



A call for harmony, solidarity, and renewed commitment to Planet Earth

On a rainy September evening, amidst the vibrant streets of Minneapolis, Rituparna Rana brought her latest dance performance, "Tarangini: The Elemental Flow," to life as part of the Greenway Glow Arts Festival, organized by the Midtown Greenway Coalition. Against a backdrop of urban sprawl and natural serenity, this evocative dance piece reimagined the intersection of nature, community, and the elements, inviting audiences on a journey through rain, earth, fire, air, and snow along the iconic Greenway at the Ivy Building. "Tarangini: The Elemental Flow" was inspired by the ecological diversity of Minneapolis – from the Mississippi River to the Chain of Lakes, and the verdant pathways of the Midtown Greenway. The performance was a celebration of nature's rhythms and a call for unity and reflection. As Rituparna explains in her own words, the dance "reminds us of our deep connection to the earth and the elements, encouraging a reflection on our relationship with nature and the importance of preserving the environment within our cities." (Photo submitted)

Tensions rise at city workshop amid calls for police reform

Some push for city-led meetings on George Floyd Square to focus first on vision instead of streets

By JILL BOOGREN

More than 100 people packed The Square event center (3737 Chicago Ave.) on Sept. 24, 2024, for the city of Minneapolis' fifth and final visioning workshop for George Perry Floyd Square (GFS). While attendees enjoyed dinner and fellowship with their neighbors, tensions were high as many in the room voiced frustration with the city's process and lack of demon-

strable police reform.

As in previous workshops, the evening was split into breakout groups to separately address road reconstruction, memorials, the Peoples' Way and racial healing. This time another group was convened by resident Marcia Howard to discuss the ongoing protest for the 24 demands of Justice Resolution 001 (bit.ly/george-floydsquare-a), created by community in 2020 in response to the question by city leaders, "What does justice look like?"

"Everything we are considering here has to be considered within the context of everything we are," Howard told the room. "Because you did not just fall out of a coconut tree, you fell into the middle of a protest."

In the road reconstruction breakout room, transportation consultant Craig

Vaughn presented three concepts for reconfiguring the right-of-way at 38th and Chicago: Flexible-Open, Transit Mall and Pedestrian Plaza. Susan Heineman, a member of the former Co-Creation Team (CCT), pointed out that a bus shelter on the map was placed directly on the memorial for Dameron "Murphy Ranks" Chambers, who was killed in 2020. Three of the 24 demands relate to investigating his death and holding police accountable for "impeding EMS response, mishandling and compromising evidence, and refusing to treat the site of his death as a crime scene."

In discussing transit access, an attendee expressed that it was "at odds that you're actively putting transit in a memorial site."

"We are trying to bring transit back into the Square in some way, shape or form," said Vaughn. "It's feedback we've heard from many members of the community."

Jenny Jones, a nearby resident who

GF SQUARE >> 3

What should be at 'gateway to Downtown Longfellow'?

City proposes election center and warehouse, citizen groups call for 100% community control

By CAM GORDON

Despite serious community concerns, Mayor Jacob Frey and the Minneapolis City Council appear to be moving forward with a plan to use the former 3rd precinct police station at Minnehaha Ave. and E Lake St. as a election center and warehouse.

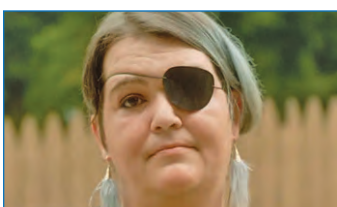
"We are disappointed that the city has repeatedly ignored community and stakeholder input that called for the entire site to be developed for a community use, such as affordable housing, nonprofit social services, a Black cultural center and/or a memorial and place for healing," wrote the Longfellow Rising Board of Directors in a letter to the city council. It was signed by Meena Natarajan and Jamie Schwesnedl, co-chairs of the group that includes people who lost buildings and businesses due to fire and civil unrest, and who have been working to rebuild Downtown Longfellow since.

They were particularly concerned about the proposed warehouse that would be built on Lake Street, and the concrete barricades and razor wire that is still there.

WHAT SHOULD BE THERE? >> 7



Paul Bauknight of the Center for Transformative Urban Design speaks on Sept. 24, one of the 3000 Minnehaha Coalition partners supporting redevelopment of the former 3rd precinct site "with a measure of care dramatically different than how we've addressed it, or any social issue, in South Minneapolis' past. ... The history and meaning of this site is too potent and important to dismiss." (Photo courtesy of Confluence Studio Instagram)



Have you noticed that journalists are under fire in America?

PAGE 4



ELECTION 2024
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PAGE 6



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Participants at the fifth city visioning workshop on Sept. 24, 2024, review materials in a breakout room addressing reconstruction of the right of way at 38th St. and Chicago Ave., George Perry Floyd Square. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

GF SQUARE >> from 1

participated in most of the Learning Table groups at Sabathani and subsequent meetings, interjected: "There's a significant segment of those groups that wanted pedestrian only," she said. "So you're saying it's based on feedback, but it isn't based on all the feedback."

Several members of the CCT were present. Appointed by the city, the CCT met for more than a year to discuss the 38th St. and Chicago Ave. right-of-way capital improvement project before disbanding in order to broaden the scope to include memorials and the Peoples' Way. According to its former co-chair Jeanelle Austin, neighborhood resident and executive director of Rise and Remember, the CCT voted unanimously for a community-led vision before starting construction on the streets.

"What you all are doing from my understanding is the construction of the streets are to begin first, before we even know and crystallize what the Peoples' Way will even become," said Austin at the workshop. The city purchased the Peoples' Way in 2023 and issued a Request for Proposals (RFQ) on Sept. 23, 2024, to develop the site.

posals (RFQ) on Sept. 23, 2024, to develop the site.

"When you have this driving force, 'We have to do the streets, we have to do the streets, we have to do the streets,' transit is leading this and not the community," said Austin. She said the community asked for a lot of things that would bring equity into the neighborhood, but redoing the streets was not among them.

"Rather than letting the community lead, you still created these spaces and [are] leading with transportation and not with the fact that we've got hundreds of names of Black people who are killed by systemic city violence," she said. In its investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), Austin pointed out, the U.S. Department of Justice found civil rights violations by both the MPD and the city of Minneapolis.

There's a strong feeling by some that the city was being dismissive of the CCT's recommendation by hosting these workshops, which have taken place in parallel to the Community Visioning Council (CVC) that meets on third Saturdays at Belfry Apartments/Calvary Church (3901 Chicago Ave.).

"I worked my butt off to even just create the Community Visioning Council so

that the community could take that over and have a space [to talk]. And then what does the city do? Sideline that with other meetings," Austin said.

As Austin spoke to the need to make real investments in the neighborhood, another attendee expressed that the city hosting these public meetings was an investment.

"I wanna live in a city that works for me," he said. "I chose this community because of this."

"This is an investment in the Square," he added, pointing to the concepts displayed on easels. "I want to bike to work. I want to take the Metro Transit."

"And I wanna live. Period," responded Austin, who is Black. "I wanna live."

A resident of 11th Ave. said that other transit hubs in Minneapolis make the place feel "a little seedy," "not safe" and don't serve the residents around it.

"I've never seen it done well. And I've never seen it done where it actually respects the actual residents that live there," she said. "It has never made a place feel safer."

Another resident was distraught over people loitering under the bright lights of the bus shelter in front of her home.

"It's brought a lot of problems to the

neighborhood," she said. "It's partly because it's a big ol' huge bus stop with a huge bright light that encourages all sorts of... dangerous behavior at all hours of the morning."

A PROJECT IN NEED OF A VISION

Art Serotoff, also a member of the former CCT, expressed concern about the city leading the workshops.

"The thing that gets me is the city controls the questions. If the city controls the questions, your perspective is narrow," he said, and explained that the CCT repeatedly called for the creation of a vision for the area.

"A vision is not five different plans slapped together. The five different plans need an overall idea," said Serotoff. He read one of the metrics on a Concept Evaluation Matrix handout, that states: "Acknowledge the significance of GFS as a sacred space visited by nearby residents and people from around the world by designing areas that support daily living, gatherings and communal activities and celebrations. ...

"To me that stands out as at least a guide to what a vision might be. But this stuff...?" said Serotoff, pointing to the easels. "Why is it stalled? There's no vision. There's no unified view of what this area could be."

While the city has held many community meetings in a variety of formats over the last few years and has summarized public sentiment in each, these 2024 workshops are covering a lot more ground in a lot less time than the CCT. They have held five workshops that last 2.5 hours each, minus time for dinner and mingling. That equals 10 hours this year for people to process concepts and provide feedback. If participants have attended each meeting but gone to different breakout groups (right of way, memorials, the Peoples' Way and more), they will have spent less time on each area.

NEXT UP

According to Alexander Kado, Office of Public Service, reconstruction of the right of way will begin in 2025. Project leaders expect to provide a project summary to the City Council Committee of the Whole on Nov. 12. Proposals for developing the Peoples' Way are due Nov. 22, and a recommendation to award development rights is scheduled to be provided to the City Council and mayor in April or May 2025.

The Community Visioning Council is hosting a George Floyd Square Town Hall, "In Defense of Black Lives," with elected officials on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 5:30 p.m. at the Belfry Community Space (3901 Chicago Ave.).

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Too much coffee

BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN
Owner & editor
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Photojournalist Linda Tirado, 42, is dying.

When she arrived in Minneapolis to cover the civil conflict after the murder of George Floyd, she had impact-resistant goggles, a respirator, and a large PRESS lanyard around her neck. Despite this, Linda found herself targeted by Minneapolis police officer Andrew Braun, who deliberately shot her in the face with a 40 mm impact projectile, instantly blinding her left eye and causing a traumatic brain injury on May 29, 2020.

That injury to her brain is killing her, and she recently announced she is in hospice care in Tennessee. Linda's husband is trying to cover the bills for her care. They have two children watching their mother die.

Tirado sued the Minneapolis police, and received \$600,000 as part of a settlement in 2022.

Last week, Communities United Against Police Brutality (4200 Cedar Ave. S.) launched a scholarship fund to honor Tirado. Four \$5,000 scholarships will be given in Linda's name to Minnesota photojournalism students each year. "These scholarships will ensure that Linda's legacy, bravery and service to the community are not forgotten and that others will follow in her footsteps," wrote CUAPB in a press release.

SHOCKING NUMBER OF THREATS

The International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) recently surveyed 610 journalists who attended 26 IWMF safety trainings across 11 states. The data revealed a shocking number of threats to American journalists' safety and well-being, they report.

A decade ago, we would have been stunned to hear that these incidents are taking place in the United States, they point out.

Journalists experience physical violence, harassment, threats of gun violence, verbal attacks and sexual harassment while on assignment and in the workplace. While working as journalists:

- 36% (of 597) respondents reported being threatened with or experiencing physical violence
- 33% (of 566) respondents reported being threatened with or experiencing digital violence
- 28% (of 568) respondents reported legal threats or action against them
- 24% (of 582) respondents experienced sexual harassment and an additional 6% (of 582) were threatened with sexual violence

Find the full report at www.iwmf.org/underfire/.

JOURNALISTS UNDER FIRE HERE IN AMERICA



Linda Tirado in 2014 (left) and recently (right). She lost her eye when she was shot at by Minneapolis Police officer Andrew Braun while covering the protests after George Floyd's murder, and is now dying from the traumatic brain injury she received.



TEAR-GASSED, PEPPER-SPRAYED AND SHOT AT

Linda isn't the only journalist injured here in this country that prides itself on freedom.

A shocking one-third of the attacks on journalists in 2020 that occurred in the U.S. happened in Minnesota. Members of the press were attacked, tear-gassed, pepper-sprayed, and shot at with rubber bullets/projectiles.

Like Tirado, journalist Jared Goyette was also shot in the face by police while covering the Uprising. He was joined by news photographer Craig Lasig; photojournalists Tannen Maury, Stephen Maturen, Tim Evans, Ed Ou and Chris Tuite; and Katie Nelson, a journalist, photographer and videographer in a suit against the city with the help of the ACLU of Minnesota because of the injuries they got while covering the protests. The suit also cited several instances in which Star Tribune reporters were detained or injured by law enforcement projectiles, although none was a plaintiff. The city paid out \$950,000 in February 2024.

"This is a major victory for journalists covering protests in the United States of America," said NewsGuild-CWA President Jon Schleuss. "We joined this lawsuit to support America's journalists who were brutally attacked by police while doing their job. We are proud to support and fight for journalists defending a free press in our democracy."

Other journalists were harmed by the State Patrol.

As written in a Star Tribune article by Liz Sawyer:

Two Los Angeles Times journalists trapped and targeted by Minnesota State Patrol troopers while reporting on civil unrest in Minneapolis following the killing of George Floyd settled their federal lawsuit with the state agency for \$1.2 million in April 2024. Photographer Carolyn Cole and Houston bureau chief Molly Hennessy-Fiske were battered with blunt projectiles, tear gas and chemical spray by troopers interfering with their constitutionally protected First Amendment rights

... on May 30, 2020 ... at E. 31st Street and Nicollet Avenue – near the Fifth Precinct police headquarter. ...

"Being attacked by the [Minnesota] State Patrol four years ago was an experience no other journalist should have to face," Cole wrote in a statement. "I hope this ruling, upholding our First Amendment rights, will help to protect other photographers and reporters trying to do their jobs." ...

Both women have covered dangerous conflict zones abroad for decades and know the risks involved, but say that until 2020 they had never been singled out this way by police.

"During my nearly 25-year career, I have covered numerous law enforcement agencies and protests in various states and overseas," said Hennessy-Fiske, who now works for the Washington Post. "This was the first time that I was attacked by authorities."

The vast majority of the settlement – \$1 million – is expected to pay legal fees for their Minneapolis-based law firm. Cole and Hennessy-Fiske have agreed to split the remaining \$200,000, their attorney confirmed.

WHY AREN'T THINGS GETTING BETTER?

When I first wrote about this issue in 2020, I hoped it marked a turning point and that things would shift back to protecting the vital work journalists do. It's pretty disheartening to see these current statistics come across my desk.

In the intervening four years, Minneapolis hasn't admitted to wrong-doing, despite agreeing to large payouts to those injured and killed. There are two consent decrees highlighting that Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) and the city of Minneapolis engaged in a pattern or practice of conduct in violation of the U.S. Constitution and federal law towards journalists and other citizens. In November 2023, Alpha News released a program by former local news anchor Liz Collin called "The Fall of Minneapolis" that seeks to rewrite what happened here in 2020. In July,

UNIVERSITY POLICE TARGET JOURNALISTS

University of Minnesota Police officers detained Minnesota Daily reporter Tyler Church for three hours on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 and confiscated the bag containing his credentials, notes and schoolwork for three days. This meant that Church couldn't write his article or do his schoolwork in the meantime.

According to the Daily articles written by Spencer White:

Church was covering the Morrill Hall occupation when officers entered the building through the basement tunnels with their weapons drawn. Officers confiscated Church's backpack, which contains his laptop, schoolwork and reporting notes.

After being released from handcuffs, Church, two other Daily reporters and a reporter from the Minnesota Star Tribune were told to wait in the basement of Morrill Hall by police for three hours before eventually being released through the GopherWay tunnels.

Church and the two other Daily reporters present were wearing vests with "PRESS" printed on the front and back in large, bold letters.

Officer Josh Betts told Church that his belongings were being held in "safe keeping" until UMPD comes out of lockdown. There was no timetable given for when this lockdown would end.

They held onto his belongings for two days.

Minneapolis approved a retroactive contract for police officers bumping up their salaries by 21.7% over three years. Rookie officers will make more than \$90,000 a year. This means that some of the same officers who mistreated journalists are now among the highest paid police officers in the nation. Others have filed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) claims and will be receiving disability payouts for the rest of their careers. We don't have a state law that requires these officers to undergo treatment and rehabilitation.

The Third Precinct building, where so much of the pain and trauma of these last years is centered around, remains surrounded by barb wire. Our city leaders want to remake it to house the elections and voter services department, where the majority of the space will be used for storage. The department has just 16 full-time staff members. (See article starting on the front page.) Over the last four years, I've asked myself and others how change happens.

How do we protect each other from those who might abuse their power? One thing I know is that the press is a powerful force, shining light in dark places. And I'm worried when journalists are dying here in America, the land of the free and the brave.

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

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

Story ideas always welcome.

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

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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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guest
column

BY CINDY HOLLISTER



Since the age of 18, I have voted in every single general election. Since my mid-30s, I have voted in every single mid-term election. And once Minnesota switched from caucus to primary elections, I voted. My various employers always allowed an hour to vote, but I never lived within a distance where that worked for me.

During all the years I worked full-time, and for a period of 12 years as a single parent, it was a burden getting to

A DIFFERENT WAY TO VOTE

the polling location on time. Tuesday is a business workday and the 13-hour voting hour window at times was tight for me. Traffic congestion was always an issue, the weather could be as well, and my polling location was never part of the driving route home. I was one of those people that came screaming into a polling place in the last hour to vote hoping the line wasn't overwhelming.

I retired from full-time work in 2017 and trained to be an election judge in 2018. It was very pleasurable to perform the various positions and procedures that year. I also decided to be an election judge during the 2020 COVID year. I performed the same duties as before, but there was a noticeable difference in voters' affect and

behavior and so I declined to be an election judge for the 2022 mid-term election. Voting in person was very satisfying and mattered greatly to me, but it changed that year causing me to be more vigilant for who and what I give my vote to.

I always research and review candidates' profiles and policy positions along with any specific initiatives and referendums on the ballot. Local newspapers did a wonderful job of consolidating and providing this information when it was my normal method of being informed. I'd make a list to bring with me to fill out the ballot at the polling location. Now online searches are needed, which is cumbersome since I have not yet found a consolidated location with information for all the bal-

lot choices or without having to provide my personal information to receive it.

I have voted by mail since 2020 and strongly support that method along with broadening the number of election days. COVID demonstrated that voting by mail was a great new way to perform our civic duty. Expanding the number of election days would also help those that have full workdays filled with childcare, elder parent care, non-flexible work schedules, long commutes, transportation or physical complications, plus all the other normal daily life activities. Being able to spend more time with the ballot to search through multiple information sources helps me be a more thoughtful and informed citizen.

Cindy Hollister has worked in the billing department at TMC Publications since 2021.

Stories
and Journeys

BY DONALD L. HAMMEN



ON BEING A READER OF STORIES AND JOURNEYS

There comes a time when I am writing Stories and Journeys that I start to sense that I am done writing the column. It's time to click send to the publisher. At that point, I cease to be a writer and become a reader just like you. As a reader, there are times when I wonder if we, dear reader, are reading the same column. Keep in mind I am tasked to write what I am thinking, learning and experiencing in my life as an elder. Whether I am writing or reading that is uppermost in my mind. I urge you to do the same by way of keeping us on the same page, so to speak. Here are a couple examples that stand out in my mind where I wondered if we were reading the same column.

I WILL NOT BE PRESSURED OR CENSURED WITH RESPECT TO WHAT I WRITE.

There is an individual who claims to be a reader of Stories and Journeys who took exception to a column called Potential Rift and Retirement (4/25/24). He being one the subjects of the column.

Now I have read that column several times. There is nothing that I am reading that would suggest that I am not being true to myself and what I am being tasked to do as a writer. This individual chooses not to go public with his objections, but privately is pressuring me with what I write or what he doesn't want me to write even though I am being true to myself and what I am tasked to write. I stand by what I wrote as being true to what I am thinking, learning and experiencing. There are two people who can change what I am tasked to write. They are myself, should I choose to quit writing, and the owner/publisher/editor of TMC Publications CO. The good news is that I sense that I have a lot more columns left in me to write. I've moved on and can only hope that this individual will do the same if he is not going to go public with his perceived grievances.

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

A MATTER OF RELEVANCE

While reading the October Messenger, I noticed a Letter to the Editor in which reader John claims to be resonating with me through something I was writing

about in a previous column called "On Becoming an Octogenarian." In that column, I was writing under the heading 'Not My Mother's Republican Party.' I was making the point that from a distance I see Donald Trump as a scared little boy, etc. What enables me to see Donald Trump in this light is I am a scared little boy. It takes one to know one? What enabled me to recognize that part of myself is a traumatic life experience at a training lab in small group processes years ago that literally forced me to feel my feelings for the first time in my life. It was the beginning of my understanding myself as a highly sensitive person. Reader John references his own traumatic life experience – that being the loss of his wife of 40 years. He goes on to ask me to share the traumatic life experience that brought me to my knees. While I am sorry for John's loss, I am choosing not to share more than what I have written given I was writing under the heading 'Not My Mother's Republican Party.' I don't see how my sharing is relevant to the topic at hand.

As far as I can tell, the two best ways to publically respond to Stories and Journeys' content is email via tesha@tmcpub.com or a letter to the editor in the Messenger or Connector – methods I might

try myself some day. For a one-to-one interaction, you can always try showing up at Elder Voices at Turtle Bread on the last Friday of each month.

ELDER VOICES AT TURTLE BREAD

Tom stopped by the September Elder Voices at Turtle Bread. Turns out he is celebrating having just took up residence at Nokomis Square. Like myself, he is an octogenarian. From what I can tell, he clearly grasps the spirit of Elder Voices – that being the belief that everyone has a story to tell and a journey to share. The challenge is how to capture and preserve those stories and journeys.

Elder Voices (Telling Our Stories/Sharing Our Journeys) is scheduled to meet Nov. 29, 10-11 a.m. at Turtle Bread, 4205 East 34th Street. Look for the table with the All Elders sign. If you want to celebrate anything, do show up.

**IN GRATITUDE ALWAYS.
VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! NOV. 5**

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

CITY BRIEFS

INTERSTATE 94

The Minneapolis City Council has passed a resolution updating priorities for the Rethinking I-94 project. The resolution opposes any expansion of lanes and supports highway removal that could include a "restored network" alternative with fewer lanes, that would "maximize the potential to repurpose highway land for new public housing, affordable commercial space, parks, community gardens, or other uses determined by surrounding communities."

CITY BUDGET

The city council has received presentations from every city department about their proposed budget for 2025, and council members are now likely drafting amendments to the mayor's recommendation. The council held one public hearing on the budget in September, will hold a second on Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. and a third on Dec 10 at 6:05 p.m. in the temporary the council chamber located at 250 S 4th St in Room 350. Written comments may be sent to CouncilComment@minneapolismn.gov. The council will vote on budget amendments on Dec. 5 and 6, with the final budget adoption scheduled after the last hearing on Dec. 10.

HENNEPIN COUNTY BUDGET

A schedule of budget hearings and information on how to comment on the county budget can be found at www.hennepin.us/your-government/budget-finance/budgets.

[hennepin.us/your-government/budget-finance/budgets](http://www.hennepin.us/your-government/budget-finance/budgets).

MPD OFF-DUTY FEES

The city council is drafting an ordinance that, if approved, would give the city the authority to collect off-duty fees for police "off duty work." They have also initiated a fee study to determine the costs for use of city vehicles, materials, and administrative costs. Current officers are allowed to take private security jobs for which they are paid directly, often in cash, by private entities while insured by the city and using city weapons, cars, and uniforms.

CARBON POLLUTION FEE

The city council has overridden Mayor Jacob Frey's veto of the council's unanimously approved decision to add a new Pollution Control Annual Registration (PCAR) fee for the largest emitters of carbon dioxide in the city. PCAR fees are a state authorized program that the city has been applying for years to a variety of air pollutants, but not CO2 (carbon dioxide). The new proposed fee to would charge large facilities \$452/ton of CO2e and is set to go into effect after a study is completed in July in 2025.

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL ORDINANCE

The city council is considering an ordinance that would give "qualified organizations" the right of first refusal to buy some certain properties that are for sale. It would establish a list of that would get priority at purchasing qualifying affordable housing properties at market value



Green Party Presidential Candidate Dr. Jill Stein spoke in Crystal and at the GPMN HQ at 4200 Cedar Avenue South in Minneapolis on Oct. 18. As someone who has come to the Green Party specifically because of the party's support for Palestinian human rights, Wisam Balshe believes the Muslim community will be energized by Stein and the Green Party's message of peace and a demand for an end to the genocide in Gaza. "This attracted me and many Muslim Americans to join the Green Party," he said. "I believe this growing Green Muslim movement will continue past the election, especially with more Muslims joining the party leadership ranks at the national and local levels." Dr. Stein is currently on the ballot in 38 states and running write-in campaigns in another eight states, plus DC, representing a total of 510 potential electoral votes, more than enough to secure the presidency. (Photo submitted)

if they commit to maintain specified affordability levels and renter protections. The ordinance would not apply to home-steaded properties, 1-4-unit buildings over a certain value, buildings with over five units newer than 30 years or with zero affordable units in the last five years, some subsidized affordable housing, any properties conveyed via estate, foreclosure, trust, or will, nor any single-family home sold to a tenant.

CANNABIS REGULATION

A city council committee has voted to support a new ordinance regulating where, when, and how cannabis sales and consumption may occur in the city. It includes a provision, brought forward by Ward 12 Council Member Aurin Chowdhury, that establishes a 300-foot perimeter between a dispensary and a school or any other dispensary. This is the same as the spacing restriction applied to a liquor store.

~ Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon

VOTING FOR NOV. 5 ELECTION

Early voting for the Nov. 5 2024 general election began Sept. 20. Minneapolis residents can vote early at Minneapolis Early Vote Center (980 E Hennepin Ave), the Hennepin County Government Center and other temporary early voting locations. Visit hennepin.us/elections and <https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/> for more information.

SCHOOL BOARD AT-LARGE

KIM ELLISON, INCUMBENT

www.kimellisonforschools.com

SHAYLA OWODUNNI

www.shaylaformps.com

Why are you the best candidate for the position?

I am deeply committed to creating an inclusive and high-achieving educational environment in Minneapolis Public Schools. My hands-on experience as an Early Learning Corps volunteer has shown me the joys and challenges of our classrooms. With a background in corporate finance, IT governance, risk and compliance (IT GRC), and program management, I bring a strategic approach to budgeting and transparency. Serving on the Carlson School Alumni Board and co-chairing the Carlson 360 Network, I am a champion for enriching community and diverse perspectives. My passion for education is rooted in empowering our children to achieve greatness, regardless of circumstance. Together, I am



confident we can build a brighter future for all MPS students.

If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?

Academic Achievement: Ensure every child excels in reading and math with evidence-based, engaging learning methods.

Community Collaboration: Strengthen partnerships between schools, families, and local organizations, empowering parents and caregivers with effective tools and regular interactive sessions to equip homes with low-lift learning strategies.

Financial Integrity: Champion zero-based budgeting and comprehensive audits to use resources effectively and support students and teachers.

If forced to cut the budget in the face of declining revenue, what would be your strategy?

In facing budget cuts, my strategy would be to prioritize student-focused initiatives and essential services. Implementing zero-based budgeting will help identify areas where resources can be reallocated more effectively. I will engage with educators, parents, caregivers, and community members to understand their priorities and make informed decisions. Transparency and open communication will be key to ensuring that budget adjustments are made thoughtfully

and equitably.

How can you as a board member and the board as a whole foster mutual respect between students, staff and parents?

Fostering mutual respect starts with open communication and active listening. I will advocate for regular forums and advisory groups where students, staff, and parents/caregivers can share their perspectives and collaborate on solutions. Celebrating diversity, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring that all voices are heard and valued are essential. By working together and building trust, we can create a supportive and respectful educational community.

Please describe how you will engage teachers and families in your decision-making process.

Engaging teachers and families in decision-making involves consistent and transparent communication. I will establish regular interactive sessions and forums to gather input and feedback. Creating advisory committees and leveraging existing parent-teacher associations will ensure diverse perspectives are considered. By actively involving educators and families, we can make informed decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of our community.

SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION:
TECH LEVY

Revoking Existing Technology Capital Project Levy Authorization; Approving New Authorization

The board of Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) has proposed to revoke the School District's existing capital project levy (also known as the tech levy) authorization in the amount of 2.249% times the net tax capacity of the School District and to replace that authorization with a new capital project levy authorization in the amount of 4.728% times the net tax capacity of the School District. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$38,142,202 for taxes payable in 2025, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. A portion of this new authorization will replace the school district's existing authorization of \$18,142,202 for taxes payable in 2025, which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2025. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$381,422,020. The revenue from the proposed capital levy authorization will provide funds for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of technology systems, technology equipment, technology infrastructure and security, and technology support staffing. Shall the existing capital project levy authorization be revoked and the new capital project levy authorization proposed by the board of Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) be approved?

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

2024 STATE BALLOT QUESTION:
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TRUST FUND RENEWAL

Failure to vote on a constitutional amendment will have the same effect as voting no on the amendment.

To vote for a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question. To vote against a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to protect drinking water sources and the water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams; conserve wildlife habitat and natural areas; improve air quality; and expand access to parks and trails by extending the transfer of proceeds from the state-operated lottery to the environment and natural resources trust fund, and to dedicate the proceeds for these purposes?

MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 63A

SAMANTHA SENCER-MURA (DFL)

www.sencer-mura.org
Running unopposed

MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 63B

EMMA GREENMAN (DFL), INCUMBENT

emmagreenman.com

DIANE NAPPER (R)

dianenapper.com

42,000 RESIDENTS VOTED BY OCT. 27

As of Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024 more than 42,000 Minneapolis residents had cast their ballots early, either in-person or by mail. This year, the city has five pop-up voting sites, including Oct. 31 at Cedar Cultural Center and Nov. 1 at Grace Trinity Community Church.

RACES FOR JUDGES

LWVMN does not invite judicial candidates to participate in the VOTE411 Voter's Guide due to the number of candidates across the state and associated administrative costs. This combined with the fact that most judicial candidates want to keep a low profile make this a practical decision. Information about judicial candidates is harder to find than it is for candidates of other offices. However, there are a few things voters can do to learn more about candidates and make their voices heard.

Do your research. Most judicial candidates want to keep a low profile. Sitting judges' biographies can be found on the MN Judicial Branch website. To see if a judge has been reprimanded, check MN Board on Judicial Standards. In the rare case that an election is contested, voters can usually find statements from candidates in MN Lawyer or MN Bar Association (available only during elections).

Learn more about this process: "Judicial Candidates in Minnesota: What to know before you head to the polls!" (LWVMN).

Contested races in the Minneapolis area:

JUDGE - 2ND DISTRICT COURT 24

MATTHEW FRANK

www.mncourts.gov/hennepin

CHRISTOPHER LECKRONE

www.christopherleckroneforjudge.com

JUDGE - COURT OF APPEALS 12

mncourts.gov/About-The-Courts/Overview/JudicialDirectory

DIANE B. BRATVOLD

JONATHAN R. WOOSLEY

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE

STEPHEN A. EMERY

stephenaemery.org

NATALIE E. HUDSON

justicehudson.org

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE 6

MATTHEW R. HANSON

mhansonlaw.com

KARL PROCACCINI

karlforjustice.com

A NON-PARTISAN RESOURCE

**Newspapers,
The Reliable News
Source***

7 out of 10 voters say so when making election decisions.

* National Newspaper Association 2022 Survey

Relevance Project



3000 MINNEHAHA >> from 1

"No private citizen or organization could keep a property in this state for so long, or plan the kind of development that the city has proposed," they said.

They also called into question the proposal's appropriateness within the city's own zoning rules. "This flat, uninspired structure barely fits within the Corridor 6 zoning for the area under the city's own 2040 Plan," they wrote. "What is needed along East Lake Street, at the gateway to our welcoming neighborhood, is more housing, small business and community space, amenities and activation for an area in the midst of rebuilding and revitalizing."

CITY STAFF VISION FOR SITE

On Oct. 15, 2024, Minneapolis City Operations Officer Margaret Anderson-Kelliher outlined a plan to relocate the election and voter services, now in northeast Minneapolis, into part of the building. The department has 16 full-time staff members.

The staff plan also calls for a new warehouse to store voting equipment to be built on part of the current surface parking lot. The presentation did not include a cost for the addition.

The city will issue a request for proposals for a partner to manage operations in 8,000 square feet that would be designated "community space."

Anderson-Kelliher said there is community support for the proposal, pointing to an online survey that 1,148 residents responded to. She did not specify how citizens found the online survey. Of those that responded, 63% supported the election services center proposal.

There are about 150,000 people living in Seward, Longfellow, Nokomis East, Powderhorn Park, and Phillips neighborhoods. The sample of residents surveyed is less than 1%.

The city held smaller meetings with a sampling of citizens, aimed at hearing from those who speak Spanish and Somali, the Indigenous community, and adjacent neighbors to the site.

CONFLICTING PERSPECTIVES

"Minneapolis residents have said loud and clear that they support a democracy center at Minnehaha 3000, and we're listening to them," said Frey. "Progress requires action, and my administration is committed to moving forward. In the future, I hope council will put the politics aside and join us in supporting the development our residents want without delay."

"This proposal was not based on the outcomes of any community engagement, nor was it accompanied by any commitment to truth and reconciliation or racial healing," said Ward 9 Council Member Jason Chavez. "Due to the unique history of racial trauma at the site, my office and Council Member [Robin] Wonsley brought forward a resolution to designate 3000 Minnehaha for 100% public ownership and operation under the guidance of local residents and impacted commu-



According to the 3000 Minnehaha Coalition, "What is needed along East Lake Street, at the gateway to our welcoming neighborhood, is more housing, small business and community space, amenities and activation for an area in the midst of rebuilding and revitalizing." (Photo by Cam Gordon)

nities. This would finally fulfill the city's stated values of meaningful community engagement and empowerment, particularly in the area of racial healing."

That resolution failed to pass on a 7-6 vote. Southside council members were also divided on the issue, with council members Chavez, Wonsley and Jamal Osman voting for public ownership, and Andrea Jenkins, Emily Koski and Aurin Chowdhury voting against it in support of the election services proposal.

"City staff did their due diligence in preparing and bringing a proposal to the community, and the engagement shows that the community resoundingly supports the proposal," said Ward 11 Council Member Koski. "I recognize that previous proposals and processes regarding this site have been cause for community disappointment, frustration, and mistrust, but it's clear that with this proposal and process city staff worked hard to right those wrongs, and to listen to and learn from the community."

VOTE AGAINST WAREHOUSE

At the following council meeting on Oct. 17, the council voted against constructing of the warehouse. They support using the space for community development, and call for it to be used for "racial healing and reckoning with past acts of racism, misogyny, and violence by 3rd precinct officers" and the "immediate cleanup, remediation, and beautification" of the site. Southside council members Jenkins and Koski were two of the three votes against this resolution.

"There is broad agreement that any development at the site should not include any type of warehouse structure," said Chavez. "This component could be used for community development (ways to address homelessness, the opioid epidemic, economic development) and racial healing while still having the Elections and Voter Services part of the building. This would help us make the best use of the site, as well as the unique historic and social meaning of the area."

"I am proud to have pushed the ad-

ministration to make solid commitments in bringing down the barbed wire, fencing, and addressing the blight on the corner," said Ward 12 Council Member Chowdhury. "It is my hope and ask to the mayor's administration as a supporter of the democracy center that we see an expansion of the amount of space allocated for community development and use, and we avoid the gateway of Downtown Longfellow having an inactive warehouse and consider other ways to store election equipment in line with the small area plan."

Another group, the Minnehaha 3000 Coalition, questioned the survey results and urged that the mayor's proposal be reconsidered. They identify themselves as a "grassroots group of Third Precinct neighbors, business owners, and creative professionals in urban and social design practices."

"The Mayor's survey had an opportunity to better center racial and gender marginalized neighbors, and to engage with the atrocious history of the former Third Precinct site, but it abdicated that responsibility in favor of a 'balance' that misrepresents the history of the site in question and the continued realities facing Black, Brown, and Native individuals in the surrounding area," the said in a letter to the council.

They urged the council to block the mayor's proposal and said that insisting on "an authentically democratic framework be established for the redevelopment of the former Third Precinct" would "allow us to reimagine the site in a manner that addresses its past history so that we might collectively imagine a future, more just path forward for Minneapolis and the Southside, and quite possibly provide a working model for the Nation on methods to positively and proactively confront past and current systems of racialized violence."

"I am not going to dig in my heels on this, and I'm willing to find a compromise for the betterment of our community," said Chavez. "I love this community. And I believe this community deserves more than a warehouse on Lake St. I would be

CITIZEN-LED SURVEY

The 3000 Minnehaha Coalition, in collaboration with Confluence Studio, received 189 comments in five days and over 260 through press time on its online petition "rejecting Mayor Frey's proposal for the 3rd Precinct site: demand community control."

As stated on the change.org survey:

The Mayor is misrepresenting community survey data collected by his office to push through a proposed "democracy center" to be built at the former Third Precinct site. His plan does not have authentic popular support from residents of our communities, business down the block from the ruins, or key city council members whose wards will be home to what is built next....

If we leave the Mayor's misinformation campaign unchallenged, he will waste our tax dollars, valuable public space, and a necessary opportunity for community creativity to shape the future. The Mayor claims that there is overwhelming citywide and neighborhood support for his plan: but he is basing that statement on a digital survey which only has data from residents who chose to, or knew they could, participate. Over 100,000 people live in the neighborhoods patrolled by the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct. The Mayor's Office has not publically shared how many people participated. By signing this petition, you are letting the City Council know you are amongst the many people in the Third Precinct neighborhood who do not support the Mayor's proposal.

At the end of the day, the Mayor's proposal for his "democracy center" is undemocratic. Residents have only been presented options chosen by the Mayor's office, not once have visions from our own neighborhood been a central focus of what will be built atop the ruins of the Third Precinct. We are fighting to change that. Please sign this petition and support the 3000 Minnehaha Coalition's campaign to win 100% community control over the reimagining and redesign of the former third precinct site into a true Democracy Center made for residents by residents.



okay with the elections and voter services component as long as the issues outlined in the second resolution [opposing the warehouse] are addressed."

"My goal," said Chowdhury, "is to ensure that the community feels an ownership of the space and have themselves reflected at this critical site."

While Frey did not veto the council's compromise of community space and voting services center without a warehouse, neither he, nor Anderson-Kelliher, have agreed to any changes to their proposal so far.

TIDBITS

GOLD LINE TO LINK WOODBURY TO MINNEAPOLIS

To enhance regional mobility, the METRO Gold Line, a bus rapid transit line opening in March 2025, will be extended to downtown Minneapolis in 2027. The Gold Line will become the region's sixth bus rapid transit line when it opens next year, providing frequent, all-day service between downtown St. Paul and Woodbury. Gold Line buses will primarily operate in bus lanes generally along the Interstate 94 corridor, serving 16 stations in St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Woodbury.

In 2027, Gold Line service will be extended to downtown Minneapolis. The Gold Line Extension will bring new, en-

hanced stations to Interstate 94 and Snelling Avenue, where riders can connect to the METRO A Line and METRO B Line, and near U.S. Bank Stadium. In Minneapolis, the Gold Line will serve existing bus rapid transit stations on 7th and 8th streets and bring riders as far as the METRO Green Line Extension's Royalston Avenue/Farmers Market Station.

The Gold Line will be considered substantially complete later this year. The \$505 million project is set to finish on time and under budget, with service scheduled to begin on March 22, 2025. Extending the Gold Line is estimated to cost up to \$20 million, with money primarily going toward buses and station construction.

MCLAUGHLIN RETIRES FROM LISC TWIN CITIES

Peter McLaughlin, executive director of LISC Twin Cities, retired on Aug.

9, winding down a career that spanned more than five decades. A widely respected leader, change maker and public servant, McLaughlin joined LISC in May 2019 and, during his tenure, the office has invested nearly \$459 million in grants and loans to support affordable housing, nonprofits, and small businesses. This has resulted in the creation of more than 7,000 units of housing and nearly 2 million square feet of community and commercial facilities in the Twin Cities and has leveraged \$4.26 billion in total development.

In previous roles, Peter was the chief author of Minnesota's parental leave law, making the state the first in the nation to provide guaranteed leave for both mothers and fathers; he was responsible for financing the first two light rail lines in the Twin Cities and he initiated the use of ballpark sales tax revenue for investment in youth

recreational facilities and expansion of library hours.

3-PAC MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH

3-PAC (Third Precinct Advisory Council) has been meeting with the Minneapolis police on a regular basis for more than 30 years. The purpose of 3PAC is to foster communication between residents and the Minneapolis Police Department in the Third Precinct. 3-PAC also provides meals and treats to the officers throughout the year. 3-PAC meets every other month on the second Monday of the month. Meetings are in February, April, June, August, October and December. "Because we no longer have a precinct building in our neighborhood, 3-PAC meets at Corcoran Park - 3334 20th Avenue South - from 6:30 to 8 p.m.," say organizers. The next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 9.

Nokomis East BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

By BOB ALBRECHT
www.nokomiseastba.com



JOHNSTONS HAVE RUN STEVE'S SINCE 1990S



Raised in the Kenny neighborhood of South Minneapolis, Colin Johnston started working at Steve's Tire & Auto while in high school when his uncle Steve Johnston ran the two locations. Colin acquired the business in December 2021. He floats between the 54th and 34th shop and the location at 46th and Nicollet.

Colin Johnston, owner of Steve's Tire & Auto – with service centers at 54th Street and 34th Avenue as well as 46th Street and Nicollet Avenue – projects a warm, friendly, and easygoing demeanor. Judge him not by the sizeable GMC pickup in which he arrived to be interviewed for this piece. When asked the color of his truck, Colin replied, "Pull Me Over Red!"

Now 34, one could say Colin was just about born into the automotive service business as you shall read below. In December 2021 he acquired "Steve's" from its founder and his uncle, Steve Johnston. Colin stated his business purchase was made "without hesitation!" Those close to Colin were supportive and he harbors no regrets about his decision to carry on his family's operation.

Colin and his younger sister were raised in the Kenny neighborhood of southwest Minneapolis near 60th and Dupont. He attended Blessed Trinity and Southwest High. From the age of around five or six, Colin tagged along with his dad, Rollie Johnston, who worked at the 34th Avenue automotive shop.

As a child and in his youth, Colin possessed seemingly natural curiosity about taking apart car components, repairing them, and putting them back together. Colin worked at the 34th Avenue location while in high school and the ensuing years proved that he was quite mechanically inclined and possessed unusual aptitude surrounding most matters automotive.

Having completed some college courses in business management, Colin believes his most effective training was

hands on. Colin emphasized that his parents encouraged him to follow his bliss in his choice of a profession. It just happened to be the case that his was a car-crazed family!

THE BIRTH OF A FAMILY BUSINESS

In 1981, Steve Johnston went to work at the 46th & Nicollet location and about a decade later bought the business from owner Tim Murphy. In the mid-1990s, Steve bought the 34th Avenue business from a different owner.

Both locations had been Unocal 76

stations. By the late 1990s, they had affiliated with Mobil as privately owned franchises after Unocal migrated to the southern states.

In 2008, as the 46th Street bridge over Highway 35W was replaced, Steve believed the timing was perfect to raze the original 46th and Nicollet building. He replaced it with an all-new structure that took eight months to complete before reopening in early 2009.

In 2014, the building on 34th Avenue was remodeled and expanded. Gas pumps, which had been available at both locations, were phased out upon completion of each updated facility.

Today, Steve's Tire & Auto repairs engines and transmissions, provides oil changes, and sells batteries and tires – though none of these areas Colin considers a specialty his business is known for. About the only service Steve's does not provide is body work.

"What we are best known for," Colin said, "is customer service. And we are very good diagnosticians."

Most of Steve's customers are aligned with the neighborhood, whether as residents or people who work at nearby businesses.

Colin is proud to say that customers can usually schedule appointments only a few days out. An exception might be during the holiday season when Steve's often experiences a surge in business, although Colin noted they stay busy year-round.

Colin divides his time evenly between his two locations, working about 60 hours Monday through Friday ;plus he is on call at other times. He said that while he rents



The Steve's Tire building at 54th and 34th was formerly a Mobil station. It was renovated in 2014.

both buildings, he would one day like to own the buildings – if and when the time seems right.

"The 46th and Nicollet location serves a higher car count, likely due to its highly visible location just off 35W," Colin added. LubeXpress oil change bays account for a great deal of the business at that location.

Steve's has the coveted Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accreditation – which attracted the eye of the American Automobile Association (AAA) with which Steve's is aligned as an endorsed affiliate.

Through AAA, customers are referred to Steve's (not for towing) and their AAA membership means certain discounts may apply. Steve's is also a Goodyear Tire affiliate. While they offer other brands of tires as well, Steve's is able to get the best pricing through Goodyear.

A BUSINESS WITH HEART

Colin – who as boss believes he is a decent delegator – employs a general manager, Rob Stadler, who has been on staff 15 years and floats between the two locations. Store manager Adam Myers holds the fort at 46th and Nicollet.

There are 15 additional staff members at 46th and Nicollet and six at 54th and 34th – including one master technician at each location. The Steve's Tire and Auto staff includes five women, one of whom is a service advisor and four of whom are

STEVE'S TIRE & AUTO >> 12

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What's Your NOKOMIS HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE?

PLAY A LITTLE

Audrey's Cookbooks
audreyscookbooks.com

LK Arts Academy
lk-artsacademy.com

The Cracked Pot Studio
thecrackedpotstudio.com

The Workshop
theworkshopmpls.com

GRAB A BITE, TREAT OR DRINK

Bull's Horn
bullshornfoodanddrink.com

Berry Sweet Kitchen
berrysweetkitchen.com

Carbone's Pizza & Pub
carbones.com

Grande Sunrise
bit.ly/GrandeSunrise

McDonald's Liquor, see Facebook

Oxendale's Market
oxendalesmarket.com

Tipsy Steer
tipsysteer.com

Town Hall Lanes
thlanes.com

Vegan East
veganeast.com

Venn Brewing Co.
vennbrewing.com

FIX IT UP

Aurum Appraisal & Assay
aurumassay.com

Brushed Monkey
brushedmonkey.com

Edward Jones, Patrick Jensen
edwardjones.com/patrick-jensen

Farmer's Insurance, Natalie Lyon
nlyon@farmersagent.com

Gathering Waters Financial Group
bit.ly/gathering-waters-financial-group

Nokomis Hardware
Nokomishardware.com

Nokomis Surplus
bit.ly/nokomis-surplus

Steve's Tire & Auto
stevesmn.com

Radone LLC
radonetoday.com

IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH

AX Fitness
axfitness.com

Fit to Live Today
fittolivetoday.com

NOKO STRENGTH
nokostrength.com

Nokomis Yoga
nokomisyoga.com

The Wellness Center MN
wellnesscentermn.com

Watt Cycle
wattcycleworks.com

VISIT THE COFFEE SPOTS

Crema
cremamppls.com

Rick's Place (Every Third Saturday)
rickscoffeebar.com

SunBean
sunbeancoffeemn.com

CONNECT WITH YOURSELF

Faith Lutheran
faithlutheranmpls.org

Lady & The Beard Salon
ladyandthebeard.com

New Branches Church
newbranchesmn.org

The Virtuous Circle
thevirtuouscircle.net

Trinity Lutheran
trinityfalls.org

EXPLORE LOCAL ARTS

Nokomis Beach Gallery
nokomisbeachgallery.com

Nokomis Tattoo
nokomistattoo.com

Steinography
steinography.com

Studio Lamas
patricialamas.com

The Bitter Buffalo
thebitterbuffalo.com

FIND YOUR DREAM HOME

Bob Albrecht
bobalbrechtrealstate.com

Chris Busby
christopherbusby.kw.com

Nick Archer
nickarcher.com

Susan Foster
susanfoster@kw.com

CARE FOR YOUR PETS

Jill's Sit & Stay Pet Care
jillssitandstaypetcare.com

GET CONNECTED

Cub Scout Pack 1 & 38
bsapack38.org, pack1mn.org

Daycare Detector
daycaredetector.com

Friends of Minnehaha Park, see Facebook

Longfellow Nokomis Messenger
TMCpub.com

Minnehaha Food Shelf
bit.ly/food-shelf

NEBA
nokomiseastba.com

NENA
nokomiseast.org

Nokomis Life
nokomislife.com

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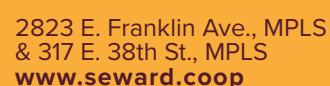
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Reuse, replay, or recycle your old acoustic piano

Pianocycle keeps pianos out of landfills and incinerators

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

It's one thing to cull outgrown or unused clothes from your closet, but what do you do with a piano that's outlived its usefulness in your home? Pianocycle is a Public Benefit Corporation in southeast Minneapolis that finds new homes for acoustic pianos in the Twin Cities area, or a second life as art materials if the pianos are no longer playable.

Their mission, according to owner Zero One, is to extend the life of acoustic pianos whenever possible, and to reduce waste through reusing and recycling piano parts.

One has been tinkering with pianos for as long as he can remember. He grew up taking lessons, and by age 18 was selling used pianos out of his parents' garage. He went on to found the non-profit Keys 4/4 Kids, and served as the executive director until 2017. As the years went by, he felt the need for recycling pianos was growing more urgent.

REST IN PEACE

Acoustic pianos are big and heavy, weighing anywhere from 500-1,200 pounds. Their parts are many: hardwood, metal, wire strings, and keys made of various materials.

All pianos are brought back to Pianocycle's workshop before their future is decided. If a piano isn't playable or the cost to repair is too high, team members dismantle it into its component parts.

One said, "Pianos often have high sentimental value. Even if your family piano can't be played anymore, we ensure that it still leaves a legacy. Usable wood is donated to local artists and hobbyists for



Pianocycle founder Zero One is a music maker and mathematician, as well as a piano recycler. "Pianos often have high sentimental value. Even if your family piano can't be played anymore, we ensure that it still leaves a legacy," said One. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

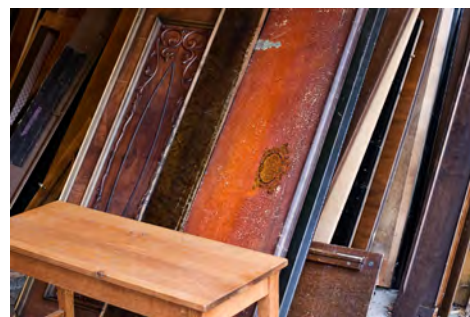
creative projects, and we recycle the metal responsibly. Most of the weight of a piano comes from the metal harp, as it's called, which holds the strings in place. It's a high priority to keep these out of landfills and incinerators, due to their size and weight."

Pianocycle gives away the upcycled wood sourced from retired pianos free of charge. Check their website for open houses or Facebook Marketplace for availability. The wood may have sharp splinters or leftover screws. Always use protective gloves, eyewear, and appropriate tools when working with this material.

In addition, Pianocycle often gives away free piano benches, piano lights, and music.

NEW HOMES FOR WORKING PIANOS

Pianos in good working order are available through Pianocycle's online inventory at www.pianocycle.com. There is no cost to receive a piano, other than the \$88 fee to deliver it to the main floor of a home or apartment in the Twin Cities metro area. Additional charges for stairs or distances greater than 20 miles outside the metro area will apply.



Wood salvaged from recycled acoustic pianos is available to artists and makers at no cost. Piano benches, sheet music, and lamps are sometimes available as well. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

There is a cost to have a piano removed from your home, starting at \$299.

One said, "We delivered a piano to a young couple recently. The husband had played when he was younger, but it had been awhile. They were dumbfounded to receive a free piano and, like most people, wondered if there was a catch. There was not, and there never is."

Pianocycle stands behind their pianos with a 30-day warranty. Pianos are inspected before going to their new homes but if an issue develops, you can exchange it for another or return for a full refund during that time period.

One and his team are looking into replicating Pianocycle in other U.S. cities. This combination of re-homing and recycling isn't being done anywhere else – and the need exists everywhere there are pianos.

In 2023, Pianocycle picked up 215 unwanted or outgrown pianos. Of those, 195 were recycled and 20 were given away to new homes.

For information about receiving/donating an acoustic piano, or future Pianocycle Open Houses where you can get piano wood and other component parts for free, call 612.208.0553. You can also send a text to 651.343.4703 or email drew@pianocycle.com.



2024 MCKNIGHT DISTINGUISHED ARTIST: RICARDO LEVINS MORALES

The McKnight Foundation announces the selection of Ricardo Levins Morales as its 2024 Distinguished Artist, an award given annually since 1998. Theater maker Keila Anali Saucedo, who nominated Levins Morales, says, "He takes mentorship with local organizers, artists, students, doctors, and other leaders as a serious practice and makes room for it in the face of an impossible schedule. He has many accolades, but for those of us lucky enough to know him, we know that what makes Ricardo so esteemed is the way he gives himself over to his art and to his community. He has given endless amounts of time to helping people feel seen and heard." (Photo submitted)



WADAAG COMMONS BRINGING AFFORDABLE THREE- AND FOUR-BEDROOM UNITS

A groundbreaking event on Monday, July 1 marked the kickoff of a new 39-unit housing development that will include affordable, high-demand three- and four-bedroom units. Wadaag Commons (1900 E 22nd St) is a co-development project led by Noor Companies (a Somali-American, woman-owned social enterprise) and Redesign, Inc. (a nonprofit Community Development Corporation dedicated to improving the five neighborhoods of Greater Longfellow: Seward, Longfellow, Cooper, Howe, and Hiawatha). Wadaag Commons is the sixth and final piece of the larger Seward Commons development. (Photo by Alex Carroll Photography)

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NOKOMIS EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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



"When it's dark, that's when we shine. It's like a little beacon," said Fred DuBose, who opened SunBean coffee shop with his wife, Annie, eight months ago at 4553 S 34th Ave. "When you walk into SunBean, it will feel like walking into a warm, sunny day, even on the gloomiest of Minnesota winter days. You can bask in the light from the sun therapy lamps at our signature SunBar or grab a table in the back to chat with a friend."

The back of the shop features a breathtaking mural of a waterfall, gifted by Fred's banker, who painted it in her spare time. Vibrant colors fill the space, making SunBean feel alive and bright. On the walls, original portraits painted by Fred's 22-year-old daughter add a personal touch to the art-filled environment. It is no wonder why SunBean was recently named Best Business Startup for 2024 by Black Business Enterprises.

COMMUNITY

SunBean's mission is to "create community, support mental health, introduce coffee to BIPOC individuals who might not have a place they feel as comfortable, and create opportunities for young people to work within coffee." Through free yoga classes offered over the summer, the coffee shop began its journey of blending wellness with community building. Each yoga class was taught by a certified instructor who volunteered their time. If people

SUNBEAN AIMS TO BE A BEACON OF LIGHT

decided to donate, all of the funds went to a local nonprofit that supports mental health. "I don't just want to operate in the community, but be a part of the community," Fred said of the idea of having more events and classes at the coffee shop to help people connect. "I have people who first met here, which forms friendships and bonds. I want us to be a community hub and a business that creates connections and relationships. It's the epitome of what I've been striving for."

COFFEE AND MENTAL HEALTH

When I asked Fred how he came up with the concept of SunBean, he told me of his own struggles with depression. "Coffee would actually make me feel better. You get a little serotonin boost and it would really pick me up. I would often brew coffee and use my light therapy at home." He discussed the role coffee shops played in his own life as a "third space," and his desire to create a third space for others. He explained that people need a space outside of their home or their work to just relax. A place where they are not worried about dishes that need to be done, or deadlines that need to be reached, but one that brings comfort and joy.

"This is a place where I would enjoy and I hope everyone else would enjoy. Also, that interaction with a familiar face. It's something I would like to offer all the time here. It really caters to people who deal with SAD or are slow starters. There are some people who work from home and this might be their first smile of the day."

RACE AND COFFEE

SunBean is the only Black-owned coffee shop in South Minneapolis. It's also the first to serve breakfast burritos from El Patron, a Hispanic-owned business. These burritos quickly became so popular that El Patron now supplies them to four additional coffee shops. They also feature gourmet Pop-Tarts from a woman-owned business. Fred first met Emily, the baker, at a farmer's market, and was so impressed that he immediately knew he wanted her product. "Is this a gourmet Pop-Tart? My coffee shop is opening in a few months, and I HAVE to have these!" he exclaimed.

Fred is committed to supporting local businesses and partners with them to help strengthen the local economy. He is also mindful of the fact that coffee shops are often predominantly White spaces, and he strives to create an inclusive environment that caters to the BIPOC community.

As he points out, coffee has deep roots in Africa, originating in Ethiopia. While the exact history is unclear, it's believed that people began eating coffee fruits around 575 AD, and monks later brewed it into a beverage. Coffee was brought to America by the Dutch, with the first coffee house opening in 1697. Despite its African origins, coffee is now primarily marketed to White consumers. Fred is determined to break down those barriers and create a welcoming space for everyone by creating a space that holds art from black artists, and working with BIPOC vendors.

Open seven days a week, Fred wasn't kidding when he said sleeping in on weekends means getting up at 6 a.m. He left a professional job and a 20-year career to focus on supporting the BIPOC community, promoting mental health awareness,



Fred DuBose strives to create an inclusive environment at his coffee shop, SunBean.

and building a strong sense of togetherness.

WHAT'S NEXT

Fred's passion for building community doesn't stop with coffee. This winter, SunBean is organizing a resource fair to help locals access needed services. If you have resources to share, or if you're looking for something specific, Fred encourages you to reach out at SunBean-coffee@mn@gmail.com. "I'm really proud of this place. I'm proud of the staff. I'm proud of the community," Fred said. "The support we've gotten from the community is more than we could imagine. It's been amazing."

STEVE'S TIRE >> from 8

lube technicians.

Though a South Minneapolis kid at heart, Colin now lives on two-and-a-quarter acres in Dayton, Minn. with his wife, Michelle, and their daughters Savannah (2) and Mia (10 months). Most of Colin and Michelle's extended family currently reside in the north and east metro areas, and Colin rather enjoys his half-hour commute to and from his two shops in the city.

Interestingly, Colin has observed that the number of vehicles per household in the areas his business serves seem to have decreased somewhat. "Some people have different transportation plans," Colin noted. "This might change as increasingly more people return to work onsite."

A confessed avid gearhead both while on and off duty, Colin still rolls up his sleeves and gets under the hoods of his customers' cars now and then. He just loves working on cars and all the variety that work entails. Although Colin does not profess to have one favorite vehicle,

he is especially fond of classic cars of the 1960s, 70s, and 80s.

While there are many demands imposed by all aspects of Colin's busy life, he forges cheerfully throughout all the ebbs and flows. He enjoys knowing his staff members and their families quite well, noting that his longstanding 54th and 34th crew is especially tightknit.

"As is our customer base. Many of our repeat customers have grown to feel like family," Colin said.

Steve's Tire & Auto is a proud member of Nokomis East Business Association

(NEBA). Colin enjoys making time for NEBA participation and doing so helps keep his business active in its community.

If your bricks-and-mortar or home-based business would enjoy the benefits of membership in NEBA, please get in touch with us at nokomiseastba@gmail.com, or visit our website: nokomiseastba.com.

NEBA board member Bob Albrecht owns Bob Albrecht Real Estate, LLC. He lives and operates his residential brokerage on Shoreview Avenue in Keewauy.

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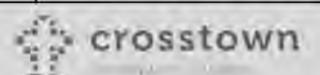
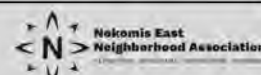
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LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By LIZA DAVITCH
communications
liza@longfellow.org



The LCC Shoveling Network helps connect volunteer shovelers with residents in need.

Sure, we just had the hottest September weather on record by far, and with record warmth this October, it might be a stretch to think about the snow that is soon to come. Even more so since we barely saw any during the "The Lost Minnesota Winter of 2023-2024" (at least until that late-great March snow blast of 6-12 inches in just a few days). But it will come. The forecast for this winter – the months of December, January, and February – is for colder and snowier-than-average conditions in the north.

In Minneapolis, snow and ice on sidewalks and pathways to homes can make walking challenging and hazardous during the snow season. It can be difficult for seniors or people with mobility issues to remove snow adjacent to their property.

Make a difference in community and connect with neighbors by shoveling

Are you or someone you know interested in getting involved in the community? Maybe you're a student seeking to make an impact while gaining volunteer hours for school. If so, this is the program for you. You can shovel independently or sign up with a friend, classmate, or after-school club buddy and become your own "shoveling team," allowing for some social time while getting the job done faster. It could be an opportunity for parents to have a neighborhood "snow playdate" with another family on the block, letting the kiddos make snow angels while the adults are the snow angels giving the gift of their time.

No matter who you are or what your reasons for volunteering may be, it's an act of kindness that can make a huge difference for someone who may otherwise have a difficult time getting in or out of their home during the winter months.

"I love our neighborhood and this is just one more way to feel more at home in it. It was a good opportunity to help folks who aren't able to clear their own walks,"

said Dylan, a snow shoveling volunteer from last season. "People are very appreciative and the program has been largely enjoyable and fulfilling. It brings me joy to connect with neighbors and make their lives easier while also getting outdoor exercise." He'd like incoming volunteers to know there are many benefits in exchange for a small time commitment. "Even if you have a full schedule like I do, it's almost always possible to find the time to get out and shovel for 15-30 minutes. It makes your neighbor's day and makes you feel closer to your community."

Patricia, a recipient from last year, was very grateful to utilize the service. "It was a lifesaver. I'm a solo senior and finding reliable help has been very difficult. One year I even paid someone in advance who didn't show up." Patricia had nothing but praise for the volunteer she was matched with last year. "She was wonderful, just so reliable and pleasant."

If you're interested in joining the LCC Volunteer Shoveling Network, email ben@longfellow.org or call us at 612-722-4529.



Contribute to your neighborhood one sidewalk at a time when you volunteer in the LCC Shoveling Network. This year is supposed to be colder and snowier than average. (Photo submitted)

It's an excellent opportunity to contribute to your community – one sidewalk at a time!

FRIENDS OF MINNEHAHA PARK

BY SUSAN GLENN,
Volunteer



The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) BioBlitz @ Minnehaha Park was held on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, and we partnered with the park board to help promote and lead the Citizen Science event using the iNaturalist app to document our observations. It was a fun and successful day, with local experts and Friends of Minnehaha Park members sharing their expertise. Sixty-two people volunteered as Citizen Scientists supported by Friends of Minnehaha Park and MPRB leads and explored and documented the biodiversity of Minnehaha Park. There will be a winter version of the BioBlitz and a spring version in 2025. Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

On National Public Lands Day, Saturday, Sept. 28, we had 27 volunteers who delivered a total of 81 hours of service, removing buckthorn and burdock and watering the newly planted native plants in the MetroBlooms pollinator garden near the Minnehaha Creek "beach" below the falls. It was a rewarding day, with Friends of Minnehaha Park and neighborhood volunteers joined by naturalists who signed up for service through our partner and program sponsor, Minnesota Master Naturalists.

Buckthorn removal events continued through September and October, and will continue on Saturdays from 1-3 p.m.

NEW FRIENDS GROUP SUPPORTS CITIZEN SCIENTISTS



(Left to right) Russ Yttri, Pamela Clemens, and Nick Berg volunteer through Friends of Minnehaha Park. (Photo submitted)

through the winter, unless canceled due to weather. We are so appreciative of the many volunteers who share their time and their commitment to restoring and protecting the natural environment at Minnehaha Park! As of early October, this year we hosted a total of 30 restoration events at which 196 volunteers delivered 459 hours of service (and removed a ton of buckthorn!) It takes patience and persistence. Ecological restoration begins with awareness, and requires commitment from many.

We are in the process of working with the MPRB to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding, which will allow us to write grants to support projects related to our mission: We provide stewardship and advocacy for Minnehaha Regional Park, en-

gage with the community to respect and learn about the environment and cultural history of the park and partner with the MPRB and community to foster public engagement in restoring and sustaining the natural environment.

Once it is finalized, we will have a nearby recreation center as our regular "home" for informational meetings.

Friends of Minnehaha Park needs your help! We're looking for a few volunteers to serve on an events committee to plan and coordinate special informational events for the public related to the natural environment or the cultural history of the park. We're hoping to provide a variety of informative programs monthly from November or December through March. You

can expect to devote 2-4 hours on average per month on your committee assignment roles.

Contact us at FriendsOfMinnehahaPark@gmail.com if interested in serving on the committee or being a presenter.

Nonprofit website development and hosting expertise consultant needed!

We are preparing to transition away from fiscal sponsorship and to our newly earned 501c3 status. So, we need to have our own website, which requires research, development and overhead. If you have some knowledge and experience in website design, tools and platforms specifically for a small non-profit operating on a shoestring, we need to hear from you!

We are looking for an inexpensive and intuitive website builder platform and host like Wix or Wordpress. Contact us at FriendsOfMinnehahaPark@gmail.com.

The Friends of Minnehaha Park has no paid staff and is completely run by volunteers from the community. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization, and allow us to do the work of restoring the environment and serving the park, the park board and community. Restoration of the natural environment, planning and promoting our events to the public and running the organization is all done by volunteers. Fundraising, administrative tasks and spreading the word about our organization and our mission relies on volunteers like you!

We do not have membership dues or charge for events but your donation and support are appreciated! Follow the link to our landing page on Parks and Trails website. <https://www.parksandtrails.org/friends-groups/meet-friends/friends-of-minnehaha-park/>

Friends of Minnehaha Park is an all volunteer 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, supporting and improving our beautiful and historic Minnehaha Park.

EVENTS

LUTEFISH DINNER NOV. 2

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran will hold its Annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 2. Food is served family style with mealtimes at 3, 4:30, and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and kids 10 and under \$10. To reserve a seat, call 612-722-9527.

ANNUAL CRAFT BAZAAR NOV. 16

Join Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.) on Saturday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at their Annual Bazaar. They've got it all – craft tables, silent

auction, raffles, bake sale, grandma's attic. They'll also have Flotegrot and ham sandwiches available for purchase.

HARVEST COMMUNITY MEAL NOV. 21

Roosevelt students, families, community members, alumni, and anyone else that would like a tasty and nutritious meal is invited to the Harvest Community Meal on Thursday, Nov. 21, at Roosevelt High School Media Center, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Students will do all the cooking, serving, and cleaning for this event. All of the dishes are made entirely out of ingredients that are indigenous to the Americas. The menu includes manoomin (wild rice) bowls with bison turkey meatballs, three sisters salsa, wojapi, and hibiscus tea. Roosevelt High

School Ecology of Minnesota class will also be sharing native seeds and information about winter seed sowing.

SENIORS HOLIDAY PARTY DEC. 10

The annual Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors holiday party is a fun community gathering featuring bingo games, a sing-along, gift bags, prizes and refreshments! Older adults age 60+ who live in or are connected to the greater Longfellow-Seward community are welcome to attend. The party on Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. to noon at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (2730 E. 31st Street) is free, with a suggested donation of \$2. Registration is required by Dec. 3. call 612-729-5799, or email Julia at juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org.

UPRISING MURALS ON DISPLAY

The Minneapolis Central Library and the Katherine E. Nash Gallery will celebrate the book launch of "Art and Artifact: Murals From the Minneapolis Uprising," the catalog accompanying an exhibition of murals created in Minneapolis and St. Paul after the murder of George Floyd, on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024 at 6 p.m. "Art and Artifact" is on display at the Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota through Dec. 7. It would be difficult to overstate the local, national, and international impact of the murder of George Floyd. Art and Artifact shows the reverberations of these events through the prolific and spontaneous appearance of murals during the subsequent months.

THE CITY GARDENER

BY LAUREN BETHKE,
Master Gardener



If you've been following this column the past few years, you will know that I'm a Master Gardener Volunteer through the University of Minnesota Extension. It's a wonderful program and I love learning, advising, and connecting with neighbors and gardeners across the state! As winter approaches, I thought I would depart from the usual yard and garden content and tell you about some Extension programs you might enjoy as the snow falls this winter. Whether you're interested in plants, wildlife, beekeeping, forests, or other topics, there's an Extension program for you!

The Master Gardener Volunteer program is the largest Extension program, with over 3,000 participants across the state. To become a Master Gardener Volunteer, you apply for the program, go through an interview and background check, and then take a series of online classes on horticulture-related topics. Classes cover botany, soils, composting, integrated pest management, plant pathology, lawns, houseplants, wildlife, and much more. The training portion of the program takes 40-60 hours over approximately four months. In addition to classes, there are optional live Q&A sessions with experts each week. You are also matched with experienced Master Gardener Volunteers who will help mentor you through the process.

After the training is complete, there are annual requirements for continuing education and volunteering to maintain your certification. This is a great way to learn about

EXTENSION PROGRAMS TO KEEP YOU BUSY THIS WINTER



The Master Gardener Volunteer program is the largest Extension program, with over 3,000 participants across the state. The training portion of the program takes 40-60 hours over approximately four months.

horticulture while meeting like-minded gardeners and volunteering in our community! The application period for the 2025 cohort has closed, but you can email hcmg@umn.edu to be notified when next year's applications open in August 2025.

If you're interested in the Master Gardener classes but are not sure about the ongoing time commitment, ProHort might be right for you! This program allows you to access the same classes and instruction as Master Gardener Volunteers, without the commitment of volunteering or continuing education. The classes are online and self-

paced, and you can work on them throughout the year. You will also have access to expert staff to ask questions about the material. These classes are often attended by horticulture industry professionals, but all members of the public are welcome. You can register anytime before classes start on Jan. 14, 2025. This is a great way to build your knowledge about horticulture topics.

Interested in conservation and the natural environment? You might enjoy the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program! To become a Master Naturalist Volunteer, you complete about 40 hours of in-per-

son training, including lectures, hands-on activities, and field trips that focus on one of Minnesota's major biomes. After completing the course, there are annual requirements for volunteer service and advanced training hours to maintain certification. There are a few sessions currently available in early 2025 (including one taking place fairly close to home in Excelsior). Master Naturalist Volunteers can participate in many interesting projects, including invasive species removal, habitat restoration, giving public presentations, gathering data for research projects, and more.

Thinking about adding bees to your yard next spring? Extension offers a course called "Beekeeping in Northern Climates," which can teach you everything you need to know. The course covers honey bee biology, management, wintering of colonies, and managing diseases and pests, among other topics. It's a self-paced online course with over 14 hours of instruction, and optional live monthly Q&A sessions. The course begins Jan. 20, 2024.

There are so many other courses, classes, and events taking place year-round through the University of Minnesota Extension, many of which are free and open to the public. In addition to programs on horticulture and wildlife, you can find classes and events relating to leadership, parenting, finances, nutrition, and more. Check out <https://extension.umn.edu/courses-and-events> for the whole list!

For more information, check out the University of Minnesota Extension Yard and Garden website. Extension resources are written by experts and contain the latest and most reliable research-based information. Happy gardening!

Faith

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Faith Ev. Lutheran Church
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www.faithlutheranmpls.org
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Mondays: Exercise Class, 10 am
AA, 6:30 pm
Wednesdays: NA group, 7:30 pm
Holiday Bazaar, Nov. 9, 9 am- 2 pm
"Lutheran Hymn Experience," Nov. 10,
2 pm
Blind Ministry, Nov. 16, 12- 2 pm

ISKCON Minnesota Temple
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www.parkavechurch.org
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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
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Bake Sale - White Elephant Sale

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11:00am to 1:30pm

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