

2018 HOLIDAY
EVENTS GUIDE

Focus PAGE B4

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Southwest Minneapolis' Community Newspaper



A history-making election

The color barrier is broken on the county board, and a refugee is going to Congress

By Dylan Thomas / dthomas@southwestjournal.com

Voters had a chance to elect a person of color to the Hennepin County Board for the first time ever on Election Day. They elected two.

History was also made in the state's 5th Congressional District, which includes Minneapolis, where voters for the first time elected a refugee to represent them in Washington, D.C.

And after spirited challenges to the county's top two law enforcement officials, Hennepin County voters narrowly elected a new sheriff.

Those changes at the local level came as DFLers swept races for governor and the state's other constitutional offices and a surge of support for Democratic candidates nationwide gave that party control of the U.S. House of Representatives, even as Republicans gained seats in the Senate. Minnesota's state Legislature will be similarly split along party lines, with DFLers taking the state House from Republicans, who maintained a narrow state Senate majority.

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Ilhan Omar is one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress. Photo courtesy Ilhan Omar for Congress

Ilhan Omar's road to Washington

By Michelle Bruch / mbruch@southwestjournal.com

"Here in Minnesota, we don't only welcome immigrants, we send them to Washington," said Congresswoman-elect Ilhan Omar, closing her acceptance speech with the song "Girls Like You," a nod to her music video cameo.

The song is fitting for Omar, who proposed amending the Minnesota Constitution to add gender equality under the law and says she was raised by "crazy feminist men" who never paid much attention to Somalia's traditional gender roles.

In her acceptance speech, Omar noted she's the first woman of color to represent the state in Congress. The first woman to wear a hijab in Congress. And the first refugee in Congress.

"She's the American dream. She's an inspiration for all of us," said Aboubaker Hassan, an immigrant from Djibouti in the audience. "She kind of reminds us there is still hope in this country."

Roots

When Omar's mother was born in Somalia, neighbors came to give condolences. A first-born daughter traditionally wasn't cause for celebration, Omar told St. Joan of Arc Church in February. But her grandfather wouldn't hear it.

"My grandfather told the visitors that his daughter was going to be better than any son that they will raise," Omar said.

Her mother's first job was assistant to the minister of petroleum, Omar said, and she later became a department director.

"[My grandfather] instilled in her this feeling, this desire to prove everyone wrong, to know her worth and to know that she had a place in the world," Omar said.

Omar never knew her mother, who died shortly after giving birth to Omar, her seventh child. But Omar was close with her grandfather, who called

SEE OMAR / PAGE A10

Skier asks for inclusive timing

Fulton resident wants state high school league to account for disabilities in races

By Nate Gotlieb / ngotlieb@southwestjournal.com

Michael LeBlanc finishes near the bottom of most of his high school Nordic ski races because of a disability that makes it impossible for him to ski with poles.

The Fulton resident, his family and his coaches hope to change that in coming years by having race organizers account for his disability when timing him.

LeBlanc and his team are advocating for the use of an algorithm that would cut a skier's time by a certain percentage, depending on his or her disability. They say such a "factoring" system, which is used at the Paralympic level to account for athletes' disabilities, would even the playing field for skiers such as LeBlanc.

The coaches in LeBlanc's high school conference, the Metro West, have agreed to use time factoring at their meets for the upcoming season. LeBlanc, his coaches and his family plan on petitioning the Minnesota State High School League to use factoring at its section and state meets.

"I think it's just so important that he can finally feel like it's the result he's earned," said Kate Hokanson, Nordic coach at Benilde-St. Margaret's, the school with which LeBlanc competes.

"Nobody thinks that he's not working hard enough to earn those results," she added.

LeBlanc, 16, has a condition called

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DEDICATED BUS LANES



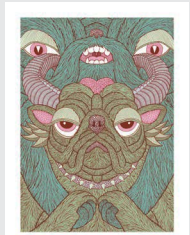
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50 BLOCK PARTIES



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FEMALE BUILDER



Ella Pendergast's prolific early 20th century home construction
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Story and photo by Nate Gotlieb

Minneapolis artist Reggie LeFlore talked to passersby July 13 in front of a newly finished self-portrait on a wall behind The Herkimer in LynLake.

About 20 feet away, artist Nell Triggs spray-painted bumblebees and flower petals onto another wall of the building as she wrapped up

a mural she called "Love Me Not." Meanwhile, four other artists put the finishing touches onto murals further down the alley.

The six artists were among 35 participating in the second-annual LynLake Street Art Series, hosted by the LynLake Business Association.

SEE **LYNLAKE STREET ART** / PAGE **A19**

▲ Minneapolis artist Reggie LeFlore poses in front of a self-portrait he created July 13 as part of the second-annual LynLake Street Art Series.

Apartments filling their available parking spots

No matter how many spaces they offer, garages are well used

By Andrew Hazzard

In July, the Minneapolis Planning Commission approved a 146-unit apartment building with 92 parking spaces at 26th & Blaisdell.

These types of developments with low parking-to-unit ratios have become commonplace since the city changed its minimum parking requirements in 2015. Before, each new building had to provide at least one spot. Now projects near high-frequency transit corridors with fewer than 50 units have zero parking requirements and buildings larger than 50 units need to include one spot for every two units.

Currently, Minneapolis does not keep data on parking utilization rate at apartment buildings, according to planning manager Jason Wittenberg, who said the city would like to better understand how residential parking spaces are being used.

But as the city plans for a future with fewer cars and more density, newer apartment buildings constructed in Southwest before and after the requirements report their parking spaces are still in high demand. Regardless of the amount of parking, newer developments are confident they are offering attractive living situations to residents.

Bryan Walters, the co-founder of Yellow Tree Development, said his firm is very comfortable constructing new residential buildings with fewer spots than units.

SEE **PARKING** / PAGE **A18**

Flood risk on the rise as rainstorms gain intensity

Flooding unsurprising at 22nd & Lyndale but rainfall is getting heavier in Twin Cities

By Zac Farber

As motorists drove home from work along Lyndale Avenue on July 16, a summer storm dumped more than 2 inches of rain in a single hour onto a small neighborhood that's been identified as one of the most flood-prone areas in all of Southwest Minneapolis.

With the low-lying corner of 22nd & Lyndale suddenly turned into a thigh-high pond, the staff of Hum's Liquors ventured out into the street and used their hands to pull wood and other debris from the city's storm drains. In the shop's basement, waterlogged cardboard boxes fell apart and two cases of wine dropped and shattered. Across the street, at the Wedge Co-op, at least five employees' cars were damaged and one was totaled.

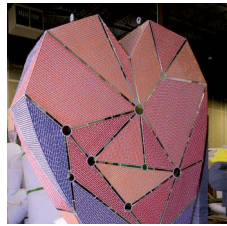
Meanwhile, at the Red Dragon Restaurant and Lounge, patrons sat at the bar, nursing their drinks and pulling their feet up as the carpet disappeared below a couple inches of water. "It has flooded here for as long as I can remember," said Pat Chan, who has bartended at the Red

SEE **FLOOD RISK** / PAGE **A14**



Hum's Liquors owner Hanh Van donned yellow rain gear and rallied his staff to clear debris from storm drains by hand after the corner of 22nd & Lyndale flooded on July 16. Photo by Jason Grote

Neighborhood Spotlight.



KENWOOD/
CEDAR-ISLES-DEAN

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Inspiring future scientists

Bakken museum founder worked to inspire youth

By Nate Gottlieb / ngottlieb@southwestjournal.com

Bakken museum founder Earl Bakken passed away on Oct. 21 at the age of 94. Bakken's museum receives thousands of visitors annually, including about 10,000 students on field trips. Photo courtesy The Bakken Museum

Earl Bakken employed a "ready, fire, aim" approach when inventing the first wearable transistorized cardiac pacemaker in the 1950s.

His namesake museum in the West Calhoun neighborhood gives young people the opportunity to take a similar approach while learning about everything from electricity to Frankenstein.

"The museum is really a reflection of (Bakken's) interests and passions," said David Rhees, the museum's former longtime executive director. "People who visit will get a sense that it's a place that is open to new ideas and really wants to help advance science in a way that helps advance humanity."

SEE BAKKEN / PAGE A12

BLOCKED IN THE BIKE LANE

Citations rise, but illegally parked vehicles remain a common annoyance for cyclists

By Dylan Thomas / dthomas@southwestjournal.com

The edge of the roadway is a space in demand for pickups, drop-offs and the short-term parking of delivery vehicles of every type, from boxy white Amazon vans to Sysco's refrigerated semis.

It's also a space where drivers frequently come into conflict with bicyclists. On-street bikeways comprise more than half of Minneapolis' lauded 244-mile cycling network, mostly in the form of dedicated bike lanes striped next to a curb or street parking — places where it is illegal for motor vehicles to park or even stop, with few exceptions.

But stop they do, even when those bicycle lanes are separated from motor vehicle traffic by a row of plastic bollards, as on Blaisdell Avenue South, or a wide cement curb, as on 11th

Avenue east of U.S. Bank Stadium. Evidence often turns up on social media, and one Twitter user posted a photo of a car parked on the wrong side of the 11th Avenue curb just days after it was installed this fall.

Cyclist Jay Gabler said he doesn't get as annoyed with delivery vehicles, which just as often block motor vehicle traffic when no loading zone is available, as "with the cars and vans that block bike lanes with impunity while they idle for whatever reason, whereas they would rarely just hang out in a car traffic lane."

"Let them block parking or other lanes," said Willy Lee, a cyclist who lives in South Minneapolis and works on the West Bank. "I'm in grave

SEE BIKE LANE PARKING / PAGE A18

Up or out

Displaced Loring Park businesses navigate next steps

By Michelle Bruch / mbruch@southwestjournal.com

Monell "Locks" Castellan set up a barber chair on the Nicollet Avenue sidewalk outside his empty Upper Cuts Barber Shop with a sign: Closed for reconstruction.

After 17 years in business, Upper Cuts and other storefronts on half of the 1400 block will be demolished to make way for 232 apartments and ground-floor retail. But Castellan considers himself lucky.

He's still operating a second location at 116 W. Lake St., and he's talking to the developer about leasing a space when the new project opens in the spring of 2020. He wants to open a barber school to give back to the community, a place for kids to cut hair and learn professional skills, "not as a hustle, as a career," he said.

Reuter Walton Companies co-founder Nick Walton said he's also talking to Market Bar-B-Que and Salsa a la Salsa

about returning to the block, although no leases are signed for the five retail bays.

"We always wanted smaller, local, entrepreneurial retailers, and as many of the existing as possible, to be in the new building," he said.

"I'm fortunate the developer worked it out with me," Castellan said, thinking of other businesses that won't be coming back. "... They've got to start from scratch, and they've been there as long as me."

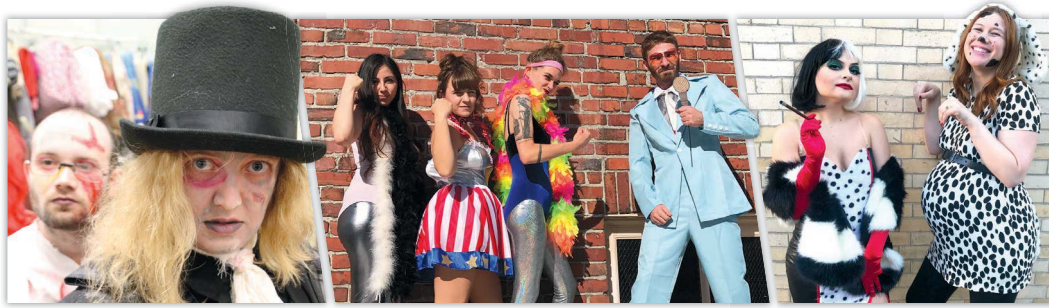
As part of the Minneapolis 2040 long-range plan for the city, staff members said they heard one issue from the business community come through loudest:

"Probably the No. 1 thing I heard was concerns about displacement of businesses because of development, because of rising rents, because of the lack of ownership of

SEE UPPERCUTS / PAGE A11

A vintage look for Halloween

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Voter's Guide 2018

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Illustration by Steve Robbins

Ghosts in the gallery?

By Michelle Bruch / mbruch@southwestjournal.com

The sound of a door and footsteps in the next room, when no one else is on the floor. Laughter from an empty French salon. Bed curtains closed without explanation.

These are some of the strange things Minneapolis Institute of Art staff say they've seen and heard at the museum after closing time.

Mia is one of the most haunted buildings in the Twin Cities, says Colleen Watson, a docent who shares the tales on student fieldtrips and fundraising tours.

"This room is so haunted, there are employees of the museum who do not want to come in here," Watson said, walking into the Connecticut period room, where the paneling and fireplace came from a rural colonial house built in the mid-18th century near New Haven.

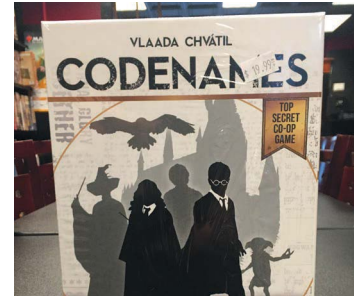
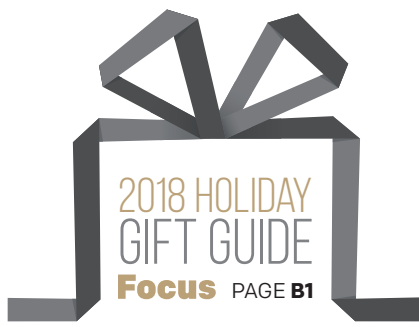
One visitor told the museum he felt a small tug on his coat, and when he turned around, there was no one there. One woman said she felt a small hand quickly grasp her own.

"More than one guard has come into the room to find all the curtains drawn around

SEE GHOSTS / PAGE A20



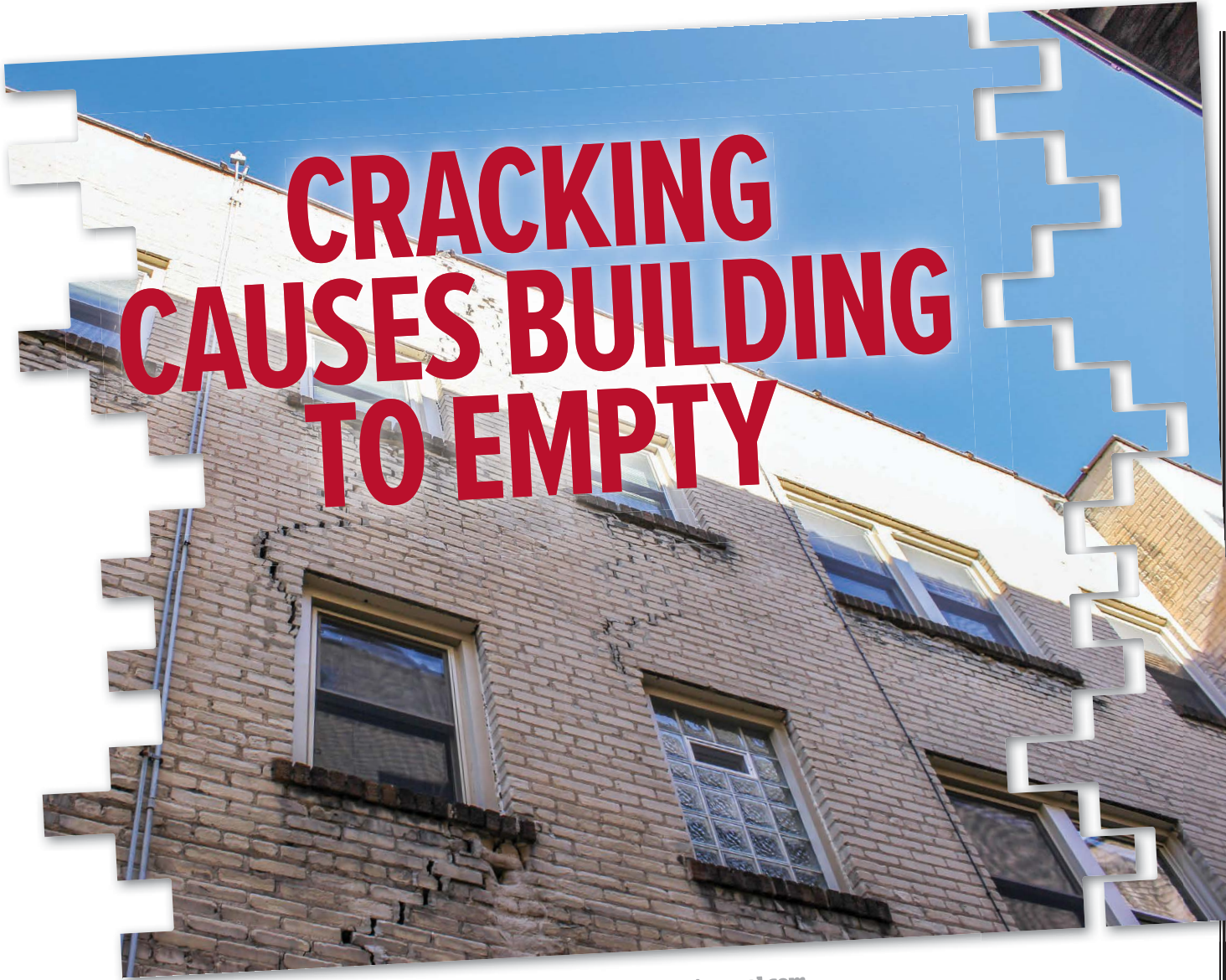
The Grand Salon, featuring carved and gilded paneling conserved from a Paris mansion, is one of several period rooms with a ghost story at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Photo by Michelle Bruch



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CRACKING CAUSES BUILDING TO EMPTY

By Michelle Bruch / mbruch@southwestjournal.com

▲ Citing concerns over building safety, city officials ordered residents to leave 2003 Aldrich Ave. S. in October. Photo by Michelle Bruch

When city inspectors investigated a 311 building complaint at 2003 Aldrich Ave. S. on Oct. 12, they decided to shut down the building immediately. Minneapolis building official Ken Staloch said cracks were large enough to see between floors. "It's literally a gap, I could easily put my hand in them," he said. In the corridors, walls were separating from each other and the ceiling, he said.

SEE APARTMENT EVACUATION / PAGE A14

Finalists interviewed for parks job

Park Board choosing between candidates from Louisville, Charlotte

By Andrew Hazzard

ahazzard@southwestjournal.com

The nationwide search to find the next leader of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is approaching the finish line, bringing an end to a process the organization says sought more voices and perspectives than any other in the system's 135-year history.

Park Board officials announced shortly before the paper went to press that commissioners were likely to vote on a new superintendent the evening of Nov. 28.

Two finalists answered questions about climate change, inclusion, innovation, job training, recreation sports and their long-term vision for the park system and its \$120 million annual budget in a Nov. 13 public interview at Park Board headquarters.

The finalists, Alfred Kent Bangoura, recreation superintendent for Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Subhajeet "Seve" Ghose, director of Louisville Parks and Recreation in Kentucky, both said they were admirers of Minneapolis' parks.

A third finalist, Joseph Nicholas Williams, director of Parks, Recreation and Youth Development for the City of Oakland, withdrew his name from consideration before the interview.

Ghose, who went to college at Iowa State, said he recalled the parks from visits to the city as a young man and admired them. He said ending his parks and recreation career in Minneapolis would be a feather in his cap.

For Bangoura the connection is deeper. He grew up in the Twin Cities and spent 19 years working for MPRB, rising to the office of recreation centers and programs director. Bangoura also spent time working for Target in Minneapolis as a grants administrator.

"I know the city really well. I love the city," he said. "My heart has always been here."

Finding the finalists

The search to find the replacement for Jayne Miller, who resigned in February for a role in Pittsburgh, was one of community engagement, blind reviews and layers of filtration.

In May, MPRB hired a consulting firm, KP Companies, to help lead the search and recruit qualified candidates to apply. Over the summer, 22 listening sessions were held across the city to get input from residents on what they wanted to see in the new superintendent.

From there, a seven-member community selection committee narrowed the field by doing a blind review of dozens of applicants passed on by KP Companies. In the blind review, names were hidden and experience

SEE MPRB SUPERINTENDENT / PAGE A11

Met Council awards SWLRT construction contract

With the go-ahead from the FTA, work on the 14.5-mile line could begin this winter

By Dylan Thomas / dthomas@southwestjournal.com

For Metropolitan Council Chair Alene Tchourumoff and Hennepin County Board Member Peter McLaughlin, the occasion called for a celebratory selfie.

After two decades of planning, a decision issued Nov. 14 by the Federal Transit Administration allows for construction to begin on the \$2 billion Southwest Light Rail Transit project, a 14.5-mile extension of the Metro Green Line that will add tracks between Minneapolis and Eden Prairie. The FTA issued a so-called letter of no prejudice, the official go-ahead for Met Council to commence construction activities on the state's largest-ever public works project using local funds.

The FTA has not yet awarded Met Council the \$929 million federal grant expected to make up nearly half the project's budget. It hasn't even invited the agency to apply for the grant, but that's one of several next steps, and the letter of no prejudice all but assures the grant will be awarded next year.

SEE SWLRT CONTRACT / PAGE A12



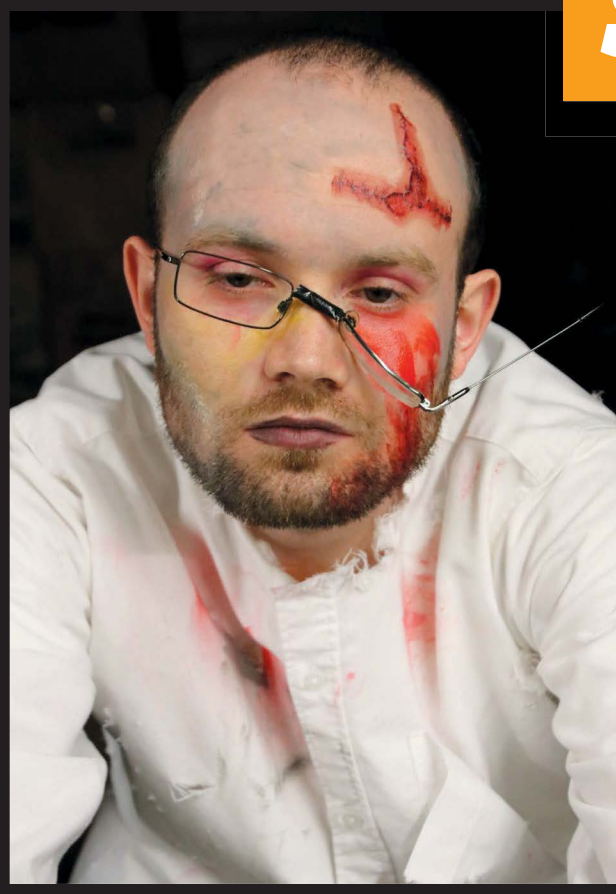
Southwest light rail passed a critical milestone under the watch of Metropolitan Council Chair Alene Tchourumoff, who starts a new job Dec. 1. Photo by Dylan Thomas



What



scare



to wear?

▲ Local vintage and second-hand shops are ready and waiting to help you put together the perfect Halloween costume. Submitted photos

By Eric Best / ebest@southwestjournal.com

For vintage shops, Halloween is more like Christmas.

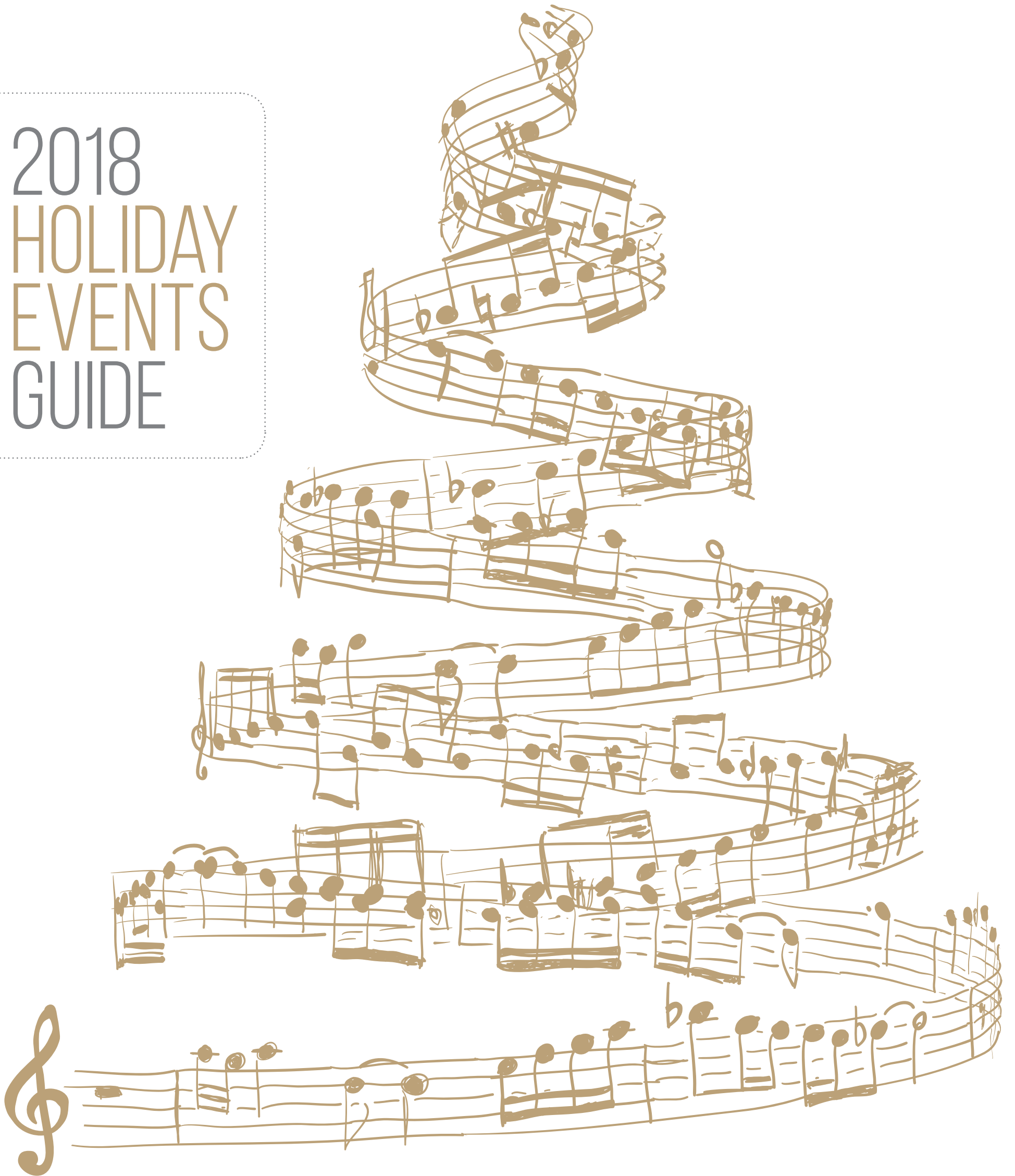
“Literally the entire month we devote a lot of our merchandising to Halloween so customers can see how serious we are about making Halloween a spooky holiday,” said Alex Murphy, a manager at Arizona-based Buffalo Exchange’s Uptown location.

Local secondhand stores continue to embrace the holiday, even as people are spending more on Halloween, often at online retailers that offer easy access to props and costumes.

The National Retail Federation estimates Americans will spend more than \$9 billion on Halloween, nearly three times as much they did in 2005 when the association began surveying shoppers. Costumes are the largest spending category at more than \$3 billion.

SEE VINTAGE HALLOWEEN / PAGE B3

2018 HOLIDAY EVENTS GUIDE



Haul out the holly

BY ANNE NOONAN

Are you humming a tune after reading that line?

There's no denying this season has its own soundtrack. Whether it's a centuries-old carol, a '50s swing ditty or a smooth soul groove, you know when you hear 'em that the holidays are here.

But how well do you know these songs of the season? As you check out this list of festive things to do, quiz yourself by reading (or singing) the line at the beginning of each event. It's a lyric from a holiday song — can you guess which one?

The answer is at the bottom of each event. And whichever song gets stuck in your head, let's hope it's one of your favorites.

Enjoy the season!

SEE HOLIDAY EVENTS GUIDE ON PAGE B3

News



Crossing the divide

Samatar Crossing is a testament to late local Somali leader, city officials say

Ubah Jama, the widow of Hussein Samatar, cuts the ribbon with council members Steve Fletcher and Abdi Warsame, Mayor Jacob Frey and her children by her side. Photo by Eric Best

By Eric Best / ebest@southwestjournal.com

The City of Minneapolis has repurposed a former highway ramp to forge a new connection between downtown and the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood for pedestrians and cyclists.

The \$1.9 million project is named in honor of Hussein Samatar, a former Minneapolis School Board member who became the state's first Somali-American to hold elected office in 2010. Samatar Crossing officially opened in late August, five years to the month since Samatar died due to complications from leukemia in 2013.

"Hussein loved this community. He was passionate about uplifting people and connecting

communities," said Ubah Jama, Samatar's widow, at a ceremony with city officials. "I believe this space will bring people together and inspire us to keep connecting with one another."

Utilizing the former 5th Street ramp, the crossing stretches approximately 1,850 feet over Interstate 35W to connect either side of 5th Street between 11th Avenue South to the west and 15th Avenue South to the east. On the west side, the path empties out behind U.S. Bank Stadium in the Elliot Park neighborhood and, on the east side, it connects to the Cedar-Riverside light rail station and Currie Park.

City officials credit the project for connecting two areas that have been historically separated by the highway.

Council Member Steve Fletcher, whose Ward 3 include downtown, said he only lives a few blocks away, but now the borders between Elliot Park and Cedar-Riverside "just got a lot narrower."

"It felt like a whole different place, and now it's a very easy walk," he said.

Mayor Jacob Frey praised the project's importance in welcoming immigrants into the city's urban core.

"This is saying to our Somali population, to

our new American population, 'Yes, you are part of this city, and we want you here,'" he said.

Council Member Abdi Warsame, who represents the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood on the City Council, said the connection is a testament to Samatar's legacy.

"Hussein worked all his life to connect people and to bridge communities," he said. "He was an inspiration to many in the city of Minneapolis."

The crossing was first conceived under former Mayor R.T. Rybak as a vehicle connection as well, but Public Works Director Robin Hutcherson said they decided against it. In that way, the project preserves the "social pieces" of the neighborhood by not bringing in more traffic and cars, she added.

An additional round of work will bring in public art and landscaping to Samatar Crossing. The city is looking for a few artists to create memorable artwork.

Hutcherson said planners asked themselves: "How could we make it a place in addition to a new connection?"

The City of Minneapolis relied exclusively on public staff to design, plan and build the path instead of contractors. The city covered the approximately \$1.9 million price tag.

The crossing, which features bike paths and sidewalks that are at times separated, runs parallel to the Hiawatha Trail along the Blue Line. The two trails don't directly connect.

Lisa Middag used Samatar Crossing to bike to her office downtown a few times in the week after it opened. She said she prefers the connection over Hiawatha because it better integrates with traffic on the downtown side and it doesn't cross light rail tracks. It will be a nicer entrance into the urban core for people coming from the University of Minnesota and Cedar-Riverside, she added.

"This is a lower stress pathway into downtown, and, especially if you're going to the southern part of downtown, then you're not as far north," she said.

South Minneapolis residents Rex Anderson and Ed Loch went to check out the pedestrian

SEE **SAMATAR CROSSING** / PAGE **A13**

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Focus

Get Out Guide.

By Sheila Regan



THE GOLDEN RECORD PROJECT

In 1977, NASA sent into space two photograph records filled with black-and-white and color images, natural sounds and music selections, printed messages from U.S. president Jimmy Carter and an inspirational message in Morse code. The contents on the record, chosen by a committee chaired by astronomer Carl Sagan, were meant to carry a record of life on Earth, not just of humans, but of all living things and the Earth's natural makeup. The U.S. launched the records into space in hopes they might one day reach extraterrestrials. Sandbox Theatre's "The Golden Record Project" reflects on this moment in history with a piece that is part performance and part interactive installation. Celebrating the cultural significance of the original Golden Records, the group dreams up what new messages we could send to aliens today.

When: Through May 4
Where: 3109 E. 42nd St.
Cost: \$10–\$30
Info: sandboxtheatreonline.com

McKenna Kelly-Eiding in The Golden Record Project. Photo by Matthew Glover for Sandbox Theatre



ARBOR DAY

Get excited about trees this Arbor Day at the 2019 Minneapolis Arbor Day Celebration at Theodore Wirth Park. Plant trees, climb trees, play tree-sized lawn games, make it through a tree-themed obstacle course and create a living tribute in honor or memory of loved ones, the funds from which go towards purchasing new trees. There will also be live music, food trucks and a beer garden hosted by Pat's Tap.

When: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 Friday, April 26
Where: Wirth Park, 2900 Glenwood Ave.
Cost: Free (tree dedications are \$100)
Info: peopleforparks.net/upcoming-events.html



Photo courtesy of Umbrella Collective

VELVET SWING

Early 20th century supermodel Evelyn Nesbit gets the Umbrella Collective treatment as the company brings to life Nesbit's role in a scandalous murder trial. Emerging theater artist Alana Horton, known also as a drummer in the bands Bella Yaga and Controversial New Skinny, conceived this true crime send-up, co-creating the piece with Megan Clark and the ensemble. Murder, sex, and tabloids converge in this tabloid-worthy piece of theater. Content warning for violence, consent, sexual assault, alcohol and trauma, but we'll note it's also a feminist comedy.

When: Through April 27
Where: Bryant-Lake Bowl, 810 W. Lake St.
Cost: \$5–\$20
Info: umbrellaco.org



Submitted photo

KREMBLEMS ACOUSTIC NIGHT AT THE WARMING HOUSE

Kremblems, a music collective and record label, will be playing an acoustic set at the intimate Warming House. Made up of a group of singer-songwriters and instrumentalists, Kremblems will present an evening of solo and collaborative acoustic pieces from the groups involved in the collective. Performing for the evening will be Daniel Chavez, Bailey Cogan, Warren Thomas Fenzi, Karl Remus and Christian Wheeler. The Warming House is a small listening room located in East Harriet with only 40 seats, so plan to buy your tickets in advance.

When: 8 p.m. Friday, April 26
Where: The Warming House, 4001 Bryant Ave. S.
Cost: \$10
Info: thewarminghouse.net

TMORA

Get in the mood for some scrumptious Russian piano trios at The Museum of Russian Art. The museum's curator of classical music, Denis Evstuhin, will play piano along with guest instrumentalists Natalia Moiseeva on the violin and Tanya Remenikova on the cello. Taking on the fiery Sergei Rachmaninoff, the quintessentially Russian Alexander Borodin and the avant-garde Dmitri Shostakovich, the concert takes place amid the post-Stalinist portraiture depicted in the ongoing exhibit, "The Body in Soviet Art." While you're there, take a peek downstairs to see Sergei Isupov's delightful surrealist sculptures.

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, April 20
Where: The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S.
Cost: \$30
Info: tmora.org



Denis Evstuhin, Natalia Moiseeva and Tanya Remenikova. Submitted photos

Focus

Creative Cocktails

Restaurateurs create cocktail programs to complement food offerings

By Nate Gottlieb / ngottlieb@swjournal.com

Silvia Sacta, co-owner of Cocina Latina, said customers have often asked for margaritas over the past 10 years while dining at her small Latin restaurant at 38th & Nicollet.

Her new cocktail menu, unveiled in June, should satisfy that demand.

Sacta, who owns the restaurant with her sister Ruth Gutierrez, serves several flavors of margarita, in addition to a mojito, a pina colada and a Sex on the Beach. She plans to add more drinks in the future.

Cocina Latina is one of 12 Southwest Minneapolis restaurants that have received full liquor licenses and started serving cocktails since November, when Minneapolis voters lifted restrictions on which businesses could apply for the license. (A 13th restaurant, Seed Cafe, is no longer serving cocktails.)

The restaurant owners said they have tried to ensure their new drinks complement their food and ambiance.

"We still are a restaurant that's super family friendly and closes early," said The Lowbrow owner Heather Bray, who began serving cocktails in June. "We didn't want liquor to change that and, so far, it hasn't at all."

Bray, who opened The Lowbrow in 2011, said she envisioned serving cocktails that feature local spirits and reflect the restaurant's "lowbrow" theme. She worked with Northeast Minneapolis' Tattersall Distilling to create recipes and pick spirits, and she closed the restaurant for four days in June to add coolers and renovate the space behind the bar.

"It was a crazy sprint to get it ready in four days," she said.

At the Italian restaurant Terzo, co-owner Charlie Broder said he and his team worked to create cocktails that use Italian spirits. He said the biggest benefit of having cocktails is being able to serve and teach customers about amaro, a post-dinner digestif.

"In every region [of Italy] you have different amaro that are so fascinating and delicious," he said.

Sixteen Southwest Minneapolis businesses have upgraded their liquor licenses since voters approved the referendum, according to the city. Previously, the city charter barred businesses not located in large commercial areas from applying for anything more than wine-and-beer licenses. Those businesses could lobby the state Legislature for an exemption, but that was a costly process.

A coalition of business owners, including Bray, Broder and others in Southwest Minneapolis, led a campaign to pass the referendum.

— Christopher Shea contributed reporting to this story.

A look at Southwest's new cocktail programs



Spritz

Pizzeria Lola

Location: 5557 Xerxes Ave. (Armatage)

Hours: Sunday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
Friday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.

At a glance: Pizzeria Lola serves six cocktails, all priced at \$10. Young Joni bar manager Adam Gorski and Lola's front-of-house manager Monika D'Onofrio collaborated on the menu.



Paper Plane and Capri Sunset

Terzo

Location: 2221 50th St. (Lynnhurst)

Hours: Sunday–Thursday, 5 p.m.–9 p.m.
Friday–Saturday, 5 p.m.–10 p.m.

At a glance: The Broder family restaurant focuses on its Italian roots with its cocktail program, which it unveiled in April. Customers can find amaro (an Italian herbal liqueur), vermouth (a wine flavored with herbs) and other Italy-inspired drinks.



Tequila Blackbird

Blackbird Cafe

Location: 3800 Nicollet Ave. (Kingfield)

Hours: Daily, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

At a glance: Blackbird serves four drinks, ranging in price from \$8 to \$10.



Old Fashioned

La Mesa

Location: 230 Cedar Lake Road (Bryn Mawr)

Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5 p.m.–10 p.m.
Saturday, noon–2 p.m. and 5 p.m.–10 p.m.
Sunday, 5 p.m.–9 p.m.

At a glance: Owners Juan Yunga and Ann Carlson-Yunga serve about a dozen made-to-order cocktails ranging in price from \$8 to \$16. Their bestseller so far has been the margarita. "We're trying to expose people through food and beverages to some of the interesting flavors and products of Central and South America," Carlson-Yunga said.



Magoneada

Cocina Latina

Location: 3764 Nicollet Ave. (Kingfield)

Hours: Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m.

At a glance: Silvia Sacta and Ruth Gutierrez offer tequila shots and four cocktails, with their most popular being the margarita.



Mango Margarita

La Fresca

Location: 4750 Grand Ave. (Tangletown)

Hours: Sunday–Thursday, 4 p.m.–9 p.m.
Friday–Saturday, 4 p.m.–10 p.m.

At a glance: Owner Hector Ruiz and his team serve eight agave-based cocktails, most of which are made to order. A bestseller is a drink called Waterfall City, which features tequila, fresh watermelon, lime juice and agave nectar. "We just want to give people a good balance of a drink that's not overly sweet or overly potent," general manager Zoilo Ruacho said.



Negroni

Red Wagon Pizza

Location: 5416 Penn. Ave. (Armatage)

Hours: Daily, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.

At a glance: Owner Peter Campbell and his team serve six batched cocktails to complement a wine list and 36 tap beers. The cocktail offerings include an Old Fashioned and a Manhattan.

Harriet's Inn

Location: 4000 Lyndale Ave. (East Harriet)

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.
Friday, 11 a.m.–midnight
Saturday, 10 a.m.–midnight
Sunday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m.

At a glance: Harriet's Inn has mixed drinks and serves eight made-to-order cocktails. Its bestsellers are its martini and Old Fashioned.



Strawberry Mojito



Vesper

Saint Genevieve

Location: 5003 Bryant Ave. (Lynnhurst)

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
Friday, 11 a.m.–midnight
Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–midnight
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

At a glance: Owner Steven Brown has a menu that includes six batched, French-influenced cocktails, ranging in price from \$9 to \$13. His bestseller is the Vesper, a cocktail that includes gin, vodka and the French wine Lillet.



Shandy

Lowbrow

Location: 4244 Nicollet Ave. (Kingfield)

Hours: Monday, 4 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
Tuesday–Friday, 11 a.m.–10:30 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–10:30 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m.–9:30 p.m.

At a glance: Heather Bray and her team serve eight cocktails, ranging from an Old Fashioned to a mimosa, many of which feature local spirits. Bray said her version of a Pimm's Cup was inspired by a visit to London a couple years ago.



Milanese

Tilia

Location: 2726 43rd St. (Linden Hills)

Hours: Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday–Sunday, 9 a.m.–1 a.m.

At a glance: Brown's other Southwest Minneapolis restaurant has six cocktail offerings in the evening and three brunch cocktails, all batched. The bestseller is called Gin & Two Tonics and features gin, house-made tonic, lemon and herbs.

Location: 3758 Nicollet Ave. (Kingfield)

Hours: Monday–Friday, 4 p.m.–midnight
Saturday–Sunday, noon–midnight

At a glance: This sushi and Japanese restaurant has five pre-batched gin- and vodka-based cocktails. It also serves nine Japanese whiskeys and three shochus (a type of Japanese hard alcohol).

Kyatchi



Miku Punchy

How to make a La Fresca margarita

Photos by Nate Gottlieb

Margaritas are a staple of cocktail menus across Southwest Minneapolis, including at the Mexican restaurant La Fresca, located at 48th & Grand, which offers six of them. Here's a look at how owner Hector Ruiz and his team make their Margarita Classica, as demonstrated by general manager Zoilo Ruacho.



Step 1

Salt the rim of the glass and add a lime wedge.



Step 2

Combine ice, tequila, agave nectar and lime juice in a shaking tin.



Step 3

Shake over the shoulder.



Step 4

Pour cocktail into tumbler and serve.