley after participating in the Seward discussion. "If the purpose of the safety center is to build connections and trust, this needs to start with the planning process, not once the

building and services are in place."

Braley has more than a decade of experience working with police administrators, city attorneys and police officers as Executive Director of Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice. "I have been to several community meetings about the safety center and my concerns about the mixing of policing and community services at this re-imagined 3rd precinct have not been alleviated," she said.

She believes that there are still issues that need to be addressed for it to be safe for community members to visit the center for non-police matters. "For example, in policing, expectations of confidentiality are often superseded by an officer's belief that they are acting in the interest of public safety," she said. "This puts those visiting the safety center for social services at real risk of being observed, interviewed, or even detained by an officer who believes they are acting in the best interest of public safety."

She wants this potential problem to be carefully considered and addressed in future planning for the center.

## NEXT STEPS: REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

As a next step, the city plans to issue a "request for information" (RFI) to reach out to all potential service providers in the area to see who is interested in co-locating in the building. Based on those responses, they will develop a more formal request for proposals for specific services that would operate there.

At the same time, the city is drafting a request for proposals (RFP) for a design and architecture firm to help with layout and renovation of the building. Harrington expects the social services RFI and the design RFP to be coming before the council in August for review.

The funding for the center and especially for the non-police city staff and others who might work there has already been a topic of discussion.

Wonsley said that the city council "will be continuing to protect funding for unarmed initiatives in the building, which is crucial for ensuring that it does not revert to being a status quo police precinct."

# GATEWAY GARDEN HELPS MONARCHS AND OTHER POLLINATORS SURVIVE

## NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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



Nestled at 50th Street and Hiawatha lives a 15-year-old garden in the shape of a monarch butterfly's wing. As an initiative of the Monarch Mile, it was created as a corridor to meet the needs of native pollinators through the different stages of their life. Many insects can't travel far without stopping to rest, eat, for shelter, or to stay over winter. Some pollinators, such as Monarchs, lay eggs, then feed on milkweed as caterpillars and nectar as adult butterflies.

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, working with many community volunteers, developed, maintained and nurtured the Gateway Garden through many years. Recently, the Hennepin County Master Gardening Program also designated the Gateway Garden as one of the community gardens nurtured by Master Gardeners. Co-leaders Jeanine Gregoirer, Brenda Beyer, and Lynn Bathkes work with many Master Gardeners from across the county to clear away each year's stems and flowerheads, plant new native plants, weed, renew and maintain many plants throughout the garden. Over the years, at least 65 different types of native plants have been added with their own reasons to help butterflies, bees, and other insects.

Why do we need to focus so much



The Gateway Garden in the shape of a butterfly's wing sits at E. 50th St. and Hiawatha Ave. in the Monarch Mile. (Photo submitted)

on the types of plants and what they are able to do? Among many other things, this garden supports three generations of monarchs through every summer. As monarch butterflies migrate back to Minnesota in the spring, they are looking for young milkweed to lay their eggs; monarchs will lay eggs only on milkweed leaves. Once the larvae hatches, they will feed on the milkweed plant as they grow. The developing caterpillar larvae finally morphs into a chrysalis, continuing to develop into the full adult butterfly. Emerging from the chrysalis, the Monarch continues to feed on many flowers. Females lay eggs again on milkweed, and this generation that emerges as butterflies will migrate back to Mexico. This generation will need to forage for nectar, on plants such as bee balm, asters, liatris and joe-pye weed. Migrating monarchs travel up to 3,000 miles from Minnesota to preserves in Mexico during the fall. "It's quite something," Jeanine

said about the entire process. Not much is known about how butterflies naturally know where to go, but the whole process really is amazing.

How does she know what to plant, and how does she ensure the plants do okay? "It's good in any garden to have a variety of milkweeds," Jeanine said, pointing out common, butterfly, and whorled milkweed that bloom at different times to serve as a host plants for monarch eggs.

"The beauty of these native plants is they have very deep roots," she said as we walked along the garden, pointing out that some plants have roots that can go deeper than six feet. This helps them survive in drought and become incredibly resilient to many of the elements such as heavy wind or rain.

"We have quite a number of plants here that make up a prairie," she said. Prairies are grasslands that have less than 10% tree cover. The tree of choice? She was

proud to point out the number of burr oaks in the area. She called them a keystone species because they are able to host so many bird and moth species, and provide shelter to several insects and animals.

I was amazed by how many plants there were and how each of them evolved especially to help the local animals thrive. "There's a dance with native plants and the insects that co-evolved with them," Jeanine told me, as she pointed out various species of plants in the garden. For example, the cup plant is a plant with large cup-like leaves that collects rain water for insects and animals, including birds to drink along their way. "Bees don't visit [non-native plants] as much as the native plants... there's this sort of dance; this co-evolution," she said, pointing out the bee's sacks full of pollen. In late fall, queen bees need to eat a lot of pollen because it contains protein and amino acids to help the queen bee survive the winter. This couldn't be done without the co-evolution of the local pollinators.

I left the garden with a new sense of awe for what Jeanine, the community, and the other master gardeners do for our local wildlife. "It's a lot of work - a lot of dirty work that can be hot and prickly," she laughed. "This is a great place to learn... Come and enjoy. It's a great place for kids to see insects, flowers and nature up close. It's just fun. It's fun to watch the interactions of nature. It changes every year." I had no idea how much thought went into creating a garden, how much the local insects must do to survive, or how both plants and animals coevolve to survive. It was amazing to be able to see it with my own eyes.

## BRIEFS



### NARCAN VENDING MACHINE AT FIRE STATION

This month, the city launched the first Narcan vending machine at a Longfellow fire station, 3209 E. 38th St. The pilot program provides a free life-saving resource for people in need. It is located outside Fire Station 21 in an area that has seen a high amount of substance use and overdoses. So far this year, there have been 74 suspected overdoses and four suspected fatal overdoses. Between 2017 and 2021, there were 38 opioid-related deaths in the area.

It is free to community members with no barriers with 24-hour access.

Christopher Burks spent 30 years fighting addiction and is now in long-term recovery. His journey includes being saved by NARCAN six times. "Without NARCAN, I wouldn't be here today, nor would I have had the chance at recovery. The vending machine is a long time coming. A lot of people are going to be saved and given another chance at recovery with this resource," said Burks.

### MINNEHAHA FALLS VIEWING AREA PROJECT

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is working on a project to repair access and viewing areas on the south side of Minnehaha Falls that are currently closed. The viewing area and staircase that is currently open on the north side of the falls is not part of this project. There are three concepts that outline how the deteriorated area south of the falls could look after repairs are complete.

A public open house events is planned for Tuesday, July 30, 5-7 p.m., Minnehaha Falls Bandshell, 4801 S Minnehaha Park Dr. to display the concepts and get feedback from people.

The MPRB plans to decide on a final design concept later this year, then it will begin detailed design and engineering work. The design and materials of the final concept will influence when construction could begin and how long it will take.

This project's final design will set a precedent for future infrastructure repair and replacement projects in Minnehaha Regional Park. The concepts that will be on display at the open houses explore different ways materials and designs can work better with the natural environment and conditions of the area. They also aim to provide more inclusive and more convenient access for the millions of visitors to Minnehaha Falls every year.

### SIBLEY PARK CONSTRUCTION DONE

A ribbon cutting on the completed Sibley Park project was held on June 14,

2024. The playground includes a long zipline, the first of its type in the MPRB system, and other accessible play features. The wading pool has a ramped "zero depth" entry that makes it easier for anyone with limited mobility to get into the pool - also provides a shallow area for toddlers. Mature trees were protected and preserved. The entryway plaza was improved and resurfaced.

In 2016, community members solicited MPRB staff to change the park's name because of the history of violence Henry Hasting Sibley perpetuated against the Dakota people. A park name-change process was initiated in 2021 in conjunction with a park improvements project, which indicated interest in a name that recognizes the Dakota people. However, in 2023, after a range of community-proposed names in Dakota were considered, MPRB paused the name-change process to seek input from an Indigenous Advisory Council in the context of a range of projects in the Minneapolis parks system, and as part of MPRB's Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan.

### CARP AT LAKE NOKOMIS

Park staff are working on a project that monitors common carp movement through the Lake Nokomis watershed.

Common carp are one of the most widespread and damaging aquatic invasive species. To get fish for the study, researchers conducted electrofishing on Lake Nokomis in 2023. Early this spring, a signal receiver was mounted in the stream

that connects Lake Nokomis to potential spawning habitat to the south of the lake. Each antennae tag has a unique ID that the receiver will pick up if the fish passes.

This will help inform researchers if carp from Nokomis are using those spawning grounds and give information about the timing of their migrations. Then MPRB can use this data to find a potential choke point where carp could be captured and removed, or decide if a barrier is needed to keep carp from using this spawning habitat.

### SEWARD DIY HOUSE BECOMING CO-OP

What comes to mind when you think of Minneapolis art? For some it's a gallery, or a concert at a bar or coffee shop. For many it's also personal and DIY. Community venues run out of punk houses, arts coops, or your neighbor's patio, are part of what makes South Minneapolis special.

One such long-running house is the Arbitrarium where a slowly-evolving group of low-income artists and musicians have lived since 2010, and the site of many performances and community gatherings.

The Arbitrarium Housing Cooperative is a non-profit with the purpose of acquiring and maintaining the property at 2200 28th Avenue South. The co-op is receiving development assistance and financing from Shared Capital, LEAF, the Kagawa Fund, and NASCO. They are also actively raising money via crowd-funding platforms and social events, and can receive tax-deductible donations through their fiscal sponsor, Community Driven.



Ralph Matthew-Ayemiomo, Alex McNulty, Max Siebold, Hudson Waites, Ari Schwartz work on seed bombs during the Sanford Middle School Community Project Service Day on May 30, 2024. >> Find more photos online at LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

## SANFORD STUDENTS SPREAD KINDNESS

On May 30, 2024, over 700 students aged 11 to 14 participated in Sanford Middle School's Community Project Service Day. Their goal was to learn how young people can solve problems in their community through taking actions to help people experiencing homelessness, battle food insecurity, improve local biodiversity, and support members of the Native community. In part, the students' projects were supported by Random Acts, an organization that funds acts of kindness in local communities.

During the Community Project, which is the capstone project for eighth grade students in the International Baccalaureate-MYP school, students pool the skills they have learned in different classes into one cumulative project. This includes reading, writing, and communication skills, social studies, art, science, and math skills. The students are involved in every stage of the project, its planning, execution, and reflection.

Overall, there were 20 community service projects in which the sixth and seventh graders could participate on Community Project Service Day, while the eighth graders were doing their individual projects. At the school, students rotated through stations to support people experiencing homelessness, making over 500 sandwiches through The Sandwich

Project and assembling 120 hygiene kits, that were donated to Avivo. In another station, students assembled 32 birthday party bags for Native families for the Department of Indian Work. Students also made and distributed 120 seed bombs to help pollinators in local ecosystems. Others designed greeting cards for incoming Sanford students, as well as hospitalized or homebound people. Even more students ventured out of the school, leaving positive messages on yard signs and sidewalks, going to neighborhood elementary schools to read with students, or going to local parks and the river to pick up trash.

For the students, Community Service Day provided a unique and uplifting experience. "It's important to help our community become a better place for everyone," sixth grader Zoe explained. "I really liked making hygiene bags for homeless people because everyone deserves to be clean," sixth grader Charlie said at the day's end.

Four of the projects - creating hygiene and birthday bags and assembling seed bombs and sandwiches - were supported by Random Acts, an international organization that funds acts of kindness. With the over \$1,950 provided by the organization, students could purchase the materials they needed to bring meals, birthday joy, personal dignity, and biodiversity to their local communities.

## Faith

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**Bethlehem Covenant Church**  
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www.bethlehemcov.org  
Pastor Colleen Nelson  
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Traditional Service - 9 AM  
Contemporary Service - 10:45 AM  
All sermons can be found online

**Epworth United Methodist**  
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www.epworthmpls.org  
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A Reconciling Congregation  
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& Live-streaming on Our FB Page  
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**Faith Ev. Lutheran Church**  
3430 E 51st St. • 612-729-5463  
www.faithlutheranmpls.org  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jared Yogerst  
Sundays - Sundays 9 a.m.  
(Communion 1st and 3rd)  
Mondays: Exercise Class, 10 am  
AA, 6:30 pm  
Wednesdays: NA group, 7:30 pm  
Blind Ministry Sat, Aug. 24, 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  
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**Minnehaha Communion Lutheran**  
4101 37th Ave. S. • 612-722-9527  
www.minnehahacommunion.org  
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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**  
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www.saintalbertthegreat.org  
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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
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