



Toy library
expands
»»10

Health before aesthetics

Community presents
alternate plan for GF Square

By JILL BOOGREN

Neighbors packed the house at Belfry Community Space (3901 Chicago Ave.) on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, for a Town Hall "In Defense of Black Lives."

The meeting was held in response to the city of Minneapolis proposal, unveiled at its Oct. 29 open house, to reconstruct 38th and Chicago to allow all forms of traffic in all directions. If approved, construction would begin in 2025.

For many, the city's proposal feels like window dressing that ignores the real needs of the community.

"It looked real pretty. It looked like it was gonna smell real nice. Like it ain't got no roaches or nothin'," said community member Mileesha Smith, drawing laughter from the crowd. "But then I was like, dang. If they did do that, we're still gonna be sleeping on the streets.... We're still gonna be releasin' what's inside of us on these streets. We're still gonna be hopin' and prayin' that somebody is gonna attend to our needs."

GF SQUARE »» 12



At the Town Hall meeting, neighbor Marcia Howard reminds people who wish to return to normalcy that George Floyd Square is now a historic landmark, and "what was normal was Black folk dying in the middle of the street." (Photo by Jill Boogren)

Roosevelt High School's Operation Holiday Basket continues its decades-long tradition



Roosevelt High School comes together to help fellow families during the annual Operation Holiday Basket. An estimated 15,000 baskets have been given out in 54 years as students compete to raise the most donations. Last year's volunteers are shown above. (Photo submitted)

54 YEARS OF GIVING

By WAYLON ROEDIGER
student journalist

What does the term 'holiday season' mean to you? To many it means spending time with family; eating a large dinner with inlaws and extended family, watching seasonal movies, sitting around a warm fireplace telling stories, or just sitting and watching the snow accumulate on the

ground. To many it is also a time of community and giving, where we look out for and care for each other.

And it's these traditions that make the time so special.

One tradition that exemplifies the spirit of the season is Roosevelt High School's Operation Holiday Basket. Operation Holiday Basket or OHB is a school-wide fundraiser and food drive. The mis-

sion is to collect food and monetary donations to give back to families of students and those who live in the community who may need help over the long winter break.

"It is something that I look forward to every winter!" said Iris Hewitt, a senior who helps run tables and organize the festivities throughout the week. "It is one of the best community building experiences I've ever gotten to be a part of and it makes me so happy seeing all of the students work together every year to pack the baskets and distribute them throughout our neighborhoods. The few weeks lead-

54 YEARS OF GIVING »» 3

Encampment concerns continue

Could regulated outdoor
options help?

By CAM GORDON

The killing of three people last month near 4000 Snelling Ave. has heightened concerns about encampments in Minneapolis, and some city policymakers are pushing for change. A new proposal coming before the city council could result in authorized outdoor sheltering options in the city.

The Snelling encampment is no longer there, but the problem of illegal group camping and disagreements among city policy makers about how best to address it continue.

Ward 12 Council Member Aurin Chowdhury hosted a meeting to discuss

the issue on Nov. 13, 2024 at Hiawatha Flats that included Mayor Jacob Frey, Council President Elliot Payne, Police Chief Brian O'Hara, and police lieutenants John Haugland and Molly Fischer.

"The overall message that came across was that the needs of unhoused individuals living in encampments and the needs of housed neighbors living near an encampment are not being met by the current status quo in the city," reported Chowdhury after the meeting.

Group camping has become more common since the well-known Wall of Forgotten Natives encampment on Franklin Ave. in 2018. They were also allowed during the COVID-19 public health emergency and the city's park board issued permits for some camps on park property.

On Nov. 18, the city's online homelessness dashboard identified 386 people sleeping outdoors at 35 encampments, the



The city council is considering outdoor safe spaces like those in other cities (including Duluth and Denver) to be used instead of encampments in Minneapolis.

largest of which had 50 people.

In a study session in 2021, the city council reviewed four types of responses: clearance with little or no support, clearance with support, tacit acceptance, and formal sanctioning.

ENCAMPMENT CONCERNS »» 6



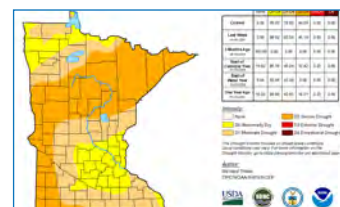
The Longfellow Nokomis
Messenger has got audio
- check out our website!

PAGE 5



LIVING 50+
A second run leads to a
home run for Mary Haugh

PAGE 8



Wondering if the area is
back in a drought? Read
the City Gardener column.

PAGE 14

CHECK INSIDE YOUR PAPER FOR FLYERS FROM DARLING RESTAURANT, MOON PALACE BOOKS AND ANDERSON REALTY

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54 YEARS OF GIVING

>> from 1

ing up to OHB are also a blast since the whole school is in the holiday spirit, decorating their doors and collecting cans and money to donate.

"Roosevelt really feels united during that time and I love it. Holiday Basket is a staple Roosevelt tradition that relies on participation to continue, so we need people to keep spreading the word and donating food items."

Created 54 years ago, in 1970, by Roosevelt teachers Freeman McInroy and Gary Lewis, Operation Holiday Basket or Christmas Basket, as it was called back then, was started when staff members noticed that some students and their families didn't have enough to eat over the break.

"They saw a need that there were some students who didn't have food and needed some help," said Christol Schultz, one of Roosevelt's coordinators and PR officials who runs Operation Holiday Basket like a well-oiled machine. "They needed a hug, basically over winter break, and there were a couple of teachers who decided that's what they were going to give them."

So, the two got to work. In that first year, McInroy and Lewis managed to help 57 families. They did this by creating a competition to increase the amount of food and cans they would get, harnessing the competitive nature of the kids to help out others. Those who couldn't afford to bring in items or give money could participate in the classroom door decorating contest. "It was another way to get kids involved if they couldn't afford to bring in items; they could be creative and do that instead," stated Schultz.

But students don't just raise the food and money, or decorate doors; they also deliver the baskets to the families.

The competition starts the week before winter break and only contributes a percentage of the items that go into the baskets; other donations from Roosevelt alumni and friends of the school are welcome. Donations can be made at Oxendales Market and St. Manes Sporting Goods starting the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Online donations, on the school's website, begin the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Much of Operation Holiday Basket has changed over the years. The name was changed to be more inclusive and non-denominational. OHB's goal has shifted slightly as well, going from just providing a meal over break, to stocking the pantry of families over the break. This shift has changed what goes into the baskets themselves. "Back when they started, it was what-



When cupboard is bare

"Teddis care when the cupboard is bare!" was the winning slogan in the 1987 Operation Christmas Basket slogan contest.

The slogan was the combined effort of John Sylwester's homeroom.

Goals set were 200 baskets and 3500 food items. At first things moved slowly, but the Teds finally pulled through and met their goals with 3686 food items and \$3595.55. Dayton's donated 200 Santa Bears and Target 2000 packages of candy for the baskets.

For the past 18 years RHS, in cooperation with the Hiawatha YMCA, has shared warm Christmas feelings with the community. Students were responsible, under the leadership of Freeman McInroy, for bringing canned goods, sorting, boxing and delivering the baskets.

Winning homerooms were McInroy's with \$116.46 and Helen Henningsgard's with the most food items.

Christmas Basket 73



Gary Lewis, one of the two that started Operation Holiday Basket (front center) poses with his ROMEOS who help fundraise the event. (Photo submitted)



Student volunteers, 1980s



The blue sweatshirt student crew help do all the things leading up to delivery day and make sure things go smoothly.

ever people brought in and they made the baskets work. I'm now more intentional about what goes into the baskets," Schultz commented. "Every basket gets between 15 and 20 items to make a holiday meal and we're intentional about that. So they usually get around six cans of vegetables, a couple cans of fruit, some kind of a dessert mix, some pasta, some rice, a bag of potatoes, a bag of fresh carrots, and a turkey." RHS also provides instructions on how to cook the turkey.

Even with this shift in goal, OHB has and is still able to help many people with about 250-400 families benefiting from it per year. In total, since its initial 57 families, an estimated 15,000 baskets have been given out in the 54 years OHB has been around.

Sharing traditions is part of the joy. Bringing new life to old ways. Every year Operation Holiday Basket introduces a new class of students to Roosevelt's tradition of helping its fellow students and community. It is a tradition that is still as relevant and needed as much as it was in 1970. And as traditions go, it's a good one.

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Green Party of Minnesota

BY CAM GORDON



WHY PEOPLE VOTE THIRD PARTY

Why?

One primary reason people do not vote for a major party candidate is because they have ideological belief systems that do not align with the major party platforms. This year it was evident that many voters opposed the major parties' support for Israel's violent attacks on Palestine and Lebanon. Many of us may have been seeking "peace" or "anti-war" candidate and didn't find that in either major party candidates. This made the alternates who were pushing for a ceasefire and arms embargo, including Jill Stein (Green Party) who ranked 3rd among the southwest voters, or Cornel West (Independent/Justice for All Party), Chase Oliver (Libertarian), or Claudia De la Cruz (Party for Socialism and Liberation) more appealing.

Voting for third or minor-party candidates can send important messages.

In Minnesota, we have seen how single-issue minor parties and voters can help make change in government policy. It is likely that the growing number people who were willing to vote for parties focused on

legalizing cannabis helped influence public opinion and legislation that ultimately led to it begin legalized in the state.

Additionally, if more of us were willing and able to vote for the candidates who most closely and accurately reflected our values and our individual interests, over the long term or government could better reflect who we are and what we value.

One of the most common arguments again voting for third party is that a voter, or the public, may end up with a worse alternative than the one they most prefer. This may lead many voters to "hold their nose" and vote for the so-called "lesser of two evils."

This, of course, was not the case this year in District 61A where there was a "minor" party candidate on the ballot for state legislature, with Toya Lopez. In that race, however, she was not really a "third" party candidate because no republican was in the race. That may have helped her get 3,200 votes and her kind of race.

There is a solution to the wasted vote

problem in single winner elections like the presidency. It is called ranked choice or instant run off voting and, as many voters in Minneapolis and St. Paul know, it offers people the ability to vote for preferred candidate without fear of wasting their vote because they have the option to select a second and third choice if their first choice is not elected.

According to a PEW research Center 2022 poll, 39% of the USA people they polled said the statement: "I wish there were more political parties to choose from in this country" describes their views extremely or very well. Another 32% said say it describes their views somewhat well.

While many people likely decide to vote for a third or minor-party candidate to maintain their personal integrity, register their opposition to major party positions and to send a message that might help influence policy in the future, some also hope that such voting could, in the long-run, help create a richer multi-party democracy like those seen in so many other countries throughout the world.

Cam Gordon is the co-chair of the Green Party of Minnesota. He regular writes for the Southwest Connector and Longfellow Nokomis Messenger, covering government.

guest column

BY DEAN RIDINGS



Local newspapers hold trust while national media slips

The recent decision by The Washington Post and Los Angeles Times to skip endorsing a presidential candidate has put the issue of media trust in the spotlight – and it underscores just how differently local newspapers are perceived from their national counterparts.

America's Newspapers, the leading trade association for local newspapers nationwide, understands that local newspapers hold a unique place of trust within their communities, especially when compared to national media, social media and cable news. Recognizing this critical distinction, America's Newspapers commissioned a national study to quantify how local newspapers continue to earn and retain the trust of their readers, even as skepticism about media in general grows.

The 2024 America's Newspapers Trust Study shows that while public confidence in national news sources is declining, local newspapers remain a trusted source for communities across the country. More than half of Americans see their local newspaper as their most reliable news source, citing the transparency, ethical standards and community focus that are unique to local journalism.

Unlike national media outlets, local journalists are active members of the communities they cover. They're present at town hall meetings, reporting on school boards and investigating local government. This closeness fosters a relationship of accountability that simply doesn't exist with national media, which can feel distant or disconnected from the everyday lives of their readers.

Transparency is a defining characteristic of this trust. According to the study, 61% of Americans say transparency is the most critical factor in determining trust in media, and more Americans rate local newspapers as the best at upholding these standards. This level of accountability is not just a practice; it's a necessity. Local journalists live in the same communities as their readers, which means they are answerable to the people they serve. Local newspapers prioritize showing readers exactly where their information comes from, clearly identifying sources and detailing how stories are reported. This transparency, rooted in their close connection to the community, allows local newspapers to earn trust in ways that national media can't.

Beyond reporting on the critical issues that impact local families, local newspapers play a crucial role in supporting

democratic engagement and civic accountability. According to the study, 85% of Americans believe that local newspapers are essential to sustaining democracy, and 74% worry that losing their local paper would significantly hurt their community. Local newspapers provide critical insights into local decisions that impact everyday life — issues that national media simply can't cover in the same depth or with the same understanding.

While local newspapers continue to be recognized as the most trusted media, there are still significant challenges. The impact of the overall erosion in trust in media certainly has a negative impact on local newspapers, who too often get lumped in with the rest of "the media." And, without question, local newspapers continue to be impacted financially by the shifting advertising models and the actions of Big

Tech companies over the years. The financial impact makes it difficult to adequately staff local newsrooms in far too many areas across the country. Newspaper closures, and the resulting news deserts, have severe consequences for these communities, and there often isn't another media source in the area to compensate for the newspaper's loss. Legislation to support local newspapers is critical to maintaining these trusted, vital media leaders.

America's Newspapers remains dedicated to supporting these efforts and reinforcing the vital role that local papers play in making sure every community has a voice. In a time when skepticism of media is high, it's essential to distinguish local newspapers from the larger media landscape. Local newspapers aren't part of "the media" that people often view with suspicion. Instead, they're committed members of the community, present in readers' lives, and devoted to ethical, transparent journalism.

While national media outlets navigate their own trust challenges, local newspapers stay deeply rooted in their communities, providing the kind of honest, accountable reporting that helps ensure an informed, connected and engaged community.

For more information about the America's Newspapers Trust in Media Study, visit: <https://member.newspapers.org/trust-in-media.html>

Dean Ridings is the CEO of America's Newspapers. On behalf of its approximately 1,700 newspaper and Solutions Partner companies, America's Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. They put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: newspapers.org

Americans Most Trusted Media

Transparency, unbiased reporting and ethical standards are the dominant drivers of trust in media

| | Most Trusted |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Local newspapers | 51% |
| Local TV stations | 51% |
| Local radio stations | 49% |
| Network TV news | 43% |
| National newspapers | 36% |
| Cable news networks | 36% |
| Social media | 20% |

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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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Too much coffee



BY TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN
Owner & Editor
tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com

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Check it out at www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com and let me know what you think! Drop me a line at tesha@LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com.



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Stories and Journeys



BY DONALD L. HAMMEN

SCARED AND HURTING BUT HOPEFUL LOCALLY

MENT OF THE BILLIONAIRES, BY THE BILLIONAIRES AND FOR THE BILLIONAIRES.

World's most dangerous man, according to Donald Trump's niece Mary in her book "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man" - and now according to me - has been re-elected president. On my own I have already observed that he is a child in a man's body. Among the other sources continuing to form my view of Donald are "All In the Family: The Trumps and How We Got This Way" by Fred Trump. Also, there is the PBS Frontline program called "The Choice 2024: Harris vs Trump" investigative biographies.

From these and other sources, my view of Donald continues to take shape as someone who is a con artist and performer who has just conned an entire country into electing him president twice. His insatiable need for affirmation makes him a patsy for some evangelical Christians plus White Christian nationalists who stroke his fragile ego by telling him he has been called by God to be our leader.

He seeks to portray himself as good for the working class, yet he has never worked a day in his life - unless you count his fake photo op serving fries at McDonalds. He is no friend of the working class. According to Economist and former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, "In April,

the Biden-Harris Labor Department expanded overtime pay rules. Roughly 4.3 million more workers would have been eligible for overtime pay under the new rule. A Trump-appointed judge blocked it yesterday. Go ahead and keep telling me that Republicans are the party of workers."

Bottom line for me is Donald Trump is a deeply flawed human being who needs professional help, but he is not going to seek professional help because he doesn't have the self-awareness to know he is a deeply flawed human being. Instead we keep feeding his delusions and his need for affirmation by electing him to high office under the guise of Making America Great Again.

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ME IN TRUMP'S AMERICA

I just bought a copy of "Project 2025: A Mandate for Authoritarian Leadership." This appears to be Trump's playbook. I can't find myself in this playbook. He says Social Security and Medicare are safe. They are my earned benefits. That remains to be seen. I take solace in that I live in south Minneapolis. How will my life be impacted by four more years of the Trump cult which I call Not My Mother's Republican Party. So, dear reader, what are you feeling as you contemplate the next four years? Are you scared like me? Tell yourself, tell others or tell me via tesha@tmcpub.com. And if you have read this far you have

taken the plunge into the river (flow) of life experiences which is Stories and Journeys.

DR. DEWAYNE DAVIS FOR MINNEAPOLIS MAYOR. A HOPEFUL SIGN LOCALLY?

This was announced in an email I received recently. Dr. DeWayne Davis for Minneapolis Mayor wants to bring all of us together. I wonder if that includes all elders like me? I wonder if he believes that Minneapolis is for a lifetime?

ELDER VOICES (TELLING OUR STORIES/SHARING OUR JOURNEYS) IS SCHEDULED TO MEET DEC. 29, 10-11A.M., AT TURTLE BREAD, 4205-EAST 34TH STREET.

Look for the table with the All Elders sign. Southwest Connector reader John showed up in October. He shared that as a member of Veterans for Kamala he is very concerned about the outcome of the coming election. Turns out he was right to be concerned. If you are concerned or hopeful about anything do show up.

IN GRATITUDE.

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

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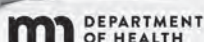


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ENCAMPMENT CONCERNS

>> from 1

NEIGHBORS HELP CLEAR CAMP PEACEFULLY

"The experience was a nightmare," said Greg Clave about the encampment, that was cleared with support across from his house on 30th Ave near the Midtown Greenway in 2021. He recalled that "donated food left unattended and uneaten attracted rats; clothing and garbage was left everywhere." There was "24/7 foot and car traffic, people shooting up in our front yard and leaving needles; people on drugs doing crazy things like dancing crazily in the street, yelling and falling over; vandalism, stolen property, assaults," as well as "damage to boulevard trees and flower beds."

Clave worked with his neighbors and the city, who hired the American Indian Development Center. They were "able to set up a big carnival tent," hire non-police American Indian Movement staff to provide security, and coordinate with county and city social service provider to help people find alternative housing. He was happy when "the camp was cleared peacefully, with people taking belongings and without any police interference."

Since then, under Frey's direction, the city has adopted a policy of clearance with little or no support, evicting campers and clearing encampments by force with police.

ANOTHER NAVIGATION CENTER?

Some council members are interested in different approaches and in September the council amended the city's "temporary shelter" ordinance to require quarterly reports from city staff on the encampments, including the services offered and costs. It was authored by Southside council members Jason Chavez, Aisha Chughtai, and Aurin Chowdhury.

"This will help better inform changes that may need to happen at the city level,"

| Department | Encampment Closure | | | | Quarry Grand Total |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | 29th and Blaisdell | 29th and Bloomington | Near North | Quarry | |
| CPED | | | \$2,352 | \$633 | \$2,985 |
| Police | \$27,677 | \$59,059 | \$190,216 | \$86,748 | \$363,700 |
| Public Works | \$2,116 | \$1,851 | \$1,981 | \$2,016 | \$7,963 |
| Regulatory Services | \$4,160 | \$4,002 | \$6,117 | \$3,535 | \$17,815 |
| Grand Total | \$33,953 | \$64,913 | \$200,666 | \$92,933 | \$392,464 |

Many U.S. Cities are utilizing Safe Outdoor Spaces including:

- ★ Albuquerque, NM
- ★ Ashland, OR
- ★ Athens, GA
- ★ Aurora, CO
- ★ Austin, TX
- ★ Albuquerque, NM
- ★ Beacon Village, OR
- ★ Bellevue, WA
- ★ Berkeley, CA
- ★ Burlington, WA
- ★ Dallas, TX
- ★ Denver, CO
- ★ Fayetteville, AR
- ★ Fresno, CA
- ★ Grand Valley, CO
- ★ Las Cruces, NV
- ★ Lompoc, CA
- ★ Los Angeles, CA
- ★ Louisville, KY
- ★ Madison, WI
- ★ Modesto, CA
- ★ Maui, HI
- ★ Oakland, CA
- ★ Olympia, WA
- ★ Portland, OR
- ★ Redondo, CA
- ★ Riverside, CA
- ★ Sacramento, CA
- ★ Santa Cruz, CA
- ★ San Jose, CA
- ★ Santa Rosa, CA
- ★ Seattle, WA
- ★ Sonoma County, CA
- ★ Tacoma, WA
- ★ Tarzana, CA



said Ward 9 Council Member Chavez at the time.

In October, the council initiated a study that is expected to be completed in January. It will examine the city's 2018 navigation center built in response to the encampment near Hiawatha and Franklin and identify potential locations for a new one.

In November, the council approved taking up three new ordinances authored by council members Chavez, Chowdhury, and Chughtai to allow "safe outdoor spaces or individualized outdoor sheltering options for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness," and directed the city attorney to draft changes to the city's

housing, zoning and health codes, based on Denver's Safe Outdoor Space program and Duluth's Safe Bay initiative.

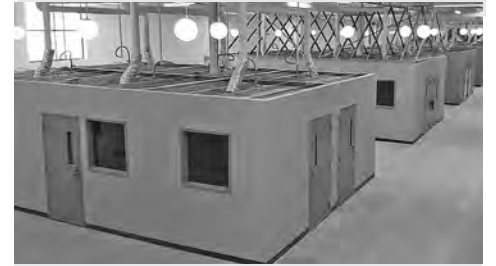
SAFE OUTDOOR SPACE IN DENVER

Denver's "Safe Outdoor Spaces" are also known as managed campsites. They have been operating since the pandemic in 2021. They offer 24/7 supervision and provide access to sanitation and a safe, personal place to sleep off the streets, usually in a tent. Residents are identified by outreach workers in order to be offered a place. Safe Outdoor Spaces and safe parking sites have operated at eight locations across Denver, and have provided shelter to over 515 people, who would have oth-

BY THE NUMBERS

According to calculations for Hennepin County shared with the City Council, Public Health & Safety Committee by Sheila Delaney on Feb 28, 2024:

- American Indians have a 1:50 chance of experiencing homelessness.
- African Americans have a 1:100 chance of experiencing homelessness.
- White Americans have a 1:1,250 chance of experiencing homelessness.



AVIVO VILLAGE Located at 1251 N Washington Ave. in the North Loop, Avivo Village is an indoor community of 100 secure, private dwellings or "tiny houses" created to provide shelter to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness that opened in December 2020.

- 633 total individuals served
- 253 people moved on to permanent housing
- 214 overdoses reversed
- 18 babies born to residents
- 52% residents identify as Native American
- 40 veterans served
- 35 pets (25 dogs, 10 cats)

erwise been sleeping on streets. The city's website states that "the stability of these spaces have helped people obtain and keep jobs, and over 180 people have already moved into more permanent housing."

Denver's program relies on nonprofit

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ENCAMPMENT CONCERNS

>> from 6

organizations to provide space and operate the sites. Their primary partner in administering the sites is Colorado Village Collaborative (CVC), a nonprofit organization.

SAFE BAY IN DULUTH

Safe Bay, in Duluth, opened in June as a space for people to stay overnight in their vehicles. It was open from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. from June through October and provided a secure place for people living in their car, truck, van or camper with access to showers and bathrooms, internet, and breakfast. People were given help to locate housing. It is expected to open again next year, and is operated collaboratively by two Duluth based nonprofits, CHUM and Damiano Center.

"Providing safe parking spaces to people living in vehicles can be an effective early intervention model," said Chavez. "Ordinances allowing for safe outdoor spaces in other cities sometimes encompass safe parking."

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL SAFE SPACE

Sheila Delaney, an ending homelessness consultant and resident of the Prospect Park neighborhood, has coordinated two presentations on safe spaces for the council, one in 2021 and another in February 2024.

She recently toured such spaces in several cities, including Madison and Atlanta. "They have been very successful in cities that have invested sufficient resources to assure their success," said Delaney.

Delaney identified over 30 cities that permit regulated encampments, where groups may set up individualized outdoor shelters for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

The hallmarks for success, accord-



ing to Delaney, include "planning for stormwater mitigation (you don't want to live in a muddy mess), sufficient staffing, places for community gatherings and private meetings, privacy fencing for the residents, sufficient space between units, 'clues to care' such as community-created art, gardens, and support to keep these positive aspects going over the long term."

She considers them to be part of a continuum of care that provide a needed entry point for people to take their next steps towards more permanent housing, healthcare, and/or employment. "I also wholeheartedly support a harm reduction approach that screens people in rather than out," said Delaney. "All of these interventions are significantly less expensive than other public safety and public health responses such as emer-

Sheila Delaney

gency response, emergency room use, and police-led encampment closures." She called the forced evictions "extremely wasteful, profoundly ill-informed and useless" efforts that result in "traumatized residents," the loss of critical documentation and another encampment nearby and jail.

"Avivo Village, which is in a sense an indoor Safe Space has increased its capacity so much that its per person cost is approximately \$22,000 per year, per person. When managed well, safe outdoor spaces can cost even less. An average encampment closures cost an approximately \$80,000. The math speaks for itself."

"I will continue to listen to the first-hand experiences of residents about their concerns and take action to create solutions to build the city we want to see," said Chowdhury. She sees the Avivo indoor tiny home shelter as a solution to support. "We also need another location on the south side of Minneapolis, where a higher number of people live in encampments," said Chowdhury. "Safety for everyone is important, whether they are living in a house, apartment, or facing homelessness."

HIAWATHA LINKS: LINKING NATURE, SUSTAINABILITY, HISTORY, AND RECREATION AT HIAWATHA GOLF COURSE

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) announces "Hiawatha Links," a new phase of design and engineering work that will build on the long-term plan for Hiawatha Golf Course completed in 2022.

Hiawatha Links continues the vision created in the Hiawatha Golf Course Plan by fleshing out designs in greater detail and conducting more detailed community engagement focused on specific design elements. It will look at how all the pieces fit together while respecting the site's history, ecology, and regulatory guidelines.

The MPRB is working with a new team led by Damon Farber Landscape Architects to conduct schematic design work. The design team has already begun its work by studying the previous studies and project materials, analyzing current site conditions, and organizing future community engagement efforts. Over the next several months, the MPRB will announce opportunities to give detailed input to the design team that will help guide a more detailed design.

MPRB Commissioners approved the Hiawatha Golf Course Plan in 2022 and the Metropolitan Council approved it in 2023. The plan outlines transitioning the course from its current 18-hole configuration to nine holes with reduced groundwater pumping, improved ecology and water management, and expanded trails and recreation opportunities. In addition to the 9-hole course, the plan includes a driving range and practice facilities that are aimed at introducing new players to the sport in an unthreatening and welcoming space, and interpretive elements incorporated within the design exposing visitors to the rich history of Black golfers at the course.

In 2023, Hiawatha Golf Course was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The golf course is at risk of loss due to flooding.

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South Minneapolis resident Mary Haugh's battle with aggressive cancer launches a new career

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Longfellow resident Mary Haugh got a second run at life and decided to give vintage homes a second life, too.

After surviving an aggressive form of cancer in the prime of her professional marketing career, Haugh launched Second Stripe.

She aims for homes that function as though they're new but have the authentic feel of their original construction along with elements of joy infused throughout. It's work that has given her new ways to apply the skills she's developed over the last 30 years, and has infused a new sense of purpose into her career, inspiring those around her.

DIAGNOSIS: AGGRESSIVE BREAST CANCER

Haugh always knew that cancer was probably in her future in her 60s or 70s. Her maternal great-grandmother died of cancer in mid-20th century, her maternal grandmother had breast cancer four separate times in her 70s and 80s, and her mother had it at age 68. "It was a surprise to be diagnosed when I was, in 2018," she remarked.

"With my family history, the decision between lumpectomy plus radiation versus a double mastectomy was wrenching. I went with the lumpectomy, thinking radiation afterwards was the right way to go." But they found evidence of cancer, a different kind, in the sentinel lymph node. That led the medical team to deduce that she had more cancer somewhere. So they recommended a double mastectomy anyways. She sought other opinions, going to the University of Minnesota and then Mayo, where they found the second cancer in the same breast, an inch from the first. She had another surgery, followed by radiation. Then there were five years of Tamoxifen. She will have scans every six months for the rest of her life.

"I've had long lasting after-effects which are still impacting me, six years later," Haugh noted. Radiation fibrosis and musculo-skeletal issues ended up contributing to or causing a torn meniscus, broken tibia, Baker's cyst, lipoma, a second torn meniscus, knee surgery and extended PT. "It's been a long, long journey. Frustrating at times for sure. I've had many setbacks," she said. "But I improve and start over. And improve some more. I'm lucky. I really am."

HOUSE FIRE: BURDEN BECOMES OUTLET

Within a month of the diagnosis, they had a house fire and had to move out for the restoration.

"At the beginning it felt utterly and completely overwhelming," admitted Haugh. "I couldn't take on another burden. But, as things progressed, it became a great outlet, something else to focus on. Something productive and tangible and visible. A creative outlet."

She appreciated it so much that in 2022, Haugh decided to begin her own restoration company, Second Stripe.

"Learning something new is exhilarating," she observed. "Stressful to be sure,

A SECOND RUN LEADS TO A HOME RUN



From the top of her chimney to three feet below the basement, front yard to back, this arts and crafts home on 45th Avenue South got a complete revival by Mary Haugh and Second Stripe to get her ready for her next century. (Photos submitted)

but exciting. Being able to take skills I've developed over decades and apply them to a whole different business has been so much fun."

Growing up in Macalester-Groveland, Haugh attended Saint Mark's grade school on Dayton Avenue, and then Derham Hall High School on Albert Street. At St. Thomas, she earned her undergrad in psychology, business, and economics, and then got a master's degree at the University of Minnesota in journalism, where she was also a TA for the psychology of advertising course for three years.

She had spent her entire career in advertising (and still maintains her marketing business, Persuasion Arts & Sciences). As the one on the team who had to understand what the consumer wanted and didn't want, she sought to get inside their head and experience something like they would. These design thinking skills transferred easily into the renovation business.

Haugh positions herself as the user, the mom, the dad, the host, and considers what will make their life simpler and more enjoyable – not what's the easiest, most efficient thing to build. For example, a dishwasher should be next to the sink, preferably on the right, not across the room.

Having worked on branding and design meant years of following consumer trends and differences in generations, and developing visual design across a variety of industries and materials.

Her experience in marketing also brought her in contact with dozens of brands and products in home, construction and real estate financing. She worked on windows, doors, cabinetry, plumbing products, Lowe's stores, furniture, appliances, kitchens, décor, garage doors and systems, tools, hardware, millwork and paint.

She's also lucky to have family members in the business. Two brothers are general contractors, one has been in real estate investing for decades, and another is a math teacher by day and a carpenter and furniture maker the rest of the time. One sister is in design. Her mom designs and re-designs her home at age 85 (she recently hung wallpaper from the top of a ladder, and made bench cushions and curtains). Her dad was a lawyer who could fix anything.

"I spent two years researching sub-contractors and partners. I met my current crew leader, JP Lopez, when he was part of the restoration team for our house fire six years ago. He's not only incredibly talented, but

is an amazing human being. Anybody he connects us to stands up to his scrutiny. The systems people – plumbing, electrical, HVAC – we work with local, small-moderate sized licensed firms that know code. We absolutely don't mess around with that stuff." Sub-contractors include Highland Electric, Weld Plumbing, Standard Water, and Metro (Hero) HVAC.

A LOVE OF VINTAGE HOMES

Haugh purchased her current home, a 1923 bungalow, in Longfellow in 1994. "I've been able to renovate and restore almost all of it over the years, updating systems, aesthetics, and overhaul the landscaping front to back. What I've come to appreciate about the neighborhood, especially the few blocks around us, is the sense of being part of a neighborhood, a community, which has pride in our surroundings, and appreciation and gratitude for each other and the neighborhood."

She added, "We won the lottery in terms of neighbors when we were raising our girls, now ages 16 and 20."

Haugh appreciates being part of the greater Longfellow community "which has a richness of longtime residents, new homeowners and residents, retirees and young families with small children. Being close to the river, to Lake Street, to Minnehaha Park, and to Saint Paul across the Lake Street and Ford bridges gives us almost an embarrassment of riches in natural surroundings, city living, schools, restaurants, retailers, and access. We can be most anywhere in 15 minutes."

She seeks to give back, and has mentored others in advertising, working with The BrandLab, St. Thomas, the 4A's, the University of Minnesota, MadWomen, and other professional associations. Plus she's on the board of Saint Paul Highland Ball.

She advises people to have patience when redoing their homes. "It's hard to do a whole house at once – or quickly. I've been working on my own Craftsman for more than 20 years, bit by bit. If you can do a room at a time or a floor at a time, do it when you can."

TIPS TO AVOID SUB-STANDARD FIXES

Today, the median age of a home in Minneapolis and Saint Paul is 71 and 69 years, respectively, with more than half nearing their 100-year mark from the housing boom of the 1920s. They represent a classic golden era of house building and craftsmanship that define neigh-

borhoods, and Haugh is passionate about saving them from the wrecking ball.

Haugh appreciates the feel of history in these vintage homes. The solid natural materials that last. The craftsmanship and care that went into their construction. The uniquenesses. And the quirks, like a little hidden compartment or something left by previous owners that tells a story.

To preserving the historical beauty of your home, she suggests keeping up with the maintenance and structural elements. "It's not fun stuff, but taking care of a small problem or doing preventative things goes a long, long way," said Haugh. "Have your sewer scoped regularly so if there are cracks you can take care of them before the whole thing collapses and you're looking at \$25,000 for a new line along with whatever interior damage happens because of sewage backing up into a basement. I speak from experience on that one."

She encourages people to do their research ahead of time before starting anything. "I learned that there are six different ways to repair a sewer line, each with a drastically different cost attached."

Get the best quality, natural materials that you can, Haugh advises, to avoid re-doing something five or 10 years later. Recognize that convenience costs money, sometimes 50 percent or more than other options. This is where a little research can go a long way. Locally, for example, check builders' material outlets and LL Flooring for deals. "We had some flooring shipped in from Pennsylvania that was 30% less even with the shipping," said Haugh. They wanted a vintage style rug for one of their rooms. It was priced at \$1,700 at a major retailer, but she identified who the manufacturer was (listed in the online specs) and found it online for \$258.

She also recommends people explore architectural antiques suppliers. "Locally we love Architectural Salvage on Selby Avenue or Bauer Brothers in Northeast. And garage and estate sales. You can find fantastic furniture, doors, wood work - all that. Solid wood doors for example can be \$50-150 vintage, and might just need some stripping or sanding, or maybe just a fresh coat of paint. New solid wood doors run \$6-800 or more. Vintage wood furniture pieces can be re-purposed to be sink vanities, dressers, buffets, and bar carts for pretty minimal investment. Old door hardware often just needs a soak to get paint off and then some oil to bring back their patina."

'YOUR HOME SHOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY'

For Haugh, the architecture and solidity of vintage homes is something she values, and she seeks to keep what still functions. At the same time, she aims for a fresh and current feel. She applies these rules to cabinets, doors, windows, and flooring.

"Hex tiles are totally endemic for these neighborhoods' homes. But mixing up sizes and colors balances the age with a fresh twist. Maybe it's best described as classic with some eclecticism and something whimsical here and there," she said.

Some of her favorite light fixtures are from Pottery Barn Kids. Recognizing that Minnesota is gray and overcast from November through March, color is a huge part of her design style.

"It's also about infusing joy where we can. I love a phrase from Annie Selke: your home should make you happy."

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Minnesota Toy Library opens third metro location

Members save money on toys while reducing waste

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Minnesota Toy Library (MTL) is a toy lending program for families with children ages birth to five years. Members can check-out up to five toys at a time, and take them home for 2-4 weeks. And now, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, there's a new location on the east side of St. Paul.

The mission of the toy library is three-fold: to reduce waste, promote development, and build community.

Rebecca Nutter is MTL's executive director. She said, "We started lending toys nine years ago, using public library meeting rooms. When our toy inventory got too big to be mobile, lending events were held in my garage. In 2017, we established our first brick and mortar in South Minneapolis."

REDUCE WASTE

In the last generation, the state of Minnesota has seen a gradual transformation from a system that manages solid waste – to one that recognizes the complete life cycle of materials. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 80% of toys will end up in landfills or incinerators. This statistic highlights how critical it is to prioritize reduction and reuse strategies.

Nutter explained that the average American family spends \$485 annually on toys, most of which will end up in landfills or municipal incinerators. She said, "Through the toy library, families can access an almost unlimited collection of toys for as little as \$40/year. Annual membership is on a sliding scale from \$40-\$100."

The Minnesota Toy Library is really driven by a commitment to reduce waste. Nutter said, "We are passionate about reusing toys. Many of our toys come from families whose children have outgrown them. The toys are in great shape, and there's just no reason why they can't be reused. Children ages birth to five change so quickly that they don't tend to wear their toys out."

PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT

MTL has more than 8,000 toys in their inventory, spread across their South Minneapolis, Northeast Minneapolis, and St. Paul locations. Members can visit any of the three locations. However, because it's still getting up and running, toys bor-



The Minnesota Toy Library is for parents, grandparents, educators, occupational therapists, and mostly, for kids, to come and choose toys that are fun and that help them learn. MTL Executive Director Rebecca Nutter said, "We can't just keep consuming things. We need to do better." (Photo submitted)



Volunteers from the H.B. Fuller helped ready the space at the new St. Paul location. (Photo submitted)

rowed from the St. Paul location need to be returned there.

Toys come in as donations, are bought second-hand by staff, or sometimes bought new. If the toys are purchased second-hand, they're inspected for safety and washed thoroughly before becoming part of the community toy box.

Nutter said, "We don't have a large staff, so we educate our members about how to clean toys before returning them. We follow CDC recommendations, and

advocate for green cleaners whenever possible. We encourage the kids to get involved, too; they learn about taking care of the planet by helping to clean their borrowed toys.

"No one likes borrowing a dirty toy. Always set aside time to clean toys well before returning them to the toy library. Wash hands before and after cleaning toys to help keep everybody safe."

The MTL inventory is separated into these categories: Adapted Toys, Board

GRANT FUNDS NEW LOCATION

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) awarded grant funding to the Minnesota Toy Library as part of their Waste Reduction and Reuse Grants Program. The purpose of the funding is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, reduce demand for resources, and reduce waste sent to landfills. With the \$50,200 grant, the Minnesota Toy Library was able to open a St. Paul location. At its now three locations in the Twin Cities, the Minnesota Toy Library provides families and educators a low cost way to borrow toys that expand play options for kids, and is less wasteful than buying new.

Games, Blocks, Dramatic Play, Fine Motor, Literacy, Large Motor, Math/Cognitive, Manipulatives, Music, Puzzles, Science/Sensory, Vehicles and more.

There is something for every stage of development in the first five years of a child's life.

BUILD COMMUNITY

The toy library offers opportunities for families to connect with each other – supporting their children's development through play while reducing their impact on the environment. The new St. Paul location is in the lower level of the Progressive Baptist Church at 1505 Burns Avenue. The toy library is open on the first and third week of each month:

- Sunday 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday 5 – 8 p.m.

In addition to borrowing toys, members can also bring the following items to any of the toy library locations for recycling:

- Broken or whole crayons.
- Squeeze pouches: pouches must be empty, clean, and dry and have caps. All brands are accepted.
- Broken Hasbro toys and games.
- Broken Spin Master toys, games, and packaging.
- V-tech and LeapFrog electronic learning devices and electronic toys.
- Barbie®, Fisher-Price®, Matchbox® and MEGA™ toys.

Check out the new space, become a member, and celebrate with the Minnesota Toy Library as they bring reuse and toy lending to St. Paul. Parking is available in the church parking lot. MTC bus routes 3A, 3B, 62 and 67 serve the area. Contact: stpaultoylibrary@gmail.com with any questions about hours, toy inventory, or membership.

New members can join the MTL on their first visit. No proof of income is required to join at any point along the sliding fee schedule.

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

TOWN HALL LANES BRINGS BEER, FOOD, AND FUN TOGETHER

We are so lucky to have a place that combines America's three favorite past times in our own neighborhood: great beer, delicious food, and fun-filled bowling. Town Hall Lanes (5019 S 34th Ave.) is much more than your typical bowling alley. With a retro 1950s design, it's a unique spot where friends, families, and coworkers gather to enjoy top-notch craft beer, indulge in scratch-made food, and engage in some classic bowling.

LEGACY OF GREAT BEER AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Town Hall franchise has a long-standing reputation for brewing excellence. It all started with Town Hall Brewery, which opened in 1997. Back then, Minnesota had fewer than 20 breweries, and Town Hall was at the forefront of the state's craft beer revolution. Peter Rafikas, the owner of five Town Hall locations, is regarded as one of the founding fathers of Minnesota's microbrewery scene. The brewery has garnered national acclaim, winning gold medals at prestigious events like the Great American Beer Festival. In fact, their first gold medal-winning beer, 4 Czar Jack, which is aged in Jack Daniels barrels, remains a favorite among locals and visitors alike.

The brewery also supplies popular venues like Carbone's and Sea Salt with some of their award-winning beers, such as their famous Masala Mama beer. Town Hall Lanes offers something for every beer

enthusiast, from barrel-aged specialties to pale ales.

BOWLING FOR ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS

But Town Hall Lanes isn't just about the beer. The 10-lane bowling alley, meticulously maintained with daily oiling, is a hub of activity year-round. Whether you're a competitive bowler or just looking for a fun night out, Town Hall Lanes has a league for you. With leagues running three times a week starting in January, June, and September, the bowling community here is thriving. Leagues aren't strictly competitive either; they attract bowlers of all skill levels and backgrounds, creating an inclusive environment that fosters camaraderie.

For families, Town Hall Lanes offers children's leagues during the summer, ensuring the younger generation can join in the fun. They also donate summer bowling passes to community events and fundraisers, further solidifying their role as a neighborhood staple. At just \$5 per game, with \$3.50 shoe rental, it's an affordable and enjoyable experience for all.

MORE THAN JUST BOWLING: A NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING PLACE

What truly sets Town Hall Lanes apart is its commitment to the community. As manager Mehtab Taylor explains, "We're a neighborhood bar. I like that families come in here. We get all walks of life." The sense of togetherness is palpable, with regular patrons from all corners of the neighborhood. Town Hall Lanes not only provides a space for families and friends to connect, but also serves as a venue for work parties and gatherings of all kinds.

Taylor, who has managed Town Hall Lanes for over a decade, is passionate

about giving back. The business regularly donates to local events and gives gift cards for silent auctions and supporting fundraisers for causes that hit close to home. Taylor emphasized, "We're just trying to be good people in the neighborhood," a sentiment echoed in their commitment to making Town Hall Lanes a place where everyone feels welcome.

SCRATCH-MADE MEALS, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

One of the hidden gems at Town Hall Lanes is their scratch kitchen. The restaurant offers a variety of mouthwatering dishes, my personal favorite is the naan tacos - I can't get enough of them, but I was surprised to know they also do brunch! When I asked Taylor her favorite brunch item, she told me about their popular Chicken Fried Chicken - hand-dredged chicken breast smothered in gravy, served with cheesy hashbrowns and eggs. The menu offers everything from hearty comfort food to lighter fare, making it the perfect complement to their craft beers.

Open until midnight every day, the restaurant and bar cater to all kinds of schedules, whether you're stopping by after work or gathering with friends on the weekend. On top of that, Town Hall Lanes is family-friendly, offering a welcoming environment for parents with children. They've even introduced a sick and safe leave policy for their employees, which is a game-changer for single parents and those needing more flexibility.

A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

At the end of the day, what makes Town Hall Lanes truly special is the sense of belonging it fosters within the commu-



Mehtab Taylor, general manager at Town Hall Lanes and a Standish-Ericsson resident, said, "We're a neighborhood bar. I like that families come in here. We get all walks of life."

nity. As Taylor puts it, "It makes us feel like we're a part of something." Whether you're meeting new people, joining a bowling league, or just enjoying a quiet drink at the bar, Town Hall Lanes is a place where connections are made, and memories are forged.

So, as the weather cools down and you find yourself seeking warmth, great beer, and good company, look no further than Town Hall Lanes. With its retro charm, welcoming atmosphere, and dedication to community, it's more than just a bowling alley - it's a huge part of our neighborhood community.

BUSINESS

INGEBRETSEN'S GIFT SHOP TURNS 50

This year the Ingebretsen's Gift Shop celebrates its 50th birthday. Julie Ingebretsen started running a small counter with just a few imported gifts alongside the well-known Meat Market and Deli in 1974, and has built the store into one of the most respected Nordic import and gift stores in the country. The combination of the traditional food at the deli (opened by Charles Ingebretsen - a Swedish immigrant to the Midwest - in 1921) and imported gifts and home goods for sale makes Ingebretsen's a source for the local community to find connection with Scandinavian culture.

Ingebretsen's is one of the last stores

still standing from the early 20th century era of "snoose boulevard," a hub of Scandinavian American activity. The street remains a corridor where immigrant businesses can get their start and contribute to a multicultural fabric of Minneapolis.

Christmas is the time of year that brings the Scandinavians in the Twin Cities out in droves. Beginning after Thanksgiving you will often see a line of shoppers waiting outside Ingebretsen's to get their Christmas presents and traditional holiday foods.

Julie Ingebretsen said, "My favorite part of my experience has been the feeling of creating something. It took me a long time to figure that out. That's what I was doing. That was my art basically. That it was a thing that I was making. But now it's true. Like we together were making something that was a good thing in the world."

The store has commemorated this milestone with a selection of anniversary merchandise, including a new mug with the famous Ingebretsen's mural featured and more.

In 1997, Judy Kjenstad painted a two-story mural on the building, modeled after traditional Swedish folk painting styles that serve to tell stories through large scale murals. It speaks to travel, welcoming community and breaking bread together - past present and future. This work has become its own landmark of sorts. It is now the oldest existing mural on Lake Street. This summer, the stucco beneath started to break and after months of road construction, parts of the wall gave way. Thanks to support from Lake Street Council, Kjenstad returned to restore the mural to its original glory (photo at right).



Find more history of the store at ingebretsens.com/our-anniversary.

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM
PRESENTATION BY JENNIFER NEALE

LET'S DISCUSS HOW TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFER

DEC 4TH | 6:30PM-7:30PM
ONLINE

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Neighbor Julia Johnson says the George Floyd Square community provides resources, food, housing support, free clothing from the Peoples' Closet and safety. It's a blueprint she wants to see copied all over the country and around the world. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

GF SQUARE >> from 1

Smith said the problem is not the police or the community but the environment they're living in, and that these kinds of upgrades cost money that could be used elsewhere – to house, clothe and feed people. "We don't want it to be pretty. We didn't take it to be pretty," she said, referring to the protest that first closed the streets in 2020.

Jordan Powell Karis, the artist who created the fist sculptures at the center of 38th and Chicago and at each of the four gateways to George Floyd Square, said the sculptures weren't meant to be pretty.

"They're meant to hold space in the protest. We've been doing it for four and a half years at this point," he said.

Powell Karis, who lives in Uptown and has seen the loss of businesses there, urged consideration of the impact of construction on the neighborhood. "That's a thriving economic zone, and the construction has destroyed it," he said. "I'm not sure how this area's gonna really do, we already struggle in this neighborhood to keep it going."

ANOTHER APPROACH

The community presented an alternate plan that would halt road reconstruction for one year for three purposes:

1) to enable the city, Hennepin County and the state of Minnesota to create an intergovernmental agency – similar to the approach to law enforcement that was taken during the trial of Derek Chauvin – to implement immediate solutions for housing and healing.

2) to support a racial justice and healing center at 38th St. and 4th Ave. S., as outlined in the 38th Street THRIVE strategic plan approved by the city council in 2021.

3) to use the existing Community Visioning Council to create a comprehensive, community-led vision for George Floyd Square (GFS) by October 2025 that

includes a memorial, the Peoples' Way and the right-of-way.

"Without attending to the comprehensive needs of neighbors along with infrastructure improvements, we fear that the current plan will lead to increased displacement of current residents and their lives will not be improved," read Rise & Remember's Jeanelle Austin, who presented the alternate plan.

Neighbors were first welcomed to the town hall by the music of Brass Solidarity, Elder Atum Azzahir of the Cultural Wellness Center, and Raj, the evening's emcee. Then Austin presented updates on the 24



It is a memorial. It is a place of resistance around the world. But first and foremost, it is a community," she said. "And what we need to tell folk is that you may want, you may think, you may desire normalcy. But what was normal was Black folk dying in the middle of the street."

Marcia Howard

ing for integrative healthcare and affordable housing for the neighborhood – she brought attention to the overlap between the goals of the 24 Demands and 38th Street THRIVE.

"This comes as no surprise, as both documents emerged through engaging with Black community members who have been historically disenfranchised and marginalized," said Austin. "This document is not focused merely on infrastruc-

ture. It also addresses the root causes of racism, and it acknowledges that it must be a moving document to build upon the work of justice and equity."

38th Street THRIVE calls for building a "social experience" for the community, where there is affordable housing, access to culturally-rooted health and wellness resources, anti-racism training, and support for BIPOC businesses. Beyond buildings and streets, it calls for policy, culture and behavior changes and "a shift in imagination to transform our neighborhoods."

"The 24 Demands underlines what is urgently needed for us to breathe," said Austin. "The 38th St. THRIVE plan gives us permission to live a long life."

Austin also shared a summary of findings from an independent community survey on GFS that was requested by the 38th and Chicago Co-Creation Team and was administered by the University of Minnesota Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA). Conducted between November 2023 and January 2024, the survey had 5,896 responses – 289 gathered from door-to-door canvassing, the rest completed online. It appears results were heavily skewed by a Dec. 4, 2023, post from Crime-WatchMpls on social media, which shared a link to the survey with this message:

"This is a BS survey about what should be done with George Floyd Square at 38th and Chicago in Minneapolis, but fill it out anyway. We suggested a jail facility should go in place of the abandoned gas station. Get creative."

According to CURA, 2,019 – a third of the total responses – were logged to the online survey on Dec. 4 and 5, and patterns emerged that were different from responses generated before and after those two dates. Fewer respondents indicated they had been to George Floyd Square (58% compared to 94% prior to Dec. 4 and 71% after Dec. 5). The attitudes of these respondents were different as well. Before Dec. 4, 46% of respondents said

preserving the existing memorial is very important or extremely important, compared to 9% on Dec. 4-5.

COMMUNITY TESTIMONIALS

After Austin's presentation, more community members shared experiences that supported a different approach.



Without attending to the comprehensive needs of neighbors along with infrastructure improvements, we fear that the current plan will lead to increased displacement of current residents and their lives will not be improved."

Jeanelle Austin

Neighbor Casper Warren recalled being awakened when the city first removed the barriers in 2021 and when someone sped into the Square and "sprayed bullets everywhere."

The barriers were there for protection, "so people could not pick up speed and create another

Charlottesville situation," said Warren, referring to the driver who plowed his car into counter-protesters at a White nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017, killing Heather Heyer and injuring many others. The driver, James Alex Fields Jr., was convicted of federal hate crimes, including murder, in 2019.

While traveling south on I-94 from the north side to attend the town hall, Kiru Adbebe was reminded of freeways cutting through Black neighborhoods displacing people in Minneapolis and in St. Paul's Rondo area.

"We see construction projects used as tools of destruction for Black communities," said Adbebe.

Julia Johnson spoke to the power of community at George Floyd Square (GFS) to provide resources, food, housing care and even safety. She described being robbed at gunpoint with her baby in the car. Rather than calling the police, she called her neighbor Marcia Howard, who found out who did it and was able to work toward accountability. Calvary Church neighbors brought Johnson pizza and comforted her son.

For Johnson, the GFS community is a blueprint she wants to see get copied all over the country and around the world.

"Last night, with the election, when people were scared out of their minds because they didn't know if White supremacists were gonna come again to this intersection and start lighting things on fire and sprayin' bullets and jump out of pickup trucks, jump Black people and get away with it," she said. "When we were terrified, we had each other."

Closing out the evening, Howard said a lot of people have ideas of the aesthetics of GFS and reminded them it is now a historic landmark.

"It is a memorial. It is a place of resistance around the world. But first and foremost, it is a community," she said. "And what we need to tell folk is that you may want, you may think, you may desire normalcy. But what was normal was Black folk dying in the middle of the street."

City leaders presented their proposal to the city council at its Committee of the Whole meeting on Nov. 12 (with many community members present), and again

GF SQUARE >> 13

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HALF OF 24 DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE MET

When in August 2020 city officials asked “What does justice look like?” community members went up and down the blocks at 38th and Chicago talking to neighbors and business owners. The result was a list of 24 Demands for Justice Resolution 001, which include police accountability measures, grants for businesses, integrative health and housing support, and youth job investments. At the Nov. 6 Town Hall, Rise & Remember’s Jeanelle Austin provided updates on each of the demands. Half are considered met and are as follows:

1. Recall Mike Freeman, Hennepin County Attorney – Freeman was publicly denounced and no longer holds office.
3. Provide accountability and transparency in multiple deaths at the hands of law enforcement – During negotiations, the community agreed this would be met by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation.
4. Open an independent investigation into the conviction of Myon Burrell – Burrell’s sentence was commuted, and he was released from prison on Dec. 15, 2020.
9. Conduct the trial of the four former officers charged in the murder of George Floyd at a court in Minneapolis.

10. Invest \$400,000 into George Floyd Square (GFS) through the neighborhood associations to create new jobs for young people – In November 2022, Commissioner Angela Conley led the charge of getting Hennepin County to fund this need. “The action of the Hennepin County Commissioners is a step in the right direction,” said Austin. “We are learning the depths of the need to continue to invest in our youth.”

11. Invest \$300,000 into GFS to provide Undoing Racism training for the black community – In November 2021, Commissioner Angela Conley led the charge of getting Hennepin County to fund this need.

16. Allocate a facade grant to George Floyd Square to improve the aesthetics of the business corridor – Multiple grant opportunities for businesses in GFS have been offered since 2020.

17. Establish and distribute a contingency fund for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) businesses located in GFS – Same as #16.

18. Provide Agape Movement a space for their operations within GFS.

20. Release the death certificate of Dameon “Murphy Ranks” Chambers – This demand was met within 24 hours of the first meeting with Mayor Jacob Frey and the city council members of Wards 8 and 9.

22. Hold law enforcement accountable for impeding

24 Demands Status Update

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Demand 1 ✔ | Demand 7 ✘ | Demand 13 ✘ | Demand 19 ✘ |
| Demand 2 ✘ | Demand 8 ✘ | Demand 14 ✘ | Demand 20 ✔ |
| Demand 3 ✔ | Demand 9 ✔ | Demand 15 ✘ | Demand 21 ✘ |
| Demand 4 ✔ | Demand 10 ✔ | Demand 16 ✔ | Demand 22 ✔ |
| Demand 5 ✘ | Demand 11 ✔ | Demand 17 ✔ | Demand 23 ✔ |
| Demand 6 ✘ | Demand 12 ✘ | Demand 18 ✔ | Demand 24 ✘ |

EMS response and the mishandling and delay of Murphy Ranks’ case – The community agreed this would be met by the DOJ investigation, though they would not know which specific cases were investigated.

23. Drop the charges against non-violent protesters from 2016-2017.

For some of the unmet demands, Austin called attention to where they coincide with the 38th St. THRIVE plan. Development of Dreamland on 38th and the expansion of Kente Circle are two examples. The vision of Dreamland is to create a supportive

workspace for African American entrepreneurs to start and expand small businesses in the areas of food and heritage. Kente Circle focuses on providing culturally informed mental health services.

Begun in 2019 and approved by the city council in 2021, 38th St. THRIVE is a collective vision document for the 38th St. Cultural Corridor. It also includes housing support and devotes a section to George Floyd Square. It is available on the city web site.

The full document for the 24 demands is at [Bit.ly/Georgefloyd-square-a](https://bit.ly/Georgefloyd-square-a)

GF SQUARE >> from 12

at the Climate & Infrastructure Committee on Nov. 21. Transportation planner Nathan Koster acknowledged that there is no consensus on the plan and said the com-

munity is deeply divided. That is true for Council Members Andrea Jenkins (Ward 8) and Jason Chavez (Ward 9), whose wards both include George Floyd Square, as well.

Jenkins, who was integral to developing the 38th St. THRIVE plan, supports

the city’s plan. “It’s really important that we invest in this community to demonstrate that we do recognize the disinvestments that created the conditions that led to [George Floyd’s] murder,” she said.

Chavez does not support the city’s plan. “We’re talking about tearing up a

street without talking about the investments that 38th St. THRIVE deserves and needs,” he said, stating that the plan wouldn’t improve people’s housing situation or economic challenges.

The proposal is expected to go to the full city council on Thursday, Dec. 5.

CITY BRIEFS

2025 CITY BUDGET, TAX LEVY INCREASE

In the next few weeks week city council members will formally consider amendments the Mayor Jacob Frey’s proposed \$1.88 billion city budget for 2025 with a tax levy increase of 8.3%. The final public hearing will start at 6:05 p.m. on Dec. 10 in the council chambers in the Public Service Center, 250 Fourth St. S., Room 350, followed by consideration of any remaining amendments and a vote to approve a new budget.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

So far three people have indicated that they will be running for mayor of Minneapolis in next year’s election: Current mayor, Jacob Frey; DeWayne Davis, a minister at Plymouth Congregational; and Omar Fateh, the state senator for District 62.

ICE RINKS

After announcing tentative plans to save \$1.5 reducing the number of ice rinks this year from 22 to 17, on Nov. 8 Minneapolis Parks and Recreation board members decided to add rinks back at Windom, Logan, and Van Cleve Parks. They have until Dec. 10 to finalize the list of closures, which includes Powderhorn and Matthews Park.

HIAWATHA-LAKE ART

Artists have been invited to apply to design and create a large-scale, two-dimensional public artwork for the redevelopment at Hiawatha-Lake. The budget for a community engagement process, design, and creation of a roughly 5,200-square-foot, two-dimensional public artwork is \$369,000. The application deadline is 4 p.m. Dec. 10.

MIDTOWN GREENWAY REGIONAL TRAIL PLAN

The Midtown Greenway Regional Trail Plan is scheduled to be considered for final approval by the full Board of Park Commissioners on Dec. 4, 2024. While the trail is owned by the city and operated by them in partnership with the Hennepin



LAKE STREET SAFETY CENTER

The new Lake Street Safety Center has opened at 2228 E. Lake St. near the Midtown Station and will be open Monday to Friday. City and community-based services will be offered there, including 311 customer services, community navigators and crime prevention specialists.

SOUTHSIDE 3RD PRECINCT AREA SAFETY CENTER

The city is providing updates about the proposed larger safety center at 2633 Minnehaha Ave. that will house a variety of services and staff, including the police staff that serves the 3rd precinct area. There will be a meeting from 5 – 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E. Franklin Ave, and an online meeting from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Dec 17. It is not expected to open until 2026.

County Regional Railroad Authority, the park board is the only agency within the city eligible for regional park and trail funding. The plan fulfills the requirements of the Metropolitan Council and also includes an agreement between the city, rail authority and park board focused on ownership, operations, and use of regional funding for the Midtown Greenway if it receives status as a regional trail.

COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has adopted the 2024 – 2029 Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Plan and concluded a significant effort in solid waste planning that began with the Climate Action Plan in 2021, and the creation of the Zero Waste Plan in 2023. It includes a prioritization of the

highest impact zero-waste and, if implemented, would provide resources to cities to increase waste prevention and recycling, increase food waste diversion and recycling, expand collection and drop-off options, complete a food waste prevention plan, develop a plastics prevention plan, launch a new Community Zero Waste Grant program and more.

METRO TRANSIT NETWORK PLAN

The regional transit authority that operates bus and lights rail services in the Twin Cities has released a Metro Transit’s Network Now plan that proposes expanding service by 35% and increasing the rate of metro area jobs accessible by a 45-minute transit ride by 25% by the end of 2027 by redistributing service to offer frequent service throughout the region to contin-

ue growing ridership. The plan will be refined based on the public feedback received this fall and presented for possible council adoption in early 2025. For more information visit www.metrotransit.org/network-now.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR STANDARDS BOARD

Following an hours-long discussion on Nov. 14, the city council approved a resolution to establish a new Labor Standards Board. The proposal, which faced vocal opposition from some businesses and business groups, would establish a 15-member advisory board, with five seats each for employers, employees, and community stakeholders.



MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT (MMU)

The city’s health department has purchased a new mobile medical van that they hope will help bridge healthcare access gaps and reduce barriers in underserved communities. More than \$1 million from opioid settlement funds were used to purchase and equip and staff the new vehicle that is intended to help reduce opioid overdose deaths, increase access to treatment, and expand access and delivery of medications for opioid use disorder. The health department’s Opioid Response Team will operate the unit, offer basic health screenings, and provide medication consultation, wound care, vaccinations, mental health counseling and referrals and youth health services including physical exams, dental care, and wellness check. Services are expected to begin early next year.

THE CITY GARDENER



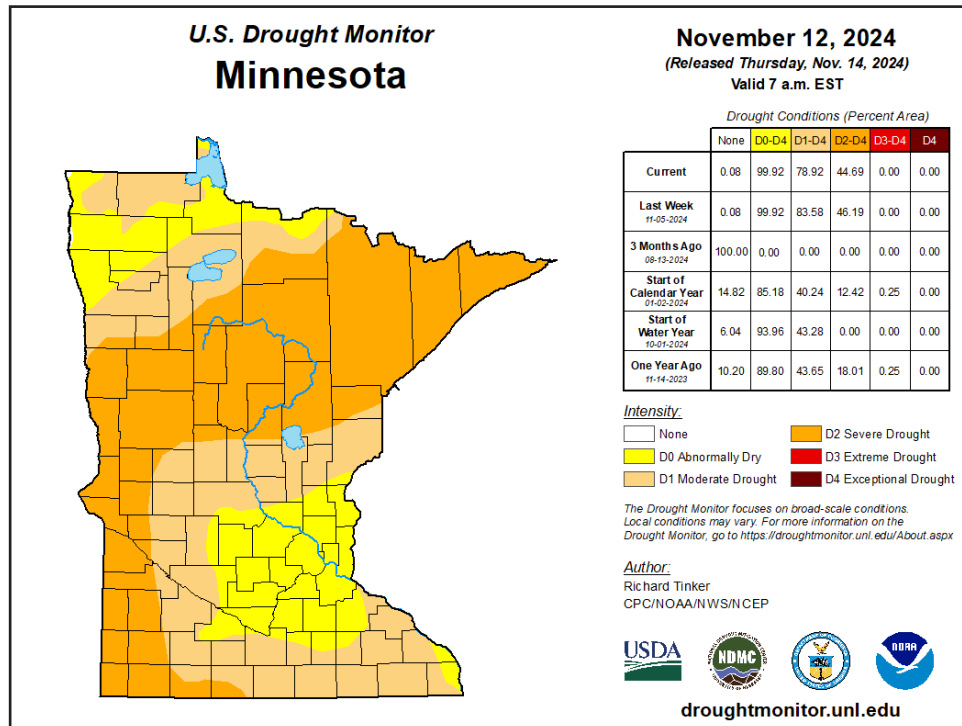
BY LAUREN BETHKE,
Master Gardener

The weather here in Minneapolis has been extreme recently, and drought is something we've experienced every year. Although the 2024 drought was not as severe as previous years, rainfall patterns were unusual, contributing to a difficult growing season. Read on for a recap and explainer on this year's drought conditions and some preliminary predictions for next year.

First - what is a drought? Drought occurs when there is a prolonged period of very dry or hot weather (or both), causing a serious hydrologic imbalance. Under normal conditions, water continuously flows throughout the ecosystem, with precipitation regularly replenishing water levels in the soil and below the ground. However, during a drought, this cycle becomes unbalanced, and it can be difficult to return to normal conditions. When soil is extremely dry, it often begins to repel water. Counterintuitively, this means that a big rainstorm after a period of drought can be a bad thing because the water may run off the surface of dry soil rather than soaking in - which can cause flooding. Multiple smaller rain events are more effective for maintaining the flow of water throughout the ecosystem.

There is some degree of drought in Minnesota nearly every year, with some years more or less severe than others. When talking about drought conditions, it's important to begin by looking at win-

MINNESOTA BACK IN A DROUGHT



ter weather in the previous year. As you probably remember, the winter of 2023 in Minneapolis was historically warm, with very little snowfall. There was serious concern in early 2024 that this year's drought would be extremely severe because we did not have the usual amount of melting snow to moisten the soil in the spring.

Luckily, early spring rains replenished the soil and we avoided severe drought early in the 2024 season. Spring 2024 was the first time in three years where there was no drought occurring anywhere in the state. However, summer saw historic rain-

fall totals. Because the soil was already saturated with water, this caused flooding in some parts of the state.

Starting in September, precipitation began to slow down significantly, and it has been a warm, dry fall. Because of weak wind patterns, storms have shifted course and missed the Twin Cities to the north or south. As of the writing of this article in mid-November, the majority of the state has returned to a mild to moderate drought, and 45% of the state is in a severe drought - even though we have experienced about four inches more rain than

average, over the course of the year.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the federal agency that works on monitoring and forecasting the weather and studying climate conditions, among other duties. You may have heard that it will be a "La Niña" winter, which refers to temperature changes in the Pacific Ocean that generally cause warm temperatures in the southern hemisphere and cold temperatures in the northern hemisphere. Because of this likely weather pattern, the NOAA is predicting that Minnesota will experience colder than average temperatures and higher than average snow totals this winter.

So, what should you do to give your yard and garden the best chance at success?

Continue to water your perennial plants, trees, and shrubs until the ground freezes. Stop watering when average nighttime temperatures are in the low 30s. In the spring, keep a close eye on changing conditions. If we have more snow this winter as predicted, the melting snow should help moisten the ground and irrigate plants in the spring. However, if it is a cold spring and the ground is late to thaw, melting snow may run off the soil rather than soaking in. It's important to keep many factors in mind when deciding when to begin planting and watering in the spring.

Many factors influence drought conditions each year, and changes in our climate have only made these patterns more extreme and unpredictable.

For the latest science-based predictions and advice, I would recommend following information from the University of Minnesota Extension Yard and Garden website, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the NOAA, and the National Weather Service. Happy gardening!

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No consensus on vision for GF Square

Community, city host meetings to determine future of 38th and Chicago



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