



**RIVERSIDE
EDITION**

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**JULY
2019**

We build Pride on the Southside

VOL. XXIX, ISSUE 21



BEFORE:

This is what Minnehaha Creek looked like before the Park Board or vandals rolled boulders under the 30th Avenue footbridge to create Boulder Dam.

Copyright © 2010 John A. Weeks III

Boulder Dam is down!

BY ED FELIEN

Somehow, as mysteriously as it appeared, Boulder Dam has disappeared.

For more than a year, Southside Pride has called for the removal of the boulders under the 30th Avenue footbridge. The Barr Engineering study of Minnehaha Creek identified this rock weir as the control point for the water level of Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha. Finally, frustrated by the lack of action by the Park Board and their refusal to answer my questions, I filed suit in Hennepin County District Court to compel the Park Board to remove the boulders:

Edwin Felien, Petitioner

v.

Brad Bourn, President
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
2117 West River Rd. North
Minneapolis, MN 55411, Respondent

A WRIT OF MANDAMUS TO COMPEL THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD TO PERFORM THEIR DUTY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC WELFARE

With the authority of Minnesota Statute 586.01, ISSUANCE OF WRIT, we ask the Court to enjoin the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (Defendant) to remove boulders that are raising the level of Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha and causing flooding of area homes and the Hiawatha Golf Course.

The Barr Engineering Minnehaha Creek Survey: http://savehiawatha18.com/commentary/mprb_documents/February-2017-Stormwater-Surface-Water-and-Groundwater-Anal-

[ysis-Summary.pdf](#), commissioned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on February 6, 2017, says that the control point of the water level of Minnehaha Creek is a rock weir under the 30th Avenue footbridge. That high point is 810.7 feet above sea level. The highest point of a sewer line crossing Minnehaha Creek is 808 feet above sea level. If there were no other obstructions and the backfill, sand and silt flowed naturally downstream, removal of the rock weir could lower the water level and surrounding water table by 2.7 feet.

The Barr study said the purpose of the weir is “unknown.” Perhaps the best summary analysis of the weir is by Tiffany Schaufler, Project and Land Manager for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District in an email sent to me and Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent in charge of Planning Services:

“In your November 19, 2018 Southside Pride article <http://southsidepride.com/2018/10/16/down-with-boulder-dam/> you quoted Michael Schroeder saying: ‘I have a meeting with MPRB staff next week to look into this further. I understand the boulders were placed to mitigate a head cut in the stream, but I don’t yet know when—perhaps 10 years or more ago. There might have been some displacement since they were originally placed, perhaps through playful creek activities ... I’m not sure...’

“In looking at John A. Week’s bridge inventory for Minnehaha Creek (<https://www.johnweeks.com/minnehaha/pages/f10.html>) the pictures posted on his website from 2010 show riprap located under the bridge embankments along the creek bank but no

See Boulder Dam, page 15

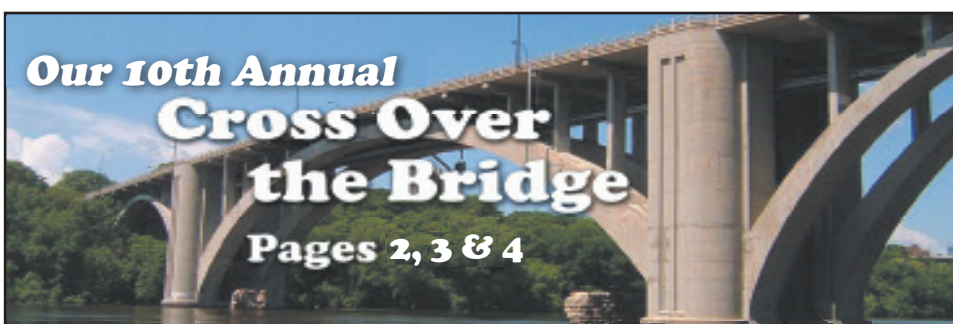
AFTER:

This is what it looked like when the boulders were in place last summer.



NOW:

This is what Minnehaha Creek looks like under the 30th Avenue footbridge today.



Celebrate Summer Cross Over the Bridge

Spotlight on Saint Paul's Highland Park

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Highland Park is one of three Saint Paul neighborhoods that is contiguous with Minneapolis (the others being Merriam Park and Midway), and it has a lot of attractive things for Minneapolitans to do and see when they cross the river. One of those is the Highland Fest, an old-school neighborhood summer festival that's been happening for 36 years now. This year's Highland Fest is July 19 through 21. Highland Fest was born during the Reagan years and in the times when the Ford plant heavily influenced community life in Highland Park. There are vestiges of that in the festival, but there are also vestiges of Saint

Paul's roots as a farm-oriented city, as a working-class power center, and as a populist cultural icon. It's a weird combination that you couldn't really imagine existing in Minneapolis, let alone Atlanta or Brooklyn or San Francisco. It has a juried art fair folded into it, but also—bingo. It has a bouncy house and some state fair-type food, but also a huge 5K run/walk, food trucks, and wine and beer tasting with artisan bread. It's got echoes of an Open Streets / May Day kind of community celebration, but also has an All-Ford Car and Truck Show. It has some up-to-the-minute popular music on its outdoor performance stage, but also Irish dancing and a few nostalgia acts. Perhaps

that's what they mean by their main slogan—Something for Everyone.

The Highland Fest has a long list of corporate sponsors—US Bank, Highland Bank and TruStone Financial Federal Credit Union; the iconic local jewelers, Moeller; many other local businesses large and small; Health Partners, several chiropractors and specialist clinics; and more. And with all the disparate forms of entertainment and enlightenment listed above, there's still more! A not exhaustive list (although, like me, you may find it a bit exhausting to contemplate) includes a petting zoo, wiener dog races, a business fair, a home expo, inflatable rides and games, a Powerhouse

workout class in the park, a movie in the park Friday evening and tours of the Highland Park Water Tower Saturday and Sunday. Among the many music acts featured on the Main Stage, the Rolling Stoners, the Pan Handlers steel drum band, and Salsa

del Soul are highlighted on the Facebook page. Or see the full schedule at <https://www.highlandfest.com/live-entertainment>.

The Highland Fest is produced by a nonprofit that exists solely to put on this festival, and thus (fortunate-



Highland Fest Event Map



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Cross Over the Bridge

ly), major events within the festival are noted through separate Facebook events, so that attendees can better plan their time. The Highland Fest is free of admission, but the beer and wine tastings, food vendors, art vendors and



Whale Bone Splash Pad

perhaps some other activity require payment. The 5K run/walk and Kids Fun Run happen Friday, July 19, as part of “an evening of exercise to kick off Highland Fest,” with the 1K Kids Fun Run at 6:30 p.m., and then a 5K run/walk beginning at 6:45 p.m. Participants in the 5K will get a free drink coupon for use after the race at the Highland Fest beer tent, and those in the 1K will get an ice cold treat after. See <https://www.facebook.com/pg/highlandfest/events/> for more details.

If you can’t make it to the Highland Fest but still want to explore this very interesting neighborhood just across the river, there are other seasonal delights in the summer to lure you there. One of these is the Highland Park Aquatic Center at 1849 Edgcumbe Road, between the southeast corner of the park (Highland Park) and West 7th Street. Unlike Minneapolis with its plethora of lakes, Saint Paul only has two or three of recreational size and quality, so they make up for this lack with a really great aquatics program in their parks department. (And by the way, this year marks the first time in a long time that Saint Paul has forged ahead of Minneapolis in the parks excellence stakes. But it’s totally our fault; Saint Paul has

remained as number two in the nation, while we slipped from the top spot to number three!) HP’s Aquatics Center boasts a 50-meter, eight-lane lap pool, a children’s activity pool with a “prehistoric whale bone splash pad,”

shelters, and concessions. You may not bring food or drink into the aquatics area with the exception of water in a non-glass closed container. Admission ranges from \$4 to \$7 for a single day to a \$24 day pass for a whole family, or you can purchase membership passes for only this aquatic center this summer (\$90 for Saint Paul residents, \$120 for non-residents) or an annual membership pass to all Saint Paul’s aquatic centers, which includes the Como Pool and Great River Water Park and others. Of course they have a Facebook page.They’re open until Sept. 2, except for occasional weather-related closures.

Another thing that makes Highland Park a great destination is restaurants and coffee shops. One special coffee shop, where we have attended meetings in its small but comfortable meeting space, is Quixotic Coffee on Cleveland Avenue, just a block off the Ford Parkway. Quixotic is not a coffee roaster, but they pour a couple of excellent local roasters’ products—Bootstrap and Blackeye. They also have

See The Bridge, page 4



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Celebrate Summer Cross Over the Bridge

The Bridge, from page 3

a small but excellent food menu, again pulling in the best of other vendors, such as Castle Rock for dairy, Ferndale Farms for organic poultry, Sift Gluten Free and Patisserie 46 for bakery, and Rishi Tea for tea. They also serve cold drinks, kombucha and beers.

If you're the kind of person who occasionally likes to drop serious money on a very spe-

cial "worth it" dinner, there are lots of places like that in the Twin Cities. One you may not have heard of is Joan's in the Park, 631 Snelling Ave., just a few blocks north of the Highland Park Golf Course. In the summer you can experience outdoor dining on a breezy but covered patio with mood lighting and full white tablecloth / silver service. Or year round opt for indoors, where it's white tablecloth with all the trimmings. You



Manager Joan Schmitt and Chef Susan Dunlop, owners of Joan's in the Park


should probably reserve; it's definitely not the kind of place you can drop into on a whim. The restaurant is in a tastefully converted former pizza place, and was opened in 2011 by partners Joan Schmitt (the manager and maitre d') and Susan Dunlop (the chef). Their thing is a four-course prix-fixe menu of

"new American" cuisine. It might be on your radar anyway, if you are that kind of person, because Joan's in the Park was one of the 2019 Critic's Choice Top 50 Restaurants of Mpls.St.Paul Magazine. The current price for the four courses is \$62, dessert and drinks not included, although if it's too much food (portions

are small and elegant) you can opt for a la carte, but I suspect that's rare. Menu items change at random and seasonally. Joan's in the Park is open Tuesday through Saturday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and can be accessed online for reservations and the current menu at <http://www.joansinthePark.com/>



Joan's in the Park outdoor white tablecloth dining





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The subtle art of losing

BY TONY BOUZA

Every essay is a drip between the Scylla of truth and the Charybdis of offending.

What is your responsibility to readership? It is really a sort of sacred trust and central to my pretensions to integrity—pathetic though they be. The reader must be served. The writer is a steward of trust.

I find it painful to write of our police chief.

Chief Arradondo is a wonderful man—flattering, generous, thoughtful, knowledgeable and altogether a real pleasure to be with. But I’ve concluded he is a loser.

There are two litmus tests by which to infallibly gauge the worth of any police chief: 1) a vote of no confidence by the police union means the chief is probably holding cops accountable and they don’t like it, and 2) a union’s praise usually means the chief is probably not trying to guide and control police behavior.

The cops want to be protected

whatever they do. The Damond case is a great example of how this works.

One of the big problems here is Minnesota Nice. We’ve persuaded ourselves that it is an unalloyed asset. It isn’t. It is an enabling device that keeps pleasant, inoffensive functionaries in office ad infinitum. It may be nice but it can be expensive.

Chief Arradondo tolerates a boondoggle that would’ve made me puke—a bloated, duplicative, superannuated bureaucracy of supernumeraries. Worthy of Gilbert and Sullivan.

He didn’t create it—or, really, much extend it, but he allows it to continue and does nothing to impede its progress. Across the River, St. Paul seems to be eliminating some organizational fat: horse patrols and motorcycles.

When Napoleon was asked which soldiers make the best generals, he responded, “Lucky ones.” The same goes for chiefs. But which cops do I think make the best chiefs? Unpopular ones.

Every police chief in America benefits greatly from Roe v.

Wade yet accepts personal credit for the dramatic reductions in crime. No one should be shocked by such hypocrisy, but I will confess to chagrin for not having been born later.

After 36 years of police service and over 20 of expert witnessing all over the nation, I will modestly assert there is not one single chief I’d call a model or a reformer in the style of Patrick V. Murphy (NYPD, 1970-1973, a brief but glorious reign).

All tolerate racist acts, enjoy their lives in bed with the union, encourage bloat, duplication and inefficiency and generally have a really wonderful time. I envy their party. On top of all this, the great bargaining skills of the police unions have provided such wonderful salaries and benefits as if to make corruption both unnecessary and unthinkable. What a lovely moment to be chief.

It is curious that Mr. Noor, the shooter, referred to the victim as “the threat,” thus objectifying and dehumanizing her. That’s what people do to engender

scorn for “the other.” Labels are powerful psychological tools. Australia, I was told by a native, is in hysteria over this call.

So, I confess my invidiousness and bewail my fate. Had I been able to counsel my parents to hold off a couple of years, I’d have been heir to the Roe v. Wade peace dividend still washing over an unknowing and unappreciative America.

I fervently pray Chief Rondo is not pissed at me. I would hate to lose the attentiveness of this good man, and it is genuinely painful to write this.

El bono publica must be observed.

Thus passeth earthly glory.

And, in its midst, I have to complain of his handling of the

Damond shooting once again. By not charging the driver and coercing his testimony, the authorities—all of them—enabled an accomplice to give testimony (cops call it testi-lying). And there should be a Firearms Disclosure Review Board Inquiry into the matter. Where is it? The settlement—capitalized—is coming. Repent!

My fundamental quarrel with Chief Rondo and his peers is that they fail to appreciate that they are management, the union is labor, and the relationship is adversarial. Horrors—conflict!

A sense of history would help. Does anyone remember the MPD from 1970 through 1979? Charles Stenvig? Hello—anyone there?



Last month, Chuck Turchick made many of the same complaints to Mayor Frey and to the City Council:

DEAR MAYOR FREY,

In a May 9, 2019, WCCO-TV report, the narrator says: “Mayor Frey says he and the chief will take a wrecking ball to the blue wall of silence and make sure officers understand their duty to serve and protect” (at 1:35 of video). According to reports of a community discussion held two days earlier, Chief Arradondo said, “If we had a wall of silence, I would take a wrecking ball to that wall.”

We are getting mixed messages. The mayor, in an indirect quote, seems to believe there is a blue wall of silence within the MPD, and the chief of police, in a direct quote, seems to believe there isn’t. It may be that the chief interprets a “blue wall of silence” as meaning that every single officer will lie. A May 8, 2019, article in the Southwest Journal, reporting on that same May 7 community listening session, includes the following: Arradondo “said the phrase implies that ‘every single officer in the department is involved in covering up something.’ ‘Have we had officers who have lied? Absolutely,’ he said, but ‘I do not believe that every single man and woman who wears the uniform comes to work lying.’”

The question is: Do you and Chief Arradondo agree that, as in most police departments, there is a significant problem in the MPD of officers covering up for one another in incidents involving possible officer misconduct?

If you do, and if the WCCO-TV report was correct that you said you were going to take a wrecking ball to this practice, I am curious as to what you have done along those lines since that May 9 report. I have looked for some-

thing on your city website, as well as on your Twitter account, since that date and have found nothing specific. Has anything been done to address this issue? Do you have something in the works?

As you may know, as far back as 2004, former MPD Sergeant Michael Quinn raised this issue in a book he wrote specifically about this topic, with multiple examples given demonstrating its widespread presence within the Minneapolis Police Department. So, this is hardly a new concern regarding the MPD; it didn’t come to light only from the Mohamed Noor trial. It’s at least 15 years old, and really far older than that. But I am not holding you responsible for what’s been done in the last 15 years. I’m only asking what’s been done since that media report of May 9, or what you plan to do in the future.

Yours,
Chuck Turchick

DEAR MAYOR FREY AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS,

Many people who call for greater police accountability applaud when an officer is sentenced to prison and when the city settles a lawsuit concerning an officer’s conduct. I am not one of them. More often than not, such lawsuits make allegations about the city’s conduct as well, that is, allegations of systemic problems that in part led to the officer’s conduct. And when the city settles such a lawsuit, none of those allegations are confirmed or refuted. And if those allegations are in fact true, since the city doesn’t publicly say so when it

settles these lawsuits, we citizens never know what systemwide changes are needed. That is not a “transformational” result.

In the recently settled lawsuit with the Ruszczyk family, for example, the complaint alleged in paragraphs 46 and 47 that when officers Noor and Harrity were hired, only one psychological test was administered, despite the fact that national best practices said that multiple tests should be used. And paragraph 283 reads: “The inadequate assessor and assessment procedure in place since 2012 ensured that the city hired MPD officers that are unable to safely and effectively perform their duties as police officers.” Were those allegations true? If yes, are they still true? Were changes in psychological evaluation made after this incident? If so, are any further changes needed? If the previous evaluation system was inadequate, might there be an issue of current officers who had been deemed fit for service under that system? We don’t know, and we may never know, because there has been no real public discussion of these claimed inadequacies.

Paragraph 210 reads: “Numerous other [other than Officers Noor and Harrity] MPD officers repeatedly refused to provide statements to the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office during its investigation of the July 15, 2017, shooting of Justine.” And paragraph 214 reads: “Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman stated that during his 19 years as a prosecutor, ‘this [was] the first time that [he’s] ever had to subpoena police officers to tell [prosecutors] what they know.’” And paragraph 219: “Numerous MPD officers continue to hamper

the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office ability to investigate and prosecute alleged wrongdoing by their fellow officers.” Are those allegations true? If they are, does the MPD have a problem? And if it does, is there a remedy to that problem? And if there is, who is trying to fix it—and how? All questions unasked and unanswered because of the way we handle settlements of lawsuits in our litigious society.

Or paragraph 222: “Not only are MPD officers routinely not disciplined when they change their stories or fail to cooperate with investigations into fellow officers, the Minneapolis Police Federation is empowering them to do so. There has been no response by the city, former Chief Harteau or current Chief Arradondo to curb this practice of behavior by MPD officers and the Minneapolis Police Federation.” True? If so, fixable? We don’t know, and we may never know, because that’s the nature of lawsuit settlements.

Or paragraph 226: “The MPD’s continued failure to discipline officers, through defendants and policymakers Chiefs Harteau and Arradondo, causes MPD officers to act with impunity and without due regard for the Constitution and laws of the United States, including 42 U.S.C. §1983.” Is this true? Did the city, in settling this lawsuit, agree with this allegation? I doubt that it did, but we really don’t know. Do the plaintiffs in this lawsuit have evidence that would support this claim? If they do, has the city examined it?

These are just a few of the systemic allegations that can be found simply by skimming through the complaint in this lawsuit. When such lawsuits are

settled, maybe in a narrow sense we get “justice for Justine,” but we don’t get anything close to justice for Minneapolis residents. Practices and policies that may have led to the tragedy do not get aired in public, let alone addressed through making necessary changes, if such changes are needed.

So, I would suggest that the city adopt a policy that when lawsuit settlements are made, especially large settlements involving police conduct, a report be issued in conjunction with those settlements that addresses each of the systemic allegations made in the complaint: Which allegations does the city reject, and why? Which allegations does the city accept, what is the evidence supporting those allegations, and what is the city doing to remedy the situation? Only then can we citizens be assured that such lawsuit settlements will lead to transformational outcomes.

Although in the Justine Ruszczyk Damond settlement no such public accounting has been rendered, in your efforts to determine what lessons can be learned from this tragedy, I urge you to begin those efforts by looking at the allegations—in particular, the systemic allegations—made in the complaint itself. Maybe that won’t be sufficient, but surely it’s a necessary starting place. And while no report accompanied the settlement in this case, you surely could still issue one, explaining what the city has learned from this tragedy, what changes have been made as a result, and what further changes are needed.

Yours,
Chuck Turchick

Will more neighbors make our city greener?

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

Many people agree that increasing the housing density of an area will decrease the CO2 emissions per person through increased efficiency. For example, people won't have to drive as far, or perhaps won't have to drive at all, because there are more likely to be resources they can access nearby. A 2013 interactive map created by UC Berkley seems to bear this out. In it, zip codes are color-coded based on household CO2 emissions. There is a stark contrast between "green" inner cities where emissions are lower per person (31.6 metric tons of CO2 per household annually in my zip code of 55404) compared to our "red" suburban neighbors (70.3 metric tons of CO2 per household annually in zip code 55346 which is in Eden Prairie). <https://coolclimate.org/maps>.

But is this causation or correlation? The authors of the study that goes with the map warn against depending on density to decrease greenhouse gas emissions: "It would be incorrect to say population density is correlated with lower household carbon footprints." And, "Given limited

technical capacity in cities, we suggest that population density has limited potential and calls for more tailored solutions; which in our view are urgently needed." <https://coolclimate.org/files/coolclimate/Jones-Kammen-Carbon-Footprint-FAQ-EST-1-10-2014.pdf>

According to this study, income more accurately determines greenhouse gas emissions than density. Specifically, lower-income people generate fewer emissions due to lower consumption. "Higher incomes translate to important social, cultural and economic benefits, but higher incomes also generally correspond with higher consumption and greenhouse gas emissions." And, "If policies can control for income, or even encourage lower-income infill, then population density has a strong potential impact on lowering greenhouse gas emissions of those locations."

Minneapolis could easily accomplish the goals of equity and reducing our carbon footprint by actively supporting subsidized affordable housing. But the city's current plan to encourage more market-rate housing in the hopes that it will drive down the cost of



housing will not result in lower housing prices. As Alissa Luepke Pier, an AIA-honored architect and Minneapolis City Planning Commission vice president, said in a recent interview, "Let me be clear: Adoption of this policy without adequate safeguards will cause great, long-term harm to low-income families and communities of color, and there is no way to undo the damage once Pandora's box has been opened." <https://www.planningreport.com/2019/06/17/minneapolis-planning-commissions-alissa-luepke-pier>

[lis-planning-commissions-alissa-luepke-pier](https://www.planningreport.com/2019/06/17/minneapolis-planning-commissions-alissa-luepke-pier)

We could very easily increase our city's carbon footprint by attracting more middle- to high-income residents, who will in turn generate more carbon emissions through increased consumption of goods. In fact, this will likely lead to a future of "carbon gentrification." A recent study, which specifically focused on the impact of tech companies on cities, found that, "From the carbon analysis so far, when density results from more high-income residents, the low-carbon benefits of that density get wiped out. We believe the carbon emissions in these neighborhoods are staying the same or increasing." <https://phys.org/news/2019-03-green-carbon-footprint.html>

Let me be clear. I think that there has long been room for increasing the density of our city. I have specifically chosen to live in a medium density environment (I live in a townhome with duplexes on either side and an apartment building across the street). But the direction that the city is currently moving in will not create the livable green city so many of us dream of for our future. Specific policies the city could explore to achieve this future would be:

- Implement required density increases such as Portland's Zone 2.5 in which any new structure built on a standard lot must be two or more units. Prior to the passage of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan this could have been a place where home owners and advocates for increased housing could have worked together. Many home owners have been very frustrated with neighboring houses being torn down and replaced by McMansions. This 2.5 zoning would make it less profitable

to tear down existing homes because they could not be replaced by upscale homes, and the former zoning and mass requirements would have eliminated the threat of larger apartment complexes which home owners can find concerning.

- Allow rooming houses again. The city's current stance against rooming houses needs to change. Rooming houses offer many benefits, from being an affordable housing option to environmental benefits through shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. One of the most cost-effective ways to achieve this would be through the conversion of existing buildings, which would have its own environmental benefits. The city could implement policies in the spirit of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan that would give incentives to preserve existing houses by converting them to rooming houses.

- Remove the requirement to get a rental license if a home owner chooses to rent out a room in a house they live in. Preferably the city would set up resources so that home owners could confidently find tenants and work on incentives to encourage people to take on boarders.

I agree that Minneapolis' policies should evolve and change over time, and I agree that there are changes that can and should be made now. Our city is at a crossroads. We can deregulate and shut down discussion about what our future should look like or we can work together and find solutions based in science, not profits. Our city has long benefited from the active engagement of its citizens. We need to improve access to this engagement for all residents, not shut down engagement completely.

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Open Streets Lake + Minnehaha—the best one yet?

BY DEBRA KEEFER
RAMAGE

The first indication we had that Open Streets may be hitting a stride of competency after over a decade

of building up to it was that it was a lot easier this year to get advance information. The map with all the major presenter booths and activities is promised for two weeks before the

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Previous year's action circle, Heart of the Beast Theater

event, whereas in previous years it came out just a few days before. So, vendor and sponsor participants probably have more of a handle on how, and how important it is, to get the planning out of the way before the last minute rush. This is the third or fourth year that Lake + Minnehaha has been an Open Streets route without much change, so it looks like they're here to stay. (Lake Street has been in the mix almost since the beginning, but it used to go east all the way to the river, and now takes a southward turn at Minnehaha and goes to the Falls.)

We can tell you for 2019 that the day is July 21, and the time is as ever, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The route is the same as the last couple of years; it starts on the northwest end at Lake and Elliot, just outside Midtown Global Market, which is a major sponsoring participant. The complete list of sponsors and various other information, as well as a free bus pass for the day, can be found at https://www.openstreetsmpls.org/lake_minnehaha. Sponsors include two neighborhood associations—Midtown Phillips and Longfellow, as well as KFAI, Music in Minnesota.com, USInternet, Midtown Global Market, YWCA, Metro Transit, and, a bit of a wild

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See Open Streets, page 8



A previous year's performer from Heart of the Beast Theater





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Open Streets, from page 7

card, Outsiders Pizza, a frozen artisan pizza sold at Target. Traffic will be closed on the affected streets, so if you need to drive to attend, plan to park several blocks away without crossing either Lake or Minnehaha. Better yet, take the (free) bus. Bring money and come hungry; there will be lots of food trucks, as well as Geek Love Cafe pizza and other food and drink vendors.

Part of the fun of Open Streets is in the surprises. Small businesses and non-

profits often don't announce their participation at all but then come up with interesting things along the route. So even if you concentrate your time on one or more of the major "hubs" we are about to tell you about, you should also linger along the way and let the day unfold. The three major hubs of activity are:

- Lake Street, 13th to 15th Ave. - Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association in partnership with In the Heart of the Beast.
- 3000 block of Minnehaha (site of Midtown Farmers Market) - Longfellow Craft Beverage Festival.
- Minnehaha and East 45th St. - Minnehaha Recording & Solsta Records Music Festival.


The Midtown Phillips hub will have loads of activities and information, including:

- The New American Youth Soccer Club - soccer demos.
- Circle of Discipline Boxing Club - boxing exhibition.
- The Midtown Greenway - games and informa-


tion.

- St Paul's Lutheran Church - interactive art.
- In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre - stilts, animal puppets, make and take art, snacks and drinks.
- Waite House - info and participation activity.
- Open Arms, Midtown Safety Center, Hope Academy, Augsburg Fairview Academy, Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling, and the Islamic Center - information booths.
- Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association and the imperiled Indoor Urban Farm at Roof Depot Site Project - interactive information booths.
- Somali Cultural Museum - cultural exhibits, possibly dancing.
- Mad Dads - music and a microphone, at 13th and Lake.

There will be a performance stage featuring (in order of appearance) The Brass Messengers, Wain McFarlane, Little Thunderbirds, Inti Samay, Sarah Greer & Friends, and AJ &



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Spirit Garage at Hook and Ladder

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Open Streets, from page 9

Midtown Phillips' hub, there are a lot of activities, including those centered around the Midtown Global Market, which are always outstanding. In the stretch between HOBT and the Minnehaha corner, there is the YWCA, plus more scattered information booths and food vendors. There are coffee shops galore, and of course, loads of vintage stuff for sale along Minnehaha's famed mile of antique and vintage "stuff" shops. There are always health and fitness related activities and information booths, in keeping both with the neighborhoods' focus and the mission of Open Streets Mpls. Open Streets has finally crossed two bars, from starting out as an activists' obscure event, to becoming a quirky new summer activity, and now to a mainstream, must-attend, multi-node festival. Bring your dog, your bike, your kids, or your grandkids, or just your friends and an inquiring mind, and enjoy those open streets.



Family enjoying a cool break at Minnehaha Scoop



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T Metro Transit

Ashley has labels

BY ASHLEY FRAYED

There is a lot of controversy in the mental health community about what these labels mean. Some say labels are demeaning. Others feel that labels help people who have a mental health issue be more easily understood.

Everything and everyone are labeled in our culture. Some connote positive. Others connote negative. As knowledge about how a label affects a person or entity evolves, labels change. At one time the label “mentally retarded” was accepted as the correct label. However, the generally accepted term is now “developmentally disabled.”

One might wonder, what is the difference? A term like “mentally retarded” has only the meaning we as a culture ascribe to it. At one time, a person with limited cognitive abilities was generally considered inferior as a human being. One way to know this is to realize how the label is used in different contexts. For instance, “You retard!” was a way of insulting someone. Just the word “retarded” was so commonly used as a slur toward anyone in any situation, that over time, the professional community began to realize that the label had to change. The label just carried too much stigma. The term “mental retardation” no longer exists in professional texts describing the underlying cognitive deficit.

Back to the label of “schizophrenic.” It too has been used as a colloquialism that means, “Stupid, bad, confusing, awful,” and so on. This is the label that has been attached to myself and others with the same diagnosis. As a result of that sad fact, I cannot escape the label or its implications. If I tell someone that I have schizophrenia, that person will, for the most part, view me as scary, awful, confused and just plain crazy. I have seen this within my own family. As soon as my diagnosis was known, I was immediately removed from the labels I had earned. My former labels were, “successful, driven, brilliant, fearless,” etc. While things have changed for people with cognitive deficits, formerly referred to as “retarded,” those labeled “schizophrenic” are still ridiculed.

The label “schizophrenic” has other negative connotations. Often a suspect in a grisly murder will attempt to use schizophrenia as a mental illness defense. The suspect/defendant knows the symptoms of the actual illness and will claim to have heard voices, aka “command hallucinations.” Because of this, persons like myself are associated with violent and grisly acts. Many times these defenses work in criminal proceedings. What I have learned through receiving continuing mental health care is that persons who carry the “schizophrenia” diagnosis are much more likely to be the victims of violent crimes than the average person.

Back to the question, what does a label mean to persons who carry it? It depends on the label and the con-

notations it comes with. I feel that until the professional mental health community changes the diagnosis into a different word, the shaming and suspicion will continue. I live in fear that my diagnosis will be discovered. I do not want the consequences of the misuse of the label to affect my life. It has hurt me romantically, professionally and spiritually. It hurts. It hurts a lot.

Now that I have adequately explained what these labels mean, I feel that it is my duty to come up with a new label for those diagnosed as schizophrenic. I am currently in the process of finding ways to end stigma. Though the task itself is daunting, I continue this work because it has to change. I have to use my imagination. I have to convince the professional psychiatric community to change the label that is used in the “Diagnostic Manual of Mental Disorders.” That publication is updated from time to time. As a former attorney, I do have some persuasive skills that I can draw strength from.

A label that has stigma must be replaced. I have thought of a few reasonable alternatives.

One label that describes the symptoms of schizophrenia without stigma is “spiritually gifted.” Of course, it is obvious that this is a herculean task. Another word with no stigma attached is “crazy.” Some people may react negatively to that. The term “crazy” has many different meanings in different cultural contexts. The culture where I reside mentally is “Urban/Hip-Hop.” In that world, “crazy” means the best of the best. If someone who shares that culture with me says, “That album she dropped was crazy,” I know that it is a very highly regarded album. Something good.

In conclusion, a word has no meaning unless we ascribe one to it.

The challenge faced by those bearing the label is how to get the majority of fellow community members to agree on one term only. The possibility of using an “Urban/Hip-Hop” label is within my reach. For others, this will never change their view in my lifetime. However, one hopeful fact is that as a whole, the professional mental health community is committed to political correctness.



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St. Paul native, Nick Diffatte, has won multiple national awards for both magic and comedy. At only 23, he's already headlined on the Las Vegas strip, at the famous Magic Castle in LA, and on the Late Late Show with James Corden

Nick views the world through his Spectacle Shoppe glasses. ...Even as he makes some of it disappear.



See Different

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

Still Counting Sheep? Senior Social and Health Talks

Tuesday, July 16, 10:30 a.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
2730 E. 31st St.
Come learn how sleep changes
as you age and how not getting
enough sleep can change your
overall health. Find out from
Erin Golden, Sleep Physician
at Hennepin Healthcare, what
can be done to get a better
night's sleep.
Sponsored by Longfellow/
Seward Healthy Seniors
<http://www.lshealthyseniors.org/>

Waffle Bar Fundraiser for TCDSA

July 20, 9 a.m. - noon
Walker Community UMC
dining hall
3104 16th Ave. S
Twin Cities Democratic Social-
ists of America (TCDSA) and
its Socialist Feminist Branch
and comrades are hosting a
fun fundraiser Waffle Break-
fast on Saturday, July 20. The
goal is to raise money to send
our 19 elected delegates to the

biennial DSA convention in At-
lanta. Waffles, plus unlimited
toppings and bottomless fair-
trade coffee, will be sold for
anything you can afford from
\$7 up to \$25 and you can add a
“tip” to help even more.

Minnehaha Falls Art Fair Saturday, July 20

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **A**
Minnehaha Falls Park
4801 Minnehaha Ave.
Minnehaha Falls is one of
Minneapolis' oldest and most
popular parks featuring a ma-
jestic 53-foot waterfall, lime-
stone bluffs, river overlooks,
Sea Salt Eatery, many walking
and hiking trails and more!
And now, for the first time
ever, Minnehaha Falls will be
the site of Minnesota's newest
Art Fair! Celebrate dozens
of local artists at the first
annual Minnehaha Falls Art
Fair. Peruse a wide variety of
mediums including paintings,
ceramics, textiles, screen-print-
ing, woodworking, photogra-
phy and more.
There will be items UNDER
\$30 at every artist booth!

More info at 612-296-7371 or
www.minnehahafallsartfair.com

Tri-Loppet Saturday, July 20

Put your skills to the test in
this ultimate summer adven-
ture race! The Tri-Loppet is a
point-to-point off-road tri-
athlon using the Minneapolis
Chain of Lakes and trails in
Theodore Wirth Park. Paddle
7K, run 5.5K and mountain
bike 13K – all in the heart of
the city!
The Tri-Loppet is open to both
individuals and relay teams,
and will take participants
through some of the best land
and water trails that Minneap-
olis has to offer. Kayak, canoe
or SUP your way along the
Chain of Lakes with awe-
some views of the downtown
Minneapolis skyline, run on
some of the city's most beau-
tiful natural trails and bike
along Wirth's new system of
singletrack. Once you cross the
finish line, enjoy a fun summer
afternoon at The Trailhead
with live music, food for pur-
chase and a free Surly beer for
all race participants.

All off-road and a ton of fun,
this is a race experience you're
sure to have a blast competing
in!

This is a Hoigaard's Challenge
event, learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2HZp2Kd>

Campfire Songs and Stories Monday, July 22

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **M**
Dodge Nature Center, Main
Office Entrance 1, 365 Marie
Ave. W. in West St. Paul
Join us in the Dodge for songs
and stories around the camp-
fire. Hear funny stories, tall
tales and outright lies. Join in
singing some classic camp-
fire singalongs. Then roast a

marshmallow or two, or more.
Pre-registration required.
Cost: \$7 per person; ages 2 and
under are free. 651-455-4531,
DodgeNatureCenter.org

PechaKucha Night: Are Galleries Dead? Not in Northeast!

Tuesday, July 23
6 to 8 p.m. **A**
Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE
Minneapolis, 55413
Moving from a Sunday to a
Tuesday, and into the Ritz
Theater, the next PechaKucha
asks the question, “Are Gal-
leries Dead?” and answers it
with “Not in Northeast!” Nine
Northeast gallery directors
will present 20 slides in 20
seconds each on how they
formed, who they represent
and how they survive.
The program will feature the
following galleries: 2001 A
Space, Circa, IceBox, Kolman
& Pryor, NE Sculpture Gallery
Factory, Qarma, Rogue Bud-
dha, Rosalux and Tres Leches
Gallery.

Herman Milligan, prominent
art collector and NE-AD board
member, will lead a discussion
following the PechaKucha
presentations. The discussion
is intended to help inform
the NE-AD leadership and
the public on what is needed
to sustain a thriving gallery
culture. The definition of “gal-
lery” may be constantly chang-
ing to meet consumer prefer-
ences. At this PechaKucha we
will explore how Northeast
galleries have managed these
changes and what NE-AD can
do to help.
Bring your questions to the
Ritz Tuesday, July 23, 6 p.m.
The free event, with refresh-
ments, will conclude by 8 p.m.,
after which people will be
gathering next door at Rogue
Buddha Gallery for a reception

and informal conversation.
Donations (\$5 recommended)
are appreciated to offset venue
expenses and the PechaKucha
license.

PechaKucha Nights are a proj-
ect of the Northeast Minne-
apolis Arts District's HATCH
committee, which is exploring
the need for an arts center or
online clearinghouse.

Mississippi Market's \$3 Community Dinners Thursday, July 25 and Thursday, August 22

5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
622 Selby Ave., St. Paul
Market is pleased to announce
the return of its \$3 Commu-
nity Dinners this summer.
These events will be held
on the fourth Thursdays of
July and August from 5 to
7:30 p.m. at the co-op's East
7th store. Each dinner will
feature an affordable Market
Made meal, live music from
local musicians, free food
samples, community partners,
raffle prizes and more. Vegan
and gluten-free options will
be available at both dinners.
Save the dates to celebrate
community with good food,
great people and live music.
All are welcome!
July 25: Garlic Rosemary
Chicken or BBQ Tofu & Potato
Salad
August 22: BBQ Pulled Pork or
Jackfruit Sandwich & Coleslaw

Roots & Kinship A community gathering to revitalize our relationships with Mother Earth and each other

Friday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.
Lake Nokomis Community
Center Picnic Shelter
2401 E Minnehaha Pkwy.
Lyla June, musician, public
speaker and performance
poet of Diné (Navajo),
Tsétséhestáhesé (Cheyenne),
and Scandinavian lineages,
explores indigenous resur-
gence, reclaiming European
indigenous roots, forgiveness,
reconciliation and love as a
revolutionary force.
The Wisdom Dancers, tradi-
tional dancers and singers
drawing from Balkan, Greek
and Asia Minor lineages. Share
the collective joy of traditional
songs and dances as tools for
healing. Through dance they
connect with their roots and
explore ways to live in right
relationship in Minnesota.
FREE. Please bring a blanket
for sitting on the ground or
your own chair. In the case of
rain, we will meet inside the
Lake Nokomis Community
Center.
ASL interpreted. Accessible
seating available.
More information at wisdomdances.com or <https://www.wisdomdances.com/events/rootskinship/>

FIND YOUR EVENT:

A-ART **M-MUSIC** **D-DANCE** **T-THEATER**



RIVERSIDE EDITION

Southside Pride Riverside Edition is a monthly
community newspaper delivered on the Third Monday of the
month for free to homes and businesses from downtown to
Minnehaha Falls, from Hiawatha Avenue to the Mississippi River.

We publish 16,000 copies each month. 16,000 are delivered
door-to-door to homes and another 1,000 are left in area
businesses and public buildings. We are proud of the racial
and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism
and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.

*If you want to share some news of your church, school
or organization, please write us at:*

Southside Pride

3200 CHICAGO AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55407
CALL US AT 612-822-4662
or edfelien@southsidepride.com

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

Foraging Summer Herbs

Saturday, July 27

Noon to 2 p.m.

Midtown Greenway and East 28th

Summer is a time of lush growth that provides awesome opportunities for the urban forager. These include wild herbs that produce amazing aromas, lend bright flavors as seasonings and give numerous health benefits to boot! Join Maria Wesslerle and Four Season Foraging as we learn how to identify, harvest and prepare the herbs of summer. This workshop will be discussion based; we won't actually collect or concoct any of the herbs, but we will learn a lot about them! Meet at the intersection of the Midtown Greenway and East 28th St. in Minneapolis. Sliding scale \$15 - \$35. Space is limited. For more details or to register, please visit fourseasonforaging.com/events, email info@fourseasonforaging.com, or call 612-440-5958.

Paws and Effect, at the Minnesota Family Fringe

Saturday, July 27, 1 p.m.

Sunday, July 28, 2:30 p.m. **T**

Friday, August 2, 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 3, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 4, 1 p.m.

Barker Center for Dance
500 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis 55454

Off-Leash area is thrilled to announce the return of their wildly popular show "Paws and Effect," starring a real dog, to the 2019 Minnesota Family Fringe! "Paws and Effect" is a visually rich, surreal production exploring the journey of a girl who doesn't fit in, and a stray dog she befriends who teaches her how to show love and acceptance to others and especially herself. Featuring OLA's signature award-winning interdisciplinary style, the performance

blends company choreographer Jennifer Ilse's highly theatrical movement with Paul Herwig's elaborate visual set design using live projected animation. Performers include Off-Leash Area's own Jennifer Ilse, Katie Kaufman and Lily the Doberman.

This show with a dog will be performed at the Barker Center for Dance in Minneapolis. The Barker Center. We swear this is a coincidence. The Minnesota Family Fringe is a juried sub-festival of the popular Minnesota Fringe Festival, centered on kid- and family-friendly performances. "Paws and Effect" is a visual smorgasbord about adventure and acceptance—a delight to children of all ages and to adults as well!

Information on festival events and schedule at: www.minnesotafringe.org/family-fringe

Jeffery Broussard & The Creole Cowboys

Friday, August 2 **M**

Doors open 7 p.m.

Free zydeco dance lesson 7:15 p.m.

Music at 8 p.m.

Eagles Club #34
2507 East 25th St.

Louisiana band and zydeco greats Jeffery Broussard & The Creole Cowboys play in Minneapolis again on Friday, August 2, sponsored by Krewe de Walleye, the Minnesota Cajun & Zydeco Music & Dance Association. \$20 admission.

National Night Out Event August 6, 4 - 7 p.m.

Minnehaha Senior Living
3733 - 23rd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-238-2714

Minnehaha Senior Living, An Assisted Living Facility, along with Providence Place Care Center, will host a community event for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th. Free

games, music, free frozen treats and drawings for Twins prizes.

Nature After Dinner: Flight of the Butterfly

Thursday, August 8

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dodge Nature Center, Farm Entrance 3

1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul

The flowers are in full bloom on the prairie! With the flowers come colorful butterflies. Spend an evening learning about the life cycle of these amazing insects. Catch and release them from your insect net and learn clues on how to tell a moth from a butterfly. This program is designed for kids ages 3-8. All children must be accompanied by at least one adult. Families are welcome. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$10 per child. 651-455-4531, DodgeNatureCenter.org

Regina High School Class of 1969 50th Reunion

Saturday, September 14

Minneapolis Marriott Hotel
Calling all graduates of Regina High School Class of 1969! Our 50th Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 14 at the Minneapolis Marriott Hotel. For further information, please go to www.classcreator.com/Minneapolis-Minnesota-Regina-1969 or call 612-729-3500.

Rain Taxi presents a book launch event with poets STEVE HEALEY AND DANIEL BORZUTZKY

September 14, 7 p.m.

Hook & Ladder Theater's Mission Room



Daniel Borzutzky



Steve Healey

Join us as we kick off our Fall 2019 Rain Taxi Reading Series with two stellar poets on Saturday, September 14. This event serves as the book launch for Twin Cities poet Steve Healey's newest collection, "Safe Houses I Have Known," published by local Coffee House Press. Healey will be joined by National Book Award-winning Chicago poet and translator (and child of Chilean immigrants) Daniel Borzutzky, author of "Lake Michigan" and "The Performance of Becoming Human."

The event will also debut the Fall print edition of Rain Taxi Review of Books (our 95th issue!), and it's all free and open to the public! Books by the poets will be available for purchase and signing.



More info about the authors and this event can be found here: <http://www.raintaxi.com/daniel-borzutzky-and-steve-healey/>

Fresh Heir Delivery is looking for a newspaper carrier available for 2-4 residential routes per week in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. The carrier's role will be viewed as an independent contractor.

The role pays about an average of \$13-15/hr per route. Routes are dedicated to the Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send your information to FreshHeir-Delivery@gmail.com including your name, phone number and resume/qualifications (if possible), or call 612-669-5520 and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Serious inquiries only.

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EVENTS

Summer Music Series Tuesdays, July 16, 23 & 30 7 p.m.

Temple Israel
2324 Emerson Ave. S.
Mpls. 55405
Plymouth Congregational Church, at 19th Street and Nicollet Avenue, is grateful to Temple Israel for hosting its Summer Music Series while Plymouth's sanctuary floors are being refinished. On July 16, Monroe Crossing will play bluegrass. On July 23, Plymouth soloists will sing classics from Rodgers & Hammerstein. And, on July 30, Bradley Greenwald will be joined by Sonja Thompson for English Parlor songs. Don't miss these great concerts! Please note: There is free parking behind Temple Israel.

When Home Won't Let You Stay Thursday, July 18 6 to 8 p.m.

Basilica of St. Mary (Lower Level)
88 17th St. N., Mpls. 55403
"When Home Won't Let You Stay" is a poignant traveling photography exhibition and community event series about refugees in Minnesota by documentary artist James A. Bowey. It provides a new perspective on the often hidden lives and compelling experiences of refugees in our communities. The number of globally displaced people has risen dramatically in recent years and is expected to continue to rise in response to ongoing conflicts, poverty and climate change. International and national events have prompted debates in communities across the country about our duty to refugees, our American roots, and national

identity. The exhibition consists of contemporary color portraits accompanied by first-person poetic stories that create an empathetic experience of the plight and resilience of refugees working to make a new home in this country.

As part of the exhibition, James Bowey will present a live community event to consider the experiences of refugees, and our responses to the needs of displaced people around the world. Accompanied by live music and narrators from the community, he will present photographs, stories and reflections from "When Home Won't Let You Stay," and lead a community conversation about how current refugee policies and attitudes reflect the state of the empathetic imagination in our civic life. This compelling talk explores how we can bear witness in a contentious world, and awaken our imagination to the possibilities of hope, justice and human connection.

Open Streets Lake + Minnehaha Sunday, July 21 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E. 31st St.
Holy Trinity will be giving away free, uncooked ears of sweet corn and decorating kids' bikes (while supplies last) for Open Streets Lake + Minnehaha.

Musical Open House— Hymn Sing Tuesday, July 23 11 to 11:30 a.m. Lunch Noon to 1 p.m. Hymn Sing in the sanctuary with Timothy Strand

Mindekirken, The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
924 East 21st St.
Guest musician Timothy Strand is the Director of Music Ministry at Gloria Dei Lutheran

Church in St. Paul where he oversees a very active program of choirs, instrumentalists and concerts. Tim is a proud graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College where he studied organ and served as tenor section leader of the Gustavus Choir and received his Masters of Music degree from Indiana University School of Music with emphasis in church music and organ performance. An active freelance accompanist, he plays for Magnum Chorum and just this past year served as pianist for Kim André Arnesen's "Holy Spirit Mass" that was performed by the Together in Hope Choir in Rome this past fall. He performs frequently, accompanying choral demo recordings for both Augsburg Fortress and Morning Star Music Publishers. He also proudly celebrates his "dual" ancestry: Swedish on his father's side and Norwegian on his mother's side—the perfect combination! \$7 donation is requested at the door.

Backpacks for Refugees

School's out for the summer, but the many children arriving with refugee status this summer will need backpacks for school in the fall. This would be a perfect donation drive for your church or office. We invite you to donate one or many backpacks for all ages and genders. For more information, please email the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services at rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org or call 612-230-3219. Thank you!

ONGOING

Events at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church 3430 E. 51st St. (kitty-corner from the Nokomis

Library)
612-729-5463
July 19 – Life Line Screening from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 1-800-897-9177 to make an appointment.
July 28 – Worship Service outdoors at 10 a.m. followed by

fellowship.
August 3 – Book Club: "Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah.
NA Groups – Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m.
Exercise Group – Mondays at 10 a.m.

First Nations Kitchen

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

Southside Pride has been running the following in our Phillips/Powderhorn edition and on our website for a long time:

*All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission

3044 Longfellow Ave.
--Sundays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

First Nations Kitchen:
Healthy, organic dinners in setting of radical hospitality.

Serving since November 2010! To learn more or to volunteer see our website <http://www.firstnationskitchen.org>

I had always thought the dinner was only for Native people. But then I met the program director, Chilah Brown, and she assured me it was for anyone and everyone. Radical hospitality, she called it. You sit at tables and are served by gentle volunteers.

So, I went there on a rainy Sunday in June. I didn't get there on time, but I saw that other people came in after I did and that seemed to be just fine. There weren't any opening remarks or anything. Everything was very relaxed and casual.

We all enjoyed organic Indigenous food which was stunningly tasty—a bison hotdish, manoomin (wild rice), a spicy cauliflower vegetable medley and sauteed yams (or maybe sweet potatoes) with the skins on and a lovely lettuce salad with strawberries.

Besides a free, friendly, delicious meal, I found the conversation to be almost more of an attraction. It was so intense I can see why the event only lasts for an hour. Brown says conversations sometimes continue from one week to the next.

At my table, a lively discussion got off the ground about all the poets in the neighborhood. Later the group talked about

gun violence and then a young man named Frank said something about human imagination and its infinite possibilities. Directing your own mind is probably the greatest challenge in life, but many people don't actually do that, we concluded.

A woman named Sally was talking with Brown about a PBS special that showed the relationship between Native people and early settlers which led to the development of U.S. democratic ideals and the U.S. Constitution. That's something I hope to learn more about. As a non-Indigenous person, in a way I felt I was a guest in someone's home. It was an opportunity for me to learn history and culture from another point of view.

Brown, who is Anishinabe and goes to Augsburg University where she is working on her second master's degree, says the really great thing about FNK is that despite any historical conflicts, whether between Native and non-Native or among Native people themselves, "we can look past our tribal conflicts, our racial barriers or any social issue that may cause a problem with society or our government, for example, and share our stories with each other."

All this is tied with healthy Indigenous organic food and sustainable practices like composting and recycling. I love the program.

After the meal, on the way out, there's a table full of breads, fruits and vegetables from which we could take home what we needed.

FNK is a network of partner organizations and teams of volunteers who share the vision. If you're interested in organizing your faith community, school or affinity group to help at the Sunday dinners, contact director@firstnationskitchen.org, or 612-217-2496.

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Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

Boulder Dam, from page 1

creek itself. In looking at the picture you posted on the November 19, 2018, Southside Pride article, it looks like perhaps these rocks may have been moved from the bridge embankment to the center of the creek. This certainly is a possibility as Michael Schroeder noted above. In my experiences on other creeks across the state, I have observed people often playing in the water and moving rocks around."

According to experts who have studied the problem, there is no legitimate reason to obstruct the flow of Minnehaha Creek with a rock weir at the 30th Avenue footbridge. We know that the raising of the water level of Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha has

caused serious financial hardship to homes in the immediate neighborhood and to the maintenance of Hiawatha Golf Course.

Therefore, be it ordered by this Court that:

A hearing on this matter shall be scheduled by this Court;

The respondent shall explain to this Court why the boulders that control the level of Minnehaha Creek should not be removed;

Without justification of a legitimate purpose, this Court shall order the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to immediately remove the boulders and allow for the natural flow of Minnehaha Creek.

Dated: June _____, 2019
Judge, Hennepin County District Court

Now that the rock weir/dam is gone, the suit probably doesn't have to go forward. However, the

photos don't convince me that all the rocks are gone and that this point is no longer the control point for the water level.

I wrote to the Park Board to ask Superintendent Bangoura for an interview to clarify. I received this from his staff member, Robin Smothers:

Ed,

Thank you for your request. We will let you know the Superintendent's July availability for an interview next week.

Robin Smothers, Media Relations and Social Media Manager

I sent this email in reply:

Hi Robin,

Thanks for getting back to me. I look forward to an opportunity to sit down with the Superintendent for an interview.

As you may know, I have filed a motion in District Court for an or-

der of a Writ of Mandamus ordering the Park Board to remove the boulders at the 30th Avenue footbridge that was the control point for the water level of Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha, according to the Barr Engineering study. Miraculously, the boulder dam has disappeared. It is difficult to know if the removal is complete and the site is no longer the control point for the Creek and Lake. If the removal has eliminated the boulder dam as the control point, then a court action would be unnecessary and moot. We have a court date set for August 12. I have to serve papers on the Park Board before July 12 in order for the action to go forward. If I could get confirmation from Barr Engineering or some other reputable engineering firm that the boulder dam is no longer the control point for the water level by early next week, then I will withdraw my action.

Attached are photos of the pres-

ent condition of the remains of the rock weir. It is difficult to tell from the photos if the remaining boulders continue to impede the flow of the Creek. We need a hydrologist to confirm or deny that the weir no longer acts as the control point.

Thank you very much for your efforts in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,
Ed

The Park Board did not respond to my request for confirmation that the rock weir has been effectively removed, so I served them with the legal papers that I'll be presenting in court. The Honorable Patrick D. Robben will hear my motion for a Writ of Mandamus to order the Park Board to remove the rock weir under the 30th Avenue footbridge on Aug. 12 at 9:45 a.m. in Courtroom C-1756. It is a public hearing. If you have an interest, you are welcome to attend.



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