Minnehaha Academy: #TogetherWeRise

An explosion destroyed a section of the school and killed two, but school proves its community is strong and resilient

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Minnehaha Academy is working to rise together following a devastating gas explosion at the Upper School (3300 W. River Pkwy.) on Aug. 2 that killed two staff members and destroyed the oldest section of the school facility built in 1913.

Nearly 1,000 people wearing the Minnehaha school color red attended a Unity Walk on Aug. 15. The walk started at the Upper School and ended at the Lower School with a ceremonial raising of the flag back to full mast.

“Two weeks ago we were dealt a blow,” remarked Minnehaha Academy Board Chair David Anderson. “Together we will rise.”

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Sara Jacobson noted, “It’s important for current students and alumni to come together to comfort each other, but also to celebrate the community that we have. The Unity Walk enabled us to thank the first responders, demonstrate our commitment to each other in this tragedy, and most importantly, begin to look forward to what God has for Minnehaha Academy in the future.”

#TogetherWeRise

The school has begun tagging #TogetherWeRise as a hashtag for this experience because we are a caring community, and we know that together we will become stronger, we will grow, we will rise up to be a greater school and to show the community what we can do together,” explained Jacobson.

Minnehaha Academy President Donna Harris observed, “Together is the pivotal and transformative word. I am confident we will rise from the devastating blow we have sustained as a community because our shared experience of pain and loss has drawn us closer together. So with God’s help, I believe we will rise in unity, with a renewed sense of purpose, hope, and commitment to our mission.”

While the start of the school year will be different, Upper School Principal Jason Wenschlag has been reassuring students, “We’re going to be ok.”

“It’s going to be a great year. It’s going to bring us together,” said Wenschlag. “We’re going to rally around this. We’re going to be sure to carry on the same traditions and experiences our kids expect.”

On Wed., Aug. 23, the school announced that classes for its high school students school announced that classes for its high school students would be held at 1345 Mendota Heights Rd. in Mendota Heights in the former Sanford-Brown College building. The school has signed a two-year lease at the site which is eight miles south of the Minnehaha campus, and hopes to be back in a permanent location as soon as possible. “The process for assessing the structural soundness of our Upper School and conducting rebuilding analyses with a partially destroyed structure is complex, so it is prudent and beneficial for Minnehaha to have a longer time window at the Mendota Heights site if needed,” stated Harris.

Moving forward

Wenschlag was out of town in Chicago when he received the news of the explosion. He hopped on the next flight and was back at Minnehaha Academy by 2pm, but found there was little he could do except pray for those unaccounted for as the authorities were managing the scene of the blast.

Master Mechanical workers had been moving a gas main at the campus, and those inside were given just a few minutes notice before the explosion exploded.

The explosion rocked and set ablaze the center of the upper school at 10:23am, causing a partial collapse of two floors over a sub-basement. After the fire was extinguished, an intensive operation began to find the missing. By the end of the first day, Minnehaha knew it had lost 17-year receptionist Ruth Berg, as well as alum and staff member John Carlson. Nine were injured and transported to the hospital with fractures, cuts and head wounds, including assistant boy’s soccer coach Bryan Duffey.

Since that first day, Principal Wenschlag has been very busy, working long days and moving forward on short nights of sleep.

“We have kids and teachers, but we’re basically starting a school,” observed Wenschlag.

Continued on page 15
Well-known Minnesota chef plans to open restaurant in The CAPP

Development near 46th and Hiawatha will also include grocery store, other retail, and 150 apartments

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

James Beard Award nominee chef Erick Harcey plans to open a new restaurant next year in the CAPP building, a mixed-use project near 46th and Hiawatha that will include a grocery store.

The restaurant at 3939 46th St. E. will be part of a five-story mixed-use development proposed by Excelsior-based Oppidan Investment Company. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2018.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to develop a restaurant in the Longfellow neighborhood,” Harcey said in a press release. “My team and I are looking forward to bringing an approachable space to the area and a destination for all.”

Name, concept still unknown

The new 4,000-foot, one-story restaurant building with outdoor seating will be located on the northwest slice of the property, between the extension of Snelling Ave. and the railroad tracks. The five-story building with the grocery store will be to the east, replacing the current structure that houses Creative Kids Adventures in a separate office.

Harcey has not yet picked a name for his new restaurant, and other details, including concept and menu, are still in the works.

The new restaurant in Longfellow near Minnehaha Park comes at a time of flux for Harcey, who has recently stopped working at Upton 43 and Dirty Bird take-out in Minneapolis and shuttered the “Perfect Burger” at his park in Longfellow near Minnehaha.

“Now that we are approved, we’re going to the market to see who can best meet/achieve the specific land-use requirements of Minneapolis,” said Johnson.

Challenge ahead for the project include funding for the public improvements, including the new city street, Min Hi Line trail project, and relocating the Xcel power poles.

The city approved a variance to increase the maximum allowed gross floor area for commercial use from 20,000 square feet to 47,280 square feet, subject to a few conditions.

Staff recommended that the principal entrance, accessible to the public during the opening hours of operation, be prominently located near the corner of 46th St and Snelling Ave., and at least one commercial tenant space in addition to the grocery store face 46th St.

The city also requires that architectural elements, such as windows, shall be incorporated on the north, east and west building elevations to prevent blank, uninterrupted walls exceeding 25 feet in width as required by section 530.120 of the zoning code. On the west elevation of the elevator/stair tower and at the upper floors of the corner of the building facing 46th St and Snelling Ave, additional consideration shall be given to ensure the corner of the building is an attractive focal point with visual interest.

To be consistent with the zoning code, the exterior appearance of the face brick and thin brick cladding on the insulated precast wall panels will match, and the types of metal panel used will be limited to two, one of which will be an accent material.

At least 12 bicycle parking spaces must be provided for the nonresidential uses. Bicycle parking facilities provided between the building and 46th St. will be oriented parallel to the building.

Oppidan was directed to explore relocating the bike parking to a location that is not between the building and a street, as well as options for installing discontinuous curbing to allow the on-site retention and infiltration of stormwater in landscaped areas.

The planning commission also gave a deadline for the project: all site improvements shall be completed by July 17, 2019.

The new restaurant with outdoor seating will be in a 4,000-foot, one-story building (on left) near the railroad tracks and future Min Hi Line trail. (Illustrations courtesy of Oppidan)

Harcey’s deep Swedish roots are at the source of his cooking, according to his website. “He has never quite recreated, in later life, the joy of coming home from school in Cambridge, MN, and smell, before he even opened the door, that his mother was baking potato dill bread. And it was several long talks near the end of his Swedish grandfather’s life that gave him the ultimate vision for Upton 43. But Chef Harcey is just as influenced by Marco Pierre White’s White Heat, and the in-suitable inventiveness of Ferran Adria.”

When he’s not in the kitchen or planning a new restaurant, Harcey might be found coaching one of his four son’s baseball teams or trying to get a fat wall-eye to bite the end of his line.

No grocery store named yet

Both the restaurant building and the five-story structure with a grocery store, 150 apartments and pedestrian-friendly town center were reviewed by the city’s planning commission on July 17.

“We received project approvals from the Minneapolis planning commission about a month ago and are very excited, but still have some big challenges,” said Drew Johnson of Oppidan.

A grocer has not yet been selected.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to develop a restaurant in the Longfellow neighborhood,” Harcey said in a press release. “My team and I are looking forward to bringing an approachable space to the area and a destination for all.”

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from 10:30 am to 6:00 pm
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Golfers rally to save the Hiawatha Golf Course

Following Park Board decision to close course, supporters come together to push back

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

We don’t want a beautiful recreational asset turned into a stormwater pond,” Jerry Mullin told a group of about 100 Hiawatha Golf Course supporters on Tues., Aug. 15.

Mullin, an environmental consultant who used to work for Baar Engineering, has lived across the street from the golf course for 20 years. He and other speakers at a rally in support of Hiawatha Golf Course charged that the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board process hasn’t been fair since the beginning, and they want to have more of a say in what happens at the course.

Following a flood in 2014, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) learned that the course is pumping far more water off the property than allowed by a Department of Natural Resources permit. The park board began holding meetings in 2015 to update residents on what was happening at the course and to begin envisioning what else the site could be used for if it wasn’t a golf course.

On Aug. 9, the park board approved reducing the pumping from 242 million gallons to 94 million gallons by a 6-3 vote. The course is expected to remain open through the 2019 season.

Supporters push for advocacy

Kathryn Kelly grew up near the golf course. “I beginning, and they want to have more of a say in what happens at the course.”

Kelly also played golf at Hiawatha as a teenager when she was a member of the Roosevelt High School team. “I think it should stay,” she stated. Kelly doesn’t support the park board idea of putting in parking lots and a pavilion. “I don’t understand how you can build a pavilion on a swamp,” Kelly commented.

Mayoral candidate Nekima Levy-Pound told the crowd she believes this situation is another example of the Park Board process not listening to the people. “Unfortunately, they have too much unchecked power,” Levy-Pound said. “The November elections are coming up, and they’re very important because we have the chance to change park board leaders.”

Levy-Pound said that she didn’t understand how the park board is moving ahead with closing the course before it has a solid plan for redevelopment or the funds to pay for it.

Levy-Pound questioned, “How can golf be a dying sport at Hiawatha Golf Course if this course is used by so many?” She pointed to the youth that use the course, as well as all the people who showed up for the rally. “I believe that because of the power of your advocacy, it will remain open,” Levy-Pound said.

Several other candidates for office within the city spoke to the crowd, including Charlie Cassey, at-large park board candidate; Bob Fine, who is running for the District 6 Park Board seat in the southwest section of the city; Bill Shroyer, District 5 Park Board candidate; and Andrea Fahrenkrag, District 5 Park Board candidate.

Shroyer, an 18-year Park Board employee in the forestry and maintenance department, said, “They’re going to dredge the Mississippi, and they can’t dredge this lake?” He asked. Shroyer thinks the user members generated for the site if it were redeveloped are fake. “I know the forest isn’t going to bring half a million people here,” said Shroyer. “This is a success, and we’re not going to give up.”

Andrea Fahrenkrag’s husband played up the course at Hiawatha. She understands that some people don’t like to play golf and don’t use the course. “That’s fine,” she said. “You don’t have to want a golf course. We want a golf course.” She believes that diversity in the activities offered within the park system is important.

Bobbie Warfield agreed. “There are six million acres of park land in Minneapolis,” he pointed out. “What are we going to get by having another restaurant in Minneapolis? But this is the only golf course in south Minneapolis.”

Course supporters encouraged people to browse SaveHiawatha18.com for more information on how to get involved in saving the golf course.

MPRB’s next steps

Earlier in August, the MPRB directed staff to organize a process of amending the Nokomis Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan to accommodate changes to the Hiawatha Golf Course property following the decision to reduce pumping.

MPRB will be forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to determine if some form of traditional golf can remain on the property.

The process to determine the future usage of the course is expected to take between nine and 12 months, according to a press release. The process to prepare plans and obtain permits will take another 12 months or more. During that time, MPRB will work with the DNR to continue current pumping levels so that Hiawatha Golf Course will remain open as an 18-hole golf course until at least the end of 2019.

“Longfellow Nokomis Messenger electronically! Tim Nelson

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A group of about 100 Hiawatha Golf Course supporters gathered on Tues., Aug. 15, in response to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board decision on Aug. 9 to shut down the course. They encourage residents to browse their site, SaveHiawatha18.com, for more information and to get involved in saving the course. (Photo by Tesa M. Christensen)

Jerry Mullin, an environmental consultant who used to work for Baar Engineering, has lived across the street from the golf course for 20 years. He and other speakers at a rally in support of Hiawatha Golf Course charged that the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board process hasn’t been fair since the beginning, and they want to have more of a say in what happens at the course. (Photo by Tesa M. Christensen)

Mayoral candidate Nekima Levy-Pound told the crowd she believes this situation is another example of the Park Board process not listening to the people. “Unfortunately, they have too much unchecked power,” Levy-Pound said. “The November elections are coming up, and they’re very important because we have the chance to change park board leaders.” (Photo by Tesa M. Christensen)
This year’s Monarch Festival will occur on Sat., Sept. 9 from 10am to 4pm. The Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly’s amazing 2,300 mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico with music, food, dance, hands-on art, native plant sales, and plenty of opportunities to get up-close with monarch butterflies—learn about their habitats, and what you can do to make a difference.

Festival participants can listen to music from Salsa Del Soul and other acts, try out the new Animation Station, make their own art project, get up-close with monarch caterpillars, tag and release a monarch butterfly, play games and much more.

Visit the Minneapolis Monarch Festival website at www.monarchfestival.org for the full line-up of up Monarch Festival music, food, art, activities, and native plant sale information. These activities are all free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Monarch Festival - Festival de la Monarca 2017

The Festival will be held just east of the Lake Nokomis Community Center in the area surrounded by E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Woodlawn Blvd., and E. Nokomis Pkwy. The festival is hosted by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Monarch Mile installed

The Monarch Mile, NENA’s new pollinator pathway connecting the Nokomis Naturescape and Gateway Garden, was planted on August 1 by local volunteers, Minnesota Conservation Corps, Master Water Stewards, and project partners Metro Blooms. This popular cost-share program will be expanded next year.

Interested residents who live on E. 50th St. in Nokomis can contact Program and Communication Manager Lauren Hazenson to be added to the 2018 Monarch Mile garden list.

If this project or similar environmental programs interest you, and you would like to be part of leading similar efforts, come to the next Green Initiatives Committee meeting on Wed., Sept. 13, 6:30-8pm at the NENA Office, 4313 E. 54th St.

Accepting applications for Morris Park NENA Board Seat

NENA is seeking applicants for the vacant Board seat from the Morris Park neighborhood. The Morris Park neighborhood is bordered by 54th St. on the north, Highway 55 on the east, 34th Ave. on the west, and the southern boundary of the City of Minneapolis.

If you live (homeowner and renters) in the Morris Park neighborhood, you can nominate yourself (most common), or any NENA member can nominate a Morris Park neighborhood resident as an applicant for the Board. Completed nomination forms are due on Sept. 13.

The NENA Board of Directors will review all applications and appoint a new board member at its Sept. 28 meeting. This is a replacement appointment serving from Sept. 13 to Apr. 2018. The appointed Board member may run to be elected to the seat at the April Annual Meeting and serve a full two-year term.

Visit www.nokomiseast.org for more information and an application.

City Academy

The City Academy educational series, offered through the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, is being offered again this year to residents interested in knowing more about how the city government works. The five-week series includes topics on general government, public safety, public works, planning and development, and fire operations. Participants will learn the latest in firefighting techniques, the latest technology from 311, police procedures how future developments are planned and constructed, how taxes are levied and budgets approved and about City Boards and Commissions. The City Academy is free to the public.

The City Academy will be held every Wednesday from Sept. 20 until Oct. 18.

Registration is open until Sept. 7. To register, please visit the Minneapolis City Academy webpage.

Sign up for NENA News

Get your neighborhood news delivered to your inbox every other Wednesday. Sign up today at www.nokomiseast.org. Once you sign up, you’ll receive updates on news and happenings for your neighborhood.

Transition Longfellow is an all-volunteer group of Longfellow/South Minneapolis neighbors who create opportunities for neighbors to get to know one another while also learning how they can reduce their energy use and waste, grow their own food, and prepare for extreme weather and natural disasters.

Preparedness Book Group

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The SAGE and Ivey Award-winning Off-Leash Area is launching an exciting new adventure as they celebrate their 18th year with the opening of a brand new performance venue in South Minneapolis: The Off-Leash Art Box.

Construction is underway at 4200 54th St. E., and plans for the Art Box grand opening are set for the fall. The Art Box will be Off-Leash Area’s home base for its productions, classes, workshops, and other programming, and will serve the broader community by providing an affordable venue for working professionals to equip small space, affordable and professional equipment small venue for the many independent dance and theater makers in the Twin Cities.

Having experienced their own challenges in finding afford- able spaces, Jennifer Ilse and Paul Hetwig, Off-Leash Area Artistic Directors, decided to take matters into their own hands and pur- chased a property.

Small performance venues in Minneapolis have rapidly dis- appeared due to gentrification. In the past year alone, 4 small performance venues closed as the owners sold these properties for commercial development. This inspired the decision to purchase the Art Box rather than lease a building.

“By owning our own build- ing we own our destiny, and we wish to share the power of that self-sufficiency with our commu- nity,” stated the Artistic Directors.

In its 18 years, OLA has cre- ated 25 original evening-length performance works, many short- form works, taught classes in In- verted Dance, workshops in Per- formance & Scenario Design, been commissioned by the Walker Art Center, The O’Shaughnessy, and collaborated with an ever grow- ing community of the Twin Cit- ies most exciting performance makers.

OLA has four performance programs: presenting its Main- stage Productions in Minneapolis venues, Micro-stage Productions in their own home/studio Our Garage, the Neighborhood Ga- rage Tour which brings perform- ance works directly into neigh- borhoods, and The Right Here Showcase, an annual mini-fes- tival of independent mid-career Minnesota-based performance makers.

Off-Leash Area believes this new space will be a peak achieve- ment after years of commit- ment to bringing performance to Minneapolis. The Artistic Directors to take on a sig- nificant new leadership role in the Twin Cities by building, mentoring, and paying it for- ward.

For more information or to support and participate in Off-Leash Art Box rehab activi- ties, visit their website at www. offleashaare.org.

Off-Leash Area to open new performance space in east Nokomis

By JAN WILLIAMS

Characters come to life in Longfellow author William E. Burleson’s recently published book of stories called "Tales of Block E: Stories from 1979 on the Most Notorious Block in Minneapolis." The SAGE and Ivey Award-winning Off-Leash Area, known for its unique interdisciplinary programming, and will be the home base for its Main- stage Productions in Minneapolis venues, Micro-stage Productions in their own home/studio Our Garage, the Neighborhood Gar- rage Tour which brings perfor- mance works directly into neigh- borhoods, and The Right Here Showcase, an annual mini-fes- tival of independent mid-career Minnesota-based performance makers.

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Solar panels supplying 10.9% of energy used at Nokomis Beach

Installation funded by Xcel Energy, part of public/private partnership to add solar projects to five Minneapolis parks

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The new solar power installation at Nokomis Beach is up and running, and will soon supply an estimated 10.9% of total annual energy consumed at the beach. Plus, it created more shade.

An 18-panel array was mounted atop a large shade structure near Sandcastle restaurant. Sandcastle remained open during the construction, which began this spring and ended in August. The panels were connected to Xcel’s equipment and began generating electricity for Lake Nokomis Park on Aug. 17.

First solar installation paid for by Xcel grant

The 7.4kW solar installation is estimated to provide 9,578-10,321 kWh per year. Each Titan 410W Mono PV Modules with reflectors were manufactured by TenKsolar in Bloomington. Installation was done by Sundial Solar and Merit Electric under the direction of Graybar Electric.

The construction cost (not including design and other related design and administration costs) was approximately $180,000.

“The project is the result of a great partnership.”
— Benjamin Johnson of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)

“The project is the result of a great partnership,” said Lee Gabler, Xcel Energy Senior Director of Customer Strategy and Solutions. “This solar array is another example of public and private partners working together, to promote renewable energy use.”

“Renewable energy infrastructure helps to reduce the park’s carbon footprint, and with the significant costs associated with implementation, I am thankful that we received such a generous grant from Xcel Energy to build out some sites within the system,” stated District 5 Parks Commissioner Steffanie Musich.

Nokomis site one of five

Solar panels have also been installed at Webber Natural Swimming Pool (on pump house roof); East Phillips Community and Cultural Center (roof); and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (roof of the multipurpose room).

Project locations were selected based on solar orientation (to maximize sunlight exposure), public visibility and distribution across the Minneapolis park system, according to Johnson. Roof capacity and roof longevity were major factors in determining the location for the major installation at Parade Ice Garden.

The original plan to install solar panels at the Lake Calhoun Recreatory (Tin Fish) was scraped because the building needed extensive structural modifications to support a solar system. The new NorthEast Athletic Field Recreation Center is expected to receive a small roof-mounted solar system in 2018, but it will not be funded by Xcel RDF grant due to timing and funding constraints.

Annually, the combined projects produce roughly 280,000 kilowatt hours, offset 400,000 pounds of carbon, and reduce MPRB electricity bills by roughly $28,000.

The projects also include interpretive and educational programming opportunities about sustainable solar energy for both children and adults in Minneapolis parks.

A mounted educational sign will be installed onsite at Lake Nokomis this fall. The sign will provide information about solar energy and specific facts about the Nokomis solar installation. Also, small signs containing a QR code that can be scanned to view a video about the projects will be installed on nearby picnic tables.

“Providing demonstration projects using solar energy makes solar production visible to the community. This supports a culture around promoting renewable energy and sustainability,” remarked Johnson.

Solar benefits

These solar projects not only benefit park users but city residents in general.

“Each solar installation reduces our carbon footprint. Our carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse-gas emissions from fossil fuel,” pointed out Johnson. “When we reduce our carbon footprint, it reduces the amount of natural resources we consume.”

Solar power reduces the need to expand the electrical grid, which saves everyone costs on utility bills, as well as natural resources needed for expanding the electrical grid for increased demand.

Solar energy is a ‘clean’ energy source in comparison to other types of energy generation. Photovoltaic solar power makes no noise, creates no emissions, has no moving parts, uses no water or other fuels and requires very little maintenance.

Using solar energy not only saves on electrical costs in the short term but may also be a good long-term investment. Energy prices are rising while the cost of a solar installation is dropping.

This project supports local solar production.

All of the solar installations used solar modules that were reviewed by the Department of Commerce and designated as Made In Minnesota.
Share the River Gorge paddle and social draws a nice crowd

By MARGIE O’LOUGHLIN

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) served up their annual Share the River Gorge Canoe Paddle and Ice Cream Social on July 26 at W. River Pkwy. and 35th St. This year’s event was a gift to the neighborhood, as it is every year. Free Dilly Bars were provided by the East Lake Dairy Queen.

Gorge Stewards from the Friends of the Mississippi River led hikers on interpretive tours of the nearby Prairie Oak Savanna. This area is under continual restoration by FMR volunteers to keep invasive species at bay.

Ned Phillips of the LCC River Gorge Committee said, “We’re glad so many people came out tonight.” The River Gorge Committee, open to anyone interested in protecting and advancing the cause of the River Gorge, always welcomes new members. The committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 6-7:30pm at Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center, 2701 E. 44th St.

A sign that stretched out along the parkway said, “Want to find your summer bliss? Take a ride upon the Miss.” On the sand flats below the 34th St. steps, Wilderness Inquiry offered free rides all night in their 24-foot-long, 10-person Voyageur canoes. Canoeists of all ages could enjoy the amazing natural features of the River Gorge, which are part of what makes the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area so special.

National Park Service rangers were down on the sand flats to talk about invasive carp, mussels, and river water quality. The annual Share the Gorge Canoe Paddle and Ice Cream Social was hosted by the River Gorge Committee of the Longfellow Community Council.

Wilderness Inquiry brought four of their historical Voyageur canoes to the Share the River Gorge event. (Photo by Margie O’Loughlin)

Volunteer Ann Beane (right) explained to a Longfellow family that more than 40 species of mussels inhabit the Mississippi River. (Photo by Margie O’Loughlin)

For more information on the Mississippi River National Park and Recreation Area, visit the National Park Service rangers at the St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center.
Presley Martin, Site 13—3129 31st Ave. S. Presley Martin’s “The Foam Project” takes a close look at foam from the Mississippi River. Through sculpture, ceramics, and photography this common material is presented in new, unexpected ways.

Rebecca Wicklund, Site 24—3347 42nd Ave. S. I’m a jewelry artist, and I’ve participated in the LOLA Art Crawl since its inception. It’s been so wonderful to have the perennial support of the Longfellow neighborhood—and a fun way to get to know more people in the community. I’ll be located at Flourish Pilates again this year with my sister, Beth Wicklund, who creates letterpress cards.

Jean Bushey, Site 60–4524 35th Ave. S. Beadwork is my medium of choice. I learned to do fine bead knitting while working at Hedstrom jewelers on 27th and Lake almost forty years ago. I still have beads I bought from dealers at that time. My love of the tiniest of beads and sewing skills drew me to bead weaving. Being part of LOLA and being able to welcome neighbors into my home where I can display my work is a wonderful opportunity for me.

Jinjer Markley, Site 13—3129 31st Ave. S. In 2016, Jinjer Markley decided to weave the creative thread that has run through her life into an illustration career. She is starting out with a bang—the LOLA art crawl follows two solo shows, one at Riverview Cafe, and one at ArtPlace in St. Paul. The drawings and paintings from her recent Instagram project: 100 Days of Colorful Flowers will be in her studio for the LOLA art crawl. Besides drawing, Jinjer loves the magic of making things by hand and will have a selection of her handmade felt chickens at the crawl. www.jinjermarkley.com

Julie Meyer, Site 20—3212 43rd Ave. S. With a desire for quality functional items and a passion for creating, Julie Meyer Handbags offer you an everyday bag showing off your individuality. Locally sourced cowhide and leather bags made in Longfellow and sold worldwide.

Karen Grimm, Site 51—3845 36th Ave. S. Karen’s ReKreations specializes in creating beautiful and practical treasures out of found and commonly discarded items. This year focusing on home decor, gifts, foraged preserves, and garden art!

Lisa Arnold, Site 47—Fireroast Cafe, 3800 37th Ave. S. I’m Lisa Arnold, xola arts. I’m a mosaicist and teaching artist, specializing in stained glass and glass beads. I’ve lived in Longfellow for 20 years. I’ve been a LOLA artist from the beginning. The best part of LOLA is talking to new people, seeing old friends, and getting the chance to make connections with both artists and art lovers.

Megan Moore, Site 8—3712 E. 29th St. Original oil and watercolor paintings, giclee prints, cards, calendars, books. Megan has been showing her work in the LoLa Art Crawl since 2010. You may have seen her work as public art along the Midtown Greenway on electrical boxes.

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The League of Longfellow Artists (LoLa) invites the public to visit with and buy directly from artists and makers in this South Minneapolis neighborhood by the river known for its classic bungalows and natural beauty, during the 9th annual LoLa Art Crawl on the weekend of Sept. 16–17, 10am to 5pm both days.

In this year’s crawl, 103 artists will be showcasing their work at 63 sites, including artists’ own homes, unique independent shops, cafes, and bistros. Directories with maps are available at LoLaArtCrawl.com/media, at businesses throughout the Longfellow neighborhood in September, and from participating artists.

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We Are Now Taking Ads for the 2018 Longfellow Business Directory!
Deadline is September 29

Don’t miss out on the 2018 Longfellow Business Directory, which only comes out every two years. A joint project of the Longfellow Business Association (LBA) and the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger, the Directory is a great resource for Longfellow residents and businesses alike, and is delivered door-to-door in the neighborhood. Businesses are listed by category, and can purchase display ads which will be seen repeatedly over the next two years of the Directory’s shelf life. Prime advertising spots are sold on a first come, first served basis. LBA members receive a discount on their ad placements with their membership.

For more information call Denis Woulfe at 651-917-4183 or email denis@deruyternelson.com

Cherie Rinchart-Burke, Site 38—4729 Isabel Ave. I’ve worked to hone my painting with a focus on oil, acrylic and watercolor pencils. Making jewelry is incredibly satisfying and fun too. I love scouring thrift stores and garage sales which enable me to create wonderful mosaic bird baths, bridlehouses, mirrors and picture frames.

Kathy Jensen, Site 45—Riverview Café, 3753 42nd Ave. S. Cosy jewelry works to stand out in the sea of jewelry artists by offering interesting, unique, affordable pieces. Examples include eye-catching necklaces and earrings made from hardware store parts and sterling silver earrings in a variety of shapes that allow you to change the beads for a different look. This is the fourth year Jensen’s jewelry has been featured in LoLa.

Ann Opatz, Site 38—4729 Isabel Ave. Mittens and slippers made from recycled wool and fabric napkins and pillowcases.

Blake Nellis, Site 9—Forage Modern Workshop, 4023 E. Lake St. I am a fine art photographer specializing in portraits and weddings (and taking photos of my new baby girl!) I love candid moments and working with the human form.


Cherie Rinchart-Burke, Site 38—4729 Isabel Ave. My drawings, prints, and paintings are explorations of pattern, texture, color and the juxtaposition of these in shape and space. The work is mainly abstract but references textile design and things seen in nature. In my daily drawing practice I call My Daily Papers, I complete at least one drawing or painting a day. My prints are monotypes, a painterly way of printmaking where I use an etching press. I use rollers and brushes to apply ink to a Plexiglass plate and often make hand cut paper stencils that become part of the finished work.

Gwen Partin, Site 14—3154 33rd Ave. S. My drawings, prints, and paintings are explorations of pattern, texture, color and the juxtaposition of these in shape and space. The work is mainly abstract but references textile design and things seen in nature. In my daily drawing practice I call My Daily Papers, I complete at least one drawing or painting a day. My prints are monotypes, a painterly way of printmaking where I use an etching press. I use rollers and brushes to apply ink to a Plexiglass plate and often make hand cut paper stencils that become part of the finished work.

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Ninth annual LoLa Art Crawl scheduled Sept. 16-17 during the crawl.

The self-guided tour is free and spread out over two days to allow visitors to enjoy and shop for locally created fine art and crafts at their own pace, with opportunities for food and refreshment at our independent cafes and bistro, many of which have pitched in to support LoLa with their sponsorships.

Part of the fun of the LoLa Art Crawl is meeting artists in a low-key setting and talking with them about their work.

More information about the LoLa art crawl and artists is available at LoLaArtCrawl.com.

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Newly designed Nokomis Playground is imaginative fun for kids

By STEPHANIE FOX

After a year and a half of public hearings, planning and construction, the children’s playground next to the Lake Nokomis Community Center had its official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony July 28. Kids, from toddlers and up, came with their parents to try out the newly designed playground equipment. The party included free snacks and glitter tattoos from Kristine Thesing from Funtime Funfuns.

Park Board Commissioner Stephanie Musich and Minneapolis Park Board project manager Beth Pfeifer were there to officially cut the ribbon and open the new area, handing out pieces of the official ribbon for the kids to take home as souvenirs.

The original playground was designed and opened to the public in 1935. During the next 82 years, the area has seen many changes and had been updated several times. The Park Board had surveyed about 250 residents, mostly in the Nokomis and Hiawatha neighborhoods, both online and at events like September’s Monarch Festival and at preschools and PTA meetings, to see what was needed. The results showed that 3/4 of the park was considered a temporary pop-up area. The natural play area wasn’t included in the Nokomis master plan, but since it was so well-loved, planners didn’t want to remove it, according to project manager Beth Pfeifer.

Musich said that play areas like the one at the Monarch Festival and had made their preferences for what they wanted to see in the new park, known.

“I voted for the turtle,” said Faye’s mother, Jennifer Saybolt, who lives near the lake.

Four-year-old Faye Saybolt goes down the big slide at the Nokomis Community Center playground, a feature that residents recall having been there in the past and asked for again, according to project manager Beth Pfeifer.

“It’s amazing,” said Faye’s mother, Jennifer Saybolt, who lives near the lake.

Workers had finished the installation only the day before, with the new wood chips and newly sewn grass protected, for the time being, by temporary fences. But, fences didn’t stop kids from climbing on the rock-ers ship or the abstract tree. Even before the official opening, kids were already swinging on the swings or balancing on the balance boards.

The results showed that neighborhoods both in the Nokomis and Hiawatha neighborhoods, both online and at events like September’s Monarch Festival and at preschools and PTA meetings, to see what was needed.

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Musich said that play areas like this one are a vital part of the park community. “So many kids in the urban environment don’t have the opportunities to interact with nature on a tactile basis. That’s why so many people shared the excitement,” she said.

Four-year-old Faye Saybolt goes down the big slide at the Nokomis Community Center playground, a feature that residents recall having been there in the past and asked for again, according to project manager Beth Pfeifer. “It’s amazing,” said Faye’s mother, Jennifer Saybolt, who lives near the lake. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Continued on page 13

Parks Commissioner Steffanie Musich is most excited by the natural play area that was originally planned as a temporary pop-up area. The natural play area wasn’t included in the Nokomis master plan, but since it was so well-loved, planners didn’t want to remove it, according to project manager Beth Pfeifer. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Older kids can take advantage of the new full-sized swings and a high slide, with concrete pillars (suitable for climbing) surrounding the area.

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Musich said that playgrounds like this one are a vital part of the park community. “So many kids in the urban environment don’t have the opportunities to interact with nature on a tactile basis. That’s why so many people shared the excitement,” she said. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

The park board has made significant investments in our neighborhoods, and we couldn’t be more thrilled,” said Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Board President Mike Ferrin. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)
Hiawatha School Park Recreation
Wed., Sept. 13 from 6:30–8pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, and will resume starting Sept. 11. The affordable Care Act?" 

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District thanks everyone who participated and invites them to attend their next 50th anniversary events: The Prairie Seed Collection in Minnetrista on Sat., Sept. 23, Coolidge Spring Nature Hike on Sat., Sept. 30.

Epworth rummage sale set Sept. 29-30

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., will hold its annual fall rummage sale on Fri. and Sat., Sept. 29-30, from 9am-3pm each day. Come and explore what unusual and perhaps needed items you might find!

September Events at LS Healthy Seniors

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors’ monthly Sensorial Health Talk will be held on Tues., Sept. 19 at 300am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. The presentation is entitled "What Does the Future Hold for Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act?"

By Tai Chih Easy exercise classes will be held on Thurs., Sept. 14 at 10am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The classes will be held on Mondays from 10-30–11-30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on N. 41st and will cost $5/class (discounts available for lower income seniors).

NAMI Minnesota

AA and NA meets

Every Monday night there is an AA meeting at 7pm at Minnehaha Community Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), and every Tuesday and Wednesday night there is a NA meeting at 7pm at the church. On Thursday night, there is an NA meeting at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Major construction projects update

Council Member Andrew Johnson announced recently that there are several development projects that were recently acted upon:

- 44th and Snelling: The mixed-use development proposal (which includes 146 market rate apartments, a grocery store, and restaurant) was approved by the Planning Commission. The developers are now working on financing and selecting a grocery tenant. (See more detailed story on page 2.)
- 44th and Snelling: The City Council granted exclusive development rights for the Snelling Yards site, where 203 units of affordable senior and workforce housing are being proposed. A joint venture between Lupe Development Partners, Ecumens and The Wall Cos. wants to build two buildings—one with 100 workforce apartments and another with 103 senior units.
- 41st and Hiawatha: 78 units of affordable workforce housing, as part of a historic renovation, are effectively complete, and tenants are moving into the Millworks Lofts.
- 34th and Hiawatha: The proposed multiple mixed-use buildings, public plaza, and additional public parking surrounding the light rail station hit a delay heading to Planning Commission. Most likely the first phase of the project will be in front of the Commission on Sept. 18.

Monarch Festival scheduled Sept. 9

This year’s Monarch Festival will occur on Sat., Sept. 9, from 10am to 4pm. The Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly’s amazing 2,000 mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico with music, food, dance, hands-on art, native plant sales and plenty of opportunities to get up close with monarch butterflies. You can learn about monarch habitats, and what you can do to make a difference.

The Festival will be held just east of the Lake Nokomis Community Center in the area bounded by E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Woodlawn Blvd., and E. Nokomis Pkwy.

Monarch Mile installed on E. 50th St.

Monarch Mile is planned on E. 50th St. This school and community event raises funds to support the fifth-grade student trip to Camp Audubon next spring. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for some fun days of bargain hunting.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Gamblers Anonymous meets Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the Hope Room at Living Table Church, 3805 E. 40th St. Anyone with a desire to stop gambling is welcome.

Annual Rummage Sale slated Sept. 30

Minnehaha Community Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., will sponsor their Annual Rummage Sale on Sat., Sept. 30, 9am-1pm. Bag time starts at noon. Lunch is served with the best sloppy joes and homemade bars available for purchase. Stop by and check out what they offer.

Adoption Support group meets Sept. 12

The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups at Hiawatha Community Lutheran Church (4101 37th Ave. S.), for parents with adopted teens. Next meeting will be held on Tues., Sept. 12, 6:30pm. 

NAMIWALKS is slated in Minnehaha Park

More than 4,500 people from around the state are expected to join in NAMIWalks Minne- sota on Sat., Sept. 23 at 1pm, at Minnehaha Park. NAMIWalks is a walk to raise awareness about mental illnesses and cereb- elerate hope. There will be live music, picnics, bounce houses, a kids’ tent, a tree of hope, a t-shirt contest and more. To learn more or to volunteer, visit www.NAMIWalks.org.

Danish Center plans seasonal breakfasts

The Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy., has an- nounced the dates for their 2017-2018 Aebleskiver Breakfasts. The annual fundraiser takes place on Sun., Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 (with Art Fair), Jan. 21, Feb. 11 (Valentine’s Day Brunch), Mar. 18, Apr. 15 (Easter Brunch) and May 13 (Mother’s Day Brunch).

Cost for regular “all you can eat and drink” breakfast is $5 per adult and $5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu includes Aebleskiver, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee. (Branches have a different cost and menu). Every breakfast runs from 9:30am-12:30pm and no reserva- tions are required. For more infor- mation, call 612-729-3800.

Ttrylon schedules new grand opening

After a one-time construction delay in July, the Trylon will be moving ahead. August screenings were postponed to September and are being held on a week-by-week basis. They will soon re- lease their full program guide for the rest of the month.

The new Trylon Cinema re-opens the weekend of Fri., Sept. 29 with Charlie Chaplin’s masterpiece, “The Great Dictator” (1940) on 35mm, preceded by the short film “The Immigrant” (1917), accompanied by The Poor Nobodies. The music is orchestrat- ed with cellos, accordion, acoustic and electric guitars, piano, upright bass, mandolin, banjo, and vocals.

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In Our Community
NEBA Block Party planned Sept. 10

An exhibit of works by Native American artists Gordon Coons of Ojibwe and Ottawa Heritage will take place Sept. 9-30 at the Vine Garden Center, 34th Ave. S. The opening reception is planned for Sat., Sept. 9, 5-9pm, when Gordon will talk about his works with a guided tour. The exhibit includes paintings, hand-pulled prints plus creations utilizing Duct tape.

Gordon will be exhibiting the Ojibwe Woodland Art Style created from the combination of Ojibwe petroglyphs (drawings or carvings on rocks) and images from archival buck scrolls. The images can also be identified as x-ray Vision. The inspiration behind these images is Ojibwe clan and stories. The artist usually paints images with a heavy black outline and paints what is felt or perceived inside ani- mals (or people). What is painted inside the animal or person rep- resents a kind of spirit, a source of powers.

Living Table plans Big Basement Sale

Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St., will hold their Big Basement Sale on Sat., Oct. 7, 8am-3pm. Church mem- bers say they have been saving up too much stuff for a whole year just for this event! Refreshments will also be available for sale, and there will be a $2 Bag Sale the last hour, 2-3pm.

Christ Church gets $130,000 grant

Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., has been awarded a $130,000 grant towards the renovation of their church’s court- yard. Christ Church Lutheran’s main structures date back to 1949 and 1962 and were signed separately by renowned father-and-son architects Eiel and Eiel, respectively.

The award comes as part of an unprecedented $14 million dollars in signature grants announced by Sacred Places, the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist aging churches across the country that are in need of repair and restoration.

The National Fund for Sacred Places is a collaboration that builds on Partners for Sacred Places’ decades of work helping churches use best steward- ship practices with their historic facilities to strengthen, serve and celebrate the communities for the common good. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is the nation’s leading preservation organization with 60 years of advocacy and grant-making to preserve America’s diverse historical community. The Fund was launched with two grants totaling nearly $14 mil- lion from Minnesota-based Lilly Endowment Inc.

Garden Club Fall Potluck set Sept. 13

The Longfellow Garden Club Fall Potluck will be held Wed., Sept. 13, 6-30pm. It’s time to a spend a late summer evening outdoor talking—and eating—all things garden, and sharing pictures and stories. You bring your pugs, jarg- nose beetles and sluggish toma- totas. The location will be a mem- ber’s beautiful garden!

Bring a folding chair (if you care to), and something to share—a dish using your own or locally grown produce is the theme. Ice water and tea will be provided. Please bring a plate/utensils as they are trying to achieve a close to zero waste event without making a lot of trash.

Directions/map to the pot- luck will be at 6pm at the front door of the Epworth United Methodist Church, 1209 34th Ave. S. See them at LongfellowGardenClubMail@gmail.com or go to www.facebook.com/ LongfellowGardenClub.

Lake St. Council sends Call For Artists

The Lake Street Council and Visit Lk. St. are seeking artists to propose art projects for a coordinated Lake St. public art- work series. Final artists chosen will engage residents, visitors, and businesses on Lake St. from Dec. 2017 through Aug. 2018. Artists of all genres, including new/emerging artists, are invited to apply to be a part of this pro- ject. Download the instructions at www.lakестreetcouncil.org/assets/ ArtSubmissions/CallForArtistsPublic_Artwork_RFP__English_. Spanish.pdf.

Books needed for Fall Book Sale

Got books? The Friends of East Lake Library (2727 E. Lake St.) are working on this Fall’s sale and are looking for donations. This means you have an easy place to drop off a few stacks now gathering dust in the hall- way, stairway, and porch. Wondering what to bring? Fiction, biography, and his- tory are popular, as are current non-fiction and do-it-your- self books. And, we never have enough picture books—kids (and their parents) are avid custom- ers! No one reads text books, so please leave those behind.

Beginning Sept. 15, please put donations on the red cart lo- cated between 26th and 28th.

The Friends appreciate every- one who helps support Library programs; you make East Lake the wonderful community resource it is! The Fall Sale will be held Fri., Oct. 13, 12-5pm, and 9am-5pm on Sat., Oct. 14.

Faith Book Club meets Sept. 2

The Faith Ev. Lutheran Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month from 10-11am at the church, 3430 E. 51st St. The book being discussed Sept. 2 will be “The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy” by Rachel Joyce.

Author scheduled to speak Sept. 28

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 5013 31st Ave. S., welcome the community to a talk, “The Hmong” by Rongpov Yang. The discus- sion of Minneapolis author Kao Kalia Yang’s latest book, “Big Paws”, in addition, Yang will talk about her Hmong family and the struggles they experienced when immigrating to the United States.

Yang (www.kaokaliayang. com) is a Hmong American writer, activist, teacher and public speaker. She was born in Thailand’s Ban Vina refugee camp and now is an American citizen. She is a graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University’s School of the Arts.

Coffee and Crafts group meets Sept. 16

A Coffee and Crafts group will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St., on Sat., Sept. 16, from 9-11am. This is open to everyone. No registration for this fun event will be RooDoO Bunnies, A Ring Pincushion, Readied Sewing Uterals, and Sugar Scrubs. A donation is suggested but not required. If you would be interested in creating something or would like more information call 612-729- 5463 and let us know how many will be attending.

The 8th Annual Block Party will be held on Sun., Sept. 30, from 11am- 3pm at 34th Ave. S and E. 51st St. in McDonald’s Liquor and Oxen- tagle.

Join us for a day of service on Sept. 10!

To register, get more information call 612-729-2428 or go to namihelps.org and click on the NAMInfoWalks logo.

The Midtown Greenway Coali- tion would like to thank all the riders, runners, artists, sponsors, volunteers and festival goers who helped raise more than $18,000 for Midtown Greenway projects last year. For registration, includ- ing forming or joining a walk team, go to Midgreenway.org.

In addition to the 1,000- people strong annual fun-filled festival, over 150 VIP riders and runners joined! Folks got the chance to enjoy train readings, walking, art installations, gateways, flamenco dancers, a ukulele army, a Bronze Age furniture sale, taste lounge, ghost photography, and more.

In Our Community

Continued from page 11

Alliance on Mental Illness) to provide education, support, and advocacy programs for families and adults with mental illnesses and their families.

Over 100,000 individual walkers and supporters partici- pated in NAMIWalks in more than 110 cities across America last year. For registration, includ- ing forming or joining a walk team, go to 612-729-2428 or go to namihelps.org and click on the NAMInfoWalks logo.

Greenway Glow raises $18,000

Three years after acquiring The Natural Built Home Store (4020 Minnehaha Ave.), Castle Build- ing & Remodeling has complet- ed the integration of the store’s eco-friendly products and pro- cesses into its project standards and has therefore decided to con- vert the store into a fourth Cas- tle showroom. The transition in signages and hours will take place on Sat., Sept. 9 and will allow Castle to focus on its wider goals and allow Castle to serve the South Minneapolis and Longfellow neighborhood with better prox- imities.

Castle Building & Remodeling will continue to offer eco-friend- ly building products, inclusive of all the products from The Natural Built Home Store, in remodeling projects. However, Castle will no longer offer material-only sales, floor- ing install-only services, or countertop-only replacements. This change will allow Castle to focus on the continued growth of design/build remodeling services, which centers on kitchen and bath remodeling. The widespread availability of eco-friendly build- ing materials at most retailers has made it tough to compete on this specialization alone.

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Family-owned barbershop continues a 52-year tradition

By STEPHANIE FOX

Early August 1965, barber Ed Martin Sr. first opened the doors on his brand new barbershop, "Mug and Brush Hair," located near the corner of 34th Ave. and 50th St. in the East Nokomis neighborhood, was opened for business. The shop is still there.

It was a different time. The President, LBJ, had just announced a program called Medicare. There was no Big Mac (you'd have to wait two years). Gasoline cost $3.44 a gallon and the Dow Jones was going gangbusters, with 10 record closers, ending the year at 969.26.

As far as the barber business was concerned, buzz cuts and flattops were still popular, and sales of Brylcreem were strong. But, there was a popular new look, influenced by the Beatles and the British Invasion. Some fashionable men were starting to grow their hair longer, even over their ears. Sideburns were becoming the rage.

Martin had just gotten out of the military. He'd been called up during the Berlin Crisis and was sent to a base in Georgia to prepare to be deployed. But, the crisis ended quickly, and he never had to go to war with the Russians. Instead, he started cutting hair. He remembers thinking about barbering as a profession. After a stint at barber school, the Mug and Brush Hair was born.

While many of the shop's customers came from the neighborhood and the local military base, celebrities showed up, too. Martin would get calls from the Pentagon, and they'd pull up in their limousines. He'd be cutting the hair of Washington D.C.'s most influential people, and he was good at it. He went back to civilian life, he took a job at Honeywell. But, he started thinking about barbering as a profession. After a stint at barber school, the Mug and Brush Hair was born.

Part of the shop's early success came because of changing hair styles and Martin Sr.'s business acumen. "There was a turning point in hairstyle," said his son and now-owner Ed Martin Jr. "A lot of old-time barbers refused to cut long hair. At the time, it was illegal for barbers to cut hair on Mondays, but you could cut it if you were a beauty shop. So, dad brought in hairdressers and opened six days a week."

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Then in the 1980s, tanning became popular. Martin would get calls from the back of the shop, and you'd find five rooms on three floors, with barber chairs for cuts and bonnet hair dryers for women who have weekly wash and set appointments. The customer base is 50 percent male and 50 percent female.

"During a regular day, we can cut 25 to 35 customers," Martin said. "I can put in 11 hours a day. Everyone is always booked up."

As far as family-owned businesses, the neighborhood around Mug and Brush may be different than many in the Twin Cities. There are two other long-time family-owned stores on the corner with Mug and Brush. McDonald's Liquor and Wine has been around for about 70 years, and the Nokomis Shoe Shop has been a part of the neighborhood for 86 years.

As the youngest business at 52 years, Martin said, "We're going to be here a long time, too."

Mug and Brush Hair Design owner Ed Martin Jr. cuts the hair of longtime customer Tom Thies. Mug and Brush Hair Design runs the front desk in addition to cutting hair. Mug and Brush celebrated its 52nd anniversary in August. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

Mug and Brush Hair Design runs the front desk in addition to cutting hair. Mug and Brush celebrated its 52nd anniversary in August. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

"I like to offer kids opportunities for free play," DesRoches said. "Kids can play tag or play on the rocket ship. This play-ground represents what the community wanted. People wanted a big slide, and people wanted it to be inspired by nature. So, we built that. The kids seem to like it."
Agriculture area and athletic fields design added to Nokomis-Hiawatha master plan

On July 19, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners approved two amendments to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan. One amendment creates a designated Urban Agriculture Area on the east side of Lake Hiawatha. Another amendment approved a design concept for the Nokomis Athletic Fields, located on the northwest side of Lake Nokomis.

The Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan was approved by MPRB Commissioners on March 4, 2015. The Master Plan is a written and graphic document that sets a 25-year vision for Lake Hiawatha, Lake Nokomis, and the surrounding parkland. Both the Urban Agriculture Area and Nokomis Athletic Field design concepts were not included in the Master Plan, so amendments are required to move forward with those projects.

Currently, there are no funds allocated toward the Urban Agriculture Area or new Nokomis Athletic Field concept, but now that the plans are in place the projects will happen as soon as funding becomes available.

Lake Hiawatha Park
Urban Agriculture Area

In the Master Plan, the eastern portion of Lake Hiawatha was shown as a mix of open lawn area and naturalized habitat areas. Recently, the community has expressed interest in having the ability to harvest from fruit trees in this area.

Any harvesting in parks will require an ordinance change, which MPRB Commissioners will consider at an upcoming Board meeting. The Urban Agriculture Activity Plan, adopted in 2014, calls for the official designation of any areas where harvesting may take place, so this amendment designates that area along the east side of Lake Hiawatha.

Nokomis Athletic Fields concept design

No final decision was made on the Nokomis Athletic Fields during the master planning process in 2014-15 to allow time for a final determination regarding a renovation of nearby Bossen Field Park. Now Bossen’s renovation is complete, primarily as a softball complex with associated community amenities, so MPRB staff moved forward with a concept for Nokomis that provides increased open space for a variety of field sports and fewer softball diamonds.

The approved Nokomis Athletic Fields concept features a large open space to accommodate one Australian football field or three adult soccer fields or any variety of smaller field arrangements for ultimate Frisbee, flag football, or youth soccer. There are six improved softball diamonds around the edges of the field so that the outfields do not overlap. The main idea was to create broad flexibility in field arrangements and stripping, while ensuring that the very largest of possible fields could be accommodated without overlapping softball infields.
They have to find a building to hold classes in, set up food service, arrange for furniture and more. Classes at the Upper Academy will start two weeks late on Tues., Sept. 5. With some juggling of the schedule, including the removal of the week-long Cultural Field Experience, the 360 upper-class students at Minnehaha will end their school year at the same time as the Lower and Middle students in June.

Meanwhile, the school has continued to move forward as it can. Athletic teams started practicing on Aug. 14 as scheduled. Administrative staff who were housed at the Upper School will be located in temporary offices outside the Lower/Middle School. All faculty were welcomed back to work on Aug. 15.

How to help

The school has received many offers of support from Minneapolis and St. Paul, where 79% of their students come from. To some the school is saying, “We don’t know how you can help now, but we’ll know later,” said Wenschlag.

A letter from President Donna Harris outlined three ways to help Minnehaha:

1. Pray. Continue to pray for everyone who was involved in the incident, for the families of John Carlson and Ruth Berg, for our leadership team as we make decisions, for our staff, faculty, and students, and for the future rebuilding of the Upper School.

2. Help. Let us know your expertise. Sign up to let us know how you can be of service during this time. https://goo.gl/forms/PY-D7EiuD9y9OKmF2.

3. Give. In the rebuilding process, we will make an even better Minnehaha. Your gifts will support the school in this transition and cover expenses beyond our insurance coverage. www.minnehahaacademy.net/giving/givenow.”

Neighbors have offered their help and their support, and several local businesses donated food and coffee. “We are grateful to be in a caring Minnehaha community, but also in a caring Longfellow community,” said Jacobson.

Strong and resilient community

Before the Aug. 15 Unity Walk, Richard Bauer didn’t truly understand what it was about Minnehaha Academy that connected its past and present students, parents, and teachers. But after the walk, Bauer realized how tightly knit the Minnehaha Academy family is. His wife’s maternal grandfather served on the school board, and the following generations have attended school there, including Bauer’s two children. One is currently a senior.

The Minnehaha Scoop did a brisk day of business in their newly opened store front at 3352 Minnehaha Ave.

SEE MORE OPEN STREETS PHOTOS AT: www.longfellownokomismessenger.com/lake-minnehaha-open-street

Minnehaha Academy

Continued from page 1

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Belle's Tool Box, creative play space, opening soon

By MARGIE O’LOUGHLIN

There has been a steady hum of construction on the southwest corner of 42nd Ave. and 34th St. for several months now. The bright blue concrete block building, an automobile garage since 1955, has been completely repurposed. Local sign painter Forrest Wozniak recently painted the new business name on the exterior: Belle’s Tool Box, but passers-by might still be wondering what it means?

Belle’s Tool Box co-owner Lucy Elliot said, “I’ve dreamed of creating a ‘children’s project space’ for young children and their grown-ups for decades. I recently retired from my job as a history educator, and I’m aware that time is ticking. This play, build, and fix-it enterprise is a nod to my Mom and other fine women; my Mom’s name was Bonnie, but her nickname was Bonnie Belle.”

Elliot said that Belle’s Tool Box will be opening in mid-September. “We hope to grow organically and, as of now, we don’t have a website. If you want to find out the exact days and times that we’ll be here, just give a holler over the fence. We plan to have staggered hours like a library. Parents can choose a time that’s convenient, and drop in for an hour or so to play with their child or children. The 25’ x 25’ interior space is too small to stay much longer than that.”

“We want to start small,” Elliot added, “and just see how things develop. We’ll be asking for a donation of $3-5 per visit. We’re not a non-profit, and we’re not trying to get rich either. Our hope is that the donations will cover utilities and taxes. Everyone is welcome—just not all at the same time. We have seven coat hooks for children in the entry way, and five for adults. If a family comes for a visit and the main area is too busy, the gazebo and the learning gardens will be fun to play in too.”

Elliot and her husband Mark lived in Elgin, Illinois for more than thirty years. They moved to Longfellow 3-½ years ago to be close to their daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Daughter Jenni Cantine is Elliot's partner in creating and operating Belle’s Tool Box.

“Our relocation made starting a new business more challenging,” Elliot said. “If we’d still been in Elgin, we would have been able to draw on the interests and experience of our longtime friends and neighbors. But here, we were starting from scratch. I read the neighborhood newspapers, and I chose contractors who advertised in them. I ended up having great experiences with all of the people I hired, in particular builder David Graf-funder, who was able to translate my ideas into reality.”

Elliot said, “I pretty much designed everything on site. Much of the wood that’s visible has been reclaimed. I see planned obsolescence as something we really need to get away from. There’s so much joy in giving new life to used products. The accent tiles in the bathroom came from junket; the sink and other mechanicals came from the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store and Better Futures. The plantings mostly came from Mother Earth Gardens and Minnehaha Nursery, who provided valuable advice.”

With a lifetime of experience in the fields of early childhood education, teen parent education, and regional history, Elliot dreamed of finding a way to pull all of her interests together. “In each of those capacities,” Elliot said, “I found myself always lugging boxes of stuff around. I love process-oriented stuff, 3-D stuff, re-purposed stuff. Part of my dream was to have a space where all of this learning stuff could stay put and be used.”

It appears that Elliot’s dream has come true. “We have this wonderful spot on the corner, a tiny square of the universe where we can do so much good,” she said. “People in the neighborhood have really been supportive, dropping off peony plants, and building materials for the kids; a woman handed a box of quilting and sewing materials over the fence the other day. Our neighbors, and the neighborhood businesses too, have been patient during our long construction. This has been a labor of love for us, and we will continue to welcome help and ideas along the way.”


Don’t Get Disconnected! Energy Assistance Can Help.

CAP-HC’s Energy Assistance Program (EAP) provides financial assistance to eligible Hennepin County residents, including the city of Minneapolis, to help with home energy costs.

Energy Assistance Program offices are now open in St. Louis Park and 3 Minneapolis locations: Minnesota Council of Churches, Sabathani Community Center and Minneapolis Urban League

For more information, call 952-930-3541
visit us online at www.caphennepin.org
E-mail eap@caphennepin.org
or text 4WARMTH to 555888

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