Introducing Emma Greenman, State House Representative, District 63B

By Steve Date, Communications Committee

Emma Greenman is the newly elected State House Rep from 63B, filling the seat vacated by retiring Representative Jean Wagenius. Emma has worked on voting-rights issues, been a community organizer and a public defender. Here’s some of our conversation a week after the election.

SD: What was it like growing up in south Minneapolis?

EG: My growing up was a little complicated. I lived on 51st and Cedar with my dad, but I grew up on both ends of Cedar. My mom got a housing subsidy, and we moved into Cedar-Riverside Plaza. I grew up really cognizant of what a community like my south Minneapolis neighborhood looked like and living in a city that took proactive steps to bridge differences.

SD: What's it like for a new member of the state house?

EG: There's a lot to learn. I've done some advocacy work at the legislature, but most of my organizing career has not been at the Capitol. I'm excited to jump in and get started. The new freshman group has already started to talk with each other. It's a very supportive group.

SD: How would you describe District 63B?

EG: I might be the only representative in the Twin Cities who has both urban and suburban constituents. I don't know if it

Neighborhood churches have adapted to change in 2020

By Steve Date and Pat Borzi, FRNNG Communications Committee

The COVID-19 pandemic and the killing of George Floyd changed us all in 2020. Churches are no exception. Religious organizations, which depend on people in attendance and boots on the ground for outreach projects, had to adapt in unanticipated ways. Conducting services and holding the flock together during COVID have not been easy, but church leaders have been learning how to make it work.

New Creation Baptist Church (NCBC) is one example. Co-Pastors Reverend Daniel McKizzie and his wife Annie have been streaming their services online since spring. “We tried in-person services for four weeks in the fall,” he said, “but because we had to space everybody out in the pews, we could only average about 40 to 45 people at a time.” Previously, they'd been getting up to 200 viewers for their virtual services. When Minnesota’s number of COVID cases began to rise in October, they became uncomfortable with even the reduced-sized gatherings, so they went back to online only.

NCBC has held itself together so far, but Rev. McKizzie also gives credit to the surrounding neighborhood. “Our congregation lives mostly outside the immediate neighborhood — even in the suburbs.” In the days of unrest following the George Floyd tragedy, neighbors rallied and protected the church, responding to rumors of possible attacks on Black businesses and churches. “The neighbors formed teams and took shifts watching over the building all through the night,” he recalls. Neighbors were watching for strange cars. They were filming suspicious activity. And they put up signs around the building warning those wishing to do harm to the church that they were being watched. To top it off, some of those neighbors contributed cash donations and volunteer hours at NCBC’s food shelf.

The church's food shelf (see March/April 2020 Close to Home) also survived 2020 by adapting. Because of the dangers of COVID, their walk-in model of distributing food and other necessities that allowed clients to choose items had to be changed. Pre-packed boxes and bags are being handed out at the door for now.

Pre-pandemic, the food shelf was

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Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group
1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 • 612-721-5424 • frnng.org
Neighborhood churches have adapted to change in 2020, cont’ed from page 1

distributing 15,000 to 18,000 pounds of food per month. By October, that number had grown to 35,700 pounds, an all-time high. That represents 564 families, or more than 1,400 individuals being helped.

A major remodeling of the food storage space and the addition of new refrigeration and freezer units caused a two-week closing of the food shelf in November, but Rev. McKizzie says this will allow them to be bigger and better in the long run. When they reopen with a modified “choice model,” he says, “We’ll be pushing healthy food, such as more fresh fruits and vegetables. We want people to be able to read the labels and make choices — and keep their dignity.”

If your church would like to be featured, please contact us at editor@frnnng.org.

Churches in Field Regina Northrop neighborhood

Here’s a list of all 14 church congregations in Field Regina and Northrop along with contact information and service and mass schedules.

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
4120 17th St., Mpls.
612-724-3693 • bethel.mpls.org.
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m., livestream only via website (bethel.mpls.org)

Bethlehem Covenant Church
3141 43rd Ave. S., Mpls.
612-721-5768 • bethlehemcov.org
Sunday service: 9:30 a.m., in-person (register in advance via web site or phone) and livestream (bethlehemcov.org/explore/video/)

Evangelist Crusaders Church
4307 4th Ave. S., Mpls.
612-824-7187 • evangelistcrusaders.com
Sunday service: 11:30 a.m., in-person

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1720 East Minnehaha Parkway, Mpls.
612-722-1083 • holycrossmpls.org
Sunday service: 9:30 a.m. in-person and via radio (AM 1620); audio archived on website (soundcloud.com/user-855629436)

Japanese Fellowship Church
4217 Bloomington Ave. S., Mpls.
612-722-8314 • minnesotajfc.org
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m. in-person and via Zoom. Contact church for Zoom details (minnesotajfc@gmail.com).

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
1620 East 46th St., Mpls.
612-721-4463 • lakennokomisp.org
Sunday service: 10 a.m. online only. Contact church for details.

Revised by: John Carpenter

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The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.
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Education: Kenna Shepard
Greening: Elaina Moss and Joel Sass
Housing & Community Development: Nate Lansing
Parks: Open position

Open positions (in red) will be voted on at the rescheduled annual meeting. Check our website: frnnng.org.

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President’s letter

Happy New Year! No doubt we are all excited to see the end of 2020!

As I write this, we are just entering another phase of the COVID journey, with its impact becoming more profound and hitting closer to home. My wife works at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, where they have begun to accept overflow admissions from other hospitals in the area. I sincerely thank all first responders and caregivers for what they do and the personal risk they take as they selflessly serve others.

With 2020 being such a trying year, the Field Regina Northrop (FRN) board is working on fun community initiatives for 2021. We need your help! If you are interested in being more involved with anything discussed in the newsletter, please email me.

Keep your eye out for a $10-off coupon in this issue. Cut it out (once you have read the article on the back!) and take it to any participating local business to receive $10 off a purchase of $25 or more. Thanks to the volunteers, board members and businesses who made this possible. We hope this brings much-needed traffic to our local businesses, benefiting our community and our neighbors.

The first-ever FRN Minnehaha Creek Duck Race is planned for around Earth Day, April 2021! One thousand rubber ducks (biodegradable, of course) will be released upstream and will race to the finish line just before Cedar Ave. bridge. The first few ducks to cross the finish line will receive prizes donated by local businesses and residents. You can sponsor a duck for $2.50. We are planning stands and educational booths along the race route, as well as a COVID pop-up testing site near Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Next, look forward to the 2021 International Community Cook Off (pending COVID-related guidance)! This will be an open-street gathering with teams of cooks preparing specialty dishes, along with entertainment and music for the whole family. If you would like to assist or perform, please get in touch.

Finally, to continue from last issue’s letter about being neighborly, I would like to highlight my experience while running and walking on our streets. I often run along the Parkway early in the morning with earbuds in; so although I may not say good morning or hello (due to being out of breath!), I generally wave, give a thumbs up or smile (when not wearing a mask). It surprises me how few people return the gesture. When people do, it brightens my day. Smiling and other positive non-verbal signals are proven to heighten endorphins and general mood. Next time you see someone out and about, say hi, give a thumbs up, wave or nod. The acknowledgement of others will improve your day and theirs. These little things add up to be the big things that build a happier community in which we live.
Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! And welcome to 2021, so glad to say goodbye to 2020. It was an incredibly difficult year on so many levels, yet we welcome a new president and vice president of the United States. This presidential election was historic, with Kamala Harris as the first Black and first Asian-American woman elected to serve as vice president.

We remain hopeful that a COVID-19 vaccine is on the horizon as we continue to battle the coronavirus. In 2020, we’ve been forced to reckon with the fact that racial injustice permeates every facet of life, deeply and negatively impacting Black, indigenous and people of color. The murder of George Floyd and countless other Black and brown people at the hands of police has forced us to grapple with the fact that we’ve been living amidst a second global pandemic – racism. People across the globe have protested racial injustice in record numbers. We must move forward together toward achieving racial justice in our society.

To that end, I’m proud to be leading work to establish a truth and reconciliation process for our city. By a council-adopted resolution, we have a working group that has studied the meaning of reconciliation and is exploring the creation of the truth and reconciliation process by researching different models. Truth and reconciliation processes have taken place all over the world, including in South Africa after the end of apartheid and in Sierra Leone after the end of an 11-year civil war. It’s imperative that we work together to create specific solutions to repair the specific and systemic harms that have disenfranchised communities of color in our city.

Transforming community safety proved to be of utmost importance in our quest toward achieving racial justice, and we remain committed to working with you to achieve change. We’re in Phase Two (Jan. - March 2021) of our year-long engagement process of transforming community safety. This phase includes public forums where community members can review and provide feedback on the themes and goals established in Phase One, including our draft vision, and take a deeper dive into more specific ideas for a new community safety model. This phase will inform draft recommendations. For complete details, please visit the City’s webpage at minneapolis.gov/community-safety.

Despite facing significant budget shortfalls, we must continue to fund our neighborhood organizations using an equitable framework. We adopted the Neighborhoods 2020 Program Guidelines on Nov. 13, 2020, centered on building equity in our community. We worked closely with neighborhoods, community members and the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) to develop these guidelines. Program allocations and base funding amounts were informed by our budget process and include the Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund, Equitable Engagement Fund, Partnership Engagement Fund and Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund. For further info on this process, funding formula and amounts, please visit minneapolis.gov/nocr/2020.

I hope you will share in celebration of Black history this February. For Black History Month this year, we’ve shifted our events to a virtual platform. We will still host four incredible events every Thursday throughout the month. Please be sure you are signed up to receive my e-newsletter to receive these event details, plus other important updates. Sign up for Ward 8 updates by visiting minneapolis.gov/ward8/ward8-email.

FRNNG unveils a new website design

Our website has changed. We have neighborhood news and information, quick links for city government sites and web pages, neighborhood history, Close to Home archives, Field Regina Northrop (FRN) business directory, monthly photo galleries, information about how to get involved with Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) and more. We hope you’ll think of our website as the first place to go for information about FRN! frnng.org

David K. Porter
More than 30 years experience
Wills & Trusts
Probates
Real Estate
612-722-1001
5208 Bloomington Avenue
Probate@Earthlink.net
Greetings, Field Regina Northrop Neighbors!

By Steffanie Musich, Commissioner 5th District, Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board

Winter activities in the parks abound! From snowshoeing to sledding, there are opportunities for everyone. Cross-country skiing and walking/snowshoeing trails are groomed at Hiawatha Golf Course. Details on passes and trail conditions, along with trail maps, can be found at: loppet.org/trails/. The ice rinks at McRae are opening as soon as conditions allow. Ice-rink status is updated daily at minneapolisparks.org/ice_rinks/.

If skiing, snowshoeing and skating aren’t your cup of tea, you can search for park programs near you via an interactive map or by activity type by visiting: minneapolisparks.org/activities_events/ and selecting Browse All Activities. Or visit minneapolisparks.org/winter_activities/ for more suggestions for winter fun this season.

Changes to park operations related to the coronavirus are ongoing as knowledge about the virus and how it is spread continues to evolve. The park board’s pandemic response team works closely with the Minneapolis Health Department, Minneapolis Office of Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Health, which is leading the statewide response. Visit minneapolisparks.org/coronavirus for details about the parks’ response to the virus. You can also subscribe to updates of changes as they occur.

Planning and construction projects for Minnehaha Creek, the Hiawatha Golf Course property within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, Shoreline restoration at Lake Nokomis, and play area improvements at Phelps Park are all underway. The Minnehaha Creek Master Plan was approved by the board of commissioners on November 18, 2020, and $1.2 million is available to begin implementation of the plan. As implementation begins, information will be shared via the project page. Each individual project has a project page at minneapolisparks.org/current_projects/where you can subscribe to updates and catch up in detail on what’s happened since my last update to you.

My newsletter, the 5th District Dispatch is a great resource for more-frequent updates about the parks that I send out once or twice a month to keep my constituents informed. You can subscribe at epurl.com/QZ-.•

Check out businesses participating in the FRNNG coupon offer

See page 10 for a partial list of businesses where the coupon will be accepted. For the most up-to-date list, please check the FRNNG website (frng.org) or ask your favorite shopkeeper if they are participating. Thank you for supporting our local businesses.

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Closed to Home, newsletter for the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group • frng.org • January/February 2021
Neighborhood Voices

Editor’s note: This is a new column in Close To Home. We will rotate articles from neighbors in this space. If you have an interest in sharing your voice, please contact Jeannie at editor@frnng.org

By Unny Nambudiripad, Regina resident

In the wake of George Floyd’s death, the subsequent uprising and struggle against white supremacy and police violence, a conversation has started about rethinking safety.

I’m a man of color, and I’m concerned about the presumption of criminality from my neighbors. Many of us fear that somebody (who may look like me) is going to assault or rob us, steal from us or exploit us. These fears are real, and we need to listen to them. But if we take a step back, we can get to the root of the issue.

When unemployment and food insecurity increase, crime increases. People who commit crimes are human beings. They are friends, neighbors, kids, co-workers, classmates and parents. To make our communities safe, we need to support and help people before they cause harm. How do we do this? We already do this with our immediate family members and closest friends; we make sure their basic needs for mental health, housing, transportation, spiritual well-being, safety and so on are met. And if we see they aren’t being met, we step in to help them out.

As a community, we can do the same things: we can see folks with drug addiction problems, people with physical health problems, and we can help them meet their needs and remove the motivations for them to cause crimes. When folks are supported, they see their community cares for them, and they are much less likely to commit crimes.

Nonprofits and the government provide many resources. We can participate in those programs, and we can work independently. Both are valuable. We can also redirect current spending, such as military funding, which enacts violence worldwide, and bring those dollars to our community to support our wellbeing.

Will this approach ensure our safety? No, it won’t. But nothing will. We all face death, the loss of our possessions and the loss of our health, regardless of how we live. What it will ensure is that we act with integrity; that we show support and love for our community; and that we work to build a society based on values of compassion, caring and trust. This is the most we can ask for.

Unny Nambudiripad is a 14-year resident of Regina neighborhood and enjoys triathlon training, advocating for nonhuman animals and singing while he bikes.

Minneapolis Public Safety Resources

Compiled by Ramona Haines, Communications Committee

Here is a list of organizations you can call to respond to community safety needs in Hennepin County without calling the police. This evolving guide will be posted on our website. Please help us grow this list! Send your suggestions to editor@frnng.org

Social Services

United Way 211 provides health and human services information and is available 24/7 for crisis and non-emergency situations. Call 211 or visit 211unitedway.org.

Tubman provides family-violence safety planning, 24-hour crisis and resource line at 612-825-0000.

St. Stephen’s provides street outreach, shelter and supportive housing. Call their Street Outreach line at 612-879-7624 or visit ststephensmpls.org for more info and a list of resources.

Mental Health

Community Outreach for Psychiatric Services (COPE), a Hennepin County program, will dispatch qualified mental-health responders to your location at any time day or night.*

Adults 18 and older: 612-596-1223; children age 17 and younger: 612-348-2233. *They may choose to send police.

Mental Health Emergency Crisis Text Line provides free help across the state, text MN to 741 741.

Restorative Justice

When faced with an issue such as property crime, organizations like Restorative Justice Community Action and Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership work directly with the Minneapolis Police Department and the Hennepin County Court System, allowing for alternative responses to incarceration for minor crimes. rjca-inc.org

sng.org/restorativejustice/

Other ways to help during a non-violent emergency

• Get to know and talk to your neighbors.
• Reach out to a trusted community member.
• Take a first aid and/or CPR class. Check out Minneapolis Community Education, YWCA or American Red Cross for low-cost options.

*This list was compiled by FRNNG as a resource. These organizations are not officially endorsed or sponsored in any way by FRNNG.
Making use of the matching exterior deferred program

by Lynne Harper, Regina neighbor

I recently purchased a home in the Regina neighborhood, knowing I would be replacing the garage, furnace and air conditioner sooner rather than later. Funds available through the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) via a Neighborhood Revitalization Program paid for a third of my garage replacement.

My FRNNG deferred loan of $7,500 is at 0% interest with $0 payments. To qualify for these terms, I met certain income requirements, paid closing costs, and I must live in my home for at least 10 years. FRNNG loans without income restrictions, are made in amounts between $2,000 and $15,000 at 1.99% APR for terms up to 10 years.

Funds available for homeowners in the community for exterior and energy improvements are made available through Minnesota Center for Energy and the Environment (MNCEE), which also offers low-interest loans from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) through its Fix Up Fund (with income restrictions) and Home Improvement Loans (no income restrictions).

FRNNG-eligible improvements include most interior or exterior maintenance or remodeling, including egress windows, solar photovoltaic, foundation repair, furnace, water heaters, windows and doors. MHFA Fix Up Fund and Home Improvement Loans cover these improvements plus others.

I worked with MNCEE neighborhood representative DeShaun James who answered all my questions and made the process easy. For more information go to: mncee.org and search for Field Regina Northrop.

Tips for preventing crime this winter

By Jennifer Neale, Crime Prevention Specialist, Sector 3

With the New Year upon us, I would like to remind residents of a few tips to help prevent crimes this winter. The 3rd Precinct usually sees an increase in auto theft, garage burglary and theft from vehicles in the colder months. But there are ways to prevent these crimes from occurring.

Auto thefts are the classic crime of opportunity. Car thieves take advantage of residents who leave their cars running unattended. The temptation to start your car and let it warm up while you stay inside, or leave it running while doing a short errand, could be a costly mistake. Never leave your car running unattended.

Auto theft facts:
• If your vehicle is stolen, call 911.
• If you see your vehicle being driven by someone else, report this to 911.
• If you find your vehicle parked somewhere, it’s very important you call 911 to report the vehicle is recovered.
• If you recover your vehicle and don’t call 911, you could be mistaken as the car thief if officers see you driving it around.

Winter months are much darker, and criminals often take advantage of the darkness to commit crimes. Be aware of your surroundings while out walking at night. At home, consider using dusk-to-dawn light bulbs or motion-detector lights around your property. Criminals don’t want to be seen.

Thefts of items from vehicles continues to be a problem in our precinct. Never leave valuables in your car. We still receive reports of victims who had passports, wallets, purses and laptops stolen from their cars.

Continue to lock your doors and windows, even while at home. Make sure to check that your garage door is shut and locked before bedtime. Victims often report they may have left their garage door open.

Take time this New Year to update your block map and neighbor contact list. Knowing your neighbors is good crime prevention. If you don’t know if you have a block leader, contact me for resources.
Exploring the intersection between Islam and racism

By Patricia Miller, Communications Committee

The earliest practitioners of Islam in the U.S. were among the enslaved people brought to this country. Through the centuries, they lived and practiced their religion in towns and cities across the nation. With the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, their presence became a flashpoint.

Khaled Beydoun, speaking at the YWCA of Minneapolis’ virtual It’s Time to Talk about Racism series October 21, 2020, said, “I grew up in a poor household on the west side of Detroit to a single mom. I always knew we were different, but after 9/11, the demonization of Islam accelerated.”

Dr. Erika Lee, an Asian-American, led the conversation with Beydoun, and likened what happened to Muslims post-9/11 to the treatment of the Japanese at the outbreak of World War II. “It was racial, genetic, biological – something in your blood made you loyal to the emperor. With Islam, your religious beliefs also are tied to your racial identity,” she said.

Throughout their lively discussion, Beydoun (professor at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville School of Law and senior affiliated faculty at the University of California-Berkeley) and Lee (Regents Professor of History and Asian American Studies and director of the Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota), explored the intersection of race, religion and racism.

Both recalled election night 2016 when Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton for the presidency. Beydoun had gone to a watch party at the National Arab-American Museum, expecting Clinton to be elected. When the vote went to Trump, “The fear was palpable, much like after 9/11, and we knew that anything was possible. Then came the ‘Muslim ban,’” he said.

Lee added that under Obama, Asian-Americans felt they belonged, or at least had moved forward a bit. “It’s been much worse, since then, than we imagined.” Take, for instance, Trump blaming China, and by association, the Asian community for COVID-19. Lee said the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes were inextricably linked to Black racism.

In the midst of the pandemic came the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. “American Islamophobia is directly tethered to white supremacy,” Beydoun said. “The Muslim experience in the U.S. is rooted in the Black experience. It became time for non-Black Muslims to stand up against anti-Black racism,” Beydoun said. “These protests were different. The majority of protesters weren’t Black. This rising up cut across racial and religious lines.”

In closing, Lee asked, “Where do we go from here?” Beydoun said to dedicate ourselves to learning about “the other.” “Forty percent of Americans have never met a Muslim. So talk with a Muslim colleague or neighbor. Read. Become familiar with the changemakers who aren’t part of your community.”

Want to learn more? Check out Beydoun’s book, American Islamophobia: Understand the Roots and Rise of Fear or one of Lee’s four books about the Asian-American experience, including At America’s Gate: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943.

The YWCA’s It’s Time to Talk series and other racial justice programs are open to all. You can find the schedule of upcoming events at ywcampls.org/racial-justice.

Neighborhood Churches, continued from page 2

Lakes Apostolic Church
4405 Oakland Ave. S., Mpls.
651-735-2111 • lakesapostolic.com
Sunday service: 10 a.m.

Living Spirit United Methodist Church
(formerly Ashbury UMC)
4501 Bloomington Ave. S., Mpls.
612-721-5025 • livingspiritumc.org
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m., livestream only via livingspiritumc.org/live

New Creation Baptist Church
1414 East 48th St., Mpls.
612-825-6693 • newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org
Sunday service: 10:45 a.m.
via Facebook (facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch/) or YouTube (youtube.com/channel/UC1UcAzTtO_aNpNaNInoP7Q)

New Covenant Church of God in Christ
4254 15th Ave. S., Mpls.
612-827-7107 • nccogic.org
Sunday services: 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., in-person and via facebook.com/nccogicmnn

St. James Lutheran Church
4854 Portland Ave. S., Mpls.
612-824-1882 (via Mt. Zion Lutheran Church) • No web site.
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m. in-person only. No livestream or web broadcast.

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
4537 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.
612-823-8205 • saintjoanoarc.org
Sunday service: recorded on Saturday for viewing later that day via the web site or YouTube (youtube.com/channel/UCoVdZbq7LiRZWiWwQLEgRnA)

Continued on page 10
Walking the neighborhood

Neighborhood business owners finding hope for 2021

By Steve Date, Communications Committee

One positive to come out of this year’s COVID restrictions is that people are walking more. But they’re not walking to neighborhood businesses and spending money like they used to. Social distancing, capacity limits, mask requirements — plus a period of closings and boarding up after George Floyd’s killing — have made it difficult for businesses to stay afloat.

My wife, Karen, and I try to include the business nodes of Field Regina Northrop (FRN) in all of our walks. We stop in here and there to see how owners are doing. Ironically, now that we want to check in more than ever, many businesses have an “appointment only” sign or have limited hours. Some have closed the business or moved.

There are some signs of hope: beautiful new windows in the old Primp space, the reopening of Rue 48, a new sportswear shop on one side of Town Hall Tap, and on the other side, the Tasting Room looks dressed up and ready to go.

Here’s a sampling of comments from business owners who are open for drop-in customers.

Sovereign Grounds owner Hakan Sezer said he’s “making it,” thanks to his regular neighborhood customers. He’s filled with gratitude about their support.

Tim Grower of Floral Art by Tim said two factors are helping his business — the flower delivery market nationwide is up, and people are trending toward using local neighborhood florists.

Mike Saeger opened South Side Barber Lounge June 1. “It was a pretty unsettling time,” he says, “However, the neighborhood really embraced us, which was so cool! We’re hopeful that the pandemic will be over and normal everyday life will return for all of us.”

Jenny Nylin has tried several strategies to keep Jenny in the City afloat. “My business is down 90% from a year ago,” she told us. “The pandemic has hurt, but the biggest problem is the Starbucks drive-through line blocking our parking lot. But this is a great location, and I’m hoping that when the apartments and Lund’s & Byerly’s open, it will help us.”

Dwight Gronlund’s Nobomis Cycle is a mainstay. Asked if he’s hopeful about his business in the new year, he answered only, “I’ve been here for 26 years.” Having survived several breaks-ins, including one this year, he’s firmly in “hanging in there” mode. He hopes that our different levels of government start doing better at keeping neighborhoods safe.

Dno Smallwood optimistically moved INTO the neighborhood in November, opening his Mpls Underground specialty sports gear store in a vacated shop space. “This is a great neighborhood, and I feel very lucky to be here,” he says.

Marcie and Adam Darling live in the neighborhood and chose to stay in the area when they moved their Darling Amalgamated Retail Emporium and Dare Salon to a new location on 48th and 4th this year. They like their new space, new landlord and appreciate the proximity to their old customers.

14 Hill owner Julie Stamps also experienced trauma at her store this year. A robbery in September left her shaken, but resolute. She also lives in the neighborhood. “I’m not going anywhere,” she says. “This neighborhood has given me so much support. They haven’t let me down, and I’m not going to let them down.”

For many business owners, everything seems on hold right now. Most are hopeful,

Continued on page 11
Introducing Emma Greenman, continued from page 1

makes it easier or harder, but it puts me in a position to hear from such diverse communities and interests — and that’s really good. You know, there are 201 legislators, and we really need to do some thinking and listening together, because we have to govern for the folks in our district, and we have to be really responsive. We have to be more responsive than our system has often been, and we also have to listen to what folks outside of our community are saying.

**SD:** What are your thoughts about the current divisive and polarized political climate?
**EG:** I believe deeply in the power of people, communities and government as an expression of how we do things together. We’ve seen in the last four years — or more — a strategy to question the impact of government, unions, organizations and civic society. And I think that makes it harder. We need to reimagine what democracy is — from voting rights to money in politics to the way we draw fair maps, because ultimately, we’re not going to be able to solve those bigger problems if people don’t trust each other and don’t trust the mechanisms of democracy.

**SD:** How do we heal and move forward following the issues that came to light after the killing of George Floyd?
**EG:** In Minneapolis, we have really been at the epicenter of it, but these are national issues. It’s really about addressing it and saying, “We’re not going to look the other way about racial disparities; we’re not going to look the other way when we have systems that harm people. We’re going to actually root out the systemic racism that’s been built in. And the only way you do that — you don’t do that with policy alone — we have to invite and create the process where neighbors, where everybody in Minneapolis, everybody in Richfield, or in (greater Minnesota), are having those tough conversations and then figuring out how we move forward.

**SD:** Please talk about your predecessor, Jean Wagenius.
**EG:** When I started running, it was so clear the impact that Jean has had in the legislature. Take one step inside that building and where we are on climate, on green energy, on clean water — Jean has had such an impact on the policy in the state of Minnesota. One of the things I want to really learn from Jean is her listening and helping folks in our district solve problems, even if they’re not state policy problems. I said to Jean, “I hope you don’t mind that I’m going to be calling you for guidance.” And she’s been nothing but lovely.

Emma Greenman can be contacted at emmagreenman.com. For a longer version of this interview, go to frng.org.

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Neighborhood Churches, continued from page 8

**St. Leonard of Port Maurice Catholic Church**
3949 Clinton Ave. S., Mpls.
612-825-5811 • stleonardmn.org
**Sunday service:** 10 a.m., in-person and via YouTube (youtube.com/channel/UCb129DiZ9K321FuCHRHNhWQQ/featured)

**St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**
4600 East 42nd St., Mpls.
612-722-8000 • stpeders.org
**Sunday service:** 9 a.m. via YouTube (youtube.com/channel/UCP5r4ROb8KPP2H05qqU9aQ)

Participating Businesses, continued from page 5

**14 Hill, 4737 Chicago Ave. S**
**Carlo Electrical, 4801 4th Ave. S**
**Diamond Lake Hardware, 5425 Nicollet Ave. S**
**Eddie’s Barber Shop, 4301 4th Ave. S**
**Fit for Life, 4801 4th Ave. S**
**ie. Italian Eatery, 4224 Cedar Ave.**
**Jenny in the City, 4704 Cedar Ave.**
**Ken & Norm’s Liquor, 4801 Chicago Ave.**
**Klier’s Nursery & Garden Center, 5901 Nicollet Ave. S**
**Landscape & Concrete Center, 313 W. 61st Street**
**LaMac Cleaners, 5421 Nicollet Ave. S**
**Magnuson Sod, 5901 Nicollet Ave. S**
**Nokomis Cycle, 4553 Bloomington Ave. S**
**Salon 45, 4551 Bloomington Ave.**
**Schafer Equipment, 6025 Pillsbury Ave. S**
**Sift Gluten-Free Bakery, 4557 Bloomington Ave.**
**Spa Sweet, 4747 Chicago Ave.**
**Tangletown Gardens, 5353 Nicollet Ave. S**
**Cedar Avenue Auto Repair, 4301 Cedar Ave.**
**Turtle Bread Co., 4762 Chicago Ave.**
**Ray Welte Heating Co., 4637 Chicago Ave.**
**Wise Acre Eatery, 5401 Nicollet Ave. S.**
Pandemic can’t stop the beat

By Patricia Miller, Communications Committee

Although most performance venues have been dark for months due to COVID-19 restrictions, during the long days of summer, musicians and dancers found a way to express their art and entertain us.

Rhythm Street Movement (rhythmstreetmovement.com) hit the streets with their Driveway to Your Heart Tour in July. On the 26th, this troupe of talented tap dancers brought their portable, amplified tap pads to the 4700 block of Oakland Ave. S. Delighted neighbors gathered in yards and on the sidewalks for a vibrant, fast-paced show. Rhythm Street’s tour also took them to Minneapolis and St. Paul suburbs, as well as St. Paul and Hudson, Wis.

Neighbors Beth Anderson and Paul Sorenson, long-time professional musicians, performed a medley of show tunes and other favorites on trumpet and keyboard at the inaugural event. Next came Highwood, a soft-rock trio featuring songs written and performed by legendary bands of the ‘60s - ‘70s and reimagined by Steve Sorenson (bass, vocals), Lee Porz (percussion) and Lee Swenson (guitar, vocals).

Other concerts were on tap, but the early snow put an end to the schedule. But next year? Stay tuned! ✨

Neighborhood Businesses, continued from page 9

but that hope is tentative and conditional. There are “ifs.” If the pandemic gets under control, if people’s behavior changes, if small businesses can get more financial help, if the mayor, the city council and the Minneapolis Police Department figure out how to work together and meet the needs of residents.

We’re all hanging on and hanging in there with hope that 2021 brings health, security and relief for everyone.” ✨
Pandemic can't stop the beat

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