



Camden Community News

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January 2012

Next issue January 27, deadline January 17

www.camdenews.org

Vol. 33 No. 1

Webber Park master plan is underway

By Sue Quist

I recently took a chance on the ice of the shallow pond in Webber Park and it held. I did this in anticipation of skating on the pond in the near and cold weeks of January. But to my disappointment I was informed by a park employee that the Webber Pond would not be flooded this winter, the warming house would not be brought in, and it was another blow to my sense of fairness for our community. Skating on the pond, on cold and clear winter nights, with Orion sparkling in the evening sky, is truly one of the delights of winter, and like the pool, it also will be gone in 2012. A simple delight that makes life in a cold winter special; even great. Last winter, as I laced my skates on the boardwalk, a fox zipped past with a rabbit in its mouth. These are not moments to be missed.

I hang my hopes for better times in Webber Park on the promises of the Park Board. A commitment has been made, \$4 million have been allocated, and a Master Plan for Web-

ber Park is moving forward. The early fall brought meetings with the community, a three-day planning charrette, and two favored design concepts, C and D (pictured). On December 13 the Park Board and the designer, Landform, presented the reworked design concepts, and the community had another opportunity for input into the future improvements. Discussion centered on two main points: Whether to have a traditional pool or a swimming pond; and whether to utilize traditional



chlorine treatments or natural filtering treatments. Either treatment method could be used, with either swimming design. A majority of the people at the meeting preferred natural treatments and the swimming pond design, to the more traditional pool and chlorine treatments. Some people expressed concern that a swimming pond would not be adequate for lap swimming, diving and swimming lessons. Bob Schunicht of Landform said that the pond would be adequate for lap swimming and swimming lessons. People also expressed a desire to continue skating on the pond in the winter.

Both design concepts concentrate recreational activities at the west end of the park. In the short-term the new aquatic facility would be built near the playground, and a four-season aquatic building, that could double as a warming house in the winter, would be added adjacent to the pool (or pond). The tennis courts, playground and park building would remain, and additional parking would be added, requiring some changes to the playing field. The baseball diamond would be removed and the soccer field would be improved. In the future, the plan includes moving the basketball court closer to the park building. Picnicking will be enhanced by the addition of shelters and the creek will be improved, by widening and returning it to a less channeled design. The library will remain at its present location, until the County moves forward with their plans to build a new library. At that time a pavilion could be built at the library location.

In January the MPB's preferred master plan will be presented to the community and the community will be asked to give their final recommendations to the plan. The next meeting is **January 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Webber Park, 4400 Dupont Ave. N.** A public hearing will be

Webber Park continued on page 9

An end to the "old" NRP, neighborhood work now moves to City

By Jeffrey Strand

Amid tears and remembrances from Park Commissioner Annie Young, Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board Chair Senator Ken Kelash adjourned the last meeting of the "old" NRP Policy Board on December 19, as established under a 1992 Joint Powers Agreement. The "old" NRP Policy Board completed work to approve the Bryant Neighborhood Phase II Action Plan; a salary increase for the NRP Director; a severance pay and benefits plan for remaining NRP employees; and actions for closing down NRP including a \$50,000 reserve and to disburse funds to neighborhood organizations from an unrestricted portion of \$604,907 from an administrative office fund "available for spending at the Policy Board's discretion" according to a memorandum from Director Robert Miller. The Policy Board also approved an "Agreement for the Transfer of Administration of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program" by and between it and the City of Minneapolis. The NRP Office situated at the Crown Roller Mill will have closed on December 31. "I feel fortunate to have been so involved with the foremost city-wide grass roots neighborhood development initiative in the country," said Representative Joe Mullery, who sat on the

NRP Policy Board and was a previous board chair. "The tremendous volunteer efforts combined with the physical improvements have established a stable foundation for the future of Minneapolis," Mullery said about the program.

Meanwhile on December 16 the City Council adopted sweeping changes to the Title 16, Chapter 419 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances ("NRP Ordinance"), adopted a resolution reestablishing a neighborhood revitalization program policy board, and adopted an amended and restated Resolution 2008R-402 that established the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department had notified neighborhood organizations on November 8 of the proposed changes, and solicited public comment for a 30-day period, three times the legally required review period. The City Council Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on December 8 concerning the changes, where NCR Director David Rubedor and staff Robert Thompson described the objectives, background and work of the new NRP Policy Board and repurposed NCEC, and contrasted the different roles of each. The NCR reported the new NCEC role is to "Guide and support diverse and represen-

tative participation at neighborhood, department, and commission levels to help reduce disparities based on class, race, income or neighborhood," while the new NRP Policy Board role is to "Continue NRP Phase I and Phase II activities, encourage partnerships, and support outcomes of ongoing neighborhood based planning processes." Staff reported that the NCR/NCEC collectively held eight community meetings across the city and also attended meetings with nine neighborhood organization boards, with a total of about 136 individuals in attendance at all meetings. The NCEC adopted and submitted two resolutions originally authored by Commissioner Matt Perry and Commissioner Jeff Strand to provide input to the City Council on the proposed changes. Commissioner Doron Clark attended the public hearing to present information on behalf of the NCEC, and members of the public testified at the hearing.

Two changes to the NRP Ordinance or NRP Resolution are highlighted or have drawn attention. In Section 419.55 the City Council provided that "No more than twenty (20) percent of the program dollars expended for all NRP expenditures (on an annual basis) may be used for central ad-

NRP continued on page 10

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Inside

- 2** The county has changed it's funding for Webber Library.
- 5** Lowry Bridge arch installation begins.
- 7** Check out the highlights from Holiday on 44th.
- 12** Northside kids learn the sweetness of giving.

- Letters3
- Outdoors4
- Scoops.....8
- Neighborhoods8-9
- Community History9
- Community Calendar.....10
- Community Arts 11
- Youth and Schools12



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Q&A on status of Webber Library

By Sue Quist

At the November 30, 2011 Hennepin County Board of Commissioners Budget and Capital Investment Meeting, Commissioner Mike Opat submitted an amendment to the 2012 capital budget, which removed funding for the New Webber Park Library from the 2012 and 2013 budget. Funds were reallocated to the following years. The vote was unanimous in favor of the amendment.

In light of the significant impact the amendment has on the forward progress of the new library I asked Commissioner Opat for clarification of his reasons for this amendment. The questions are mine, with the assumption that others in our community have similar questions. The answers are Commissioner Opat's unedited responses. I do not attest to the accuracy of his comments regarding the Holler property.

Why this amendment, at this time and of what value is this amendment to the Webber Library capital project? It's important to recognize the progress that has been made to date. First, when the County took over operation of the Minneapolis library system, Webber was reopened after being closed indefinitely. Second, Commissioner Stenglein and I added the New Webber Library project to the capital budget. Third, with the Holler rental property posted for sale in 2007, the County purchased the other sites necessary for an ideal, state-of-the-art library to be built on the parkway. Only after those purchases did the Hollers actively oppose a sale of their rental property and commercial building.

Commissioner Stenglein and I held community meetings and listened to neighbors' input. We advo-

cated for a hefty amount of County funding for this project. The County hired architects and acquired nearby property. We are now but one parcel away from resuming the project and building a world-class amenity for all of us.

The County has more than \$25 million programmed next year for library expansions, renovations and new construction. But we could not justify budgeting a single dollar in 2012 for a project that has made no progress since 2009. My amendment does not reduce funding, although funding was cut last year when the poor economy forced the County Board to slash the capital program. The County Board unanimously passed the amendment to move the spending to a more realistic time frame, in 2014.

It appears that there are no available capital dollars for this project until 2014. Is that correct? Can any aspect of this project move forward during 2012, 2013? There is insufficient funding to construct the entire library, but there remains enough funding to complete site acquisition and resume architectural designs. If needed, the budget can always be amended by a majority of the County Board.

Is there anything that the County can or will do to move this project forward prior to 2014? We'd like to complete site acquisition as soon as possible and begin program and design discussions with the neighborhood for a new Webber Library. Ideally, the Park Board could reclaim the land where the current library sits and include it in its capital project.

\$4,084,000 is the amount of capital dollars mentioned in the amendment. Is this the amount of

Webber Library continued on page 6

Camden Community News



The Camden Community News is a non-profit, non-partisan newspaper serving the Camden Community — the northwest area of Minneapolis, Minnesota — since 1975. Distributed free to residences and businesses in the Camden area; circulation 12,700. Annual subscription is \$20. Printed at Vertis. Layout by Typesetting a la Macque. Published by the Camden Community News Board of Directors: John Bispala, Buzzy Bohn, Dan Lynch, Cheryl Anderson and Jean Sanoski.

Published the last Friday of each month, deadline is 10 days prior to publication — send submissions to editor@camdenews.org

www.camdenews.org
info@camdenews.org

or 3526-A Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Billing address is P.O. Box 11492, Minneapolis, MN 55411. Voice mail, 521-3060.

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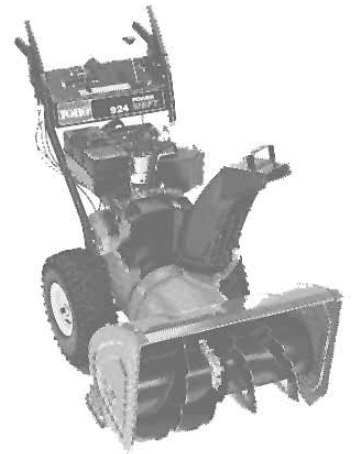
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Tornado recovery update

Six months after a tornado swept through North Minneapolis and caused widespread damage, more than \$25 million in repair work to homes and businesses is complete or under way. The City of Minneapolis and its partners have been working to help people recover from the disaster; from debris cleanups and helping residents make repairs, to planting trees and providing counseling for people struggling with the storm's aftermath.

Approximately 3,600 properties were affected by the May 22 tornado. Since that time, many property owners have made repairs—so far, more than 2,600 permits have been issued for more than \$25 million worth of tornado-related construction, with around 40 new permits being issued each week.

At the end of September, the City identified more than 250 owner-occupied homes that still had exterior damage. The top priority for the City and its partners has been to work with every homeowner who wants to stay in their home and to make sure they have the resources to make repairs.

The City has secured more than \$2 million in resources to help property owners with repairs from the May 22 tornado. These resources include \$1 million in QuickStart funds and more than \$1 million in rehabilitation support programs, both from Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. So far, 50 homeowners have either received QuickStart loans, for a combined total of \$175,000, or are being assisted through the application process. In addition, the neighborhood organizations representing the areas most impacted by the storm committed \$240,000 from the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund to assist with the cost of roof replacement.

The City, the Northside Community Response Team and neighborhood organizations have door-knocked at hundreds of properties to connect with residents, learn about their needs, and provide connections to resources. The Northside Community Response Team has a tornado hotline at 612-787-3730 where people can call to ask questions and find out what help is available to assist in the tornado recovery.

2012 Camden Community News Deadlines

Issue	Pub. Date	Deadline
February	Jan. 27	Jan. 17
March	Feb. 24	Feb. 14
April	Mar. 30	Mar. 20
May	Apr. 27	Apr. 17
June	May 25	May 15
July	June 29	June 19
August	July 27	July 17
September	Aug. 31	Aug. 21
October	Sept. 28	Sept. 18
November	Oct. 26	Oct. 16
December	Nov. 30	Nov. 20
January '13	Dec. 28	Dec. 18

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Contact: River of Life Lutheran Church office, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesday-Friday at 612-521-7655 or e-mail riveroflifelutheran@yahoo.com.

Letters to the Editor



Merging churches may be a good thing

In response to "Am I missing something?" letter in the December *Camden News*: I was a member of St. Austin Church for over 20 years and attended St. Bridget for about two years. It breaks my heart to see any churches close but especially one that I was a part of for so long. Sadly, there has been a general decline in attendance among many faiths for many years; as a result, most parishes and congregations have had to focus on the basic needs to keep going, frequently at the expense of ministries that attract and retain families and new people.

My family decided to leave St. Austin and look for a new spiritual family in order to find a place that was working to reach beyond survival of church; that was working to maintain ministries that our family needed. We were blessed to find that at St. Bridget. St. Augustine, the patron of the church of St. Austin said, "This is our house of prayer, but we too are a house of God...But Christians do not make a house of God until they are one in charity. The timber and stone must fit together in an orderly plan, must be joined in perfect harmony, must give each other support as it were of love, or no one would enter the building. When you see the stones and the beams of a building holding together securely, you will enter the building with an easy mind; you are not afraid of it falling down in ruins."

Now St. Bridget and St. Austin are merging. Ideally, this will allow the combined community to build, to reach beyond the needs of keeping the buildings open, to minister to all our neighbors in North Minneapolis and, dare I hope, attract new membership that could keep both churches open indefinitely. This is a hard time for churches, for congregations, but it also means that we have new challenges before us. God willing, if we rise to those challenges our communities will grow strong again and remain strong for years to come.

Anne Peiffer,
Victory



In response to the Webber Camden Market issue

I have never met Kevin Aldwaik, the owner of the Webber Camden Market on 44th Ave. N. I have visited the store only a few times since it opened. I recall being disappointed at the lack of grocery items available. However, after reading his letter in the November *Camden News*, I now understand why the store felt so empty. He is being prohibited by city regulations from operating a small grocery store from which much of Camden could benefit.

City Councilmember Johnson's explanation in the December *Camden News* seems to be missing Aldwaik's point. The residents of my part of Camden have no walkable options for purchasing convenience items and basic groceries. We should be grateful for a private owner interested and willing to provide this service.

As a powerful member of the City Council which passed the 1996 legislation restricting new grocery stores preventing Aldwaik from selling groceries in his current building, Johnson should answer the following question. What are you doing to help bring a small grocery store back to our neighborhood? Judging from the answer published in the December *Camden News*, it sounds as if the answer is little or nothing.

Eric Hofer
Webber-Camden



In response to Webber Camden Market issue

In regards to City Councilmember Barbara Johnson's response to Kevin Aldwaik's statements in the December *Camden News*:

I frequently visit the Webber Camden Market with my children; I'm less than a block away. I moved into the neighborhood in early June, and soon after the market opened up, I thought, what a relief. Every time I visit, the outside and interior are well kept. Aldwaik (store owner) can be seen cleaning not only the perimeter around his store but going as far as a couple blocks around his store cleaning up trash he might find on the ground. Browsing through the store I quickly found out the store wasn't selling any grocery items and wondered why. After a brief conversation with Aldwaik, I found out why.

I gave Councilmember Johnson a call, and every time I was immediately redirected to voicemail. So I proceeded with leaving multiple voice-mails in hopes I'd get a response back at why the market isn't allowed to sell groceries or EBT items. I left my name and number every time. I'm pretty sure Johnson didn't care to speak with me; I can say I was also met with similar disregard and indifference Aldwaik got from Johnson and her staff. In her letter to the editor she mentions it's a matter of not enough square footage—that the store needs 2,000 sq. ft. I don't see how that's possible since I've visited other stores smaller than Webber Camden Market that were allowed to sell groceries. I believe Johnson just simply doesn't like Aldwaik and any of his attempts at providing something the community would love to have.

Luis Rosario,
Webber-Camden



Why a marriage amendment?

Recently readers have seen a flurry of letters in local papers arguing for and against the proposed marriage amendment to the Minnesota constitution. As for me, I have lots of questions about "resolving" such social issues at a constitutional level.

Who should define marriage and its absolute parameters — state law or religion or free individuals? The Roman Catholic Church has determined for almost 2,000 years that marriage is a sacrament. Sacraments are usually not available outside the defining religion. What then about the rest of our citizens and residents of Minnesota, and this Camden area? Is marriage to be available to non-Catholics here, or are we defining two different kinds of marriage, the one civil and the other religious?

A clergy person, for example, must gain permission from a county office before solemnizing marriages in the state where that county is located. This setup indicates a dual role. The clergy is performing

a function for both the state and his or her church group by performing the marriage ceremony.

What is the State of Minnesota's interest in marriage? Usually what is vital to the state is the protection, health and wellbeing of its citizens and residents. Related laws are passed to reduce the spread of diseases, to regulate the ownership of property. Ever-changing benefits to the married and unmarried need constant adjustment for fairness and equality.

Is the big issue for marriage found only in one single issue, procreation? It's nothing new today for two or more siblings to live out their lives together. It's common that a couple of friends will make similar arrangements. Should the state constitution be amended to regulate all this once and for all?

John Bispala,
Webber-Camden

The Camden News is your forum

We welcome your opinions. Please keep your letters to the editor short, less than 500 words, and too the point. All letters will be edited for length and clarity. Send your letters with name, address and phone number to 3526-A Humboldt Ave. N., Mpls., MN 55412 or editor@camdenews.org. Anonymous submissions cannot be printed. Opinions expressed are those of the writers, not necessarily the Camden News.



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Gei-Snow, riding snow

By Ingrid Remak

Minnesotans pride themselves on not only their tolerance for cold – but for an actual fondness for winter. While Nordic skiing has its roots in the Scandinavian heritage of the state, today Minneapolis is made up of thousands of residents that are new to ice and cold. Experiencing winter and its sub-zero highs for the first time can be both an enchanting and brutal experience. But imagine if it is not just “winter” but the concept of winter that surprises you at your doorstep. How do you describe that? Such has been the conundrum faced by many Hmong families and their youth as they tried to get to know winter, snowy sports and numerous new ideas that are part of a Minnesotan way of life, but have no direct translation into Hmong.

The Hmong people come from the dense tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia. The historically isolated and traditional people were far removed from any snow capped peaks, and it was not until families resettled as refugees in Minnesota that they encountered winter, in all its glory, for the very first time. “My mom says, ‘it’s too cold,’” laughed Anwatin Ski Team member Kao Zong Vang when she tried to describe her mother’s reaction to the sport. Kao Zong is one of four Hmong youth on the Anwatin Ski Team that have been paving the way for their families to embrace this winter wonderland.

It is not uncommon for the kids of immigrant families to become the ambassadors, translators and interpreters of the new host culture and language – however many Hmong youth have found

that the Minnesota Hmong translation is not that easy. “There are simply no words for many ideas and concepts you have here,” remarked Kayeng Vang who works at Head Start and aids Hmong families in cross-cultural communication. “Words like computer, counselor, and permission slip – they don’t exist in Hmong. Therefore translation often becomes an explanation. This takes much longer because we need many words in Hmong to get across a single American idea.”

That has left the Hmong youth on the Anwatin Ski Team facing two challenges: how to explain why they like this strange self-propelled gliding sport with planks and poles so much, and secondly – what to call it? What has organically evolved to describe the activity they have grown to love is “gei-snow,” which translates into “riding snow” a hybrid term using Hmong and English to bridge their multicultural worlds. “Sometimes we say, ‘gei-naking’ said Mike Xiong who participated on the team as a 7th and 8th grader. “That means riding-ice.” “Ba!” Kao Zong shouted from across the group as she lifted her pole into the air, “stick!”



Pada Thao and KaoZong Vang take a break on the snowy trails. Photo by John Swain.

This past year there were four Hmong youth who participated on the team year-round. All competed in the City of Lakes Loppet and the Midwest Junior Championships. They continued their ski training into the summer, competing in anywhere from three to six mountain bike or running races with great success.

Currently there are not many Hmong athletes participating on high school cross-county ski teams, but that may all change soon. Many Hmong children are now being exposed to Loppet youth programming in their elementary schools, as well as through one of the Foundation’s two middle school programs. “These kids are not only enthusiastic, they are good!” said program coach Allie Rykken who already projects a changing guard on the Nordic front. “They are being exposed to skiing before most people who learn in high school. Given their technical and physical bases, they are going to enter these teams with a leg up on other students. We may see a Hmong state champ before we know it.”

The cold truth

By Kelly Benning, DVM

We always are warned from the “weather guy” when there is a risk of frostbite. What we tend to forget is that it also applies to our furry four-legged friends, too. Frostbite occurs when skin is exposed to prolonged freezing or subfreezing temperatures causing death of tissues. Blood supply to the exposed tissue is decreased when the blood vessels constrict to conserve body heat. All pets that go outside in the winter for any length of time are at risk.

It most commonly affects the tips of the ears, the tail, the scrotum and the toes. Normally, blood flow keeps these areas warm. But during extreme temperatures, a dog or cat can suffer frostbite very easily. Some pets are at higher risk for frostbite when on certain medications. Ask your veterinarian if your pet is at risk.

Dogs housed outdoors or cats that go outside are extremely susceptible to frostbite. Indoor dogs are also at risk, especially those with short hair coats or small and toy breeds. Even dogs that are historically snow dogs (malamutes, huskies, etc.) can get frostbite.

Signs of frostbite are fairly consistent but it can vary from mild to very severe. Frostbitten tissue may initially appear pale or gray, hard and cold. As the skin thaws, the pet will be very painful and the skin may look red. In cases of severe frostbite, tissue will eventually turn black and peel away or slough off.

If you suspect your pet has frostbite, see your veterinarian. Although total damage may not be evident for several days, it is important to have

a thorough physical exam. Your vet may prescribe pain relief medication, antibiotics and/or a topical ointment to protect the skin. Severe frostbite cases may require surgery or amputation.

So what can you do to protect your pets? First and foremost, if your dog lives outside, provide a warm shelter for relief from the elements. Have a heated water bowl to provide hydration at all times. A dehydrated pet is at higher risk for frostbite. If there is no reason for your pet to live outside, keep him or her indoors—especially cats. They tend to roam and get lost or get stuck in high snow drifts, unable to come home to curl up by the fire on your lap. If they must live outdoors and it is very cold or windy out, think about bringing them indoors, at least for the night.

When taking your pet on a walk, protect them from frostbite with warm pet clothing and boots. Luckily nowadays we are bombarded with cute little jackets, fleece and booties to adorn our pets in style. Not only will it give passersby a smile but it will keep Fido and Sassy cozy.



Keep some indoor color

By Debbie Nelson, Master Gardener
University of Minnesota Extension Service Hennepin County

Once all the holiday decorations are down and tucked away, my house always seems a bit drab and barren. There is one holdover from the season, however, that can add a bit of color to your otherwise sterile interior landscaping for many months to come – your holiday poinsettia. With a little bit of care and attention the poinsettia will stay bright and blooming for the remainder of the winter months and may even bloom again next year if you are willing to give it the treatment it needs.

Poinsettias are tropical plants that will not survive a Zone 4 winter. They can suffer chill injury at temperatures below 50° F and a frost will kill the plant. They also do not tolerate great fluctuations in temperatures. To prolong the bright red bracts, keep temperatures no greater than 70° F in the daytime and no less than 65° at night. They require a minimum of 6 hours of bright sunny daylight, so a south or east facing window is the ideal spot for them. Keep them far enough away from windows and heat registers to avoid drafts, excess heat or dry air.

Poinsettias like moist soil, but not too wet or dry. Keep a saucer under the pot and when water starts to come out of the bottom, you know you have watered enough. Discard the excess water from the saucer. Allowing the roots to sit in too much water can lead to root rot. There is no need to fertilize your plant during the holidays, but 6-8 weeks after you can water with a solution of 1/2 strength fertilizer. Within a few days you should see the start of lush green new growth. You can repeat the fertilization 6-8 weeks after the first application.

In April or May the bracts will start to fade and begin to dry up and fall off. When that happens

you should cut the whole plant back to 8 inches. This leaves a rather ugly plant; bunch of bare, forlorn stems, but by the end of May you should new growth emerging and you should make sure that the plant is placed near a sunny window during the summer months. You can even place the plant outside but bring it in if temperatures are going to fall below 50° at night.

Poinsettias are what are referred to as photoperiod plants. This means that they set buds and produce flowers as the days shorten and there are less hours of direct sunlight. If you want your poinsettia to flower again you must provide a minimum of 14 hours of total darkness for 6-8 weeks beginning around the first of October. The best way to ensure this is to put the plant in a closet at night; one that you know will not be opened for at least 14 hours since even the slightest amount of stray artificial light will slow or stop the re-flowering process. The night time temperatures should be between 60° and 70° so make sure the closet does not get too cold at night. And be sure to take your plant out of the closet each day! It requires 6-8 hours of bright sunlight each day, which can become difficult as we approach the holidays. If you are diligent about practicing this routine you should be rewarded with a poinsettia flowers surrounded by brightly colored bracts by Christmas.

And finally to dispel the rumor that poinsettias are poisonous, the University of Ohio did extensive research to show that they are not harmful to humans or animals. Of course they are not meant for human consumption either, only for the colorful beauty they can add to your interior environment.

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Lowry Avenue Bridge arch installation begins

The new bridge is taking shape over the Mississippi River between North and Northeast Minneapolis. In mid-December the contractor began installing the Lowry Avenue Bridge arches.

"The arches are the exclamation points on this marvel of modern infrastructure. When this process is complete, we'll have the signature connection between North and Northeast Minneapolis that has been envisioned from the start, and will be a staple of this region for 100-plus years," said Hennepin County Commissioner Mark Stenglein.

The contractor began begin by lifting the south arch, alternating pieces between the east and west banks of the river, followed by lifting the north arch. A crane lifted each of the 22 pieces – nine pieces per arch and four connecting pieces – into place. The arches will eventually form a basket handle design, but the process is detailed and tedious work, and it will be some time before a recognizable arch is visible.

Weather permitting, work will continue throughout the winter, with the following milestones: Late December – The first four segments, base pieces weighing approximately 130,000 pounds each, will be installed. Early January – The segments reaching out over the Mississippi River, which weigh approximately 70-80,000 pounds each, will be installed. Mid-January – The last piece of the arch will be lifted into place. The next steps will involve installing the cables and lights, starting in February. Info at www.lowryavenuebridge.com.



Fourth Ward Report

Council Member Barbara A. Johnson

Phone: 673-2204 Fax: 673-3940

Web page: www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward4

Contact Form: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/contact/email-form-johnson.asp>

Budget includes no property-tax increase, major street improvements, and focus on jobs and safety in 2012

The Minneapolis City Council unanimously approved the City's 2012 budget based on Mayor R.T. Rybak's proposal, which included no increase to the City's property-tax levy and investments in major street improvements. The newly-adopted 2012 City budget makes a major new capital investment in street improvements and invests in the coordinated One Minneapolis initiative to reduce racial inequity in unemployment. The budget also maintains investments in public safety that have lowered violent crime citywide to historic lows, and eliminates no positions in the Fire Department. The 2012 budget is 9 percent lower than it was 10 years ago, and will include 12 percent fewer fulltime positions. Since 2002, the City has paid down or avoided \$183 million in debt and at the same time successfully restored its AAA credit rating. Earlier this year, the Mayor and City Council approved a successful negotiation to merge two closed City pension funds with the State's public-employee retirement system that averted a \$20 million tax increase that would have been forced on taxpayers in 2012. The 2012 budget also invests \$150 million in street improvements over the next five years, 60 percent more than had been planned. The City will spend \$9 million more in street improvements in 2012 than previously planned, and \$23 million more in 2013. Visit the City's website at www.minneapolismn.gov for more information about the 2012 budget.

Minneapolis reduces pet license fees

It will now cost less for you to license your cat or dog. The City of Minneapolis is reducing pet license fees in an effort to get more people to license their pets. Beginning January 2012, the annual license fee for a spayed/neutered pet drops from \$30 to \$25. A \$15 discount was also created for those individuals with limited incomes or those re-

ceiving public assistance. This new license type mirrors the existing discount for seniors age 65 or older. Pet licensing is a major component of Minneapolis Animal Care & Control's mission to create safe and healthy communities for people and pets, and it's also the law. City ordinance requires the licensing of all dogs, cats, rabbits and ferrets. There are many benefits that come with licensing your pet. Licensed pets that stray away from home are three times more likely than unlicensed pets to be returned safely to their owners. If a licensed stray pet is picked up by Minneapolis Animal Care & Control or brought to the Animal Shelter, the animal gets a free ride home. Stray cats and dogs that come to the shelter without a visible license tag only have a 50 percent chance of going home. Licensing your pet also helps other pets. Pet license fees pay for: Basic veterinary and emergency care for all stray animals; bite, animal cruelty and dangerous animal investigations and enforcement; efforts to find homes for stray and abandoned animals; and enforcement of laws to ensure safe communities for people and pets

Licensing your pet is quick and easy. You can apply through the City by going online, calling 311, or visiting Minneapolis Animal Care & Control or the Minneapolis Development Review. Pet Licenses can also be purchased at two veterinary clinics – Westgate Pet Clinic and Minneapolis Veterinary Hospital – as well as with Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet. For more information visit the Minneapolis Animal Care & Control website: www.minneapolismn.gov/animal-control.

4th Ward E-Newsletter

Sign up for the 4th Ward E-mail newsletter at: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/contact/email-form-johnson.asp> In "questions/comments" type "newsletter" and you will be added to the list.

A generous gift to the community

By Sue Quist

Twas the season for gift giving and some of the best gifts are those that are unexpected. This was the case for the Friends of Webber Park Library on December 3. The late and beloved community member, Edna C. Downing, left a \$10,000 bequest to Webber Park Library in her estate. Nancy Grimme and Lynn Price are the executors of the Edna Downing Estate and Nancy Grimme presented the check to the Friends group at their December meeting. Nancy talked about Edna's lifelong commitment to children, education and to the Webber-Camden community. She said Edna wanted the money to be used to improve literacy and to benefit children, just as her life's work did.

Edna Downing received a B.S. in English from the U of M College of Education in 1941 and a Masters Degree in Education, from Macalester College. She was a life-long English teacher, literacy advocate, administrator and consultant. The U of M awarded Edna the 2004 Outstanding Achievement Award, considered to be the U's highest honor, for her contributions to education, in particular her newspapers in education curriculum. The book, titled *How to Read and Use the Newspaper in Classroom*, was selected

as the Best Book Written by an Educator, by the American Newspaper Foundation. Edna Downing's contributions to our community were innumerable and included the Edna Carolyn Downing Scholarship for English Education and the Patrick Henry Partnership Project with the U of M. The U's Fall 2004 Link publication quoted Edna regarding her goals as a teacher. She said she hoped her students would be "successful and encouraged through my classes. That's the test — it's not just subject matter, but it's people opening up and expanding their horizons through language and literature."

The Friends of Webber Park Library are looking forward to continuing Edna's work of supporting literacy initiatives in our community. Friends treasurer, Kate Peterson said, "Naturally, we are both thrilled and honored...this is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference in our community!" Remarking on her role as executor, Nancy Grimme said, "I have been blessed to have her in my life. It's been a pleasure to be her executor." The Friends are planning to formally recognize her gift in 2012. Edna C. Downing died in 2008, but her legacy lives on in the generosity she has shown to our community.

Camden Cooking

By Marie Porter

With the start of the new year, it's time for those new resolutions. You know, the ones that we may or may not actually follow through on! As always, the most popular resolutions seem to revolve around health, whether it's to lose weight, become more active, or eat healthier. While you're on your own for the first two, with this month's recipe I can help you out with the latter!

Kale chips are cheap and easy to make, and way more delicious than simply-prepared greens have any right to be! You'd be surprised how fast one can plow through an entire head of kale, when made this way. It's a great way to sneak some extra greens into your diet. My husband and I both prefer them to potato chips, and they never last long around here.

While kale is most popular for making these, many other hearty greens work well also. Try your favorite - baby spinach makes papery, delicate chips. Mustard greens make spicy, chips with a bit of heft to them. Collard greens, chard - any of the dark leafy greens work well with this recipe.

Kale Chips

Kale (I usually do about 3 bunches for a batch)
Olive oil spray
salt

Preheat oven to 350F. Line several cookie sheets with parchment paper, spray with olive oil. Wash kale, and shake/towel/spin dry. Cut the hard "ribs" out of the leaves, and rip leaves into pieces. Arrange kale leaves on cookie sheets, so that they are tightly spaced, but not overlapping - they will shrink down as they bake. Spray olive oil across the tops, then sprinkle with a little salt. (Feel free to try other seasonings; curry powder, onion salt, celery salt - whatever you're into!)

Bake kale 1 sheet at a time for 11-13 minutes, or until completely dry. Cool a little, then enjoy! These are great fresh out of the oven, but can also be put aside for later - if they last!

Marie Porter is an award winning baker, and the author of two cookbooks. She has resided in Camden since early 2011, along with her husband and four cats. Check out additional recipes on her food/lifestyle blog at www.celebrationgeneration.com.

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Webber Library *continued from page 2*

funding that is left for this project or are there other funds available beyond 2015? There is \$7.9 million allocated for the project to date; of that amount, \$1.9 million has been expended; future allocations are \$0 for 2012; \$0 for 2013; \$2 million for 2014; \$2 million for 2015.

As you know, Webber Park is getting a \$4 million dollar aquatic make-over next year. This seems like an opportune time for the county and the park board to collaborate and get more "bang for their bucks" in terms of these two capital projects. Is the county willing to look at other locations for the New Webber Park library with the park board? No. The County has purchased all but one parcel needed for the site and Commissioner Stenglein and I are not interested in purchasing unrelated property. Valerie Holler acknowledged in the *Camden News* last year that the Hollers' rental property was for sale in the early part of 2007. Pursuant to that property's availability, the County purchased the four nearby properties and met several times with the Hollers, attempting to purchase their rental property. Our staff reported to us that they would only sell for \$1 million or more, then insisted that the property was no longer for sale. We remain interested in purchasing the rental property for fair-market value, doing everything we can to assist them in relocating their glass-block operation, and building this library.

Of the \$12 million dollars allotted to this project, how much has been invested in property at this point? Approximately \$1.4 million. A good share of that involved buying excess property associated with the Kowalski's parcels that did not front the parkway. Eventually, the part of that property not needed for the library will be made available for sale.

If property that was purchased for this capital project is not utilized for this project, will those dollars be lost or will they be added back into the budget? My philosophy is that this neighborhood deserves a new, world-class, green and sustainable library. This is a long-term decision that warrants patience. Commissioner Stenglein and I stepped up

to advocate for enough funding to get this done. But we will not agree to build it in a subpar location due to a single property owner—not after successfully acquiring four nearby parcels, and especially not after the remaining property was once listed for sale. It is my hope that we can maintain support for this funding long enough to purchase the site and build the library.

Can you give the community any indication of when this project will move forward (is the county willing to commit to a solution for this project other than the current stand-off)? If the Hollers remain unwilling to sell their rental property, it may become the best option to consider a slight increase in library service at the existing Webber Library for the foreseeable future. Increasing hours of operation is simply not under consideration at any other library site. But Webber poses a unique situation.

I was born and raised in North Minneapolis. I am proud to represent my district's area in North Minneapolis. I reject the idea that North Minneapolis should once again settle for second- or third-best. One can call this a standoff, but my attitude is one of patience and prudence. We will not invest precious resources on a subpar library on a subpar site. We will not pay \$1 million for the rental property that's needed. We will wait and hope that its owners, who once had the property for sale, will accept fair market value and allow the community to move forward on this important project.

Despite their manipulation of this process, the Hollers are long-time residents in our community and I hope they will one day be partners with us on building a new library. After all, this community deserves a new library.

The Holler family attended the & General Government Meeting on December 6, 2011. They gave public testimony regarding the County Commissioner's insistence that the new library will only be built on the site of their property. Their testimony can be viewed on the County website at the following link: http://hennepinmn.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=10&clip_id=1.

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Thanks to all of you who donated to the *Camden News* in the past - we appreciate your support. You know that newspapers around the country are failing due to decreased advertising revenue.

It's very likely that someday the *Camden News* will be an online only newspaper. We had the foresight to set up our website 13 years ago, before most U.S. businesses and residents even had Internet access. But the Camden Community has a disproportionate amount of seniors and low income residents who still don't have a computer or Internet access. As long-time Camden resident Dorothy Hase says, "I enjoy the paper...I hope you never stop publishing. I and many of my friends do not have a computer, so where would we get our local news?"

The *Camden Community News* has been serving the com-

munity for 36 years, and wants to continue printing and delivering free to residents until the need no longer exists. But if we don't get donations from you and ad money from businesses we won't be able to publish and mail a hard copy newspaper.

We have a very lean budget for a small nonprofit organization. It costs about \$5000 a month to publish the *Camden News* — that includes printing, labeling, postage, business delivery, typesetting, bookkeeping, editing, taxes, insurance and all the other basic costs of running a small business. Our ad revenues have fallen dramatically and our monthly expenses currently exceed our revenues by about \$600 each month. We come to you twice a year to help supplement ad revenue losses, but we typically only get enough in donations for the total year to pay for one issue of the *Camden News*.

The *Camden News* is a non-profit, volunteer-run, volunteer-written newspaper delivered free to all Camden homes. Our mission has been the same since 1975: To build bridges, connect neighborhoods, encourage citizen participation, promote local events, people and businesses, and provide a forum for folks who care about the quality of life here in Camden. So please send in a generous tax-deductible contribution to *Camden News* PO Box 11492, Minneapolis, MN 55411. You can save the footwork and stamp and donate online at camdennews.org; click on the Paypal button (you don't need a Paypal account). And please send us your comments and suggestions.

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Highlights from Holiday on 44th

The weather was not frightful, and the evening was delightful. Folks came out to celebrate community at the annual Holiday on 44th event on December 3. All along 44th Avenue folks enjoyed free horse-drawn hayrides, pony rides, fire jugglers, ice sculpturing, wood carving, the Workhouse Theatre's *The Polar Express*, a huge arts and crafts fair, choruses, blues band, face painters, "make and take" gingerbread houses, the Great Bodini magic show, the Amazing Cow Boat puppet show, and caroling. Below are some photo highlights, courtesy of Duane Atter.



Proud bird feeder builders.



One of the ice sculptures.



The Great Brodini amazes.



Pony rides were popular.



Santa makes an appearance.

HOLIDAY ON FORTY FOURTH

A heartfelt thanks from the Holiday on 44th Steering Committee

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 Elizabeth Roth Kotek and the PHHS Band,.

The Steering Committee includes:

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Community History

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Behind the Victory Flagpole – What year is this?

By Barbara Meyer Bistodeau



The Henry gridders made their initial appearance in the city league this year. The team was coached by two very able men, George Conklin and Bill Lundell. They played five games in the city league and showed the entire city the high type of sportsmanship, which they exercise. This year produced more intense rivalry than ever before, which binds the fellows and their opposition together in a common bond of friendship. Today the youth of America do fight—yes, but in a manner to test the other fellow’s strength and alertness. Rather than “dropping bombs” they believe in “passing balls.” If you have guessed the year, 1941,

you are right.

Now, what year is this? Henry defeats North! Henry defeats Central! Those were but two of the many thrills that followed in the wake of the first season in the city league for the Henry gridders. Paced by Stan Schwartz and Jim Shaft, two of the finest backs in the city, George Conklin’s boys upset the predictions of the experts and the rule of tradition by defeating two squads during their first year, one of them their arch-rival, North High School. But defeating North wasn’t enough for the boys, for they also took a thriller from Central, and handed Edison, South and Marshall plenty of trouble before bowing to superior reserves. Yes, this was the team in 1942.

Here is the final quiz—notice there is a new coach. Frank Cleve’s mighty mites from Henry stole the headlines from the championship Edison club, and reigned as “king of the upsets.” The Pats wound up their season with 5 upsets in 7 games, and it brought them 4th place in the league standings. They were figured to win one game this year—against Southwest. The Pats beat Southwest 28-0. The games they weren’t supposed to win—South, Roosevelt, Vocational, Marshall and North—that’s something else again. Marshall and North were supposed to win by 2 or 3 touchdowns, so Henry tied them both. South and Roosevelt were one touchdown choices- the Pats beat both of them. Vocational was predicted to win by a point or two, but Henry came out on top, 32-0. And therein you have an envious record for any football coach. This glorious year of your final quiz was 1943!

Note: Taken from three Patrick Henry Orator year-books of the dates in the quiz.

Workhouse Theatre Company continues 6th Season

By Alissa Blaeser

Workhouse Theatre Company (WTC) was hard at work this past December, and will continue to be busy bringing quality theatre to our very own Northside in 2012. Early on last month, WTC performed staged readings of *The Polar Express* as part of Camden’s Holiday on 44th celebration. The evening featured Northside resident Elizabeth Gjertson, Ryan Henderson, and WTC Artistic Director Alissa Blaeser.



Staged readings of *The Polar Express* were performed by (l-r) Ryan Henderson, Elizabeth Gjertson and Alissa Blaeser.

A few Northside artists recently took part in WTC’s second show of their current season, *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*. The show had a successful run in December at The Warren, and featured the talents of Anissa Brazill Gooch, Richard Jackson, and Northsiders Ben Tallen and Noë Tallen. The production was directed by WTC Executive Director Mark Webb, and stage managed by Duane Atter.

Next up on WTC’s agenda this season is *Talley’s Folly*, Lanford Wilson’s Pulitzer Prize-winning story about Matt, a Jewish refugee, and Sally, the black sheep of the prosperous Talley family. A love story set on Independence Day in 1944, Matt has come to rural Missouri to woo Sally, but has been run off the place by her anti-Semitic brothers, and has taken refuge in the family’s dilapidated boathouse by the river. Sally sneaks away to tell Matt to leave her alone, but she may have another agenda. Over the course of a magical evening, the two of them begin to wonder if perhaps they’ll fit together. The production is WTC’s third this season, and is directed by Mark Hauck. The show runs February 24 through March 11, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. There will be a special pay what you can performance on Monday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and info visit www.workhousetheatre.org.


Webber Park *continued from page 1*

held in late January or February. The Park Planning Committee and full Park Board will have the opportunity to approve the preferred master plan and community members can address the board with their opinions. If the design is approved construction should begin in 2012 and the people of our community can look forward to swimming in 2013.

Patience is a virtue; I’ve been told that many times and it seems we get many opportunities to develop this virtue. I’m looking forward to seeing my neighbors in the park, on the rink and at the pool. For more info or to make a comment go to <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1286>.



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McKinley Community Office
 Center for Families, 3333 North 4th Street, room 1
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 Email: mckinleycommunity@yahoo.com
 Website: www.mckinleycommunity.com

A new home
 We closed on our purchase of Jerry’s Flower Shop, 3300 Lyndale Avenue North, on December 16. We are excited to take over the building for our neighborhood office, future meeting space and the hub for our urban farm project, the McKinley Community CSA. We will begin moving in as we get things cleaned up in the store and packed up in the old office space, so stay tuned for our new phone number. Email and web content will remain the same.

We would like to thank the Center for Families for their great partnership over the last several years as we have called that building home. We still may have the occasional meeting there if we need a larger space to use. We would also like to thank the McKnight Foundation and the Pohlrad Family Foundation for their generosity in helping us with the purchase of the building. We secured \$75,000 combined from these great organizations, **thank you!** Lastly, a huge thanks goes out to Jim Walston of Lindquist & Vennum law firm and Paul Donovan from NorthMarq for the countless hours of pro-bono work they have done on our behalf in securing this purchase.

Community Meetings are for all!
 Come on down to the Community Meeting and discuss general neighborhood topics, or come to the Crime and Safety Meeting and work with fellow neighbors and the police to resolve criminal and livability issues that affect you. Meeting times and dates below, we hope to see you there.


Know a senior who needs help with raking, shoveling or other chores?
Chore Program - low-cost home maintenance services such as routine housecleaning, seasonal jobs, lawn care, **snow removal** and minor repairs. Aimed at helping seniors living in their homes (individuals 60 and over). Call 612-374-3322.

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 The McKinley Community has a great home improvement loan that is managed by Center for Energy and the Environment and carries an interest rate of only 3%! The application process is easy and loan amounts can be between \$2000 and \$15,000. Call 612-276-1541 for details.

McKinley Calendar of Events

McKinley Community Meeting Monday, January 2, 7 p.m., Center for Families, 3333 N. 4th St.
McKinley Board of Directors Meeting No Board Meeting in January; resumes February 13
Crime/Safety Meeting Monday, January 23, 6:30 p.m., Center for Families, 3333 N. 4th St.
McKinley Community Meeting Monday, February 6, 7 p.m., 3300 Lyndale Avenue North
****NEW LOCATION****



CNA Cleveland Neighborhood Association
 P.O. Box 11635 • Minneapolis, MN 55411
 CNA Office is located at Lucy Craft Laney at Cleveland Park School
 Phone: 612-588-1155 Fax: 612-588-1151
cna@clevelandneighborhood.org • website: <http://www.clevelandneighborhood.org>

CNA seeks Community Coordinator
 The Cleveland Neighborhood Association (CNA) is seeking to hire a community coordinator. The Community Coordinator will be responsible for the professional leadership and management of the CNA. The Community Coordinator, working in concert with the Board of Directors and volunteers will move the organization forward in the development and implementation of goals that reflect the CNA’s vision. A complete job description and the compensation package are available on the CNA website: www.clevelandneighborhood.org or from the CNA office. **To Apply:** Please send resume, cover letter, and salary requirements to: cna@clevelandneighborhood.org or Search Committee, Cleveland Neighborhood Association, PO Box 11635, Minneapolis, MN 55411. Application Deadline: Monday, January 31.

Petition opposing a convenience store on Lowry Avenue
 There is proposal to reopen a gas station/convenience store at 2618 Lowry Avenue, the former Super America site. When operating as a Super America, the activities that were occurring on the property, unchecked by management, had an adverse impact on the safety and livability of the neighborhood. Because CNA also feels that there are sufficient grocery and gas stations in proximity to serve the needs of the Cleveland and adjacent neighborhoods, they are circulating a petition opposing a convenience store opening at 2618 Lowry Avenue North. If you have concerns about another convenience store opening on Lowry Avenue please sign the petition and consider circulating it to your neighbors. Tooties on Lowry, who experienced all of the negative activities occurring at the Super America, is deeply concerned about a convenience store opening next to them and has petitions available for residents to sign. The petition is also available from the CNA office. Call 612-588-1155 or e-mail cna@clevelandneighborhood.org.

Cleveland February Follies – February 12
 Save the date for the first ever Cleveland February Follies to be held the afternoon of Sunday, February 12. Come on down to Victory Memorial Drive between 34th and 36th Avenues North and try some snow shoes and cross country skis, participate in snow sculpturing, relay races and games, and enjoy hot dogs and hot chocolate. Save the date for family fun.

Community Calendar

The *Camden Community News* accepts free calendar items with priority placement going to free events for families in the Camden Community. Keep your items short — send the event basics (who, what, when, where, why, etc.), highlight and contact info to editor@camdenews.org. Send your item in the style listed below: day, date, event, location, etc. We never guarantee your calendar item will be printed — if you want to guarantee your event gets in the *Camden News* you may place an inexpensive paid ad to support the non-profit *Camden News* — see info on pages 2 and 11. And businesses can help the *Camden News* promote local events by sponsoring the Community Calendar, and get your business name out there — it's only \$50 per month. Call 521-3060.

Arts

Ongoing Mondays - The Northside Arts Collective board of directors meets on the first Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. Email info@nacarts.org for location.

Ongoing Mondays - Artist Roundtable meets monthly on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. Email info@nacarts.org or visit www.nacarts.org for location.

Ongoing - Join the fun at Camden Music School for winter term, Jan. 9-Mar. 17. For people of all ages, experience levels and interests. Choose from Musikgarten early childhood classes, vocal and instrumental lessons, music theory and songwriting classes — including rock 'n roll, hand drums, choir, string jamming. Special family rates, discounts/scholarships available. Scholarship deadline noon, Jan. 3. www.camdenmusicschool.com, 612-618-0219, info@camdenmusicschool.com. Classes at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 3751 Sheridan N., and Grace Church 1500 6th St. NE.

Church Events

Ongoing - Clothes Closet at North United Methodist Church, 44th and Fremont, from 9 a.m.-noon the first Saturday of each month and the first Monday each month from 6-8 p.m. Donations accepted when open or see if there is some clothing you may need. If unable to get to NUMC during open times, call the church at 612-522-4497.

Ongoing third Sundays - Breakfast and a Bag. The Joint Ministries of Evangelist Temple, Brooklyn Center Hispanic Seventh Day Adventist and Gethsemane Lutheran host a free community breakfast from 8-10 a.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church on 47th and Colfax. When you are finished with breakfast and coffee you are welcome to take a bag of groceries home with you.

Friday, 1/20 - Frosty Family Fun, 5-8 p.m. at Webber Park. North United Methodist Church (44th and Fremont) serving free chili inside with s'mores on the parking lot. Enjoy popcorn, hot chocolate, Pickles the Clown, music and roast marshmallows at the bonfire. Info: 612-521-2100 or 612-370-4916.

Classes and Workshops

Third Tuesdays - Seniors with diabetes support group, 10-11:30 a.m., Webber Park Community Center, 4141 Webber Pkwy. Call Dot Hase, 521-1182, or American Diabetes Assn., 593-5333. Free.

Ongoing Wednesdays - TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 7 p.m., Webber Park.

Thursday, 1/12 - Attention all employed single moms! Trapped in a job that doesn't pay enough? Career counselors help you increase your income, get a promotion or develop a new career path. Women Achieving New Directions offers individual counseling and on-going career development workshops on goal setting, job search and salary negotiation. Networking workshop, 6-8 p.m., 2143 Lowry. On-site child care and light meal provided. Call 612-752-8554.

Community Events

Ongoing - Hennepin County low-cost immunizations. Brookdale Service Center, 6125 Shingle Creek Road, Jan. 24, 9 to 11 a.m. Hennepin Health Services Building, 525 Portland Ave. S., Jan. 6, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Info: 612-348-2884 or www.hennepin.us/vaccines. Donations requested but not required.

Ongoing - Free tax preparation for seniors and low income persons at North Regional Library and Oak Park Center. Trained and certified AARP Tax-Aide volunteers help with personal income tax, rent credit, property tax refunds and other tax issues. Bring photo ID, Social Security Cards for yourself and your family, and tax documents from employers, pensions, banks, etc. If you rent, bring the 2011 CRP certificate from your landlord. If you are a homeowner bring your property tax statement payable in 2012. Bring last year's tax return and anything important. Tax prep begins at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry, Feb. 1, and continues on Wed., 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.-April 11, and Sat. beginning Feb. 4 and continuing Sat., 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., thru April 14. First come first served basis. Oak Park Center, 1701 Oak Park N., tax prep begins Feb. 6 and continues every Mon. thru April 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 612-377-7000 for appointment. Appointments get preference but walk-ins accepted if Tax-Aide Counselors are available.

Ongoing Mondays - Fare For All Express. Save up to 40 percent on frozen meats and fresh fruits and vegetables. North Community YMCA, 1711 West Broadway, 5-7 p.m. Next distribution Jan. 9. Info 763-450-3880 or www.fareforall.org.

Monday, 1/16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, 6:30-7:30 p.m., 4055 Nicollet Ave. S. Features MPS Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson, and Sha Cage, local actress, artist and playwright. MPRB presents its Living the Dream award to Reverend Jerry McAfee of New Salem Baptist Church. Bring a

non-perishable food item to donate. Refreshments available. Info: www.minneapolisparcs.org or 612-230-6400.

Saturday, 1/21 - Shingle Creek Sliding Hill Extraganza, noon-3 p.m., 50th and Logan. Bonfires, smores, hot coco, hot dogs and sledding on the best sliding hill in Camden. Info: www.scna-mpls.org.

Ongoing - Public open houses on Bottineau Transitway. Project is soliciting public comment through Feb. 17. Bottineau Corridor follows Bottineau Blvd. (Highway 81), extending 13 miles from downtown Minneapolis through North Minneapolis to the northwest suburbs of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, Osseo and Robbinsdale. Public meetings: Jan. 23, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Theodore Wirth Chalet, 1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Jan. 24, 6-8 p.m., Brooklyn Park City Hall, 5200 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park; Jan. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center, 2001 Plymouth Ave. N.; and Jan. 31, 6-8 p.m., Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Ave. N., Robbinsdale Info: 612-348-9710 or www.hennepin.us.

Libraries

Ongoing: There's always lots to do at North Regional and Webber Libraries. For a complete program/class calendar list visit <http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/>.

Parks

Sunday, 1/1 - New Year's Day Snowshoe Hike, 1-3 p.m., Kroening Interpretive Center. Enjoy snowshoeing through the park and view the winter Mississippi. Warm up afterwards with cocoa and bird- and squirrel-watching. We will take a winter hike if there is not enough snow for snowshoeing. Snowshoes are provided or bring your own. \$5, ages 8+.

Sunday, 1/ 8 - Free Family Funday: Bird Bonanza 1-3 p.m., Kroening Interpretive Center, North Mississippi Regional Park. A bird in the hand and three in the bush! Use education mounts for an in-the-hand look at some common Minnesota birds. Practice using binoculars and bird I.D. skills in an I-Spy game. Answer which bird feeder or bird food is the favorite of the river's feathered friends and why. Free, open to all ages.

Tuesday, 1/10 - Snowshoe Through History -10 a.m.-noon, at Kroening Interpretive Center. Cross-country skiing, sledding and snowshoeing are lifelines for people throughout history. Hear stories from snowshoeing in the French and Indian War to skiing

in Norway during World War II. Share stories, hot beverages, then snowshoe or hike to relive some of these events. Snowshoes provided; all abilities welcome. Cost \$5, reservations required. Call 763-559-6700.

Wednesday, 1/11 - My Baby & Me & The Mississippi: Sensory Exploration, 10-11 a.m., at Kroening Interpretive Center. Join other parents with small children the same age for a Sensory Discovery program. Tickle little feet with feathers, blow bubbles and feel animal furs as we explore the origin of each object. Ages birth to 2 with adult. Cost \$5, reservations required, call 763-559-6700.

Saturday, 1/14 - Winter Nature on Snowshoes, 1-3 p.m., Kroening Interpretive Center. Meander through prairie and woodlands on snowshoes as you explore with a naturalist — beginners welcome. Warm up with snacks and a warm beverage by a cozy fire. Snowshoes provided. Hike if no snow. Cost \$5, reservations required. Call 763-559-6700

Neighborhood meetings

For more info on your neighborhood see pages 8 and 9.

Cleveland, 588-1155, January 18, 7 p.m., Board Meeting, Lucy Laney School

Folwell, 521-2100, January 9, Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., FNA Office

Lind Bohanon, 588-7641, January 5, Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Shingle Creek Commons

McKinley, 276-1541, January 2, Community Meeting, 7 pm, Center for Families, 3333 N. 4th St.

Shingle Creek, 588-4817, January 10, Neighborhood Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Creekview Park

Victory, 529-9558, January 25, 7 p.m., Warren, 4400 Osseo Road

Webber-Camden, 521-2100, January 5, Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., WCNO Office

NRP continued from page 1

ministrative costs." In another action, the City Council defeated an amendment by Council Member Schiff that would have recognized the November 17 NRP Elections results and provided for the four neighborhood representatives to the NRP Policy Board to be elected by the neighborhood organizations. Representatives from 39 neighborhood organizations had attended and voted at the NRP Neighborhood Representative Elections. Instead, the City Council's adopted actions provide for four neighborhood representatives to the reestablished NRP Policy Board, but those representatives are to be appointed by the NCEC from members of the NCEC. The NCEC subsequently met on December 20 and voted to appoint Commissioners Christopher Hoffer, Ali Warsame, Jeffrey Strand, and Carol Pass for interim terms ending June 2012. The "new" NRP Policy Board reestablished in January 2012 under the Revised Ordinance will have no sunset provision and consistent with Minnesota Statutes (2010), Section 469.1831, subd. 6, have membership from the Mayor or designee, the City Council, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Board of Education, Special School District No. 1, and the Board of Hennepin County Commissioners, and a representative from the Minneapolis' House of Representatives delegation and Minneapolis' State Senate delegation.

Details on all the proposed and final changes may be obtained from the City of Minneapolis NCR Department website <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/index.htm> with links to the NCEC and "Changes for Neighborhoods," or contact NCR staff at ncr@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3737.

Editor's Note/Disclosure: The writer is a City Council appointee to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission for a term ending June 2012 and served 2001-2002 and 2004-2011 as the elected Protection Neighborhoods Representative/Alternate on the NRP Policy Board. The writer does not represent either the NCEC or the NRP Policy Board in writing this article for Camden News.

Resources

Ongoing: Drugs and drug addiction are problems our community struggles with. Get help at **Narcotics Anonymous**. No fees or dues. Meet Thursday, 5 p.m. 42nd Ave. Station, 4171 Lyndale Ave. N.; or Sundays at 7 p.m. at St. Bridget's Rectory, 3811 Emerson. Info at naminnesota.org/ or call 952-939-3939.

February

Saturday, 2/25 - Camden Lions/Henry Leos in Action Annual Pancake fundraiser, 8-11 a.m., Webber Park Building. To benefit the Patrick Henry Leos in Action, a student organization dedicated to community service and volunteerism. \$6 per person or \$25 for 5 tickets, price includes pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice. Info/tickets: contact Rosa Costain at 612-668-1970 or rosa.costain@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Camden Arts

Anthony Rocco Sclavi

Painting and drawing artist, creative director and guitarist

By Mick LaBriola

Anthony Rocco Sclavi has a riveting, high-intense energy that is as contagious as it is captivating. He has managed to harness this ubiquitous reservoir of insight and implement it into his art work.

Anthony is a freelance artist, whose focus has been in painting and drawing in the fields of Abstract and Representational. He is also the Creative Director for BRIO Books (<http://www.briobooks.com/>); a book-publishing service for self-publishing authors and small presses. And when Anthony has spare time he plays guitar and records in the studio. Check out his website <http://www.sclavi.net>.

Anthony has lived in the Camden neighborhood for five years. He is a full-time dad raising his 5 1/2-year-old son Rocco. Anthony's brother Dan also shares the home; Dan also works for BRIO at their warehouse in Northeast Minneapolis in shipping and receiving.

Anthony recalls, "I remember while attending kindergarten trying to replicate the rooster on the Corn Flakes box, and since then I've had an affinity toward roosters. In the Chinese horoscope I am the rooster! I started working with oil paint at about 12 years old and further cultivated my art interest taking summer classes at the University of Wisconsin-Superior at about 13." Anthony grew up in Superior, Wisconsin. Throughout high school Anthony took three art classes per year, later continuing art studies at the U of M in Duluth.

Next, Anthony had a four-year hiatus, redirecting his focus from painting and drawing to music. He played guitar with the heavy metal band Outside the Fences during this period. He finally returned to his academic pursuits, and received his B.A. in Studio Arts in 2007 from the U of M. Anthony currently plays guitar with a group called Manchild but primarily records; rarely performing live. He began his musical pursuits at 12.

Anthony became very enterprising while transitioning from academia to the job market. Very excitedly articulat-

ing, "While bartending at Cafe Havana I was able to market my freelance paintings to customers." This was indeed remarkable. "And in 2008 while pounding the streets for work I had a lucky break. I had been working at Hotel Sofitel with my friend Dan and one day I randomly met with Dan at the BRIO and surprisingly there was a job opening for an illustrator. I was able to show my portfolio to BRIO President Will Reynolds, got hired and remained there ever since."

As to Anthony's art work he says, "I work from either the abstract or the representational/realistic point of view. I can take the traditional approach to represent an image as it really is or experiment with mixing work with multiple medias like sound, video, photography, etc. I am interested in a unifying approach, problem-solving. I have to make a decision and be involved. I am interested in the process, not concerned with the end result. Is the process separate or combined? Process is vital." This idea is exemplified in the genre of the Psycho Thriller, as demonstrated in film and the art world. Mentors of this genre are vast such as; David Lynch/film, Edward Hopper/paintings, Wendy White/photography, Liza Lou/bead art and Adrian Ghein/painter.

Anthony has been substantially influenced by the abstract expressionist Robert Rauschenberg who would implement used materials to his work called "Combines," and psychologist William Glasser of the "Choice Theory" creating a new psychology of personal freedom. Anthony says, "I have had two goals of expressing, one of a no pre-conceived notion, and two that of the classical approach; but I feel I am about to leave this process and explore new art work. I have been studying figure drawing at The Atelier Lack Studio, and I want to explore the human body."

Anthony has had his work displayed in a spectacular variety of venues: Milwaukee Art Museum, Tweed Museum of Fine Art, NoName Exhibitions at the Soap Factory, Walker Art Center, Patrick's Cabaret, Acadia Cabaret,



Rogue Buddha Gallery, Intermedia Arts, The National Theater for Children, The House, Babylon International Gallery, Alley Show, Red Door, The Fallout, Manhattan Arts and Antiques, Wakefield Studios, Red Hot Air Festival, Kinship Mentoring, Stevens Community Center, Minneapolis Institute of Art, New Art Center (Manhattan), Duet Exhibit at Maggie's Garden (NYC), TBA Lounge (Brooklyn) and more.

"I spent my 20's like a work-horse, now I am ready to do my work. I am in no hurry to develop my original work. I want to give myself 10 years to open it up and study and grow. I think of irony and truth; all media is a lie, like representational work trying to convince someone your work is real. I think of artists like Tonja Torgerson working with silkscreen who has multiple sclerosis, exploring illness and art or artists that have isolated themselves on islands near Nova Scotia, the Apostle Islands or even Madeleine Island. They have isolated themselves to focus, to really focus and produce art."

Worship in Camden



Luther Memorial Lutheran

3751 Sheridan Ave. N.
(corner of Sheridan and Dowling)
Phone: 522-3639
Choir Rehearsal 9 a.m.
Service of Communion 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour/ Education 11:15 a.m.
Growing Tree for Elementary Age Children Saturdays, 1:30-4 p.m.
"From many cultures, together in one faith."
All are welcome
Nengyia Her, Senior Pastor
Carol Stumme, Asst. Pastor
Bee Vang, Pasotral Asst.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Emerson at 29th Ave. N.
612-529-7726
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 9 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Thursday Youth Group 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Dale Hulme
www.stolaf.lutheran.org
We welcome all, including gay and lesbian people.
Coming together to serve with the St. Olaf Residence
North Minneapolis Meals on Wheels
New Directions Youth Ministry

Classified Advertisements

Camden News classified ads are an effective and inexpensive way to reach residents. Your ad is placed on our website at no extra charge. To place an ad, contact ads@camdennews.org, or leave a message at our voice mailbox at 521-3060. Classified ads are 70 cents per word, \$7 minimum. If you want to box your ad, it's an additional \$10. Ads must be paid prior to publication. Send check to Camden News, P.O. Box 11492, Mpls. 55411 or pay with credit card via PayPal at www.camdennews.org.

Services

Carpet and upholstery cleaning. Two rooms starting at \$59. Owner/operator, 45 years experience. Dave, 612-721-5105 or cell 612-636-3073.

Handyman Services. Dependable quality work at a reasonable rate. Friendly service. Call Ray at 612-702-0999.

Furniture re-upholstery. Save grandma's chair and sofa! Owner/operator, 45 years experience. Dave, 612-721-5105 or cell 612-636-3073.

Yardworks Professional Lawn Service: Total yard and lawn care Licensed and Insured/On Angies List 20 plus years of serving the community. Free Estimates. Call 763-561-0711.

Painting, wall paper removal, small wall repair. Three rooms \$250. Jim 612-698-0840.

Quick Fix Repairs: Quality handyman services, local in our neighborhood, specializing in small home repairs and interior painting. Call Tom at 612-644-4125.

Professional snow removal services (snow blowers and shovels) at an affordable price. Call us at 612-267-4646 or email us at services@fjpestandlawn.com.

Does your small dog need to walk M-F? Call 612-521-1843.

Real Estate Sales or Service

Properties wanted for purchase: Camden area houses and duplexes. 612-522-0453.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Building a community of faith through God's faithfulness in our worship, fellowship, discipleship, service and evangelism

4350 Russell Ave. N.
44th Ave. N. & Russell Ave. N.
612-529-0686

www.faithbaptistmpls.com
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Kerry L. Bender
Senior Pastor
AWANA, 6:45 p.m.

St. Austin Catholic Church



41st & Thomas Ave. N.
Masses
T, W, Th, F - 8 a.m.
Sat. - 4:30 p.m.
Sun. - 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Reconciliation
Sat. 3:30-4 p.m. in the Reconciliation Room or by appointment
Fr. George Kallumkalkudy

529-9561
<http://StAustinCC.org>

Gethsemane Lutheran Church



4656 Colfax Ave. N.
612-521-3575

Adult Education 9 a.m. with Nursery
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Youth/Teens, 11 a.m.
Van service available
Pastor Jeff Nehrbass
ELCA

GethsemaneLutheranChurch@msn.com
www.glc-mpls.org

Christ English Lutheran Church

Oliver and Lowry
521-3493
Pre-school SS 9:30 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
All are welcome!
Free produce for neighborhood residents 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 8:30 a.m.
Free Community Dinner 4th Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Melissa Pohlman

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

4150 Dupont Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55412
612-521-3644
Schedule
8:30 a.m. Sunday School Breakfast
9 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum
Intergenerational Event 2nd Sunday 10:30 Worship
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
We are handicap accessible.
Interim Pastor Judy Burgett-Winzig
email: office@salem-elca.org;
Facebook: Salem Lutheran Church/ North Minneapolis
Website: salem-elca.org

NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

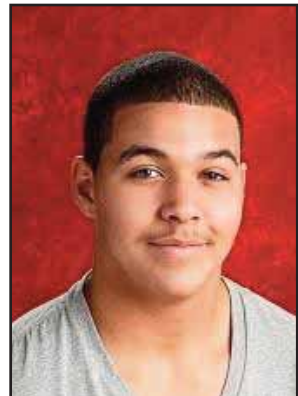
44th & Fremont Ave.
A Hate-Free Shalom Zone
Education 9 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Check our Facebook page: North United Methodist (UMC) - Minneapolis!
Disability friendly and accessible.
Worship is ASL interpreted.
Rev. Linda Koelman
Ch. 522-4497

Camden Youth & Schools

Wrestling is Patrick Henry's fastest growing sport

By Tom Murray

Patrick Henry currently has 32 wrestlers on our active roster. The wrestlers are all working very hard at practice and are excited to compete on the mat. Our biggest challenge this season is finding suitable practice space for this many wrestlers. We have trouble pushing the wrestlers hard without having them falling over each other.



Kelsey Bocek.

We have a very young team this season. Some of our young athletes have stepped up to become strong leaders. Kelsey Bocek (Jr) is a third year wrestler and was elected as a captain by his teammates this season. Kelsey is a very vocal leader who encourages teammates to work as hard in the classroom as they do on the mat.

Roger Moua (So), who was also elected as a captain this season, has earned respect by being the hardest working person in the wrestling room. You will find Roger spending extra time after practice until the coaches have to drag him out of the wrestling room.

Seniors Byng Parsons and Eric Shaw have worked very hard to quickly learn the skills needed to compete at a high level.

Some of our key younger wrestlers are Johnny Her, Brandon Xiong and freshman Richard Huntly. All three have contributed wins at the varsity level.

Last year we completed the regular season with a team record of 10 wins and 10 losses. This was good enough for second place in the Minneapolis Conference and secured a 5th place seat in the 5AA Region Tournament. This is the best finish by a Patriot Wrestling Team for many years.

South High remains the strongest team in the Minneapolis City Conference. The City Championship most likely will be decided on January 12 when the Patriots travel to South to take on the defending City Champion Tigers.

This year's staff is led by first-year Head Coach Scott Ramsdell who has a strong back ground in personal training and elite athletic performance. Ramsdell joins a returning staff that has many years of coaching experience. Coaches Dave Zappa and Joe Berkowitz have both been coaching for 15 years. Coach Johnny Newman was recognized last season by the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association for his 30th year of coaching.

School updates

By Buzzy Bohn

In November the Minneapolis Board of Education approved the administration's recommendation to move the 5th grade back to Jenny Lind School from Olson Middle School starting next fall. This will give students in attendance areas 1A and 1B a comprehensive 6-8 middle school option. They also approved moving the 6th through 8th graders at Sheridan School to Northeast Middle School which will free up much needed elementary space at Sheridan.

At their December 20 meeting, the school board selected Kim Ellison to fill the board seat held by Lydia Lee. Lee resigned at the end of 2011 and Ellison will be sworn in at the January 10 board meeting. Ellison is the Education Committee chair for the Minneapolis NAACP, a board member for Parents United for Public Schools and is a member of the North High School Advisory Committee.

On December 19 at a press conference held at Elizabeth Hall School the assistant deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement, Jim Shelton, announced that the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) was receiving a five-year \$28 million Promise Neighborhood Initiative grant. NAZ is a collaboration of service providers and some schools who work with children and families so that students graduate from high school and are ready to go on to college. The zone, which has a substantial amount of poverty and has been troubled by crime in recent years, is bordered by 35th Ave. N., Penn Ave., I94 and West Broadway. Senators Klobuchar and Franken, Congressmen Ellison, Mayor Rybak, Minneapolis School Superintendent Johnson and the Minneapolis Board of Education were all in attendance for the announcement.

Northside kids learn the sweetness of giving

November heard the jingle of coins as students counted and sorted UNICEF donations at Bright Water School. It is an annual tradition for Bright Water students to collect UNICEF donations when they go trick-or-treating each Halloween. "This year's donation is our highest amount ever!" notes Principal Ann Luce. Bright Water's 175 students collected nearly \$500.

All students are encouraged to participate, and students who do not trick-or-treat still bring coins to school in their orange and black collection boxes. Older students tabulate school-wide results in their classrooms. Then students accompany Luce to US Bank at 1035 W Broadway, help deposit the money, and obtain the check for UNICEF.

"Oh, they have so much fun at the bank," smiles Luce. She continues, "We really think of ourselves as citizens of the world. Our school develops respectful world citizens who are committed to making a better and more peaceful world." Broadway Bank manager Mohammad Agoubi meets with the students and helps them get the exact number for the heavy bags of coins. Student James Young reports, "It was fun to guess how much money we had in a bag and then put it in the machine and find out how much it really was."

This UNICEF donation is one of several recent projects Bright Water students have undertaken to help improve the lives of others. Students in the past have raised money for Haiti and created origami for



Bright Water Elementary students Maurice Wilson, Kya Phillips, Diana Rojas and James Young, assisted by local US Bank Branch Manager Mohammad Agoubi, consolidate coins they collected into a donation check totaling nearly \$500 for UNICEF.

the victims of the earthquake and sunami in Japan, as well as doing outreach in the community. "My daughter has learned so much about the world and how to be a good global citizen at Bright Water," says Nicole Messinger Post, mother of first grader Emma Joy Messinger Post.

Bright Water Elementary Charter K-6 School is an urban-based Montessori program designed to inspire students to be passionate, life-long learners, respectful of the environment and all humanity and to lead Northside students in closing the achievement gap. The Montessori program is a holistic approach which involves academic, emotional physical, and spiritual intelligence. For info contact 612-302-3410 or info@brightwatermontessori.org.

Support Camden Businesses



COOKING CLUB?
OR COMMUNITY CATALYST?
WHY NOT BOTH?



Making it Better

CREATING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

That's how the Keewaydin Cook Club started. The Minneapolis-based group meets every other Wednesday and creates delicious meals together. It's a great recipe for a fun evening - and one that improves the health of the entire community. Read more and get inspired at makingitbettermn.org.

Made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

521-2466
3855 Thomas N.

HAIR FAIR

Happy New Year!

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