

SOUTHWEST Connector

NEWS FOR EVERYONE, DELIVERED TO EVERYONE • JANUARY 6, 2022 • VOL. 1 • NO. 2



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MODEL,
MENTORING
FOSTER
COLLEGE
SUCCESS

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HENNEPIN AVE DESIGN: HELPFUL OR HURTFUL?



Hennepin for People supports city's proposed plan for street

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

As woman of color, Wedge resident Chandra Lalla says she knows how “our streets don’t serve everyone well.”

“For generations, city streets were built solely with car travel in mind, at the expense of the Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities who experience the most traffic related fatalities (followed by seniors and children). I want a reconstructed Hennepin that ensures safe and comfortable passage for everyone who uses the street on a daily basis, no matter how they travel. And if you depend on your car, I care about your safety too. Nobody is served well by the high speeds and reckless behavior encouraged by the existing design of this street.”

She co-founded Hennepin for People in order to support a street that values people who walk, roll, bus, bike, and drive.

“Based on crash data, the city has designated Hennepin Avenue as a high injury street; the current layout doesn’t serve anyone well. I am excited about the recommended layout especially with the future E Line Bus Rapid Transit. During rush hour, 49% of the people in vehicles on Hennepin are in buses; this is why 24/7 bus lanes are absolutely essential – transit riders deserve priority. Our population is growing and we should use the limited space we have efficiently. We can’t compete with suburban shopping centers on parking availability. But we can and should embrace what makes this area special: the density of people and destinations, and the choices we have for how to travel.”

Proposal removes 92% of street parking, designates 24/7 bus-only lanes, adds median to restrict left turns, narrows vehicle lanes, and includes 2-way bike lanes

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

If the proposed reconstruction plan for Hennepin Ave. passes, Kristin Traynor says The Corner Balloon Shoppe will be moving

Amazing Thailand has struggled without street parking for customers in front of their building at 3024 Hennepin Ave. S., especially as they’ve shifted business to takeout, says general manager Korawan (Yin) Muangmode, second from left, shown with her brother and family, owners Dee and Kulsatreet Noree with Yindee and Sandee (age 4), and head chef Khamsouk Pathilath (left). (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

from 2455 Hennepin Ave.

“I have an extremely diverse group of customers who drive, and like the fact that they can usually find free parking right by my front door,” said Traynor. “This includes suburban moms who come in with three little ones in tow, elderly citizens who have trouble walking and first-time customers (who often become regulars) that say they were just driving by and decided to pull over and check out our Shoppe.”

Traynor is part of an organized effort

by the Uptown Association and Citizens Against South Hennepin Reconstruction Proposed Design coalition to see a different design. Like others, she questions putting bike lanes on Hennepin. “I’m not sure why we need bike lanes on every street in the city. There are side streets flanking Hennepin on both sides,” observed Traynor. “To make such a concession to a small population at the expense of small business just seems ridiculous to me.”

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URBAN INDIGENOUS LEGACY INITIATIVE UNVEILED

16 nonprofits work together to transform Indigenous landscape

By **Margie O’Loughlin**

Many buildings that serve Native Americans across the Twin Cities are outdated and dilapidated, making it even tougher to help those in need, according to Dr. Joe Hobot, president and CEO of the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center (AIOIC) in Minneapolis.

“Our aging facilities are being held together by baling wire, duct tape, spit and grip,” he told the attendees at the recent #NativeRISE event in downtown St. Paul.

Hobot was speaking on behalf of a newly formed collaborative called the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative, a plan to transform the Indigenous landscape of the Twin Cities. The collaborative represents 16 nonprofit organi-

zations working on behalf of Native Americans metro-wide; the buildings that house these organizations are in need of repair and/or replacement.

These organizations have provided services and resources in the Twin Cities for more than four decades. The proposed culturally affirming buildings would allow the organizations to expand the services they offer, creating a safe, supportive, and empowering experience for Native Americans recipients.

At this moment, with historic levels of funding available for improving infrastructure and reducing racial disparities, the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative is looking forward.

THRIVING NONPROFITS = THRIVING COMMUNITIES

The #NativeRISE event drew approximately 200 nonprofit leaders, legislators, foundation supporters, community partners, media and other guests. As the audience learned, six

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Kevin Smoky Day, Ojibwe language instructor at Takoda Prep High School, led the evening prayer. He said, “When students ask me how to say a prayer in Ojibwe, I tell them it’s simple. You only need these words, “Thank you, Creator.” (Photo by Margie and Pat O’Loughlin)



Take a public art walking tour along the University of Minnesota's East and West Bank campuses. (Photos by Susan Schaefer)

AN EDUCATED TWIST TO WINTER FITNESS:

Take a local outdoor public art tour to enhance well-being



By Susan Schaefer

Much has been written about the benefits of exercise and being outdoors to beat the blues. According to a recent report from the American Psychological Association, "There is mounting evidence, from dozens and dozens of researchers, that nature has benefits for both physical and psychological human well-being."

The good news is that urban nature is a totally acceptable stand in. Twin Citians needn't feel compelled to own a cabin or make excursions to Minnesota's vast northern wilderness to enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors.

But what happens when the Polar Vortex is at our door?

Those who live here in the "True North" know that the expression, "Winter is Coming," didn't originate with the epic Game of Thrones television series. In fact, Minnesotans surely wrote many chapters in the book on wintering.

Urban denizens take on December through March in style, often embracing winter sports bedecked in Lycra, layers, long johns, fleece, down and wool, on skis, skates, sleds, snowshoes, and sneaks, defying

the elements to log miles on abundant city trails and parks.

But sometimes, icy paths, below zero temps, and Arctic blasts find many desiring ways to get steps in without the alfresco Olympic heroics.

Here's a way to multiply your winter fun: It is well-documented that enjoying cultural activity also contributes greatly to our personal and collective well-being. So, combining outdoor exercise with an artistic twist provides a wellness big bang!

Let me introduce you to one of my favorite metro area outdoor adventures: trekking the University of Minnesota's East and West Bank campuses. Throughout the seasons, I wander the many pathways of this urban treasure, not only charting my 10,000 steps, but experiencing museum quality art, as well.

Best of all, this exploration is free and open to the public. And it's perfect to do with family or friends. The campuses are easy to get to from anywhere in the metro area and boast multiple public parking and transportation options with the Green Line offering convenient stops on both campuses.

I'm fortunate to live in a high-rise condo building adjacent to the West Bank, and have made a three-to-four-mile walk-

ing loop a regular part of my exercise program. From my back door, which adjoins Bluff Street Park, I cross the convenient Dinkytown Greenway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge to explore the East Bank, completing my route by crossing back over the iconic, covered Washington Avenue Bridge. Both bridges offer amazing views of the Mississippi River high above the limestone bluffs.

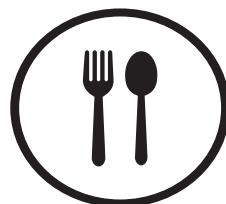
JOIN ME FOR A LITTLE TOUR.

Beginning at Bluff Street Park, cross the Dinkytown bridge, turning right at the steep hill by the back of by the Education Sciences Building. Here you encounter the "Garden of Iron Mirrors" installation by Andrea Stanislav. This arty rock outcropping consists of giant native taconite geodes, sliced in two, some highly polished, others sporting shiny stainless-steel plates. The work creates an "intersection between art, science, and history" and nature. These behemoth rocks "reflect" the surrounding building, the wooded riparian steep bank, the beholder, and the very core of Minnesota's geology - taconite. It's a fun place to pose for selfies in the cleverly polished rock mirrors - when they're not snow-covered! [Photo 1]

At the top of the hill, cross East River Road to take the bucolic



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▶2 EDUCATED TWIST

pathway between Burton, Elliot, Scott, and Wulling Halls. These buildings are architecturally interesting, and coupled with the stunning ancient oak trees, comprise a magical part of this tour. [Photo 2]

Emerging from this nestled path near the side of Northrop Auditorium, cross Pleasant St. SE, then scoot between Johnson Hall and Walter Library (a marvel of art lies inside). With the front of Northrop on the left, turn right past the photogenic buildings of the quad. Great photo on here!

At Scholar's Walk, turn left, strolling a short block. Outside the Mechanical Engineering Building rises the "Platonic figure" by local favorite, Andrew Leicester. This installation is a soaring homage to the great Renaissance artist-engineer Leonardo da Vinci's drawing "Vitruvian Man." [Photo 3]

Continuing east is the enchanting, semi-covered arcade of Scholar's Walk, a corridor with depictions, drawings, diagrams and descriptions of famous University intellectuals and their works, etched and sandwiched behind lit glass. [Photo 4]

Continuing along Scholar's Walk, cross Church Street (the Graduate Hotel sits on the opposite side). A little way on, outside the Physics and Nanotechnology Building, are the mesmerizing sculptures, constructed of stainless steel and granite entitled "Spannungfeld," by German artist, Julian Voss-Andreae. Spannungfeld means, "tension field," which implies "a dynamic tension, often between polar opposites."

This exciting work consists of two 10-foot-tall figures in a basic kneeling pose, a male and a female, facing each other. "The two figures represent nature's omnipresent pairs of opposites. These dualities are a



"The Crucible" by Stuart Nielsen sits outside Amundson Hall. This piece was inspired by the 40-foot diameter geodesic globe of the world installed in May 1993 on Northrop Plaza with the help of 11,535 elementary students. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

fundamental facet of nature and are found in Western science as well as in Eastern traditions. They are critical to the emergence of new levels of meaning in science, and, in the case of the two human genders, critical to the emergence of life. Like the positive and negative electric charge in physics or the yin-yang in Chinese philosophy, neither woman nor man can exist without the other."

Standing to the side of each figure, you

perceive a solid mass, but move directly in front of each, and the artworks seem to disappear as you behold the buildings and landscaping behind each, a masterful optical illusion. The effect is marvelous. [Photo 5]

Heading south towards Washington Ave., make a right, where outside of Amundson Hall sits Stuart Nielsen's, "The Crucible," of cast bronze and stainless steel. Celebrating the beauty and strength of nat-

ural materials. This piece "was inspired by a 40-foot diameter geodesic globe of the world that was erected on Northrop Plaza in May 1993 with the help of 184 schools, 11,535 elementary students, and over 250 Institute of Technology alumni mentors - a technical, organizational, and inspirational triumph. [Photo 6]

These are but a few of the marvels along this route of world class architecture and sculptures. Not only can you get brisk exercise, but the many coffee shops and cafes that dot Washington Ave. provide respite. Heading towards the Washington Avenue Bridge, the colonial style Coffman Union building, next to the Weisman Art Museum (WAM), is open to the public with a lower level featuring food kiosks and the fantastic bookstore with a wonderful gift selection.

Speaking of gifts, when WAM reopens, its gift shop rivals that of any major museum.

Did you know that through WAM, you can book a guided tour of the public art on the campus?

Since its establishment in 1988, the Public Art on Campus Program has become an integral part of the campus environment. As I've partly described here, each piece of art has its own history and ties to campus life and academics. Public Art on Campus Tours last one hour and cover about 1.5-2 miles can be scheduled for groups of 3-15. Check the website for more information.

From Frogtown, to Longfellow, to Southwest - all roads easily lead to this urban excursion where art and exercise exist in splendid harmony. Maybe I'll see you on the trail!



NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.

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- >>> Visit advertiser's website
- >>> Save ad for future reference



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NEVER FORGET THE POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

A longtime reader and community activist reached out to me last month to say hello, and in the course of our catching up, she shared a snapshot of a column I had written 20 years ago which she had saved among her collection of newspaper clippings. While I was touched with the fact that she had considered my column to be worth saving all these years, it also struck me how the power of the written word can be, at times, so enduring.

In my own family, we have a host of written treasures that my siblings and I have saved as tributes to our parents and relatives and the life and times that they experienced. My Mom was a longtime member of the Eastside Writers Club and loved to write poetry. We once published a seasonal poem she wrote under the byline "Sue Donym" (for pseudonym), a byline which she sometimes used in a show of modesty to not call attention to herself. She would often write poetry featuring the people in her life and she would also write poetry as an outlet for stress relief from life's daily challenges.

Another cherished piece of writing was the typewritten letter that my Uncle Bob from Milwaukee wrote to my Dad when my Dad was being inducted into the Korean War. My Dad was the baby of his family, with his three half-brothers much older than him as my grandfather's first wife, who had given birth to the three half-brothers, had passed away. Uncle Bob, the closest to my Dad in age, was still 15 years older than my Dad and very much of a father figure to him.

Uncle Bob's letter was just a page long. Short, poignant, and to the heart. He wrote about my father's faith, his dedication to family and country, and how he knew that my Dad would emerge from this challenging time with his principles and integrity intact. It was such a moving and well-written letter that still brings an emotional response decades later, that it is one of the pieces of



By Denis Woulfe

my family's history that has been preserved over time. Each time I have read Uncle Bob's letter to my Dad I have always thought that my only wish was that I would be able to find just the right words of inspiration to impart to my own kids when they needed support, encouragement, or perhaps just a few words of praise for a job well done.

A good friend from high school that I've known since third grade called me a few months ago after his father had passed away as he was sorting through some of his personal effects and keepsakes. He was reading a few lines from postcards that I had sent to him when he was away at Carleton College at Northfield and I was at Hamline University in St. Paul. I was a little embarrassed, as I had completely forgotten that I had even sent him postcards during our college years, but again, also amazed that he found them worth keeping.

I've also saved a few letters and cards over the years myself. English professor Quay Grigg was my English advisor at Hamline University while I was a student there back in the 70s. He also led an interim trip to the Rio Grande Valley back in May 1977 of which I was a part. Upon my return, I wrote a freelance piece for the Saint Paul *Pioneer Press* on our trip to the Rio Grande and Georgia O'Keefe country. Grigg was kind enough to provide a photograph that I could submit, along my manuscript, to the *Pioneer Press*. He also sent along a short, typewritten note which read, in part: "Congratulations on your *Pioneer Press* budding career. I hope it does indeed bud."

I never pursued a full-time job with the *Pioneer Press* after that other than writing

a freelance theatre review on assignment, but shortly after our trip I became the editor of our student newspaper at Hamline and eventually became editor of our sister newspaper, the *Midway Como Frogtown Monitor* in 1979 with Grigg's encouragement. I've saved that short note from Grigg ever since.

I think it's true today that fewer and fewer of us are writing letters and postcards as we did years ago. We are more likely to send a text or write something on Facebook than send a letter to a friend or family member. I know that I'm as guilty of this as anyone. I'm much more likely to send off a text or write an email to someone than to spend the time to write an actual letter or postcard, put a stamp on it, and send it off in the mail.

I know that times have changed. That it's a different world than it was 10 or 20 years ago. But my wish for all of us is to not abandon the seemingly outdated notions of handwritten or typed letters and postcards. Not everything can be expressed adequately in emojis and cryptic text messages. Sometimes the best felt emotions and thoughts can best be expressed in old-fashioned written communications.

In short, don't forget to write!

And in addition to writing to your friends, family and other people in your life, don't forget to write to your favorite community newspaper, the *Southwest Connector*. Just like your friends and family we would like to hear what's on your mind. We know it's worth sharing.



TMC Publications sales representative Denis Woulfe has worked on both the editorial and advertising sides of newspapers, and relishes the opportunity to work with area businesses on developing marketing plans and finding solutions to reaching their audience.

THANKS! AND CONGRATS!



LETTERS

Your newspaper was delivered today and I'm surprised at how much I liked it - mostly because we're new(ish, 7 years) to MSP, and I've never felt a huge

connection to a news outlet or newspaper here. We've been warmly welcomed, and we've settled in really well, but I've had a hard time feeling civically connected.

Something about your paper instantly made me feel like this is for me, and I feel a responsibility to read it, react, and act. The articles feel tangible, and your introduction made me feel like we were really partnering together in this community.

My dad publishes a home and lifestyle magazine in St. Louis, so I know how much work goes into projects like this - you've done an awesome job. Congratulations!

Anna Abrams

43rd and Dupont

ANALYSIS OF 2021 RCV ELECTIONS IN MINNESOTA SHOW GROWING SUCCESS

I'm excited to share our analysis of the RCV elections in Minnesota this past November. 2021 has been a historic year for Ranked Choice Voting here and across the country. Bloomington, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, and St. Paul all used RCV for their municipal elections. Never before have we had five Minnesota cities - representing 16 percent of Minnesota voters - conducting ranked-choice elections at the same time. These elections were among the more than 30 cities across the country using RCV for local elections this year.

The 2021 municipal elections in the five metro cities greatly exceeded expectations. The elections showed the power of RCV to create a more inclusive, participatory and representative democracy. With stronger than expected voter participation due to large and diverse competitive campaigns, high levels of ranking among voters of all ages, ethnicities, income and education levels, and a nearly 100 percent valid ballot rate, voters demonstrated that they understood RCV, they liked it and - based on consistent exit polling interviews - they want to continue using it.

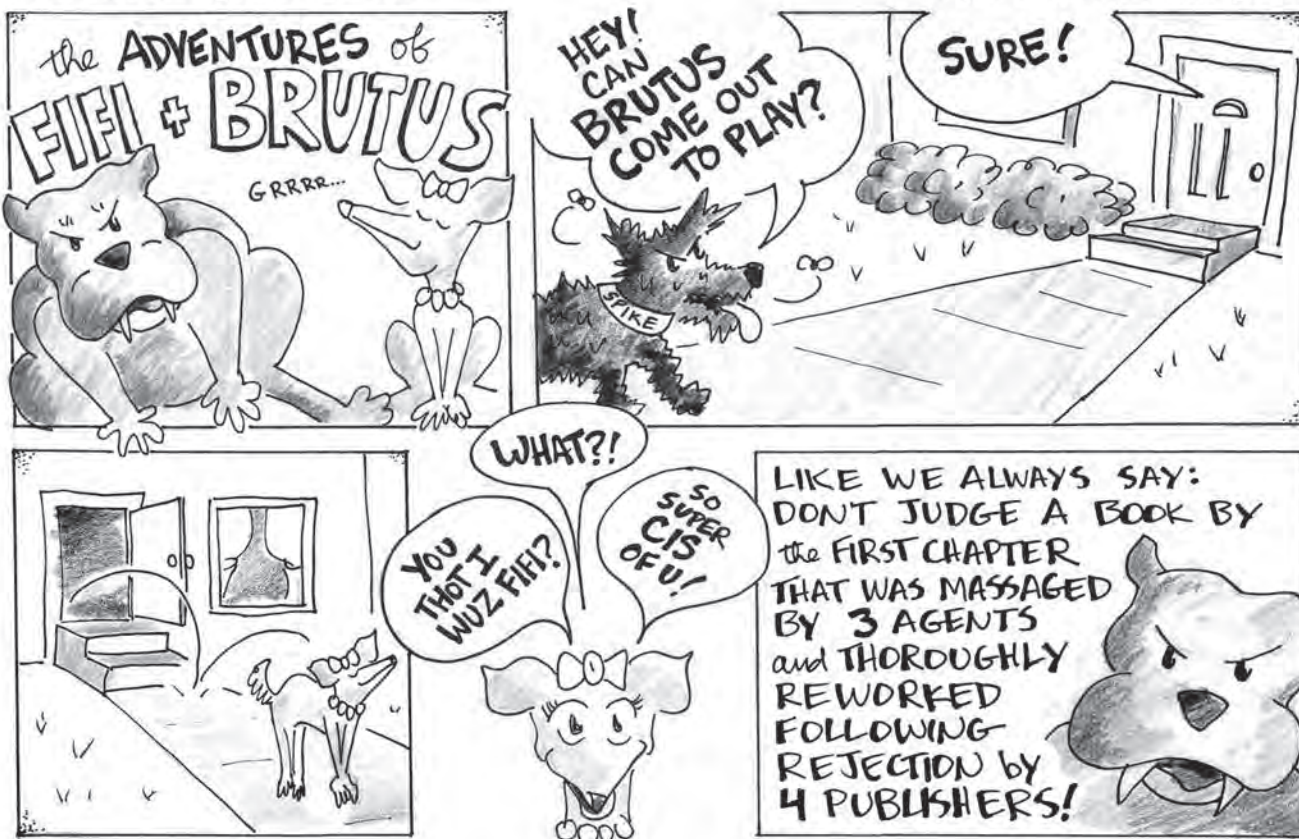
These trends have become more pronounced with each consecutive election in which RCV is used. In addition, we saw RCV mitigate the kind of polarization we see in traditional elections. In particular, despite rancor from the ballot measure campaigns in Minneapolis, most candidates ran issue-oriented campaigns and focused on building coalitions. Those with the largest coalitions won and by and large, negative campaigning didn't work. In sum, the RCV elections this cycle continue to build the momentum for expanding RCV in more communities and in state and federal elections.

Read our full analysis, including a summary breakdown of data in Minneapolis and Bloomington in our RCV By The Numbers. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

With gratitude and well wishes for the holidays,

Jeanne Massey,
Executive Director
FairVote Minnesota

Anthropoidea



By Stewart Huntington

SOUTHWEST Connector

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The *Connector* is for profit and for a purpose

- and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white, both/and. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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TRUE PROGRESS ON HENNEPIN REQUIRES A BUSINESS PLAN

The Hennepin South reconstruction project won't work for anyone without a local economy

Small businesses are the lifeblood of any community. They provide distinctive character to a neighborhood and are the engine that drives a local economy. Without local businesses, there is no local economy. And without a local economy, there is no community.



By Eric Ortiz

Is this the future of Minneapolis?

That's the road the city will be on if the Hennepin Avenue South reconstruction project moves forward with its current design.

To see how Minneapolis could have a future with no local economy, it's important to understand the proposed Hennepin plan that runs from West Lake Street to Douglas Avenue. The Minneapolis Public Works Department, which has been working on the project since 2018, released its final plan on Dec. 7. The recommended design includes 24/7 bus lanes, protected bike lanes, pedestrian improvements and two vehicle lanes (instead of four).

We are 100 percent in favor of improving the walkability and bikability of a city, making public transportation better and reducing the effects of climate change. But an important part of the community is missing in this Hennepin plan — the small business community. Their needs have not been addressed.

For months, business owners have been calling for the plan to include parking for customers and loading zones for deliveries. Their voices have mostly not been heard. This proposal offers about 20 spaces for on-street parking and loading on Hennepin Ave., while eliminating 92 percent of the on-street parking along this key business and residential corridor.

The Uptown Association launched a campaign to support businesses. They organized



Corner of Lagoon and Hennepin, looking south, in 1938. (Minnesota Historical Society)

a petition to ensure Hennepin Avenue works for everyone, and more than 1,000 community members (many businesses and residents) signed it. They also collected testimonials from businesses on Hennepin sharing their concerns. Instead of listening, the proposed design recast Hennepin as a corridor to be "passed through," rather than a commercial node where people come to work, shop, dine, and spend money.

Supporters of the plan have not just dismissed the concerns of business owners. They have openly mocked them at times. While advocates call the plan an "inclusive design," it doesn't acknowledge that this plan won't work for businesses, the elderly, disabled, suburbanites, out-of-towners or families with small kids. Moms and dads don't always have time to load up the bike cart or take a leisurely stroll.

Minneapolis prides itself on being a bicycle-friendly city, but we're a long way from becoming Amsterdam or Copenhagen, where

half of commuters cycle. The reality is that only about 5 percent of residents in Minneapolis use bikes to get around. That's around 22,000 people (of the 435,000 population), and that number is even smaller in the winter.

Don't get us wrong. We realize climate change is an existential crisis. We are all for reducing our carbon footprint and preventing severe injuries and deaths from traffic crashes. We love the concept of a 15-minute city — the idea that residents can meet their basic needs with 15-minute walk or bike ride — and appreciate the aspirational idea of Minneapolis becoming a smaller-scale Chicago or New York City.

The trouble is, pushing a plan out that fails to consider the full needs of our community gives us the illusion of progress. And it's clear that businesses are an afterthought in the Hennepin reconstruction.

But why does it have to be either/or? Why can't the Hennepin plan be both/and? We can promote long-term environmental sus-

tainability and support local businesses at the same time. The two ideas are not mutually exclusive. Why can't the Hennepin plan support walkers, bike riders, public transportation, the environment, and initiatives for businesses in our community?

Hennepin was last reconstructed in 1957, and some people are making plans on what a great corridor Hennepin will be for the next 50 years. But what happens in the next few years when small businesses leave Hennepin or don't survive the reconstruction?

We've already lost businesses in Uptown. There are no guarantees businesses will take their place, or the city will recoup lost revenue. Active streets are safer streets when it comes to public safety. You don't have to worry about crime as much when there is a thriving business corridor. Blocks of empty storefronts and boarded-up businesses don't help. Parts of Hennepin look like a ghost town now. It could get worse.

We need to find balance. True progress requires both/and leadership. That is how we can produce true win/win outcomes. Everyone might not get everything they want. But all sides get what they need.

This would be good for business. For everyone.

The public comment period for the Hennepin reconstruction plan is open until Jan. 28. Public Works is scheduled to present the plan to the city council in March/April 2022, and street construction is planned to begin in 2024. No matter what your opinion is on the future of Hennepin, we recommend you make your voice heard.



Eric Ortiz lives in the Wedge with his family. When he's not community building, he's the director of media for Granite Media and writes bilingual children's books with his kids. Their first book was "How the Zookalex Saved the Village," available in English and Spanish on Amazon.

Breaking schools' rules: school-to-prison pipeline explained

Why everyone should care and work to help stop the funnel and negative effects on society

Schools and prisons should never be in the same sentence; however, the school-to-prison pipeline is real.

For far too many students of color, entering the gateway to incarceration begins with a referral from the classroom to the courtroom. This phenomenon is referred to as the school-to-prison pipeline. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund described this pipeline as "funneling of students out of school and into the streets and the juvenile correction system perpetuates a cycle known as the 'School-to-Prison-Pipeline,' depriving children and youth of meaningful opportunities for education, future employment, and participation in our democracy."

The emergence of the school-to-prison pipeline has been impacted by trends in school disciplinary practices and zero tolerance policies. It is our challenge to dismantle this pipeline and create new pipelines to success for all children. In order to undertake in this endeavor, we must first become knowledgeable on this contemporary civil rights issue.

Students enter into the juvenile justice system through an interaction with a police officer in the community or through a referral from schools.

There are two main contributing factors that have led to the expansion of the school-to-prison pipeline:



By Dr. Artika Tyner

1) School disciplinary practices. Nationally, a public student is suspended every second and a half. This equates to 3.3 million children being suspended each year. One study found that 95 percent of out-of-school suspensions were for nonviolent, minor disruptions such as tardiness or disrespect. Previous studies have shown that even a single suspension can double the odds of that student later dropping out. A simple math equation emerges: missed days in the classroom plus missed learning opportunity equals a decreased likelihood of a student's ability to successfully complete high school and enter the pipeline to future success through higher education and vocational pursuits.

2) Zero tolerance policies. Zero tolerance policies can also serve as a gateway into the school-to-prison pipeline. Schools are increasingly reliant on zero tolerance as a tool to curb misbehaviors. However, their use may be too drastic. Violence is down at public schools since 1990 — down by 30 percent. Further, less than one percent of all violent crimes happen on school grounds. Therefore, in some instances the enforcement of zero tolerance policies can

be far-reaching, therefore increasing the likelihood of interaction with law enforcement and future incarceration.

This pipeline must be dismantled and strategic action is required. Changes in three main categories must be enacted.

First, positive climates must be created that focus on prevention rather than punishment. Students would be better served through interventions informed by restorative practices from school administrators to handle disciplinary actions rather than relying on resource officers and the court system.

Educational programs and counseling services should be increased and made available, along with training and tools for teachers to effectively deal with misbehavior. This holistic approach will aid in ministering to the needs of children while supporting learning goals.

Secondly, the development of clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations is critical, along with consequences to prevent, de-escalate, and address disruptive behaviors. As an adjunct to this, we must improve behavior, increase engagement, and boost achievement. Students must be made aware of what's expected of them and learn key tools for managing these expectations as a part of life skills development.

Lastly, we need to ensure fairness, equity, and continuous improvement to pre-

vent a reversion to the methods and policies that made the school-to-prison pipeline possible. Disciplinary policies and practices will need continual examination and analysis.

The emergence of the school-to-prison pipeline is detrimental to the success of thousands of children across the United States. Entering the pipeline creates a gateway into the "tangled web of mass incarceration." Now more than ever we need a vision for dismantling this pipeline in order to support student engagement, learning, and academic success. The wisdom of Sitting Bull offers a new pathway to the future: "Let us put our minds together and see what kind of life we can make for our children." This is a call to action for educators, school administrators, elected officials, parents, and community leaders.

You can learn how you can help to prevent, challenge, and change the school-to-prison pipeline by watching my lecture in the Comcast/NBC Universal Social Justice Series on the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

You can also participate and be part of the solution by visiting #SJSSEBeyondTheHashtag, #SchoolToPrisonPipeline, and #RacialJustice.



Through her organization, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, Dr. Artika Tyner seeks to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach. Reach her at dr.artikatyner@gmail.com.

NEW SCULPTURE COMING

The Lake Street Council has unveiled sneak peek images of a new outdoor art installation coming to Lake Street. A heart-shaped “We Love Lake Street” sculpture designed by the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center will be completed and displayed along the Lake Street corridor in early 2022.

“This new sculpture will celebrate all the special people and places that make Lake Street a wonderful neighborhood – especially the hundreds of small businesses that call it home,” said Allison Sharkey, executive director of the Lake Street Council. “We are excited to bring this locally designed sculpture to Lake Street as we rebuild, recover and look to the future.”

Once completed, the eight-foot-tall sculpture will be placed outside at the corner of Lake Street and Chicago Avenue, travelling to other locations along Lake Street over the seasons. The art piece is made possible by Wells Fargo and its Hope USA campaign, a nationwide effort focused on supporting small businesses and neighborhood beautification in communi-



ties across the country. Drawings of the sculpture were revealed at the Lake Street Council’s Winter Block Party on Thursday, Dec. 2. The free event focused on celebrating Lake Street’s

small businesses and featured live music, bonfires and an ice sculpture inspired by the new art installation. (Photo submitted)

BRIEFS

ARRESTS MADE IN BRYN MAWR ROBBERY

Four teens have been arrested in a robbery that occurred on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 11:31 a.m. at Bryn Mawr Market (412 Cedar Lake Road S.). According to the Minneapolis Police Department, four suspects entered the convenience store and attempted to rob the business at gunpoint. When the 20-year-old female cashier was not able to open the register, one of the suspects shot her in the foot. While leaving the business, one suspect punched the cashier in the face and another suspect shot her in the torso. She was transported to the hospital and listed in serious condition. The suspects fled the scene in a vehicle that had been previously taken in a carjacking in St. Paul. Within eight hours from the initial incident, investigators arrested three of the suspects, located the vehicle, and recovered a handgun in Minneapolis. The fourth suspect was arrested on Dec. 30. All four suspects are being investigated for involvement in multiple robberies and carjackings in Minneapolis.

A comment from the family: “We would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of support and love for the wellbeing of our daughter. We wanted to pass along that our daughter is on the mend and she along with our family have been uplifted by the thoughts, prayers and well wishes from this community. We would appreciate our privacy during this difficult time.”

GREEN LINE EXTENSION UPDATE

Highlights of 2021:

- Excavation progressed and crews began to pour concrete for the structure of the LRT tunnel in the Kenilworth corridor.
- Freight rail work to update tracks was completed. Tie work to be done next year.
- The deck for LRT bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel was completed.
- All the drilled shafts that support the Corridor Protection Wall between Bryn Mawr Station and Glenwood Avenue were completed.

Upcoming in 2022:

- Cedar Lake Parkway will close in early 2022 in order to construct the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel through that segment of the corridor. More details to follow in January.
 - Construction will advance on all five Minneapolis stations.
 - Construction is slated to begin on the third and final bridge structure over the Cedar Lake Channel, to establish the regional trail bridge.
 - Work will continue to advance on the Glenwood Avenue roadway and LRT bridge structures.
 - Holden Street and Border Avenue will be reconstructed near the Royalston Avenue/Farmers Market Station.
- Minneapolis Roadway Detours: Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

My first assignment, when offered this opportunity to write for the *Southwest Connector*, was to come up with a **Name for the Column**. And as I started to write, I realized that without a name for it, it would be hard to write for it.



By Larry LaVercombe

friend Suzie Marty, who not only owns the supercool art gallery Everett & Charlie, *she is a connector of people, too*.

Two summers ago, when COVID-19 was raging and we all needed a safe, outdoor place to connect, Suzie created a weekly outdoor Fall Sidewalk Music Series. She partnered with the neighboring Harriet Brasserie restaurant, and presto: we had musicians entertaining both passers-by and diners. People connect, and everybody wins.

But my favorite part of this story is that there is a driveway between Everett & Charlie and The Harriet Brasserie. The driveway is owned by Felicity Britton, who many of you may know as one of the founders of Linden Hills Power and Light, the organization highly responsible for starting the organic recycling movement in Minnesota. Felicity owns the building that houses both the gallery and the Wild Rumpus Bookstore. During COVID-19, when no one could eat inside, Felicity donated her driveway for free to The Harriet Brasserie so that the Brasserie could have enough outdoor seating to serve all of the people who wanted to come together for community and food.

I’ve always believed in the concept of a *team*. I loved it when Title IX was passed: it gave girls the same chance as boys to *be on a team*. I coached little league, and more than anything else, I stressed that *we were a team*. We tucked our shirts in, and we all rooted for each other; that’s what my *team* was about. Years later, I named my real estate business Team Larry. It’s who I am.

And yet, I believe in cooperation more than competition. Competition is great when it makes you work harder, but as Paul Wellstone said, “We all do better when we all do better.”

I not only believe this, but I work consciously to make it true. My faith is important. No one can change the world, and yet, we change the world with everything we do. I’ve been writing my whole adult life, hoping for it to have some effect. I’ve recently learned how to play guitar, and I’ve finally begun to feel that I can affect people with music, as I team with other musicians. *Bingo! Dang! I just got it! I just this instant*, as you are with me here... I just this instant came up with the title: *Teaming Up for Good*. {he writes the title at the top of the page.}

Hah! I love it when this happens. My personal artistic writing is heavily influenced by art that incorporates a meta-consciousness: TV shows that break the fourth wall, and fiction that implicates the reader into the story. I like to talk to you as you watch my characters talk to each other.

So – thanks for helping me title this column! I couldn’t have done it without you!

Look for articles here about the community, about opportunities to do good in the community, and yes, also occasionally about real estate. I have carefully followed the writing and passing of Minneapolis 2040 plan, and I have lots of opinions about how it will affect our culture and your property values.

Stay tuned. And thanks for coming with me this far.



Larry LaVercombe is a writer, filmmaker, and activist, born in Detroit and arrived in Minneapolis in 1975. He lived in a treehouse in San Diego before getting an MFA from the USC Film School. He writes every day, and he has been selling residential real estate in Minneapolis for 26 years.

WEDDINGS

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▶ 1 URBAN INDIGENOUS LEGACY INITIATIVE

of the proposed Legacy Initiative projects are shovel-ready, five are investment-ready, and the rest are still being planned.



The estimated cost for the project is \$94 million, which will be raised through public and private sources.

The Legacy Initiative addresses disparities highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent civil unrest, as well as persistent shortfalls in funding for capital improvements in Native American organizations that focus resources on client services.

“Now is the time to commit to funding state-of-the-art facilities with robust programming for the Native American community,” Hobot said. “The challenges of the last 20 months have been unprecedented. It’s time to build the future we want to see for our people.”

POWER OF COMMUNITY

Annessia Swann was 22 years old in 1994. Speaking from the podium at #NativeRISE, she said, “I was a single mom in an abusive relationship and needed career assistance to raise my son. A family member suggested I go to the American Indian OIC.”

“I signed up for a one-year training program. The OIC had an on-site child care center, which made it possible for me to complete my program. I found work after I graduated, first with a marketing firm and then in a corporate setting. After a few years, I got a job at OIC, and I’ve been there ever since. I grew up there. My kids would say they grew up there.”

Swann, now the director of Adult Basic Education/GED at AIOIC, is grateful for the support and services she received from the organization. It has made a difference in her life, she said.

The Legacy Initiative will make it possible for AIOIC, located at 1845 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis, to expand and improve its facilities. Funding will ensure that students at the on-site high school have an enriched learning environment with up-to-date technology and resources. Students in the job training program will receive career counseling and skills that help them enter, reenter or advance in the workforce with living wage jobs.

The Legacy Initiative will make it possible for the OIC, located at 1824 Franklin Ave. East in Minneapolis, to expand and improve its facilities. Those facilities include the on-site high school Takoda Prep, and the job training program Takoda Institute. Takoda is a Dakota word meaning “friend to all.”



Lieutenant Gov. Peggy Flanagan said, “As we come up on the 2022 legislative session, we will fight for the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative. Our communities do better when we work collaboratively. The state of Minnesota has been headed in one direction for 133 years. Now we have the vision to do things differently.” (Photos by Margie and Pat O’Loughlin)



Sean Sherman, chef and cookbook author, was the evening’s keynote speaker. His work focuses on rebuilding Indigenous food pathways broken by colonization.

IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL SPACES

Attorney Patrice Kunesh is board chair of the Wakan Tipi Center and Lower Phalen Creek Project on the east side of St. Paul.

From the podium, she explained, “We’re trying to restore land to its original habitat. We’ve transformed 27 acres desecrated by the railroad and by industry at the Bruce Vento



American Indian OIC President Dr. Joe Hobot, shown with emcee Deanna Standing Cloud (right), said, “Our buildings have deteriorated, and it is time to add to the legacy of what we inherited. Welcome to the moment – as we move forward from this critical crossroad.”

Nature Sanctuary.”

The organization’s goal is to honor and bring connection to the sacred site. The building – deemed “shovel ready” – will feature a community gathering area, classrooms, and gallery space to showcase the value of sanctuary as a place for cultural healing, life-long learning, and inspiration.

Once built, the organization will operate the interpretive center rent-free for 30 years, as part of a public/private partnership with the city of Saint Paul.

“We’re very grateful,” Kunesh said, “to the city, the legislature, the state, the Met Council, local philanthropists and foundations for supporting a gathering place that will benefit Native Americans and the whole community.”

RECLAIMING INDIGENOUS FOOD PATHWAYS

Indigenous chef Sean Sherman has spent more than 30 years perfecting his craft. Co-founder (with his partner Dana Thompson) and CEO of the Sioux Chief, the Indigenous Food Lab, and Owamni, the new Indigenous restaurant in downtown Minneapolis, he was the keynote speaker for #NativeRISE.

“North America’s history begins with Indigenous history. Now is the time to step up all together. Now is the time for evolution and revolution,” Sherman said. “We are reclaiming Indigenous narratives, Indigenous spaces, and Indigenous food pathways that were broken with colonization. We will be the answer to our ancestor’s prayers, but we can’t do it by ourselves. We will rise together.”

For further information about the Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative, contact Ann Merrill at the American Indian OIC: annm@aioic.org.

Funding for #NativeRISE was provided by the Bush Foundation and Bremer Bank. Singing and drumming was provided by the West End Singers.

REBUILD REPAIR RECYCLE

Monthly section
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DOUGHERTY FAMILY COLLEGE OFFERS STUDENTS A GREAT START

By Margie O'Loughlin



A two-year college through the University of St. Thomas is tailored to motivated, underrepresented students who have encountered barriers in pursuing a college degree.

Founded in 2017, the Dougherty Family College (DFC) provide its students, whom they call scholars, with financial, academic, and personal supports.

Dougherty scholars demonstrate financial need, solid academic achievement (2.5 GPA or above) and a strong desire to succeed. The average, annual out-of-pocket cost for a FAFSA filer is \$2,970. However, almost half of DFC scholars paid \$1,030 this academic year. In addition, DFC provides each student with a laptop, textbooks, meals while on campus, and a Metro pass.

Scholars are automatically enrolled in courses that will prepare them to move into their bachelor's degree program at St. Thomas or another university or college, once they've completed their associate degree.

DFC provides their students with a path forward.

MEET THE DEAN

Dr. Buffy Smith has been the interim dean of DFC since October 2020. She has been a faculty member at the University of St. Thomas since 2004, and was appointed DFC founding associate dean of academics in 2016.

She said, "I see myself through the experiences of our scholars, over 70% of whom are first generation college students. I was the first person in my family to go to college. I was raised by my phenomenal mother and grandmother; we were rich in faith – but not rich in resources.

"We received public assistance and lived in public housing in my hometown of Mil-



waukee. Neither my mother nor grandmother was able to pursue their college degree, but they always emphasized the value of me pursuing mine."

neither my mother nor grandmother was able to pursue their college degree, but they always emphasized the value of me pursuing mine."

COHORT-LEARNING FOSTERS COMMUNITY

According to Dr. Smith, "DFC scholars are part of a smaller cohort that functions like extended family: sharing meals and recreational activities, fostering a sense of connection and belonging. The cohort model provides a level of peer support that is essential for academic success."

MENTORING FOSTERS SUCCESS

Dr. Smith continued, "Mentoring is another crucial component of our college experience. Mentoring is what helps our scholars persevere. We've had more than 200 graduates to date, and 75% of our grads are currently enrolled in bachelor's degree programs.

"Every scholar is assigned a faculty or staff mentor, and they meet at least once a month. Their conversations focus on issues that might impact learning: pressures that are work related, family related, or related to other social relationships.

"Mentors also help scholars navigate the hidden curriculum of higher education. The hidden curriculum refers to social and cultural norms of higher education that impact scholars' success, such as establishing positive relationships with faculty and staff.

"At DFC, we encourage scholars to ask a lot of questions and seek support early and often. We empower scholars to bring their authentic selves, cultural backgrounds, social backgrounds, and unique perspectives to college."

9



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▶ 2 DOUGHERTY

CULTURALLY RESPONSIBLE TEACHING



We believe in high standards, high expectations, high supports, and high educational outcomes. Having high expectations for our scholars will help them reach their fullest potential, but there must be appropriate supports. I have learned that our scholars often exceed our expectations.”

Dr. Buffy Smith

DFC scholars take the same courses as all other University of St. Thomas students, and those courses are taught with the same academic rigor. Within DFC however, professors select textbooks and readings that reflect the rich and diverse cultural backgrounds of the scholars. Dr. Smith said, “We know that college is not only possible – but that with structured, culturally affirming supports – graduation is inevitable.

“We want our scholars to see themselves as being future public intellectuals. Almost 50% of DFC staff and faculty identify as being members of the BIPOC community, as do 90% of our scholars. Young people must be able to see themselves not just as consumers of knowledge, but as soon-

to-be authors and producers of knowledge.

“AT DFC, we help scholars develop the academic confidence they may not have gotten in grades K-12.”

DOUGHERTY FAMILY COLLEGE

DFC is named after the founding co-benefactors Mike and Kathy Dougherty and their family. Mike Dougherty is a St. Thomas alumnus and trustee, and a Twin Cities businessman. The Dougherty family supports the college because they believe in the value of a college education, and want to give motivated, hardworking students the opportunity to succeed in college and beyond.

Dr. Smith said, “Many scholars start their bachelor’s degree program with relatively little debt. We encourage them to complete their four-year degree in five years. It’s more common to matriculate in six years. The first DFC class just graduated with their bachelor’s degrees from the University of St. Thomas. In the past, at least 10 DFC students each year have been awarded a full tuition scholarship to complete their bachelor’s degree. Our scholars are helping to level the playing field of higher education.”

PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

At DFC, opportunity is about more than just providing students a pathway to a degree – it’s about providing them a pathway to using it. Through the Professional Internship Program, scholars develop real-life, professional experience in paid internships across the Twin Cities.

Scholars are required to take a profes-

sional development course in the spring semester of their first year, where they learn about navigating workplace culture, leadership skills, communication, and more. They work fulltime in a paid internship during the summer and continue in their internship one day per week during their second school year.

Approximately 38 local corporations, non-profits and schools are currently partnered with DFC, giving them access to a pool of diverse, highly motivated students earlier than most other internship programs. If interested in partnering with DFC to offer a new internship opportunity, email kris.donnely@stthomas.edu.

DFC is located on the university’s downtown Minneapolis campus. For more information, visit the Dougherty Family College website at <https://dfc.stthomas.edu>.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only one-third of adults in the U.S. are able to get a four-year college degree.

The Dougherty Family College wants to help that number grow, by assisting students from diverse and under-resourced backgrounds. To be eligible for admission, students must demonstrate financial need, solid academic achievement (2.5 GPA or above) and a strong desire to succeed.

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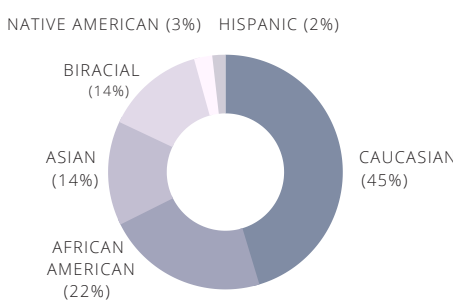
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▶ 1 HENNEPIN AVE. PROJECT

'AGGRESSIVELY INDIFFERENT' TO BUSINESSES

"The new plan is aggressively indifferent to the needs of businesses," said Amazing Thailand (3024 Hennepin Ave.) general manager Korawan Muangmode. "We've already seen dozens of businesses leave our block, and the new plan will continue to drive away business from Uptown and Minneapolis."

She pointed to the loss of Dogwood Coffee Bar, Francesca's, North Face, Columbia, Apple, Timberland and Victoria's Secret on the block of Hennepin between W. Lake St. and W. 31st St. Their section of Hennepin Ave. was part of the first phase of the reconstruction project between Lake and 36th streets that was completed in November 2018. The \$7.5 million construction project included widening the sidewalks by about six feet, and installing bike lanes on each side of the street. On-street parking between Lake and 31st and the west side of Hennepin between 31st and 36th was eliminated.

"The Hennepin reconstruction has been extremely inconvenient for us," stated Muangmode. "By removing parking from both sides, it creates a challenge for elderly customers, disabled customers, and families with young children. It's also been difficult for access for pickup and deliveries, a sizable part of our revenue."

"We have had to reroute deliveries to come to the back alley, which is crowded with apartments and can be unsafe for customers. We have fewer customers coming to dine-in from out of town."

Amazing Thailand was opened 15 years ago by a Thai immigrant family. "We are proud to serve our community and host Thai cultural events, but it's difficult to remain devoted to the city when our needs are continuously ignored," said Muangmode, who is also the president of the Thai Cultural Council of Minnesota and director of the Wat Promwachirayan temple.

"The construction doesn't meet community and business needs. We need some parking and access for customers to sustain our business in Uptown."

"The first phase from 36th to Lake is a complete disaster," agreed Uptown Association Executive Director Jill Osiecki. The business association has collected 1,500 signatures on a petition against the proposed extension of the changes to Hennepin Ave. north of Lagoon.

"It will decimate Uptown," stated Osiecki. "It will take away every single parking space on Hennepin from 31st to Franklin."

'CASE AGAINST IS STRONGER'

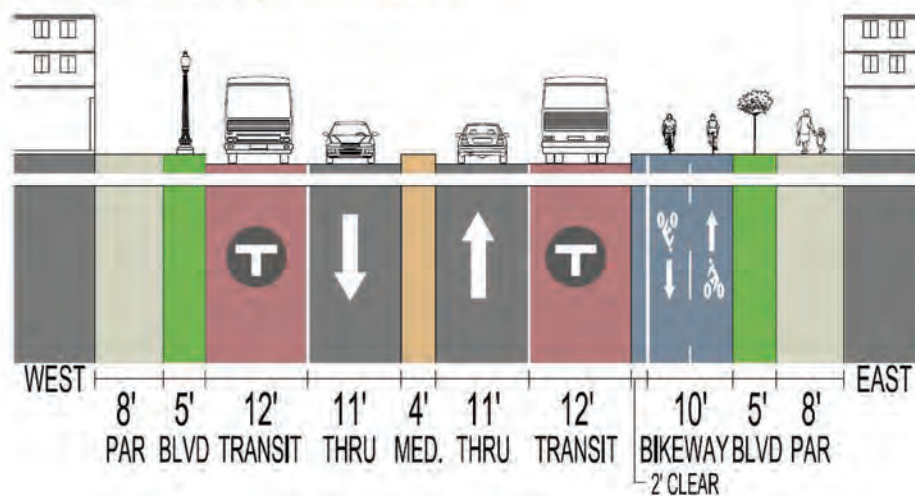
The Uptown Association has a detailed page on its website listing why it is against the proposed design. From there:

- City staff has gone on record saying that the Phase One it implemented on Hennepin south of Lake "didn't work well," but the proposed alignment looks remarkably similar to that one and will likely repeat the same failures. Pure and simple, it's terrible urban design.

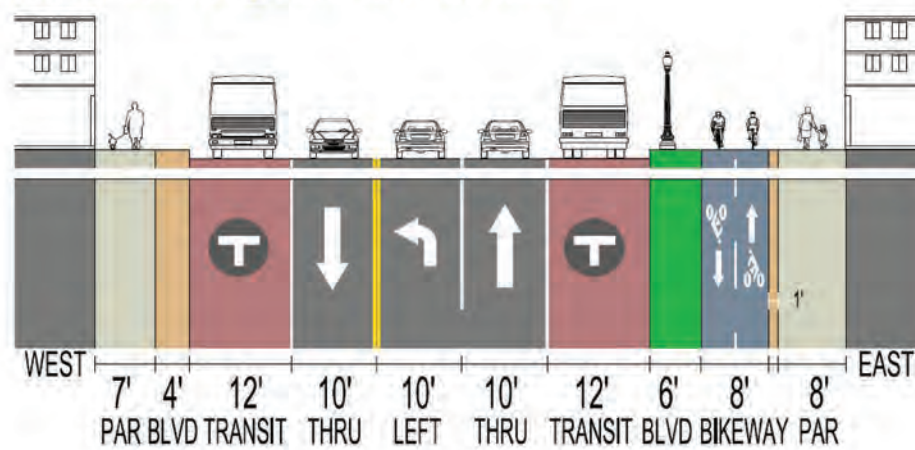
- Since it's unclear at this time how the impact of the pandemic is going to impact transit use and commuting patterns, we feel that committing to permanent bus lanes in this plan could be a mistake. More time and consideration must be allocated to study what commuting will be in the "new normal."

- This design also doesn't acknowledge how the pandemic has also changed how many retailers work. Many of them have embraced online channels, resulting

Recommended Design: Base Section



Recommended Design with Left Turn Lane



in more need for FedEx pickup/dropoff, DoorDash, etc. This design completely ignores the newly emerging importance of logistics to making small retail work in a world where a retailer has to have as many revenue channels as possible to compete against corporations like Amazon, Target, Wal-mart, etc to survive. And, of course, it doesn't acknowledge the importance of parking in the customer experience and how customers perceive and ultimately decide where to shop.

- We can accommodate any increased cycling by putting more bike racks down and perhaps other more lean/modular options than full-on bike lanes on both sides of the street. Cyclists are important, but it is critical that their demands are proportionate to other needs, such as accessibility and green space.

- MNDOT just complete a multi-year project to improve the Hennepin access to I-94 and I-35W. As such, Hennepin will continue to be necessary thoroughfare for vehicle traffic going to and from the freeway system. It would be both foolish and wasteful to have capital projects that seem to be at such odds with each other, as the Hennepin and MNDOT plans appear to be. Common sense must prevail.

- While Uptown businesses pay some of the highest property taxes in Minneapolis, there are other areas in the last decade that have replaced it as the "hot" commercial district (North Loop, 50th/France, Northeast to some extent), and the city has enacted many policies in Uptown (the "red carpet" temporary bus lanes, abruptly increased metered parking costs, the failed South Hennepin redesign, to name a few) without accounting for how these changes have affected small businesses, visitor patterns, and more. Uptown needs to be more thoughtfully engaged, rather than just being a playground for planner trends.

- Today, Hennepin serves as not only a corridor for travel, but also a node for over 150 businesses along the street. Many of these businesses utilize the on-street parking to load and unload important deliveries (including DoorDash, Lyft, Uber, etc.), perform curbside interactions with customers and other business-related tasks, easily ac-

commodate people with disabilities and elderly visitors, and of course, are utilized by customers.

The city conducted a parking study in March of 2018, which was historically a very quiet time in Uptown, according to the Uptown Association.

"Off-street parking was counted in this study. The reality is that off street parking is rarely available to all, typically being limited to private business or apartment-specific parking. The only true public parking available is within several public lots and ramps all located in one block. For some businesses to access those lots and ramps are over a mile away, and the hourly costs are significant. ...

"Your voice matters! Independent businesses are the backbone of a vibrant Uptown community where residents want to live, work and play, and your support is needed for the success of the community. We need businesses and residents to speak up, and all concerns to be heard."

'END OF OUR BUSINESS'

"After a pandemic, I don't know how the city expects businesses to make it through the construction, only to be left with a street that does not make stopping at the businesses easy, practical or even possible for some people," remarked Jessica Burge of The Cafe Meow (2323 Hennepin Ave. S.).

"The new plan deems Hennepin a 'pass through' and that is how I would describe their plan. Those are the same words that public works has to describe the project."

She added, "I worry about other women, like myself, feeling safe driving in to visit only to park blocks away on the residential streets, especially at night. I worry about the groups we get in from group homes to come visit the cats will not be able to visit anymore. I worry my delivery people who already have trouble will no longer be able to make their deliveries. I am worried about the people arriving via bus as they get dropped off and have to cross the bike lane, which seems a challenge for them and bikers. I worry this will cause some accidents. I worry that the removal of the cute light posts that get decorated each year for large highway type lighting only encourag-

SPEAK UP

Virtual Open House

Jan. 13, 4:30 p.m.

Go to Minneapolis project page to join the open house via Microsoft Teams. There is a pre-recorded presentation to view now.

Comment online

Share input via an online survey open through Jan. 28. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HNKHY7S>

EXPLORE THE ISSUES

Proposed Design

<https://bit.ly/3eHzJ6q>

Uptown Association/Citizens Against South Hennepin Reconstruction Proposed Design

<http://www.uptownminneapolis.com/south-hennepin-reconstruction-campaign-for-businesses/>

Hennepin for People

<https://hennepinforpeople.org>

OTHER HENNEPIN AVE. PROJECTS

Hennepin Downtown

The city of Minneapolis is reconstructing Hennepin Avenue between Washington Ave. and 12th St. in the downtown area, including underground utilities and some construction on the cross streets at each intersection. The street was last rebuilt in 1986. Construction began in 2019 and will be complete by 2022.

<https://www.hennepindowntown.com/project-info/>

Hennepin and First:

Hennepin County is developing a design plan for roadway improvements on Hennepin and First avenues (County Road 52) between Main Street and 8th Street in Northeast Minneapolis. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

<https://www.hennepin.us/hennepin-and-first>

es this 'pass through' feel."

She appreciates the pedestrian bump-outs at the corners and thinks that will help with pedestrian safety.

Overall, she believes the current plan will hurt Uptown. Instead, she would like to see "a concept that truly considers the businesses and their needs as well as public safety. Downtown there are street parking, bike lanes, and car lanes. I have to believe it is possible to do that as well on Hennepin."

According to Burge, "We do not have a back door with parking nearby for deliveries and many customers utilize the parking out front for many reasons. With more than half our customers coming from outside of Minneapolis that parking is needed. Many of the locals within Minneapolis also drive and stop in on their way elsewhere, some need to drive and have close parking to their destination for accessibility or safety reasons. ...

"The loss of parking both across the street, going south on Hennepin and in front of our business going north on Hennepin will be the end of our business on Hennepin."

FEATURES OF THE PLAN

Pedestrians:

- 8-foot sidewalks south of Franklin Ave., 6-foot sidewalks north
- Curb bumpouts to shorter crossings
- 5-foot boulevards along the sidewalks in most areas

Transit:

- 2 full-time (24-hour) dedicated transit lanes from Douglas Ave. to Uptown Transit Station
- BRT E-Line/B-Line stations at Franklin Ave., 25th St., and Uptown Transit Station
- Local bus stops at: 24th St. (southbound), 24th St. at Dupont (relocated from northbound Hennepin), 27th St., Lagoon Ave. and Lake St.

Bicycles:

- 2-way protected bikeways at sidewalk level on east side of street between bus lane and boulevard/sidewalk
- Connection to Loring Greenway

Vehicles:

- 4-lane roadway dropped to 2 lanes from Franklin to Uptown Transit Station
- 92% of on-street parking spots removed; 20 spots left
- Additional vehicle lanes near Franklin Ave. and Lagoon/Lake due to greater traffic demands
- Fremont Ave. S. converted from 1-way to 2-way traffic south of 24th St.
- 6-foot-wide center median added along most of route that drops to 2-4-foot wide at intersections
- Left turns restricted except where there are turn lanes at 22nd St. (northbound), 24th St., 26th St. (northbound) and 28th St.



Hennepin for People has drawn people together at various events to inform and educate on the project. (Photo submitted)

▶ 1 HENNEPIN FOR PEOPLE

Lalla has lived in the Wedge area for 10 years. “I choose to live here because it’s walkable to grocery stores, shops and other destinations. It’s also served well by transit and has good biking infrastructure. I mainly experience Hennepin on foot or transit to access all our local businesses and to get to Lake of the Isles, Bde Maka Ska, Loring Park and the Sculpture Garden,” she said.

“My preference was for a more ambitious design for Hennepin south of Lake Street, but it was implemented before the Transportation Action Plan was adopted. I appreciate the pedestrian improvements and the inclusion of bike lanes. It would have been better for the bike lanes to have been concrete protected or at sidewalk level to deter drivers from parking in the bike lanes. I would like to see more greenery, public seating, and dedicated bus lanes.”

Lalla supports the proposed design for Hennepin north of Lagoon, in part because she believes it will create a street where she can walk, bike or bus to businesses without fearing for her safety. Her friends and neighbors don’t park on Hennepin the way it is now because they worry about stepping out in fast-moving traffic, she said.

“It’s important to begin by noting that the current design of Hennepin Avenue reflects generations of prioritizing fast car travel over the needs of people and neighborhoods. The recommended layout is an inclusive design that redistributes space in a way that considers the needs of everyone who uses the street,” she said. “The current design of Hennepin Avenue is a pass-through street that encourages speeding. The recommended design will bring more people to the area. It can become a place to gather, linger, shop, and dine at our

great local businesses. The most important change brought by this design is that no matter how people get around, they can do so safely.”

SMALL BUSINESS EXCITED ABOUT CHANGES

Mike Norton is the founder of Railbox Consulting, a small technology company focused on the logistics industry. Its office has been on Hennepin Ave since 2018, and in the Uptown area since 2016. “Being in a hip and walkable area is a huge plus for our company as we try to attract and retain the right employees to help us continue to grow,” he said. Norton commutes to the office from his home in the Lynnhurst neighborhood by car most days, but says he avoids Hennepin because it is so chaotic.

He is part of Hennepin for People. “We’re a small business and we’re excited about the proposed changes,” he said. “Businesses will benefit from the recommended design; they’ll see an uptick in foot traffic from wider sidewalks, dedicated transit lanes, and bike paths. They’ll also benefit from the improved curb appeal, with less asphalt and more green space. Ask anyone who has ever parallel parked on Hennepin if it was a fun experience. While I can appreciate that a few businesses are concerned with losing some of their city-subsidized on-street parking, the reality is we’re talking about roughly 10% of available parking spots being removed.”

According to Norton, “A bigger focus on street safety will make a big difference for people who are regularly in and around Uptown. Narrower street crossings, truly protected bike lanes, and a median to better regulate the flow of car traffic will make it safer for those of us who are out and about in Uptown on a regular basis. The recommended redesign is a comprehensive plan that considers multiple modes of travel in a thoughtful way.”

Norton is disappointed in the first phase of the Hennepin Ave. South project “because the bike lanes weren’t safe and separated enough. The painted bike lanes between Lake and 36th have essentially been a joke to this point. Cars are constantly parked in them, forcing cyclists out into traffic. I travel to the Netherlands for business regularly, and the Dutch philosophy on bike lanes is that it should be safe for everyone between eight and 80 years old. The current recommended design has truly protected bike lanes, separated from traffic and safe enough for me to feel confident about our 14-year-old daughter riding her bike in them. We tell her to avoid the new painted bike lanes and use side streets instead because it’s less dangerous,” he observed.

BETTER FOR BIKERS AND PEDESTRIANS

Businesses who have signed on to support option one include: Sencha Tea Bar, Brazil Law Group, Railbox Consulting, Greenspoon Family Daycare, Pizza Hut (2313 Hennepin Ave.), Shingle Creek Capital, Hennepin Grocery Store, and Chipotle. Local organizations who support option one include: Midtown Greenway Coalition, 30 Days of Biking, Our Streets Mpls, Bike MN, Sierra Club - North Star Chapter, Move Minneapolis, Nice Ride Minnesota, Move Minnesota, City of Skate, Bike Lane Uprising and Joyful Riders Club.

“The Hennepin redesign takes businesses, residents, walkers, cyclists, and transit into account by facilitating a place for them to safely coexist on Hennepin,” said Norton. “Right now, Hennepin Ave is designed to accommodate as many cars on it as possible to minimize the inconvenience of traffic during peak traffic periods; everyone else is an afterthought. We can’t treat Hennepin like a highway and then expect people to enjoy their meal on a restaurant patio or feel comfortable walking from shop to shop. The recommended redesign gives a more equitable share of the space to people who are here every day, and not just to those driving through.”

Lalla said, “In the plan I see that the city of Minneapolis takes seriously their adopted climate and transportation policies like Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and the Transportation Action Plan. It’s easy to say what your values are – much harder to act. By following through on implementing these policies it helps build public trust. Also reflected in the plan is a city that takes climate change and racial equity seriously.”



Online public meeting Jan. 13
A virtual open house will be held at 4:30 on Thursday, Jan. 13. Go to the city project page for more information.



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I'm taking the plunge – will you join me?



Imagine that we are standing on the banks of the Mississippi River. It is in fact a few blocks east of where I live in south Minneapolis. Imagine with the writing of this column, I am leaving the rather secure banks of the river and jumping into the water. The water is life experience. With this column I am jumping in. It's scary! I don't know where the water is taking me. It's a fear of the unknown. All I can really do now is go with the flow of the river's energy. My ask of you is that you consider jumping into the river with me to see where Stories and Journeys leads us. You can do this by becoming a reader or even subscribing to or advertising in the *Messenger*, *Monitor* or *Connector*.

Now for me personally, at age 77, I have some sense of where the river is taking me. I call it from adulthood to elderhood and beyond. But I can't really limit myself so I am calling the column Stories and Journeys. Now the focus of this particular column is me describing my journey and telling the stories of how I went from being hit by a car while crossing the street at the intersection of 38th Street and 42nd Ave. in south Minneapolis to becoming a column writer and discovering gratitude for all that is as we flow with the river of life experience.

The year 2019 grew my awareness of my gratitude for all the people who helped me survive and recover from two events related to my health that caused me to be hospitalized, including getting hit by a car. February of 2019 I missed a scheduled opportunity to meet, Tesha M. Christensen, the new owner of the *Longfellow-Nokomis Messenger* at a gathering of Elder Voices, a small group that had been meeting monthly at Turtle Bread Restaurant. On my way I was hit by a car as I was crossing the street at the intersection of 38th Street and 42nd Ave. As I lay on the ground surrounded by people wanting to help, not realizing that my getting hit by a car is a traumatic event, I requested that someone make their way to Turtle Bread. My request was that they inform the Elder Voices gathering that I was going to be a no show along with the reason why. That announcement alone made the meeting memorable for me, Tesha and oth-

STORIES & JOURNEYS

ers in attendance.

In early 2020 through a variety of media outlets the following words started grabbing my attention: novel, global, COVID-19, pandemic. Out of sheer curiosity and my desire to see a big picture, I read "Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs" by Michael T. Osterholm and Mark Olshaker. This broadened my context for what was happening. However, it took a question asked of me by Tesha, during a phone conversation, that the pandemic started to become real for me. I had called TMC Publications CO/the *Messenger* to place a notification regarding the next gathering of Elder Voices. Tesha asked me if Elder Voices would be able to social distance. At the time my answer was yes and the notification was published. But her question continued to haunt me. Elder Voices would shut down not long after this conversation along with most of the rest of my life.

There was a period of about 10 days in March when I found myself in a state of shock overwhelmed by what seemed to be happening globally and close to home. As I began to regain my awareness the following themes emerged: 1) The world and my country is not pandemic ready, not even close. 2) People are going to die needlessly. 3) Health care systems and other systems that service us daily are going to be overwhelmed. 4) People's lives are going to be disrupted in some cases severely disrupted. 5) My daily life will never be the same. 6) In the end who will benefit? Who gains? Who loses? Who gets to decide?

My pandemic life and bubble unfolded along two lines. 1) Discovery that writing is how I process my life. 2) Realizing that the digital/technology world is not my natural habitat. In this regard I found out that I am not alone. I was totally lost and disconnected from what had been my in-person life and people whose connection to my life I had taken for granted were disappearing. The experience of grief and loss became part of my life. For a period of time anxiety and depression were all too real for me. Once again, I found out I was not alone.



By Donald L. Hammen

Today, thanks in large part to Julia at Longfellow-Seward Healthy Seniors and her IT volunteers, I got the support I needed along with technology changes. While there is still much for me to learn about the digital and tech world, my comfort level has grown. I have what I call an online life whereby I can participate by way of Zoom in meetings and events I was missing or did not know about, as well as webinars.

Then there was the discovery that writing is how I process my life by expanding my awareness. This observation was made by Amy, certified healing touch practitioner and chief administrative officer at Everspring Health (2201 Hennepin Ave.). I became aware that I am always writing in my head, on paper or online. It was Amy's willingness to be the email recipient of my most recent emergence as a writer that enabled me to connect with parts of my life that had gone dormant or disappeared from my awareness. Her website, Delightful Healing Arts, at the time I discovered it played a huge role in my awakening. And Everspring Health, where I go for acupuncture on a regular basis, gave me a reason to get out of my house and became a critical part of my pandemic bubble.

More recently Tesha has come back into my life even though we have yet to meet in person. During an email exchange about an entirely different topic having to do with the launching of the *Southwest Connector* I mentioned that I was unsure about the next step for my writing. She proposed to me that I become a column writer for TMC Publications, writing about what I am learning from and reflecting upon my unfolding experiences.

So here I am with my Stories and Journeys column. I have taken the plunge. I invite you to join me. Everybody's story can be a unique expression of the universal experience of risk taking. What Stories and Journeys are happening or have happened in your life because you left the relative security of the river bank and jumped into the river of life experience? If you choose tell it to your self, some one else in your life or maybe me.

In gratitude. Stay tuned.

Donald L. Hammen is a longtime south Minneapolis resident, and serves on the All Elders United for Justice steering committee.

PLAN IT

DAY OF SERVICE



Mark your calendar and join TRUST Inc as they honor Dr. King's life and legacy with a free "Day of Service" Event packing cold weather kits for neighbors in need on Jan 15, 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon at Richfield Lutheran Church (8 West 60th Street Minneapolis MN). This is an all ages, all abilities event. For questions or to register, call Trust, Inc at 612-827-6159.



ART SHANTIES

After a pandemic pause to public programming in 2021, Art Shanty Projects is returning to the ice in 2022 with an adapted program that responds to both COVID-19 and climate change. The festival will be exterior-only for visitors, and shanty artists were asked to propose projects that audiences could engage with in the open air. Artistic Director Erin Lavelle said, "Artists are innovators, and when presented with a design challenge they adapt in impressive, enthusiastic ways. The array of selected shanties is so enticing!"

The Art Shanty Projects On-Ice program will take place on Bde Unma / Lake Harriet from Jan. 15 through Feb. 6, 2022. Public hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Kicksleds are available for accessible transport from shore to village and throughout. While the festival is outside only this year, masks will be strongly encouraged. There will be a suggested donation of \$10-20 at the gate again this season and funds will help ensure a viable future. The newly instituted entry gate and on-ice fundraising plan at the 2020 collected over \$60,000 from 27,000 visitors.

MARCH FOR HOMELESS WHO HAVE DIED



A memorial march for the homeless who have died took place Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021 at 4 p.m. Braving the cold, about 200 marchers bearing signs with the ages and names of the deceased started from Plymouth Congregational Church (19th and Nicollet Ave.) and looped north, returning to the church.



Steve Horsfield, Executive Director of Simpson Housing Services, addressed the crowd beforehand.



Ivan Ludmer and his son, Lewis, felt compelled to march in support of efforts to house the homeless.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

The Twin Cities is full of fun for kids. Find it here in our popular guide coming in February.



AD TIP: What sets your camp apart? Feature that in a photo.

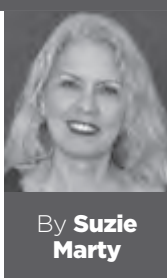
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A BOWL OF GRATITUDE TO START A NEW YEAR

THE ART OF...

Minneapolis artist Lynn Sarnoff-Christensen has been a potter for over 30 years. She is continuously reinventing her focuses with new creative directions. The path of growth, if you will. Her perpetual focus is on texture and colors, and most of her work reflects nature and her gardens that she nurtures so passionately. Lynn is a contemporary artist whose work has been shown in galleries and juried shows throughout the country. Over the years, her work in clay has had a consistent focus on organic surface design. The better part of her focus is hand-built ceramics. She says getting to know the personality of the clay body and what it is capable of doing is paramount. With the process of hand building, she knows the characteristics of the clay and how she can manipulate and alter the imperfections and textures she creates.



By Suzie Marty

Lynn keeps the shape simple and lets the surface design speak for each piece.

"A Bowl of Gratitude" is a series Lynn created to give people a means to express their appreciation for others. It's an opportunity to give gratitude and embrace it, as well. She feels it is the absolute gift you can give anyone. Lynn is proud to say she lives in a place of gratitude. It is an ongoing prac-



tice. She believes we are pulled into so many directions we sometimes forget to be still in the moment and if we all chose to see life through the lens of gratitude, we could be a calmer culture – a culture made up of people who support one another with appreciation and recognition.

Lynn creates bowls so you can fill them with gratitude... both physically and metaphorically. It is a healthy exercise to allow yourself the time to reflect on the people and events that contribute to your life. It's

a fabulous feeling to express gratitude and receive it, as well. She invites businesses to think about what their appreciation initiatives look like and how they can become more personal and genuine with work that is hand made.

Careful thought, process and distinctiveness go into each of her pieces. She seeks to make each as unique as the recipient. Whether you gift Lynn's work to foster you personally or your business relationships, the practice of sharing art is individual and



Minneapolis artist Lynn Sarnoff-Christensen creates bowls you can fill with gratitude, both physically and metaphorically. She says she lives in a place of gratitude. (*Note: no relation to Southwest Connector owner Tesha M. Christensen).

genuine.

Gratitude Bowls can be purchased at the Everett & Charlie gallery in Linden Hills or thru Lynn's website and Etsy.

<http://www.abowlofgratitude.com>

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/ABowlOfGratitude>



Suzie Marty is an artist and curator at Everett & Charlie art gallery in Linden Hills. She is also an avid supporter of buying local, and a sales representative for the Southwest Connector. Contact her at ads@swconnector.com.

LIVING IN GRATITUDE

As we begin 2022 many of us take time to reflect on the ups and downs, disappointments and joys, beginnings and endings of the previous year. We set intentions for the new year. How can you make empowered choices in your life to support your thriving, health, and well-being no matter what lies ahead? One practice that cultivates our resilience and strengthens social ties and self-worth is gratitude.

Gratitude is a feeling of being grateful and wanting to express your thanks. As graduate faculty in the Integrative Health and Wellbeing Coaching Program in the Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality & Healing at the University of Minnesota, I regularly keep up on studies that impact the health of our mind and body. Research indicates being grateful can:

- lower blood pressure
- improve immune function
- reduce cardiac inflammation
- increase happiness
- improve relationships
- decrease depression and anxiety
- enhance optimism
- improve sleep
- enhance stress regulation

We all could use a boost in our physical, mental, and emotional health. This one simple, free, and always available practice can have tremendous benefits. As a transformational coach supporting and guiding others through a holistic health and wellness lens, my clients report as they commit to a gratitude practice, the positive impacts often ripple out to family, friends, coworkers and their communities.

FROM YOUR CENTER WITHIN

How do you practice gratitude? Here are a few suggestions:

- Jot down blessings in a notebook.
- Thank a friend, caregiver or stranger face-to-face.
- Sit in quiet reflection and contemplate what you appreciate about your life.
- Spend time in nature.
- Offer thanks before eating.
- Walk mindfully noticing the positive through sight, sound, smell, and touch.

Grateful people have a particular linguistic style that uses the language of gifts, givers, blessings, blessed, fortune, fortunate, and abundance. Add words of gratitude to your thoughts and speech throughout your day.

Have questions you consider daily. Ideas include:

- What touched me today?
- Who or what inspired me today?
- What made me smile today?
- What's the best thing that happened today?
- What act of kindness did I offer or observe today?

Experts recommend adding variety to your gratitude practice by expressing your thanks in different ways each day. Practice noticing



By Michele Rae

both big and small events. This will assist you in keeping your practice meaningful and fresh. Remember, what you focus on grows.

Practicing gratitude impacts you on a cellular level. When you express or receive gratitude, at the neurochemical level, gratitude acts as a catalyst for neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine – the ones that manage your emotions, anxiety, immediate stress responses and make you 'feel good'.

Have you ever had an intense and sudden emotional reaction, and when you reflect on it later, you often wonder why you overreacted? This is referred to as an amygdala hijack and it can leave you feeling embarrassed and exhausted as epinephrine, adrenaline, and cortisol are dumped into your system.

This is an optimal time to practice gratitude. In that moment, you can take a deep breath, focus on your heart, and remember one person in your life you are grateful for. This activates your parasympathetic nervous system and slows your heart and breathing rates and lowers your blood pressure. Your body enters a state of relaxation and recovery. When you engage in gratitude practices, you spend less time in fight and flight, protect and defend, and FEAR (false evidence appearing real). You can choose to respond rather than react out of automatic conditioning.

As you become more centered, balanced, resilient, and confident, your relationships can improve. According to social psychologists, gratitude is an emotion that directly targets building and sustaining social bonding and reinforces positive relationships in the future. Your ability to be empathetic, tolerant, and

build trust expands your connections to others. You will likely find yourself more open to new ways of thinking and knowing. This increases your ability to invite and understand another's point of view that may be different than yours.

"What separates privilege from entitlement is gratitude." -Brene Brown

Relationships can be enhanced at home, work and in your community. Research has linked gratitude and related traits like engagement to positively impacting the workplace in all these areas: Productivity, profitability, quality, loyalty, safety, absenteeism, cost, and performance.

Grateful organizational citizens are more likely to volunteer for extra work assignments, take time to mentor coworkers, be compassionate when someone has a problem, and encourage and praise others.

So, as you begin the new year, consider adding gratitude to your daily routine. It is a gift you can give yourself, your family, your coworkers, and your community.

Have comments, feedback, interested in more details on the research? Is there a holistic mind-body health or wellness topic you would like to see in this column?

Be in touch.



Michele Rae, RPh, MA, NBC-HWC is the founder of The Center Within, LLC and author of "Living From the Center Within: Co-Creating Who You Are Becoming." She provides holistic coaching designed to accelerate and support personal, professional, and organizational transformation.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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Section coming in March.



AD TIP: What do folks say about you after a job?
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RESOLUTION: REDUCE WASTE?

Did you know that the average American family wastes \$1500 worth of food each year? Fifty-three million tons of food waste is sent to landfills each year. These statistics only scratch the surface of our country's waste problem. This winter and spring, you're invited to be a part of the solution by participating in the Tangletown Neighborhood Association Low Waste Lifestyle events. Our events are all free, virtual, open to all, and offer concrete steps and tools to make an immediate impact. Even better, each event is paired with a giveaway of items that will help you reduce your waste! Registration is required for events and can be found at tangletown.org/lowwaste.

Our next event, Plan, Shop, Store: Creative Ways to Reduce Your Food Waste, will take place on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 10:30 a.m. This session will focus on how to modify your shopping habits and food storage to create less waste. You will leave this session with techniques for reducing your waste through better planning, shopping with a different lens, and modifying how you store and utilize food throughout the week. As a bonus, twenty attendees will win reusable produce bags.

On Wednesday, Feb.16 at 7 p.m., we'll have a cooking class focused on reducing food waste. The executive chef of Chowgirls Catering will be sharing recipes for using up foods before they go to waste. There will also be a



live Q&A where you can ask about your food waste challenges in the kitchen. If you're a fan of Lynne Rossetto Kasper's Turkey Confidential, think of this as our version of Sustainability Confidential! Chowgirls was the first green caterer in Minnesota and is a leader in sustainable food and events in Minnesota. Twenty attendees will win a set of compostable bags for attending.

To wrap up our series, we'll be presenting a session on Organics Recycling Made Easy. On Thursday, March 31 at 7 p.m., join us as we share all the tips and tricks for simplifying organics recycling in your home. Whether you've already got your green bin, are considering getting one, or utilize drop sites, we've got you covered. To help you get started or increase your use, 20 attendees will win countertop or freezer compost bins. Don't forget to register for our events at tangletown.org/lowwaste.

As this is the season of New Year's Resolu-

tions, we're encouraging you to make a commitment to reduce your waste. You can submit our commitment form online at tangletown.org/commit. We have a long list of suggestions for first steps you can take or ways to further your current efforts. Better yet, you'll be entered to win one of two \$50 gift cards to the winner's choice: Tare Market, Zero-ish, or any Forever Ware participating restaurants.

These programs are the result of the hard work of the Tangletown Environmental Committee and the financial support of the Hennepin County Green Partners Grant. Our fall 2021 events focused on packaging waste addressing the problems with plastic, how to reduce your packaging waste, how to shop in bulk, and how to advocate for systems level change. In 2020-2021, we hosted a series of educational events focused on textile waste reduction. All past event recordings can be found at facebook.com/tangletown.

Finally, we invite you to subscribe to our Sustainability Sam monthly email newsletter where you can find out all about our environmental programs. To sign up, visit: tangletown.org/sam. The newsletter features our monthly blog answering submitted sustainability questions and features environmental information, events, programs, and more throughout the Twin Cities. We hope to engage with you on environmental education and action this winter and spring!

Reach out by emailing info@tangletown.org.

BRIEFS

SERVE ON EAST BDE MAKE SKA BOARD

The East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association is looking for applicants to fill several vacancies on the board of directors. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and live in East Bde Maka Ska. Responsibilities include attendance at monthly Board meetings, participation in at least one committee, and oversight and fiduciary duties. Interested? More at <http://eastbdemakaska.org/>.

KFNA 'SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY' FEB. 13, EMPTY BOWLS KICK-OFF

Kingfield Neighborhood Association is looking for a volunteer with storytelling and event branding experience to assist with the event. KFNA

supports a fun, dynamic, volunteer community planning who could use some help raising visibility of this project. If you are interested in helping support a small local nonprofit raise awareness and funds for affordable housing in our community and you have 10 hours in the next three weeks to volunteer, please contact sarah@kingfield.org.

KMART/NEW NICOLLET PROJECT

The Minneapolis City Council has approved project expectations and a public engagement framework for the Former Kmart and New Nicollet Project. The city of Minneapolis owns roughly 10 acres of land formerly home to the Kmart store in south Minneapolis. It plans to construct a new Nicollet Avenue, which will connect Nicollet Avenue South of Lake Street to Nicollet north of the Midtown Greenway, and develop the remaining acreage into a high-density, mixed-use walkable district. The public engagement framework includes three phases. The first phase will start in early 2022 and focus on creating open dialogues with community members who live, work, shop and visit the area. The second phase will focus on a public space plan and Nicollet Avenue layout plan, which will require city council approval. The third phase of engagement will discuss the future development of buildings.

ARTIST APPLICATIONS OPEN

The award-winning 57th annual Uptown Art Fair is excited to invite artists to apply for the fair Aug. 5-7, 2022 in the heart of Uptown Minneapolis. The event footprint is located at the intersection of Lake and Hennepin, the center of a lively, upbeat business district and is the busiest intersection in the state of Minnesota. Over \$2.1 million of art is sold during the festival with some artists sharing that the Uptown Art Fair is the most successful show of the season, and in some cases, of their career. Attendance was reported in 2019 of 375,000 over the three-day event. The deadline is March 15.

LYNDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL WINTER CLOSURE

Lyndale Neighborhood Association's annual organizational closure is active from Saturday, Dec.18, 2021-Monday, Jan.17, 2022. Staff is accessing email and entering the office less frequently, and regular neighborhood meetings and programming will be paused during this period. However, Lyndale E-News will continue to come to your inboxes each Wednesday morning.

Community members with an immediate need to contact LNA staff during this closure should email us at info@lyndale.org.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2021

Greetings and well wishes from the Whittier Alliance Neighborhood Organization, an independent non-profit supporting residents, businesses, and property owners in our much beloved neighborhood. This year brought new challenges and opportunities to our work in the neighborhood, and we are reaching out to share some highlights and ask for your support. With your help, we can continue providing critical resources, meaningful community building opportunities, and grassroots organizing as we head into the new year. Read on to learn more about our work in 2021.

2116 NICOLLET AVENUE

This year we purchased 2116 Nicollet Avenue, the last remaining vacant lot on Whittier's stretch of this important commercial corridor. It brings an opportunity for an inclusive, community-led, innovative real estate development which could have a resounding impact on the neighborhood for years to come. In October, the Board of Directors convened a project steering committee to guide the process, develop an RFP (Request for Proposals), and identify a development partner for us to bring it to life.

EAT STREET FALL ARTS FEST

Whittier Alliance brought community together at 2116 Nicollet Ave for the Eat Street Fall Arts Fest. Hundreds of neighbors enjoyed a local artists and makers market, live music and dance performances, mural painting with Juxtaposition Arts, and activities from Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and Mia on a beautiful fall afternoon.

LAKE STREET COUNCIL

A few highlights from Lake Street Council:

- Awarding \$300,000 in grants to local artists and community groups to produce murals and host events. This newly launched creative placemaking program has brought the community together and focused efforts on crime hotspots to reduce violent crime and improve community safety.



TENANT SUPPORT & OUTREACH

This year we brought on a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA Tenant Organizer in collaboration with HOME Line to combat displacement and jumpstart our volunteer engagement. We worked closely with tenants to help them navigate assistance programs such as the Energy Assistance Program, RentHelpMN, Zero Balance Project, and more. Our staff has also been working to help immigrant and refugee families navigate the rental housing process and find new homes in the neighborhood that meet their needs.

LAKE STREET REBUILD AND NICOLLET AVE

Whittier Alliance supported the Cultural Wellness Center and neighboring organizations to open community engagement on the future of the Wells Fargo site at Blaisdell and 31st. This partnership has grown to set the stage for a broader process backed by the McKnight Foundation to re-imagine and rebuild Lake Street with racial, economic and environmental justice at its core. Teams of organizations led by Cultural Wellness Center are providing a framework and support for a 6 month process focused on centering the voices of his-

- Giving out over \$1.5 million in predevelopment and business support funds in 2021, helping ensure that new construction projects include affordable spaces for new entrepreneurs to start businesses and thrive. As buildings are rehabbed and rebuilt, we're ensuring that they stay locally owned and benefit our community.

torically marginalized people and communities; creating an aligned vision for the future of Lake Street; rallying and coordinating local and national financial support to help ensure there are resources to implement the community's aligned vision. Whittier Alliance's team is serving on the Project Team for Lake & Nicollet, one of four identified nodes in the corridor.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Whittier Alliance promoted voter education efforts, including assistance with first-time registrations, polling place research, compiling information on our digital election guide, and other key pieces to getting out the vote. We organized a Ward 10 City Council candidate forum in partnership with Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza and Latino Media in addition to co-hosting a mayoral candidate forum with other neighborhoods. We hosted speakers on the public safety and rent stabilization ballot measures at our committee meetings and made space for neighbors to ask questions of their current elected officials.

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Contact Whittier Neighborhood Alliance at info@whittieralliance.org.

- Launching the Be Well Lake Street program to provide small business owners with access to mental health services to support them as they navigate the challenges of 2020 and 2021. These services are provided by a number of culturally-competent providers along Lake Street, and are free to access for Lake Street businesses.

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FAMILIES OF LOST LOVED ONES, SUPPORTERS RALLY BEHIND WRIGHT FAMILY

By **Jill Boogren**

Families from Minnesota and around the country who have lost loved ones to police violence stood together outside the Hennepin County Courthouse on Dec. 8, 2021 in support of the Wright family.

It was the first day of the trial of former police officer Kim Potter, who was charged with first and second-degree manslaughter in the April 11, 2021 shooting death of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Center. The first witness testifying was Daunte's mother, Katie Wright.

"Today I had a chance to witness the most emotional, intense, breathtaking thing that you ever wanna have to go through. And I would like y'all to just pray a little harder for this family," said Bianca Austin to the crowd assembled outside after the day's proceedings. Austin is the aunt of Breonna Taylor, who was killed by officers in her apartment in a botched police raid in Louisville, KY in March 2020. "It's not easy. And they have to sit here and re-live Daunte's murder all over and be able to stand tall and tell his story. So prayers go to the Daunte Wright family. We stand in solidarity with you, and we will be rockin' with y'all until this is over."

Present were family members and close friends of Black men killed at the hands of law enforcement – Hardel Sherrell, George Floyd, Emmett Till, Philando Castile, Justin Teigen, and Leneal Frazier – as well as family of Jacob Blake, who was shot and paralyzed by a Kenosha, Wis. police officer in August 2020.

"Daunte Wright was a son, but he was also a father, and what you see here today is... Black fathers and uncles and brothers out here demanding justice for Daunte Wright and all stolen lives," said Trahern Crews, of Black Lives Matter Minnesota.

George Floyd's significant other, Courtney Ross, also spoke to the crowd.

"Kim Potter stole Daunte Wright's life, she ripped his future away in one move," she said. "Kim Potter left the Wright family with a lifetime of grief, trauma and sadness. She left his friends with emptiness and mistrust."

Introducing Emmett Till's cousin, Deborah Watts, Toshira Garraway Allen of Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence, said, "We know that these are racially motivated murders, and if you're wearing a Ku Klux Klan outfit, if you're wearing a police uniform, or whether you



Bianca Austin (at center, holding microphone), aunt of Breonna Taylor, stands with families who have lost loved ones to police violence in support of Daunte Wright's family on the first day of Kim Potter's trial at the Hennepin County courthouse. Demonstrators rallied outside the government center and marched through downtown streets calling for Justice for Daunte Wright. (Photos by Jill Boogren)



wearin' regular clothes, we know a racially motivated murder when we see one." On Dec. 6, 2021 just two days prior, the U.S. Department of Justice closed a re-investigation into Emmett Till's murder. Till was lynched in 1955 for allegedly flirting with a white woman. Watts is calling for his accuser, who is still alive, to be brought to justice.

Temperatures were in the teens as people gathered at Government Center Park. Demonstrators held up signs as a record-

ing of "Justice for Daunte Wright" played on a speaker, and supporters lit luminaries as a show of solidarity. A brief march through downtown streets took place, with volunteer marshals in high visibility vests helping to maintain safety along the route. Street medics, supported by Justice Frontline Aid, pulled carts with water, snacks, handwarmers, face masks and hand sanitizer.

Rebecca Shumard said she flew in for a

second time from Phoenix, Ariz. – the first being in April when she learned Mr. Wright was killed.

"He's a year younger than my son, and it just broke my heart," she said.

Carrying a Black Lives Matter flag, Minneapolis resident Keith McCarron said he was there to support the family. He also expressed frustration over Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson's involvement in a car crash and DWI near Alexandria, Minn., reported the same day.

"[It's] ironic that the Hennepin County sheriff is arrested for DWI, but nobody shot him to death. So, if you're Black and you're in the Metro area the smallest of offenses can lead to fatal consequences," said McCarron. "And it's horrible when you think about the original reasons for pulling [Daunte Wright] over was a dangling mirror ornament and expired tabs. I mean... seriously, there's no way that, in a reasonable world, that escalates to gunfire."

From a Dec. 8, 2021 statement posted on his Facebook page, Hutchinson wrote: "I made the inexcusable decision to drive after drinking alcohol and I am deeply sorry. As the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in Hennepin County, I am held to a higher standard. I regret the choice I made and apologize to the citizens I serve, the staff I work with, and the friends and family who support me."

According to news reports, Hutchinson pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated and on Dec. 20, 2021 was sentenced to two years probation.

As the rally drew to a close, Minnesota Justice Coalition President Johnathon McClellan called to uplift the family of Daunte Wright and continue to demand justice.

"We stand with the community. We stand with all those who came out demanding accountability and justice," he said. "Because an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us. And we cannot be silent."

Kim Potter was found guilty of both counts of manslaughter she was facing on Dec. 23. She will be sentenced on Feb. 18.



Kim Potter stole Daunte Wright's life, she ripped his future away in one move. Kim Potter left the Wright family with a lifetime of grief, trauma and sadness. She left his friends with emptiness and mistrust."

Courtney Ross



Support network
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3 Students explore 'Racism as a Public Health Crisis' at Mia

4 He's still an intern after all these years

8 Consider having a courageous conversation with others



Teachers, Educational Support Professionals strike for 'safe and stable schools.' All classes canceled.

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Minneapolis Public Schools has taken the position that the Minnesota Federation of Teachers and Educational Support Specialists Local 59 is asking for more than the district can afford.

The staff on strike since March 8,

Crystal Spring (theater teacher at Washburn and South High), at left, and Melissa Favero (fourth grade teacher at Barton School) picket at Nicollet and 46th St. on March 11. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

2022 don't see things the same way.

"I think it's a question of priorities," said special education teacher David Zekpa. "Where your priority is, you'll put money in."

"The money is there already," agreed Sharon Alton, a speech language pathologist at Justice Page Middle School and Washburn High School. "Historically, the district claims there is no money in contract years and - time and time again - a few months later they have a sudden pot of money. This has happened many con-

tract cycles."

This year, the state of Minnesota is projecting a \$9.25 million budget surplus. "We also need the support of the legislation," Alton added.

Right now, Minneapolis teachers can leave the district and make \$10,000-\$20,000 more in a neighboring district. The average pay in Minneapolis is \$71,000 compared to \$85,000 in St. Paul.

"I could be making \$20,000 more in Minnetonka," said Alton.



Minneapolis hockey team

PLAYERS SAW RESURGENCE COMING

By **Matthew Davis**

As a Minneapolis Storm youth hockey player, Zander Zoia realized he and his teammates had a chance to compete with the state's best someday. Zoia said his last youth team gained a lot from facing squads from hockey powerhouses in Edina, Maple Grove, and Wayzata.

"It was cool being able to play them, so we know what level we could play in the state," Zoia said.

Zoia and his Minneapolis high school varsity co-op hockey teammates brought Minneapolis hockey back to the high school state level this month. Minneapolis beat Delano 3-1 on March 2 to end a 28-year state hockey drought for public schools in the city.

"We knew it as soon as summer training started," Zoia said. "We knew we had the talent to do it."

The Minneapolis co-op formed in 2010 amid the city schools dropping hockey programs. This year's squad hopes this state tournament will grow hockey in the state's biggest city.

"I think representing the city is a huge part for us," junior forward Drew Pitts said. "If we do really well this week at the X, people will start to take notice and start to be like, 'Minneapolis hockey is back!'"

Minneapolis head coach Joe Dziedzic, who won Mr. Hockey with Edison High School in 1990, informed the players after the game how long it had been since a Minneapolis school reached state. Dziedzic played at the University of Minnesota and in the NHL before coaching the Minneapolis co-op.

"I think that's when we all kind of realized like 'gee, we just



CHALLENGING TIMES FOR INTERIM POLICE CHIEF



Southwest Minneapolis resident Amelia Huffman is the city's interim police chief. (Photo courtesy of Minneapolis)

Opinions vary on how longtime Southwest resident Amelia Huffman is managing role as interim police chief

By **Cam Gordon**

Since Jan. 15, 2022, when Amelia Huffman took over as head of the Minneapolis Police Department, she has faced what may be the biggest challenge of her career.

In the days following the police killing of Amir Locke, some have called for her resignation, others are hopeful that her experience and commitment to the city will help her be effective in her role of interim, and possibly permanent, police chief.

Huffman, a longtime Southwest Min-

neapolis resident, grew up in Springfield Ohio, graduated from Smith College, in Massachusetts, joined the Minneapolis Police Department in 1994, and has lived in the city ever since. Now residing in the Cedar-Isles Dean neighborhood, she has also lived in Stevens Square, Uptown and Kingfield.

In the Minneapolis Police Department, Huffman has worked as a patrol officer, as well as an investigator in the financial crimes, crimes against children and internal affairs units. She has served as the public information officer and commander of the homicide and licensing units. More recently, she worked in the southwest's 5th Precinct as a lieutenant, then as inspector, leading the precinct from 2019-2021. Following that, she has been deputy chief under former Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo.

"I look forward to continuing the work

to lead the Minneapolis Police Department toward building a better future in collaboration with our communities," Huffman said at the press conference in December when the mayor announced his decision to nominate her for interim chief. "I've lived in Minneapolis for 28 years and I love my city," she said.

"We have challenges to address to be sure - violent crime, hiring for the future, investing in training and stronger systems - but it is our duty to pick up the work done by chief Arradondo and carry it into the next chapter."

'SMARTEST COP I'VE EVER KNOWN'

She took over at the Fifth precinct when police community relations were tense following the death of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, who was shot and killed by a Fifth Precinct officer.





Educators Sharon Alton, left, and David Zekpa, second from left, chat with Justice Alan Page who stopped his vehicle to talk to those on strike outside the middle school named after him on Friday, March 11, 2022. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Washburn social studies teacher Cayla Baumann plays the bucket drum at Nicollet and 46th St. on March 11 on a bitterly cold day. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

2 ON STRIKE

When Alton started in Minneapolis 24 years ago, MPS was number one for salary. "It's dropped considerably," noted Alton, a south Minneapolis resident whose children graduated from South High.

"We've got a problem with declining enrollment. We've got a greater problem with declining enrollment than Saint Paul, but I think that's in large part related to the Comprehensive District Design (CDD). We need to put money in so we can attract students and improve things long run," stated Alton.

Zekpa is a special education teacher at Justice Page Middle School, where he has taught for 17 years. As a teacher of color, he has watched many other teachers of color leave the district for better paying jobs elsewhere and because of how they are treated in Minneapolis Public Schools.

At Justice Page, the majority of students are students of color, while 5 of 60 teachers are.

"The teaching staff does not represent the students at all," said Alton.

'YOU CAN DO BETTER AT MCDONALD'S'

"One of the reasons I value union membership is that we've got protection," said Alton. "We've got people who are looking out for everyone."

"When we are united, we are strong," remarked Zekpa. The last Minneapolis teacher strike was in 1970 and lasted for 14 days. All classes in Minneapolis were canceled beginning Tuesday, March 8,

and remained through the *Connector* press time.

As a teacher, Alton is making a living wage although it isn't competitive with other districts, she pointed out, but education support professionals (ESPs) are making only \$24,000 a year.

"That salary makes it hard to fill positions," said Alton. "There are hundreds of open positions in March. There are positions that have been open all year. That's hard on kids. That's hard on the people who are here. People are pushing to do the best by kids but there aren't enough people to do right by our kids."

Zekpa added, "You can do better at McDonald's."

He pointed out that due to the vacancies, "You end up doing the job of three people."

"ESPs pay the same health insurance premiums as principals," observed Alton. "So health insurance is a huge percentage of their gross pay relative to principals."

For teachers, not having enough ESPs means that they spend less time teaching and more time on discipline issues. They don't have enough help to complete required paperwork, make phone calls to parents, and give students individualized attention. ESPs also help with bilingual students.

The issues are compounded by staff shortages in every area of the school. For a couple weeks this winter, Justice Page had no deans for 1,100 students. The deans manage discipline issues at the school. They should have three, and now have one.

Mental health issues have gone up,

especially in the last two years as the world has dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. In his special education classroom, Zekpa observed his students regress, demonstrate resistance, and refuse to do any work.

"There have always been students who had mental health needs, but the numbers have increased dramatically," said Alton.

The Minnesota Federation of Teachers and ESPs Local 59 is negotiating for increased mental health professionals in schools.

Justice Page has mental health staff, but it isn't enough to manage all the needs, according to Alton. "Their schedule is full in September. There are not enough spots for students who have needs."

She added, "Our social workers are filling in at the front office for lunch breaks. Our social workers are being pulled in a thousand directions, and that makes it so much harder to be responsive to student needs."

Teachers have to do more than just education basics, observed Zekpa. "Teach-



Washburn High School educators picket for smaller class sizes, living wages, mental health supports, and safe, stable schools on March 11. Another sign said: On strike for a school board that fights for students. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

ing is not just pumping learning into the head of a child. It's about having a holistic approach."

"Anxiety is more of a health need but it absolutely impacts education. We can't ignore it because students can't ignore it," said Alton.

They both hope to be back at work soon.

"The quality of schools make a huge difference in the quality of a city," said Alton. "We want better. We can do better for Minneapolis and our kids."

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EXPLORING 'RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS'

Student art part of exhibit at Mia

By **Eric Erickson**

As an art teacher at St. Paul's Como Park High School, Sydney Willcox seeks to connect student creations with their own lived experiences.

A recent collaboration with local artists allowed that goal to flourish, both for her students and the larger community. Thirteen Como students enrolled in Sydney's painting classes produced pieces that became part of the "Racism as a Public Health Crisis" exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia).

The idea of addressing racism through art was presented to Sydney in early September of last year by Sheila McGuire, head of learning at Mia. McGuire suggested 7-10 student participants. Without yet knowing her students, nor who may be willing to put in the extra time commitments, Sydney presented the opportunity to all her painting classes.

The initiative included four virtual workshop sessions, three of which already aligned with Sydney's lesson plans. The willing and able students collaborated with professional artists in the areas of idea generation, materials/technique, individual artmaking, and group collaboration.

"All four teaching artists, Kprecia Amber, Akiko Ostlund, Juan Lucero, and Nancy Ariza have wonderful ideas and very different presentation styles," Sydney said. "Observing the similarity of goal and the difference in style is causing me to reflect upon both my teaching and my making practice. I am as enriched by the experience as our Como students."

Freshman Amaya Sanders expressed gratitude about the artistic journey. "It's nice to know we have a voice and that we can share our stories in different ways," Sanders said.

As for guiding her students through the project and the complex subject of "Racism as a Public Health Crisis," Sydney did not see herself as the teacher who needed to provide direct instruction.

"As a person of privilege, I felt I could not instruct how students express their experiences. Instruction in this case is to provide access, then get out of the way," Sydney said.

As for technique, the professional artist input was inspirational and empowering. It allowed student voice and individual ex-



Como students worked with professional artists to create screen prints as part of their exhibit in the Minneapolis Institute of Art. (Photo by Como art teacher Sydney Willcox)

pression to shine through the process and not be limited by specific art principles.

With an abundance of rich, colorful expressions being produced, the number of Como students chosen to share their work in the Mia exhibit was increased beyond the originally stated target. Similarly, art was emerging from students at two other selected high schools: Minneapolis North and the Minnesota Transitions Charter School.

By November, Mia was ready to open a new public art exhibition in their Community Commons Gallery featuring the student artwork. Sponsored by Blue Cross

“

It's nice to know we have a voice and we can share our stories in different ways.”

Amaya Sanders

and Blue Shield, the exhibit provided the local artists and high school students a chance to share their unique perspectives on how race relates to our public health. Through their own works, and through mentoring of the students, the local professional artists created an authentic community partnership. A Mia press release from McGuire said the exhibit created multi-generational "conversations about the impacts of systemic racism inside and outside of Mia."

In January, Mia hosted an in-person reception for the contributing artists.

In pre-pandemic times, field trips to an art institute might have happened for some fortunate high school art students. But for high school students enrolled in a beginning painting class... going to the Minneapolis Institute of Art to see your own art on display?

Como junior Fuad Abdi said, "That was pretty cool."

Asked to summarize how her students reacted, Sydney simply said, "Awe."

"Awe, at the museum. Awe, that they are part of the experience. There were so many people there and news cameras."

She added, "I'm grateful for the opportunity to bring students to Mia. Mia is this terrific community resource. I want our students to be able to know of it, enjoy it, see themselves, and their experiential expressions in the museum."

MINNEAPOLIS HOCKEY

did something huge," Pitts said.

Minneapolis went 19-6-1 and earned a No. 5 ranking in the Class A poll. The team also earned the No. 1 seed in the section for the first time in program history.

"We didn't get that because of a lucky game or a lucky stretch. We got that because we were pretty consistent throughout the season," Zoia said.

“

We didn't get that because of a lucky game or a lucky stretch. We got that because we were pretty consistent throughout the season.”

Zander Zoia

Senior forward Jack Hanson led Minneapolis in scoring with 24 goals and 28 assists. Zoia, also a senior forward, netted 11 goals and a team-high 29 assists. Senior goalie Alex Lamont held teams to 2.18 goals per game and had an .899 save percentage.

The team lost 4-1 to Alexandria in the quarterfinals on March 9, and beat New Prague 5-2 in the consolation semifinal on March 10. Hermantown beat Warroad 3-2 to claim the Class A title in the Minnesota State High School Boys Hockey Tournament.

This year's Minneapolis program consists of players from South, Southwest, Washburn, and Edison high schools. Despite being spread across four of the seven public high schools, the players consider their team really tight.

"A lot of people think it's like this big divide when we get to high school, but we've been playing youth hockey since we were five or six with each other," Zoia said.

The team's success led to bigger crowds at Parade Ice Garden toward the end of the season, especially youth night where the team played in front of a packed house.

"It was electric," Lamont said.

Many of the players grew up cheering for the Minneapolis varsity team amid playing youth hockey in the Storm program.

"They might not know my name, but I know most of their names," Zoia said.

Minneapolis players hope the state will know their names and their city's renewed hockey tradition more now, too.

BRIEFS

AUDIT OF SOUTHWEST LRT LINE PASSES HOUSE

On a 129-1 vote, the Minnesota House of Representatives passed legislation that funds and requires the Office of the Legislative Auditor to conduct a review and evaluation of the Metropolitan Council's Southwest light rail project. The 14.5-mile passenger light rail that runs from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie was expected to open in 2023 and cost about \$2 billion to build, but the opening has been pushed back until 2027 and is millions of dollars over budget. The author of the legislation of the legislation in the House is Representative Frank Hornstein, who said, "Minnesotans need answers to why this project is delayed and significantly over budget." The legislation next goes to the Senate where Senator Scott Dibble is the sponsor.

2022 OPEN STREETS

The city council has approved five Open Streets events for this year with the caveat that the events, like last year, could be canceled with at least eight weeks' notice ahead of time depending on the health risks related to the pandemic. The five events are as follows: Lyndale, from W. 22nd St. to W. 42nd St. will be held on

Sunday, June 5; Franklin from Portland Ave. S. to 26th Ave. S., Sunday, July 10; Lake Street from 2nd Ave. S. to 22nd Ave. S, Saturday, Aug. 13; West Broadway from Penn Ave. N. to N. Lyndale Ave., Saturday, Sept. 10; and Minnehaha from E. Lake St. to E. 46th St. on Saturday, Oct. 1. During the festive events, the streets are closed to motorized traffic and open for use by people walking, rolling, and bicycling. They are free and provide an opportunity for people to engage in physical activity, meet their neighbors, and discover new businesses in different neighborhoods around the city.

MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART SUPPORTS UKRAINE

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA), located at the corner of Diamond Lake Road and 35W at 5500 Stevens Ave., is showing support for Ukraine with a blue and yellow display on its exterior. According to their website the museum is "North America's only museum devoted to exploring the art and culture of Muscovite Russia, the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, its former republics, and post-Soviet Russia," and it "stands with the people of Ukraine and urges Russia to cease hostilities immediately and withdraw." On Thursday, March 10 from 7-8 p.m. TMORA co-hosted a webinar titled Ukraine: Genocide, Repression and War.

They also want people to know that the following organizations are all accepting donations to help the people of Ukraine: GlobalGiving, International Rescue Committee, Doctors Without Borders, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. For more about the museum see <https://tmora.org/>.

CITY HIRES DIRECTOR OF RACE & EQUITY

The city of Minneapolis has hired Tyeastia Green to be their new executive director of Race & Equity. Green will be leaving her job as director of Racial Equity, Inclusion & Belonging for the city of Burlington, Vt. and returning to her the state she grew up in, to take the position starting on March 28. Green will lead the Division of Race & Equity that works under the city coordinator and has been without a director since the departure of Joy Marsh Stephens in August of 2021. It is focused on dismantling systemic disparities and institutionalized racism in Minneapolis to improve the lives of residents. "Minneapolis is home to me," Green said in a statement issued by the city. "I'm looking forward to taking on this role and making sure that equity is built into the fabric of the city's operations. We need to ensure that race isn't a determining factor in any measurable outcome."

PARKS EXTEND HOURS DURING TEACHER STRIKE

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board extended hours and recreation activities for children in grades K-8 at 10 recreation centers during the Minneapolis Public School teachers strike. The 10 "hub site" recreation centers are open Monday-Friday, 12-9 p.m. From 12-3 p.m. sites offer free, fun, engaging and structured activities for up to 45 youth in grades K-8. Registration is required, which can be done in-person or online. Youth not registered for the 12-3 p.m. activities can drop in any time after 3 p.m. The 10 sites are: Bryant Square Recreation Center, 3101 Bryant Ave. S.; Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N.; East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, 2307 S 17th Ave.; Longfellow Recreation Center, 3435 36th Ave. S.; Luxton Recreation Center, 112 Williams Ave. SE; Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway; North Commons Recreation Center, 1801 James Ave. N.; Northeast Recreation Center, 1530 Johnson St. N.; Sibley Recreation Center, 1900 E. 40th St.; Whittier Recreation Center, 425 W. 26th St. The 37 other recreation centers will maintain normal hours of 3-9 p.m.

 Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.

STILL AN INTERN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

I often tell people that I came into my current work in community newspapers as the "Intern Who Never Left." The statement usually draws a smile and perhaps a look of surprise since most employees today never make it past their two-year anniversary, as studies suggest, but in fact, my statement is not far from the truth.



By Denis Woulfe

As a senior at Hamline University in 1979, I had already edited the student run *Hamline Oracle* my junior year and thoroughly enjoyed my experience. I had a talented staff who were devoted to the *Oracle* and its mission of bringing high quality news to the Hamline community, but we were also a close group of friends and colleagues who enjoyed working together, often engaging in vigorous debates on a wide range of topics. We invariably knew what was happening at the University before anyone else given our role in the media and we enjoyed a network of acquaintances that spanned every academic and athletic department on campus. We even shared part of our newsroom with the staff of the Hamline Law School's newspaper, which was a section within the undergrad newspaper. It was my first experience, in a real sense, with community journalism.

Several of my staff members went into journalism as a profession. One of my assistant editors bought a newspaper of her own in a western suburb of the Twin Cities years later, becoming quite successful as a community newspaper publisher. Another assistant editor worked for a number of outstate dailies upon graduation, won numerous press awards, and eventually landed high profile jobs in Washington, D.C., working for a DFL congressman and later a well-known vice-presidential running mate who bragged that she could see

Russia from her home state.

But in the spring of 1979, upon my own graduation, I accepted the offer of full-time employment from deRuyter-Nelson Publications, and moved from my dorm at Hamline to a modest upper room in a home on the 1400 block of Van Buren in the Midway. *Monitor* headquarters at the time was located at Thomas and Fairview, so my commute each morning, as you can imagine, was a matter of minutes. It was my first full time job and my introduction into the work world.

While I started as editor back in 1979, my path in journalism has been a circuitous one. While I wrote and assigned stories for the *Monitor* and edited copy, I also did typesetting for the graphic arts division of our operation and eventually started selling advertising for the *Monitor* in addition to my editing responsibilities. One of our typesetting clients were the owners of the *Longfellow Messenger* (before it expanded into Nokomis), who approached us about buying out the *Messenger*.

As the company and its commitment to community journalism grew over the years, the decision was made to redirect my time exclusively to marketing and advertising. Today, with new owner TMC Publications, my work continues in 2022 selling print and digital advertising for the *Monitor*, the *Messenger* and our newest newspaper, the *Southwest Connector* in southwest Minneapolis. And our commitment to community journalism continues to grow.

And while we no longer have our headquarters in the Midway – for many years we officed out of Iris Park Place which now is the base for Sejong Academy – I have been fortunate to remain connected to the communities we serve in various ways. I sit on the Hamline University Annual Fund Board which helps to raise money for scholarships and financial aid for Hamline's best and brightest. I also sit on the board of the Longfellow Business

Association which has been working with other community organizations the past two years to help rebuild Longfellow after the tumult from COVID and the civil unrest.

But despite all the changes I've seen to the communities we serve and the incredible evolution of our newspaper industry as a result of the changes in technology over the years, I have remained steadfast in my belief that community journalism is important now more than ever before. As our nation has navigated the challenges of the pandemic and dealt with contrasting story lines about the virus and best practices, it does not escape notice that readers have needed the integrity of the Fourth Estate to help them navigate uncertain times and assist them in sorting out fact from fiction.

And I'm proud to be working in a profession which helps provide quality information to readers who are anxious to find out what is happening in their neighborhoods - to their neighbors, to the businesses down the street from where they live, to their elected officials, and to all the little things that make their community what it is, to their quality of life.

But beyond that, I'll just come out and say it: I still continue to see myself as an intern after all these years. I'm still a student constantly learning new things about our industry and about the clients that we serve. I've always been a believer in lifelong learning and the more I have learned the more I have realized that there was more I needed to learn. That's right: Keep reading, keep learning, and keep sharing what you learn with others in your community by supporting community journalism!

TMC Publications sales representative Denis Woulfe has worked on both the editorial and advertising sides of newspapers, and relishes the opportunity to work with area businesses on developing marketing plans and finding solutions to reaching their audience.

REINCARNATING WASTE



LETTERS

I'm a tree hugger/nature lover. Since I was five years old, I have been daydreaming about how to help. I believe I have figured out how I can make an impact.

I'm proud not ashamed to take materials from construction/ renovation dumpsters and make them into useful things. I see it first hand, there is an outrageous amount of good materials that are trucked to the landfill everyday from these dumpsters. Just within a mile radius of my house, it's ridiculous. The contractors I talk to don't like to do it, but they don't have time or immediate uses for the materials they toss in the dumpster. The "Reclaimed Lumber" industry focuses on barns and old factories where there is larger amounts of high quality wood in one place. This beautiful dumpster wood is trucked to the landfill in small, medium, sometimes large quantities everyday. I've built many things for our family with these materials that would have rotted in the landfill. They seem better than new things.

I'm starting a business. I won't be shipping anything. Shipping things across the country that are made of waste seems to kill the eco factor. Instead I hope to develop a profitable business model, products, best practices for safely and legally acquiring this material and a sales platform (an improved/more expensive version of the current website that I made) that will all be free to use/copy for others that share this passion. The dream is to help enable other handy people to find waste, build with it and sell it, measurably reducing the need for new lumber and steel. This would be flexible work that helps reduce waste which helps everything on this planet. Can you help me get this going!!!!? www.reincarnationcorporation.com.

Jeremy Marshik
Kingfield

We want to hear from you.

news@SWconnector.com

THE TOKEN POC

I glanced around the room, hoping something would be different this time. Entering yet another door into yet another room. The same kind of room I was just in, funny enough. Crowded, chatty, even a little bit welcoming. But still the same room with the same. Exact. People.

"Oh, you know Abha, right?...Yep, she was adopted!"

"She's right over there! She's from India."

"I think she's the only one here."

Each sentence wraps vines around the cold reality that everywhere I went as a child, I was the token POC. The choice kid of color, the "adopted" kid, the "shortest," "smallest," or "darkest." I shivered with nervousness whenever we left the city, wishing with all my heart to avoid the



By Abha Karnick

rural individuals' stares and double-takes.

Heads turned, whether they meant to or not. I couldn't change it, the looks, the stares, the color. I scrubbed soap into my skin, my six-year-old body begging to become white to blend in. To "look like my family."

I listened quietly as White people in my upbringing remained the center of conversations revolving around social justice, Black lives matter, and other movements. It felt backwards, but who was I to know?

I bit my tongue as White mommas asked me "when I came here" and if I "felt lucky to be in a loving family?" I strained my ears to overhear judgment and pity kissing pride and White saviorism.

"An expensive matter, adoption was," they'd say.

Opening doors years down the road looked the same, speaking volumes to how stalled a society is. I continue to sit as the token POC in my career. I exist as the only POC in my household, with my childhood friends, in the average White church. I'd go on, but I think you get the picture.

These rooms are disheartening and soon enough, I found myself avoiding entering them at all.

White-washed walls have an unpleasant glare.

Transracial adoption isn't easy or pretty or perfect. It's messy and painful and hard. But hold room for something unexpected and beautiful because amidst these shallow realities can live love and patience and boldness. Speak boldly for your children, listen carefully when they don't want to visit your friends again, think deeply when you bring them places where they're a minority. The world has much to offer. Don't shrink its size by taking away all the types of people in it for your children.

They need to see themselves in others. Implement that, even when it feels unfamiliar and uncomfortable. Let them grow up and confide in someone that looks like them, even when it feels painful. Model for them what a diverse society best looks like, what painting white walls and breaking glass ceilings looks like.

Let them explore their origins, their roots, their cultures and religions and

countries. Let them decide who they will be, who they want to be. This in itself is the most loved version of themselves you can give them.

Abha Karnick is a south Minneapolis resident with East Indian roots who graduated from Hamline University in 2019. Her passion lies in storytelling and finding moments to capture.

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BTW
Who finished last?
Social media

Source: www.edelman.com. ©Forbes.com. Updated Nov 2020.

SOUTHWEST Connector

The *Southwest Connector* is a twice monthly community publication in Southwest Minneapolis, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. Visit our website for our calendar and publication dates.

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tesha@swconnector.com

Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the *Connector*. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to news@swconnector.com.

Unsigned letters will not run.

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The *Connector* is for profit and for a purpose – and we don't sacrifice one for the other. We consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white, both/and. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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CAN WE HANDLE THE TRUTH?

It's time to face painful and violent history in an honest way so Minneapolis can move ahead

I was talking with my 80-something neighbor the other day while shoveling snow. He's a veteran who was an engineer in the United States Army and is a wise man. Having lived in Uptown for over five decades, he's had a front-row seat to our neighborhood history. We were talking about current events and all that's happening in the world and our city.

"Who even knows what the truth is anymore," he said.

It got me thinking about the truth. Everything starts with truth. Truth leads to trust, and trust leads to cooperation. With truth, anything is possible.

Without truth, no relationship of any kind can exist. There is nothing to build on. We can never get to trust. If you can't trust someone, how do you know they are telling the truth? And if we never get to trust, we can never get to collaboration. We can never work together toward a com-



By Eric Ortiz

mon good. Without truth, what do we have? Division. Suspicions. Prejudices.

Our reality today is filled with deep divisions and a lack of objective truth. There is no consensus. Not on a global scale or the local level. This lack of truth sows uncertainty and doubt. "We'll know our disinformation program is complete when everything the American public believes is false," CIA director William J. Casey said in 1981.

We may not be that far gone yet, but we are at a critical crossroads. According to the 2022 Edelman Trust Barometer, government and media have fueled a cycle of distrust, with nearly 50 percent of respondents (36,000+) viewing them as divisive forces in society. Two-thirds (67 percent) of people globally believe journalists purposely try to mislead people. But it's not just about government and media. There's also a lack of trust in each other, which is even more troubling. We need a truth-telling process that is centered around restorative practices.

Circle processes, following in the Native American tradition, can help do this work. Circles are a versatile peacemaking and restorative practice. They can bring people together in a proactive way to build community or be used in a reactive way to address wrongdoing and conflicts. There are different kinds of circles, but they all provide people with an opportunity to see, speak and listen from the heart in a safe, respectful environment

that promotes equality and transformative growth. They are nothing like the stereotypes some critics project, where everyone holds hands and sings "Kumbaya."

I participated in my first circle process recently, completing 30 hours of Indigenous restorative practice circle training over four days with the Koinonia Leadership Academy. Led by Dr. Talaya Tolefree and Pastor Darrell Gillespie, our circle was a diverse mix of 15 people with all different backgrounds and lived experiences. Most of us didn't know each other when we started, but by the end of the week, after an outpouring of truth, we built trust and developed a strong kinship and connection. The circle process was a powerful experience that opened my eyes and heart to the power of circles and their potential uses in communities, schools and other places.

We plan to use the circle process in our community peacebuilding work through LHENA, but it can play an even bigger role in Minneapolis to heal old wounds and resolve longstanding conflicts. It's time to face painful, violent history in an honest way so the city can move ahead. With circles, we can confront local problems and come to terms with the city's history of racial terror and violence – police violence and community violence. A truth and reconciliation commission could help stop the violence, forge peace and chart a new path forward. Circles are not a cure-all, but they will be a start.

Fania Davis, a leading national voice on racial and restorative justice, provided a roadmap in her book, "The Little Book

of Race and Restorative Justice." We can look to other places that have used truth and reconciliation commissions to move forward, such as South Africa in 1994 after apartheid, Canada in 2008 to redress human rights violations against aboriginal children, Greensboro (North Carolina) in 2004 to address white supremacist violence and perceived police complicity, and Sierra Leone after their 11-year civil war ended in 2002.

We could adapt these models to create a truth and reconciliation commission that meets our needs in Minneapolis. The community would have ownership of the process and lead the commission, with support from the state, but maintain complete independence. This process would bring together multiple voices – influential community members, police, youth, crime victims, religious and political leaders – for public ceremonies of truth-telling and forgiveness between the parties causing and experiencing harm. It would be facilitated by experts in the restorative process.

A step toward ending the epidemic of violence and rehumanizing all people.

To learn more or get involved, visit bit.ly/mplspublicsafety.



Eric Ortiz lives in the Wedge with his family. When he's not community building, he's the director of media for Granite Media and writes bilingual children's books with his kids. Their first book was "How the Zookalex Saved the Village," available in English and Spanish on Amazon.

A NEW ERA OF NEIGHBORHOOD/CITY RELATIONS

STORIES & JOURNEYS

Imagine for a moment that you are a spiritual guide and poet. You share your Celtic heritage and love for your native landscape of west Ireland. Your name is John O'Donohue. Now back to reality. Into the river of life experience, you have joined me in taking the plunge, by reading Stories and Journeys. The following words from John O'Donohue, in his poem called "Fluent," captures for me (and I hope for you) the essence of this experience. Just as I do, he uses the river as a metaphor for the flow of life. He writes:



By Donald L. Hammen

*I would love to live
Like a river flows,
Carried by the surprise
Of its own unfolding.*

Unfolding for me in the river of life experience this time is a column, inspired largely, by an article written by Tesha M. Christensen, called "What does 'unbiased' really mean." Upon reading Tesha's commentary, I found my awareness raised. I was engaged to the point of underlining a lot of it and writing in the margins.

Typically I don't do this with newspaper articles. I even found myself engaged in conversation with Tesha, even though she was not in the room. Again, not typical! Getting my attention were the following words:

"Recently the city insisted that to access funding, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association had to agree that they won't hire a person who lives in the neighborhood as their executive director."

Back in the day, this elder served several terms, on the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) Board of Directors. During most of that time, if not all of it, Melanie Majors was executive director. Melanie did not live in Greater Longfellow. IT WAS THE CHOICE OF LCC THAT MELANIE MAJORS BE OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOT THE INSISTENCE OF THE CITY. Melanie served us for 14 years.

For about five years of my life, I did what I could to be part of an effort called Save NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program). For about 20 years, thanks to NRP, the city had what I call empowered neighborhood organizations. Apparently, in the eyes of the city, too much empowerment. Now as NRP is allowed to go by the wayside, we have something that appears to be more like city engagement with neighborhood organizations. And what does city engagement get us? The

kind of scenario playing out in Nokomis East for one thing.

I am clear in my own view, that what is playing out where the city and its neighborhood organizations are concerned is about power and control. Who wins? Who loses? Who gets to decide? Power and control is THE CONTEXT where the city in relation to its neighborhood organizations plays out. It is a context with a story and a lengthy history. A context that created the need for NRP in the first place. And what enabled NRP to come into existence? It was not at the insistence of the city. Far from it! It was neighborhood leadership going to the state legislature that enabled NRP to come into being.

Today we appear to be entering into a new era of city/neighborhood relations. This is why I appreciated the article by Eric Ortiz in the Dec. 2, 2022 *Southwest Connector* called "Time to build bridges with the whole community: Neighborhood associations are helping bring people together to create solutions for Minneapolis." In this article, he writes: "Now more than ever, Minneapolis needs connectors for our communities. Neighborhood associations can be leaders in connecting neighbors and helping the city meet the challenges of this moment. Whatever neighborhood you call home, we are all interconnected. That is why we all need

to work together to help build bridges, restore trust and find solutions." (*Find columns mentioned on our websites.*) If we find ways to collaborate and as appropriate have each others backs, this might work.

There are three times when I have been featured in the *Messenger* in ways not likely in any other media outlet. Today I am learning and growing as a columnist writing Stories and Journeys. Community journalism in south Minneapolis has become an integral part of my life.

Where do you find yourself on this unfolding river of life experience called city/neighborhood relations are concerned? Tell yourself, share with others or tell me at news@longfellownokomisemessenger.com.

In gratitude. Stay tuned.

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ABOUT THIS RESEARCH: Newspaper effectiveness is universal, so that's why we're sharing benchmark research from an Australian cooperative of publishers, ThinkNewsBrands, that also appeared as an E&P magazine article. The latest installment is called The Social chapter.

Source: "Demand Generation," Feb 2021, Mindshare/MediaCom/Wavemaker/GroupM/Gain Theory. The payback series analyzed the ROI of 60 brands with annual turnover of \$23b, and \$450m in advertising. Data is based on 14 finance brands. Total News is primarily based on print and magazine data.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE: HEALTH CLUB FOR AGING BRAIN

A conversation with the new director, Kate Schaefers

By **Susan Schaefer**
UNDER THE HOOD



It is widely known that aging is accompanied by varying rates and degrees of cognitive decline. However, neuroscience research has revealed that by keeping physically, socially, and mentally active and engaged, we are able to mitigate, and even reverse decline.

Here in the Twin Cities, we are fortunate to have a resource that offers highly participatory lifelong learning, and solid camaraderie and engagement. Best of all, accessing it is convenient from all corners of our metro area.

The University of Minnesota's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, better known as OLLI, is a respected and vital part of the University's College of Continuing and Professional Studies. Geared toward those over 55, anyone is welcome to join and participate.

Here's a little history:

In 1977, business executive and philanthropist, Bernard Osher, founded his self-named Bernard Osher Foundation to improve the quality of life through support for higher education and the arts, funding colleges and universities across the nation, with special attention to re-entry students. Investing significant funds through generous endowments, the foundation supports 125 lifelong learning programs on university and college campuses across the country, with at least one grantee in each of the 50 states and the District

of Columbia. Founded in 1995, UMN's OLLI has been recognized as an "exemplary lifelong learning program" by the foundation.

Despite the upheavals caused by the pandemic during the past years, OLLI has managed to pivot and cope. There have been a few changes. The main office recently moved from its former location in the McNamara Alumni Center on UMN's East Bank to its new home in Coffey Hall on the St. Paul Campus.

Also new is OLLI director, Dr. Kathleen (Kate) Schaefer, who brings a wealth of experience, leadership, vision, and passion to the role. We met virtually with Schaefer, who is a licensed psychologist, leadership coach, and educator, who has served as the AARP-MN Volunteer State President, and is a founding member of the Nexel Collaborative, a higher education consortium of institutions exploring ways to bring older adults back to campus. Schaefer graciously answered our questions:

OLLI has been referred to as a "health club for the aging brain," with much research dedicated to how intellectual and social enrichment help counteract cognitive decline. What are your thoughts about this as the new, incoming executive director?

Healthy aging is more than physical. It is about staying active and engaged, from a physical, mental, and social perspective. Staying curious, and being open to new learning opportunities, is good for our brains, but also for our well-being as we age.

OLLI offers opportunities to learn and stay mentally sharp, but it's much more than that. As a learning community, OLLI



During the pandemic outside OLLI classes continued to be popular, which included a drumming circle. (Photo courtesy of OLLI)

members develop deep connections with others who share a passion for learning. OLLI members actively participate in discussions, explore shared interests, volunteer their talents, and plan joint travel experiences. The bottom line: When we are part of learning activities that fully engage us, that invite us to actively participate and engage with others, we benefit on all levels.

What attracted you to taking the OLLI position? What do you bring to the table?

I am inspired by people in my life who approached their later years with a sense of curiosity, purpose, generosity, and joy. Every one of them embraced life as learners and teachers, mentors, and novices. They are my role models for living life fully at any age. I find kindred spirits with

in the OLLI community, and I am honored to play a role in helping this community thrive.

I have spent the last decade of my career focusing on ways to tap the talents of an aging population for the greater good. As an educator, program administrator, researcher, and writer, I centered my efforts on engaged aging, lifelong learning, and building community. Also, I am part of a network of people and organizations that see potential in our aging population.

How have the past years of pandemic and quarantine impacted our OLLI program?

Like everyone, OLLI had to pivot on a dime to convert our programming to virtual. We went

7

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6 LIFELONG LEARNING

from delivering 100% of our programming in person to delivering 100% online. With 60+ courses each term, this was no small task! We needed to train our instructors on how to teach this way, and help our members get comfortable with using Zoom.

We were all so isolated, especially in those early days of the pandemic. For our members, who were in a high-risk group, this was particularly true for them. We had to creatively explore new ways to connect our members. We are proud of how OLLI helped our members during these troubling and lonely times. We were a lifeline for our OLLI community.

During my time as an OLLI instructor there was much discussion that the membership fee, now up to \$300/year, is prohibitive for some Minnesota seniors. Is there anything being proposed to help defray the cost and/or to subsidize less well-off citizens?

I'm so glad you asked! OLLI offers scholarships to help defray the costs for people in need, through the Miriam B. Seltzer Scholarship Fund. We welcome applications for this scholarship and will help make OLLI accessible and affordable for all who want to join.

It is also important to look at what you get for that yearly membership fee. With four terms, and 60+ courses offered each term, members have access to a plethora of learning opportunities. Plus, members can join special interest groups and take advantage of other offerings. There is a lot of value that comes with an OLLI membership.

Please tell us a little about yourself: Childhood. School years. Education. Profession. Personal life.

I grew up in a tight knit community on the south side of Chicago. With seven



Dr. Kate Schaefer is OLLI's new director. (Photo by Jessica Mealey)

children and a disabled father unable to work, money was scarce. Yet despite those hardships, we thrived, due in large part to the support of our neighbors and community. That early life experience grounded me and taught me the value of being part of a community.

In college, I had two majors: mathematics (because I thought it was practical) and psychology (because I was fascinated with the field). On a whim, I applied to graduate school at the University of Minnesota, and by some miracle was accepted, so that is what brought me to Minnesota. I fell in love with Minnesota, and soon fell in love with my husband, so the rest is history. We have been married 34 years and raised our two daughters here.

I'm trained as a psychologist (my



Ph.D. is in counseling psychology), with much of my career in higher education: developing curriculum, launching programs, and coaching employees as they navigate leadership and career transitions. I have expertise in encore careers and the intergenerational workplace.

My career isn't a straight line, and I'm grateful for that. I have made career choices along the way that have taken me in directions I could not have anticipated earlier in my career. I followed my heart and instincts at times, and it opened a world of opportunities.

As OLLI enters its spring session, what would you like our readership to know that we haven't covered?

OLLI offers something for everyone – we have courses in the arts, science and technology, social sciences, and interdisciplinary fields. From Art of Ancient Greece to The Stories Hidden in Our Genes, we offer a range of options each term (you can find our full OLLI Course Guide on our website). Our courses are taught by an outstanding cadre of instructors who bring topics to life for OLLI learners.

The OLLI community is welcoming! We have special interest groups that allow members to connect around their

passions, like movie appreciation, sharing music or games, or even memoir writing. There are ample opportunities to meet people and develop new friendships through OLLI.

You can join OLLI at any time. We host four terms per year, with the spring 2022 term beginning on March 21. Our website is <https://ccaps.umn.edu/olli>

Author's Note: Classes and events always have been held throughout the metro area, but due to COVID-19 protocols most offerings are now online. With spring 2022 courses just beginning, there's no better time to feed our hungry brains.

Happy learning!

Something under the hood is not immediately apparent or obvious. This column will uncover stories that span the neighborhoods covered by TMC Publications. Susan Schaefer is a widely published independent journalist, creative writer, and poet. Her articles appear in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, PBS' online magazine, Next Avenue, Next Tribe, and beyond. She was columnist and features writer for Minneapolis' Southwest Journal and Minnesota Good Age magazine.



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HAVE A COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION

FROM YOUR CENTER WITHIN

Healthy relationships and a sense of belonging and connection contribute to our well-being. How do we improve our relationships and expand our circles of belonging to enhance our own lives and our community?



By Michele Rae

One tool is engaging in courageous conversations. These conversations invite us to remain curious, open minded, listen deeply and ask genuine – even challenging – questions. In respectful conversations, everyone counts.

Courageous conversations are a stark contrast to polarizing or divisive messaging delivered with blame, defensiveness, fear, hostility, imposition. Yes, courageous conversations can be difficult or uncomfortable. They require intention, practice, tolerance, and kindness. They seek to understand and to look for common ground. Having trust in your ability to discuss essential topics directly and honestly is a key to healthy individuals, relationships, and communities.

I was touched by the article on "Long-time Valentines" in the Feb. 17 edition of this paper. In answer to the question, "What do you believe are the keys to the success of your lifelong relationship?" Herman Milligan answered, "Truly loving someone even when there are periods of disagreement about life situations that are major and/or not as important. Learning to take the other person's point of view and feeling comfortable to raise an issue that should be discussed as opposed to internalizing it and not discussing it at all."

As a health and wellness coach, client's often request support increasing their

confidence in courageous conversations. They want to strengthen their ability to respond instead of overreacting in their personal and professional relationships. This keeps their prefrontal cortex and executive functioning active. Who doesn't need full access to our executive skills: self-restraint, working memory, emotion control, focus, task initiation, planning/prioritization, organization, time management, defining and achieving goals, flexibility, observation, and stress tolerance?

Here is a summary from authentic communication cards I utilize in my practice founded in non-violent communication to assist in developing conversational intelligence.

When preparing for a conversation you anticipate being triggering or tender, consider these components of authentic speaking:

1. Name what you are experiencing without judgment.
2. Share what the impact is on you, including emotions.
3. Ask for what you need and want.
4. Use 'I' statements, not 'you' statements.

When it is your turn to authentically listen, consider these components of active listening:

1. Mirror back to the person speaking. What I am hearing you say is.... Is this right? Is there more?
2. When the speaker feels heard and understood, summarize the essence of their perspective including experience, feelings, impact, and request.
3. Validate their experience with statements such as "I can understand your perspective".... or "It makes sense because"....
4. Validating does not mean you agree. It means you heard them, and they count.

"Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable." ~ David W. Augsburger,

How do we utilize courageous conversations to expand our circles of belonging to support healthier communities? Belonging is centered on gaining acceptance, attention, and support to and from members of a group. Connection is essential for optimal health and wellness.

We have, however, seen the damage, polarization, and divisiveness when we engage in othering. If we have the mindset of 'us' against 'them,' scarcity, hostility toward the unfamiliar or unknown, or to push back against those who are different, we all suffer. Othering is defined as a set of dynamics, processes, and structures that engender marginality and persistent inequality across a full range of human differences based on group identities. Invite courageous conversations from 'others' who have a different point of view or experience from your own and expand your sense of belonging.

Challenge yourself to notice when you want to impose your opinion on another rather than have a conversation where you both respectfully count. Practice deep listening, seek first to understand then to be understood, expand your mindset, heal our divides. Your skill and willingness to engage in empowering courageous conversations is needed today more than ever. As Albert Einstein is often quoted as saying, "We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them." It takes courage to co-create a future with the highest potential for all living beings in our communities.

Michele Rae, RPh, MA, NBC-HWC is the founder of The Center Within, LLC and author of "Living From the Center Within: Co-Creating Who You Are Becoming." She provides holistic coaching designed to accelerate and support personal, professional, and organizational transformation.

PAINTER PARK UPGRADES

A skate park is being planned for Painter Park when the area is upgraded this year. A basketball court will be added, and the tennis/pickleball courts will be improved.

A boulder scramble and gathering area with picnic tables is planned for the south of the pickleball courts. The skate park at the corner of Lyndale and W. 33rd will be surrounded by a terraced seating area and native landscape to help with stormwater.

The 2.95-acre park at 620 W. 34th St. is part of the old Lyndale School site. It was acquired by the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board in 1976 when playing fields, playgrounds, tennis courts and a recreation center were built. Playground and field improvements were completed in 2001, with final landscaping touches added in 2002. As with the other two sites, the park board paid for the land with money it had received from the state department of transportation for park land taken for freeways in the 1960s and 1970s. The park is named after Jonathan Painter, the first industrial arts teacher in the Minneapolis school system who created the industrial arts curriculum in city schools.

FREE PARK PROGRAMS THIS SUMMER

Registration fees have been eliminated for all youth programs, activities and sports leagues based at Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) parks, recreation centers and facilities located within census-designated areas of concentrated poverty (ACP). This new policy applies to any Minneapolis resident ages 17 and under signing up for any activity at one of 17 MPRB sites located within areas of concentrated poverty. It applies now for the recently opened summer youth program registration and will continue through at least the end of 2022. See minneapolisparcs.org/register to learn more.

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PREDICTIONS FOR THE LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET

TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

In the March 3 *Connector*, I talked about becoming a realtor, and I'd planned this week to offer predictions on what to expect in local real estate over the next weeks, months, and even years. I know it's a risk, but a "prediction" is so much more compelling than a "report," right? Or a "Real Estate Round-up?" (ugh.) A writer needs to grab the reader's attention, so why not go out on a limb and make a claim. ...



By Larry LaVercombe

And then the war broke out in Ukraine.

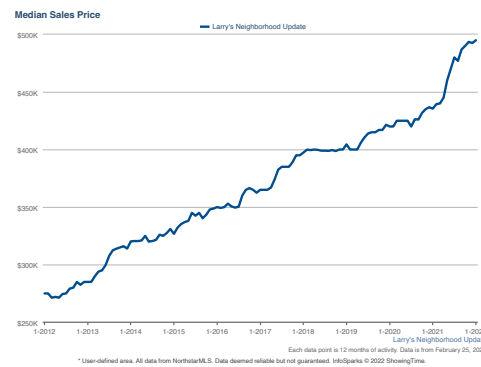
A sick feeling descended upon us, and it seems the only thing that's predictable now is that a lot of people are going to suffer and die, and that we're going to be witnessing trauma and tragedy for months to come....

We bow our heads. Some of us pray. Soon we'll be sending relief money to desperate and displaced families.

In the meantime, life will go on for us, protected as we are here in sunny Minneapolis. We'll feel the heaviness in our hearts, but our lives will go on, as they always do. People marry, people divorce, people are born, people die. We are always moving.

And so, here in our own little bubble.... If you are actually thinking about moving – what kind of market are you heading into? How will the war affect interest rates? Who knows? How will the sanctions affect housing? Who knows? But we know this – life doesn't stop. And so, this much I can say:

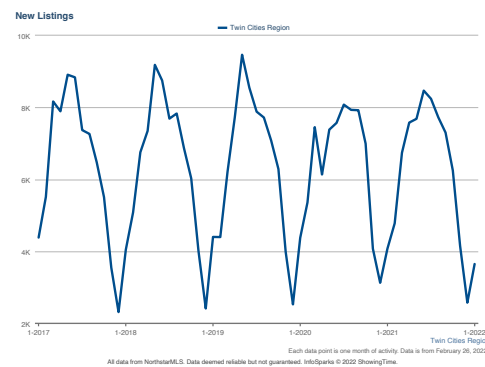
Prediction #1 – Single family home prices will continue to rise. The value of



Southwest Minneapolis 10-year median price appreciation versus days on market.

land, and for single family homes, is still increasing, and despite 10 years of significant appreciation, prices have not even come close to peaking in Minneapolis. Meanwhile, every year, Time-on-Market gets shorter and shorter.

With the 2040 plan, Minneapolis City has encouraged a lot of housing construction, but mostly this construction is taking the form of tall rental buildings. More people will move into the tall rentals, and eventually many of them will want a yard. Thus, demand will increase for single-family homes, and so will their price and value. Consider the last 10 years

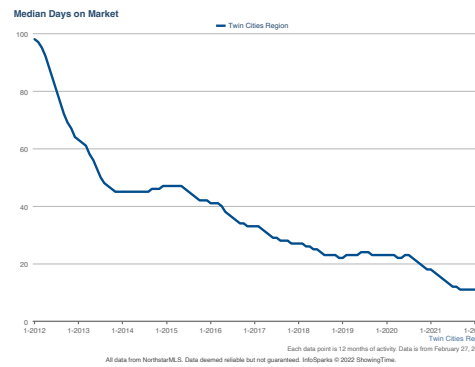


Southwest Minneapolis – Month-to-month new listings compared to homes for sale.

The next Community Advisory Committee is set for April 7, 6-8 p.m. The last 15 minutes are set aside for public comment. CAC members will discuss programming and parking topics that have been raised through community engagement.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been working for several years on a new long-term plan for Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Dean Parkway and the surrounding parkland and trails. Two draft initial park concepts, along with a plan vision and guiding principles, debuted for public comment in December.

MPRB anticipates the design, engagement and CAC process will continue through late summer 2022, before a draft plan heads to MPRB Commissioners for a



of pricing history in the graphs above, and note these two forecasts for the next 30 years:

- The Twin Cities metro population will hit 4 million by 2050. The Twin Cities region will gain 818,000 residents between 2020 and 2050.*
- 96% of state population growth from 2016 to 2050 is projected to occur within the seven-county metropolitan area. Hennepin County is expected to lead the state in terms of total population growth, adding a projected 339,000 people by 2050*

There is no doubt – demand for Min-



neapolis single family homes is on the rise, and it will continue to rise for a long time.

Prediction #2 – Multiple offers will be the norm in Southwest from now until June. For the last five years, late winter and spring have been highly competitive, and by June, things were slowing down. This seasonality in the Twin Cities market is largely created by seller timing. Note in the graphs below that December has for five years in a row been the month with the lowest number of new listings, and consequently, January and February have been the months with the lowest number of homes on the market.

As this pattern repeats, we see demand far exceeding supply in the months from February to June, and after that, the supply catches up and the market slows. Note to sellers: It's far better to enter the market in May than in July.

Prediction #3 – Okay so, I'll say it here, in my opinion, those first two predictions are sure bets. Slam dunks. So here is something more risky: I predict a 9% increase in pricing this year. Southwest Minneapolis experienced a 9% increase in prices last year, and I predict this year's advance will be just as hefty. Why? Because we have record low inventory right now, as you can see in the graph above. And coming out of COVID-19, demand is going to be as high as ever. Prices are going up a lot this year... again.

Here's my commitment to you, readers. I'll revisit this column a year from now, and we'll see if I was right about any of these predictions. Thanks for reading, and good luck out there!

Larry LaVercombe is a writer, filmmaker, and activist, born in Detroit and arrived in Minneapolis in 1975. He lived in a treehouse in San Diego before getting an MFA from the USC Film School. He writes most days, and as Team Larry he has been selling residential real estate in Minneapolis for 26 years.

CEDAR-ISLES MASTER PLAN

Two meetings were held on the draft Cedar-Isles master plan in early March. An online survey closed on March. 4. This feedback will inform the next stage in the design process: creating one preferred park concept by summer 2022.

Since the release of the initial park concepts, hundreds of public comments have been received via an online survey, social media, emails, and public meetings and events. The online survey for this project phase is closed. All comments are being compiled and findings will be shared in April.

public hearing and vote on the final plan, likely in winter 2022-23.

Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles are part of Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, connecting to Bde Maka Ska on the southern border and Brownie Lake and Theodore Wirth Regional Park to the north. Visitors enjoy a multitude of year-round activities that include walking, biking, swimming, fishing, canoe/kayaking, cross-country skiing, and ice skating. The other three lakes in the Chain have been previously master planned: Bde Maka Ska and Harriet in 2017 and Brownie in 2012.

The Regional Park as a whole sees more than 7 million annual visits. It is the most visited park site in the state. To help ensure the Cedar-Isles Master Plan

does not have Southwest Light Rail bias in decision-making, the MPRB did not invite the Met Council to sit on the Technical Advisory Committee and do not anticipate asking SWLRT project staff to play any review or recommending role.

The Cedar Lake/Lake of the Isles Master Plan will direct policy and design implementation for the park land around both lakes for the next 20+ years. The \$470,000 cost for the master plan is being paid through 2020 Parks and Trails Legacy Funds. The breakdown of costs is: Master Plan consultants (Ten x Ten) \$300,000, in-house administrative costs are \$43,908, and Topographic and ALTA survey (Stonbrooke Engineering, Inc.) \$126,092.

SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR DEADLINES

Publication	Deadlines
typically 1st and 3rd Thursdays.	typically 2nd and 4th Mondays.
* Some exceptions	
Publication date	Deadline date
Dec. 2	Nov. 19 (Friday)
Break	Break
Jan. 6	Dec. 20
Feb. 3	Jan. 24
Feb. 17	Feb. 7
March 3	Feb. 18 (Friday)
March 17	March 7
April 7	March 28
April 21	April 11
May 5	April 25
May 19	May 9

June 2	May 23
June 16	June 6
July 7	June 20
July 21	July 11
Aug. 4	July 25
Break	Break
Sept. 1	Aug. 8
Sept. 22	Sept. 12
Oct. 6	Sept. 26
Oct. 20	Oct. 10
Nov. 3	Oct. 24
Nov. 17	Nov. 7
Dec. 1	Nov. 21
Dec. 15	Dec. 5
Break	Break

SPECIAL SECTIONS CALENDAR

- JANUARY**
 Health & Wellness due Dec. 20
 School Guide due Dec. 20
- FEBRUARY**
 Summer Camp Guide due Jan. 24
 Wedding due Feb. 7
- MARCH**
 Home Improvement due Feb. 18
 CSA Guide due Mar 7
- APRIL**
 Home & Garden due Mar 28
 Drive & Ride due Apr 11
- MAY**
 Home & Garden due Apr 25
 Summer in the City due May 9
- JUNE**
 Summer in the City due May 23
 @ Lake & Hennepin due June 6

- JULY**
 Summer in the City due June 20
 Back to School due July 11
- AUGUST**
 Summer in the City due July 25
- SEPTEMBER**
 Back to School due Sept. 12
 - Health focus
- OCTOBER**
 Home Improvement due Sep. 26
 Domestic Violence due Oct. 10
 Awareness Month
- NOVEMBER**
 Food & Drink due Oct. 24
 Shop Small/Buy Local due Nov. 7
- DECEMBER**
 Shop Small/Buy Local due Nov. 21
 Paws and Claws due Dec. 5

QUARTERLY

AGING WELL/LIVING 50+
 March - Housing | June - Activities
 Sept. - Medical | Dec. - Money

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AUTHORS IN STEM



On Feb. 25, 2022, Stonebridge World School (4530 Lyndale Ave. S.) hosted its first-ever Authors in STEM event. The event connected Twin Cities Black authors and illustrators with hundreds of Stonebridge students in preschool through eighth grade for activities such as storytimes, question and answer sessions, and signed book giveaways. The event was organized through a partnership with the Fostering Opportunities and Relationships in STEM Education (FORSE) program through the Minnesota Academy of Science (MAS). Participating professionals included:



- Guy Brown, meteorologist for KARE 11 and author of *Look Up to See What the Weather Will Be* and the companion activity journal *My Weather Journal*. (TOP LEFT)
- Crown Shepherd, reading advocate and author of *Black Boy, Black Boy* (BOTTOM LEFT)
- Nadvia Davis, author of *Grant Practices Math with Manners* (TOP RIGHT)
- Eric Childs, literacy advocate, owner of Mind's Eye comics store, and graphic designer

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

STAFFING CHANGES AT UPTOWN ASSOCIATION

The Uptown Association Board of Directors have selected David Frank as their new executive director. Frank brings many years of experience in urban development and support of communities in times of transition. For several years, Frank led the department of Community Planning and Economic Development for the city of Minneapolis, where he oversaw the city's efforts on planning, economic development, affordable housing, and the approval and inspection of development projects, all with a focus on racial equity. Most recently, Frank has focused on planning and development consulting projects in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. "I look forward to working alongside the staff and board of the Uptown Association, property owners and businesses to support business growth and a thriving commercial district in the heart of Minneapolis," said Frank.



David Frank, new Uptown Association Executive Director.

Current executive director Jill Osiecki will focus on her new role as director of programming and Uptown Art Fair. "The Uptown Art Fair has been a staple in the community for 57 years," said Osiecki. "The devastation by not having the annual event the last two years has hit Uptown hard." The Uptown Association recognizes the importance and focus required for this event, and the need to create many more activations throughout the year.

Judy Hippe will continue in her role as program specialist, focusing on business memberships and along with Frank and Osiecki will serve the needs of businesses in the Uptown community.

'SAY NO TO U.S. WARS' PROTEST PLANNED

A planned anti-war protest, "Say NO to U.S. Wars - No War with Russia!" will start at 2880 Hennepin Ave. on Saturday, March 19, at 1 p.m. It is being organized by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition and Women Against Military Madness.

HOW TO RESTORE HOPE AND PUBLIC TRUST

The LHENA Talk on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. will focus on how to restore hope and public trust in Minneapolis through mental healthcare services and restorative practices. The speakers will be Dr. Remi Douah, executive director of 846s.org, and Cynthia Prosek, executive director of Restorative Justice Community Action.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

Lyndale Neighborhood Association has two community gardens located at:
 1) Corner Garden (3216 West 31st Street and 3042 Pleasant)
 2) Pleasant Garden (3518 Pleasant Ave.)

Neighbors buy a plot (prices range from \$30-\$175 based on size) to grow and cultivate food from April-October 2022. Interested neighbors can apply in-person/on paper with communication with organizer@lyndale.org. Application deadline is Wednesday, March 23. Plots are assigned on first come, first served basis and neighbors will be informed about plot assignment the week of March 28. Neighbors who live outside of the Lyndale Neighborhood can also apply but Lyndale residents will be given priority in plot assignment.

LNA gardens are also accepting donations for the 2022 season. Contribute to the mission of fostering community, food justice, and stewardship with the earth by send a check or cash to 3537 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

10 CHALLENGING TIMES

Council member Linea Palmisano has known Huffman since 2018, and recalls her leadership during challenging times at the Fifth Precinct. "Amelia was the inspector during the social unrest and has had to deal with very difficult situations," said Palmisano. "She is, in my experience, the smartest cop I've ever known. And she has the ability to explain the law that people appreciate and understand."

As inspector, Huffman made a point of attending neighborhood meetings. "Anytime she was asked to be at a neighborhood meeting she was there," said Palmisano, who noted her knowledge, accessibility and focus on building authentic relationships with people as some of Huffman's greatest strengths.

'SHE FELL SHORT'

Huffman only had a few weeks to start to build those relationship as interim chief before, on Feb. 2, she was forced to address the police killing of Amir Locke and the community outrage that followed. A press conference with the mayor on Feb. 3 became so heated that it ended with the mayor and chief's abrupt departure when it was interrupted by attendees, including Nekima Levy Armstrong, a co-chair of the mayor's recently formed public safety workgroup. The next day a small group of protestors, which included Levy Armstrong, gathered at city hall and joined those calling for her resignation. In the days that followed, protests continued, including an evening demonstration outside what demonstrators believed was Huffman's home in the Cedar-Isles Dean area.

Since then, and as the investigation into Locke's killing are ongoing, protests continue and lawmakers work to respond, Huffman has not resigned and appears to have the continued confidence of the mayor and at least some council members, including Palmisano.

Others have joined some community

members who are calling for her resignation. That includes Ward 5 Council Member Jeremiah Ellison, who said in an interview on Feb. 10, "I have lost confidence in the interim chief." He added, "We need leadership who is going to stand boldly and tell us the truth in these moments, and I think she fell short of that."

Ward 10 Council Member Aisha Chughtai agrees with Ellison. "I support the community and family of Amir Locke in asking for her resignation," she said of Huffman.

"I support the community and family of Amir Locke in asking for her resignation."

Aisha Chughtai

tee meetings this term as far as she knows.

The recent charter change may be partly to blame for that. Under the previous charter, even interim department head appointments went through a council committee and needed city council approval. According to the city attorney, because of the recent charter amendment approved last November that gave the mayor additional powers, the mayor did not need the council's approval to designate Huffman as the interim chief. Under the new charter language, however, the permanent replacement will require an affirmative vote by a majority of the council members.

Without any history working with Huffman, Chughtai bases her position on the community voices she is hearing and how the interim chief has managed things, including community engagement after Locke's death. "It's our job as elected officials to listen to and follow the community's lead," she said. "I think she [Huffman] handled the aftermath of the killing poorly." She said that the press conference

"went very badly." Chughtai said, "In moments of crisis like this, managing relationships is very important and working with the community is critical."

NATIONAL SEARCH BEGINS

Huffman has expressed interest in the permanent position and will likely be part of the national search process that is underway. In early March, the mayor announced that he is establishing a community advisory group to assist with the effort and that the city will hire the firm, Public Sector Search & Consulting Inc. (PSSC) to lead the process.

Palmisano is supportive of a national search, but is not ruling out Huffman as a possible candidate for the more permanent police chief position. "I think what Huffman brings to the table is something unique," she said, mentioning her in-depth knowledge, experience, relationships with the people of Minneapolis and her strong strategic management and problem-solving skills.

Chughtai, at this point, has no intention of supporting Huffman even if the search team and mayor recommend her for the position. "As the next police chief, I hope we will have someone who is willing to engage with the community and with the council," she said, adding, "and while she [Huffman] is the interim chief, I hope that she will engage with the council."

"She is, in my experience, the smartest cop I've known."

Linea Palmisano

search process projected to go until summer, it looks like there will be time for that to occur.

Send in events, press releases, letters and neighborhood news.
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CSA Delivery Team Member: Seasonal position available Thursdays, May-December 2022. Help us deliver organic vegetables in the Twin Cities area through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program! Seeking someone who is attentive to details, works well on a team and likes a physically active job. Compensation includes a box of vegetables with every delivery. Full details at www.harmonyvalleyfarm.com



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CSAs ENHANCE FARMER/EATER RELATIONSHIP

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Just what is a CSA?

"A CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is a direct partnership between consumers and local producers," explained Abby Rogosheske of Seward Co-op. "A consumer becomes a member of a CSA by purchasing a share in a farm's harvest, which helps cover that farm's yearly operating costs. In return for that investment, members receive fresh produce or other goods – delivered to specific drop sites in the Twin Cities (including Seward Co-op locations)."

Harmony Valley Farm in Viroqua, Wis. is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. "While CSA stands for 'Community Supported Agriculture,' it could also stand for 'Community Sustained Agriculture,'" observed Andrea Yoder of Harmony Valley Farm.

"It truly is a way for a farmer and an eater to form a mutually beneficial relationship in which both parties reap the benefits. Plus, learning to eat with the seasons, spending time preparing food and sharing it with others helps to feed not only the body but the soul, as well.

"It's simply a more meaningful way to eat."

In addition to providing food, some CSAs offer training programs and are incubators for small farmers, like Big River Farms in Marine on St. Croix. Through its Farmer Education Program, participants are exposed to the realities of running an independent farm; not just the work of producing food, but the details of running a successful business. It is a primary goal of the program to encourage farmers to think realistically about the feasibility of running and owning their own farm operation, and ultimately build the skills necessary to run successful small farm enterprises upon graduation, according to their website. These farmers contribute to the Big River Farms CSA program, offer their own CSAs, and sell produce at farmers markets.

Big River Farms focuses its land-based training program on supporting immigrant and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) farmers, populations that generally have difficulty accessing the resources needed to establish a successful farm business.

Big River Farms is a program of the Food Group, which hosts the annual Emerging Farmers Conference.

Q&A WITH A FARMER

Harmony Valley is a family farm run by co-owners Richard de Wilde, Andrea Yoder and Rafael Morales, along with a crew that varies with the seasons from 15-60 team members. The home farm consists of 200 acres of woods, pastures



"Having a CSA is a way to commit to eating fresh, locally produced vegetables (and other offerings) and to have the opportunity to know and support the farmers growing your food," remarked Josh Bryceson of Turnip Rock, which offers a 22-week session with the option of setting holds on deliveries for vacations. "Think about what's most important to you as an eater. Is it farming practices? Is it social and food justice concerns? Is it convenience? Check out the delivery day, drop site locations, share size options, prices, and see if the farm's offerings match your preferences for veggies. Most importantly, don't hesitate to ask questions of the farm before signing up! Most farmers want potential CSA members to find a good match and will be honest if they believe their farm won't be the best option for you." (Photo submitted)

and crop land lying along Spring Creek in Viroqua, Wis. They sell produce and meat through a 1,500-member CSA, a weekly stall at the Dane County Farmers Market, retail grocers and wholesale distributors.

Their CSA membership more than doubled in the spring of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and their retention remained strong in 2021. Yoder isn't sure what 2022 will look like yet but know they remain committed to delicious, organic food.

WHY GET A CSA?

Yoder: The thing that varies with CSA versus buying your vegetables at a grocery store or food co-op is that you get more than just a box of vegetables. You also get connection to the place where your food is grown and the people who grow it. This type of connection allows for transparency and a more secure supply of food as there are no middle men or a long and complicated supply chain to get the food from its origin to your table. Eating from a CSA box is a great way to support regional/local producers and keep your food dollars in the local economy. Short of growing your own food, it's one of the best ways to get fresh, nutrient dense vegetables. Plus, it's a lot of fun to eat with the seasons and many of our customers tell us it's like Christmas every time they open a box!



Andrea Yoder

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A CSA?

Yoder: In addition to the points I mentioned above, many people find they eat more vegetables when they participate in CSA simply because they are in their refrigerator! Many of our customers also appreciate the wide diversity of vegetables they eat during the CSA season and find there are things they maybe wouldn't

select on their own but when they try it, they find out they really like it. We've had some of our customers tell us they consider their CSA box to be their health insurance policy. They'd rather invest in healthy vegetables and reap the health benefits of eating high quality, nutritious food than invest their money in healthcare when they get sick. CSA is also a great way to introduce children to the way real food tastes, expand their palates and allow them to experience a wide variety of flavors and textures while also connecting them to nature.

CSA is a way that each individual can be part of creating a sustainable local food supply chain. Every time we make a purchase, we're supporting something. When you choose to purchase a CSA your dollars stay in the local community, but your purchase also allows you to support practices that are in alignment with your personal beliefs and values. Some of these values may include supporting a food system where workers are respected and are paid a fair and living wage. Perhaps you want to support regenerative farming practices that contribute in positive ways to mitigating climate change or you want your food dollars to support farms that invest in providing habitat in their growing areas for pollinators.

WHAT SETS YOUR CSA APART?

Yoder: There are several things that set our CSA apart from others. First, we are experienced growers and 2022 will be our 30th year of growing for CSA. We have learned a lot over the years and are able to reliably grow a wide variety of vegetables over the course of a 30-week delivery season from May-December. We also provide our customers with a variety of resources with each delivery to help them find success with every box. These resources include a weekly newsletter that highlights new vegetables, offers storage and preparation information, and updates from the

Q&A WITH CSA FAIR ORGANIZER

For the past 21 years, Seward Co-op has hosted a CSA Fair in the spring. Attendees online and in person learn about a variety of different CSAs, which offer vegetables and fruit, meat, cheese, bread, mushrooms, herbs and more. Some farms also offer add-ons like honey, maple syrup, eggs and flowers. Others allow CSA shares to be customized with various options to fit your needs, including half shares, and weekly purchase options. This year's CSA Fair will be held Saturday, April 23, 2022, and include a celebration of the co-op's 50th anniversary.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A CSA?

Rogosheske: Some people choose to purchase a CSA because it's a great value for the amount of produce you receive. Others appreciate the direct relationship with a grower, the fun variety of produce or the chance to support our local food system.

HOW DO CSAS ADD TO LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM?

Rogosheske: Becoming a member of a CSA is a great way to support small, local growers because you are purchasing the harvest upfront. Many farmers share that this provides needed capital investment as the growing season starts. In other words, when you purchase a CSA, you're not just a consumer of local food – you are an investor in our local food system. In some ways, this is similar to becoming a member-owner of Seward Co-op – when you do this, you are investing in the co-op; you're an owner, not just a shopper.

WHAT TIPS DO YOU OFFER FOLKS?

Rogosheske: These last few years, we've added a virtual component to our annual CSA Fair (at first it was out of necessity, due to the pandemic, but it's been so popular that we are continuing the "virtual fair" even though we are also planning an in-person event). As part of this, we offer a really helpful guide that includes our full list of CSA Fair participants, with information on the type of CSA, drop-off locations, and price range. Farmers also share video introductions. This is a great way to "shop around" ahead of time – and then you'll have a chance to chat face-to-face with farmers at the in-person event on April 23!

farm. I am also a professional chef, and provide feature recipes every week that are simple and delicious. Additionally, we post a "Cooking With the Box" article on our blog every week that provides links to recipes from a wide variety of sources to help guide members/customers in finding ways to use their vegetables.

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ART ON THE EDGE DEBUTS IN LINDEN HILLS



Milwaukee area residents Mari Akre, PJ Akre, Marie Akre and Paul Akre look at the chalk art mandala, created under the guidance of Sandy Forseth for the Art on the Edge event in Linden Hills on July 23, 2022. The Akres were celebrating Mari's 65th birthday. "This is a really quaint place to hang out," said Paul Akre. "It's the little things that bring out joy. It isn't that far away. You just have to look for it." More on pages 2-3. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

A MORE AUTHENTIC DRINK

First-time business owners
bring East African Chai to
farmers markets

By **Evan Vezmar**

On a Sunday afternoon in July, the Kingfield Farmers Market bustles with people browsing the various offerings. Even as rain clouds loom overhead, one of the busiest tents belongs to Red Wolf Chai, founded by Mowafag Mohamed, Mohamed Yousif, and siblings Mayzer Abdusebur, Azhar Abdusebur, and Sumeya Abdusebur two years ago.

Through their tea business, they strive to introduce traditional and authentic chai tea to the Minneapolis community and also aim to make a positive impact on the city. The founders are from Sudan and the Oromia region in Ethiopia where chai tea is prevalent.

In an interview with Mohamed Yousif, he mentioned, "Essentially we all grew up on some form of chai. It's really big for us in East Africa. We drink it every day. We



COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSIONER BEING CONSIDERED BY CITY COUNCIL

Cedric Alexander may
manage new department
with fire, police, 911, office
of emergency management,
office of neighborhood safety

By **Cam Gordon**

On July 21, 2022, Mayor Jacob Frey's nomination of Cedric Alexander for Community Safety Commissioner was formally received by the city council, who is expected to vote on the appointment on Aug. 4 following a public hearing on Aug. 2.

The creation of this position was approved on June 30 along with a salary range of \$295,250 to \$350,000. That salary is above a cap set by the state legislature of \$192,144 for 2022, so the city is requesting, and needs, a waiver to pay that much for this job.

As recommended in the mayor's restructuring proposal and the ordinance being introduced by Ward 13 Council Member Linnea Palmisano, the commissioner will report to the mayor and lead

a new Office of Community Safety that, if approved, would include the fire and police departments, 911, the office of emergency management, and a new office of neighborhood safety that will replace or include the office of violence prevention now housed in the health department.

Frey announced his nomination and introduced Alexander at a press conference on July 7. "Government restructuring is probably the most important thing I will ever do as mayor," he said. "Today we are at a seminal moment in that work to reshape and redefine the way we serve the public for the purpose of safety."

He added, "This is a person with a wealth of experience, highly respected nationwide. We are thrilled to have him enter our city to make the kind of changes that we need see."

Alexander began his career in 1977 as a deputy sheriff in Leon County, Fla. and went on to have a long career in law enforcement, public safety, education and government. He was the director of public safety for DeKalb County, Ga. where he oversaw police, fire, emergency response, and 911, and Chief of Police. Later, he was deputy mayor for the city of Rochester (NY). He has served as deputy commissioner of



A WALK THROUGH TANGLETOWN

Lifetime resident Tom Balcom
points out historical and
present-day highlights of
Washburn Park

By **Tesha M. Christensen**

Today's Tangletown neighborhood used to be known as Washburn Park, and the high school, library and historic water tower still bear evidence of the family that transformed the space from farm fields.

Local historian, Tom Balcom, has lived in the area his entire life, and does walking tours through Preserve Minneapolis. The 2022 tour was held on Tuesday evening, July 19, and about 20 people spent 90 minutes on the 1.5-mile walk. He believes that local history is not about yesterday; it's the context for where we live today.

"I'm proud of the place I live and I



The Washburn Park water tower was designed by Henry Wild Jones, a neighborhood resident. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

like to tell people the history of it," said Balcom.

"One hundred and twenty years ago, this was all farmland. Then the city marched out. I don't think people have too much of a sense of that."





Lynhurst resident Kathy Pope of Yellow Dog Collage sells her handcrafted collages. "I'm really inspired by color and pattern," she said.



Lucy Duncan, age 5, and her sister Lydia, age 8, watch soul painter Anne Pryor of Lovitude at work during Art on the Edge. They were accompanied by grandmother Beth LaVal (not pictured.)



Brazilian psychic Jurema Silva shared messages from loved ones who have passed on during a sold-out gallery reading.



Handmade candles, soaps and self-care products were sold at the Pillars of Throw booth.



The secret garden behind Heartfelt was a magical place to be, filled with mystics, tarot card readers and more during the first Art on the Edge on July 23, 2022. "Go see the hidden treasures back there," encouraged volunteer Kathryn Lundquist. (Photos by Tesha M. Christensen)



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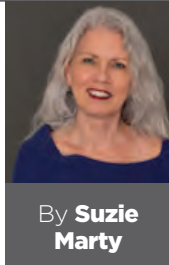
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GRATEFUL FOR ART ON THE EDGE

THE ART OF...

Reflecting on this past week, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude. On Saturday July 23, we celebrated creativity, intuition, and community with the first Annual Art on The Edge Festival in Linden Hills.



By **Suzie Marty**

When I met Kelly Wagner, psychic medium and owner/publisher of *The Edge* magazine, we instantly knew we were meant to create a new kind of art fair together. We knew that blending the creative talents of Minnesota artists from Everett & Charlie Gallery, and vendors from the metaphysical/holistic world through *The Edge*, would be a natural and powerful combination. From potters, painters, jeweler artists, tarot readers, Chinese medicine, essential oils, feng shui, authors, live music, and more, we celebrated together, brought community together, and had an all-around fun day. In addition, art demonstrations, author readings, pendulum teachings, and so much more were part of Art on The Edge. Within a few short months and the help of assistant gallery manager Dylan Marty, creative graphic designer Steve Wagner, and Cindy Torres (virtual assistant and event planner extraordinaire), we managed to create something special with a new twist on the usual art fair experience.

With over 60 participating artists and holistic vendors on the street and in the secret garden, it was a magical day. So magical, we were spared the weather that was forecasted to be less than perfect for an outdoor festival. With only a short period of light rain, which one of the vendors referred to as "sparkles," it was a beautiful day from start to finish and did not deter those attending. Maybe it had something to do with the power of positive thinking and literally standing in the street blowing the clouds in a different direction.

Anne Pryor of Lovitude™ (which means love and gratitude) is a Soul Painter. Anne gifted Art on The Edge with not one, but two, original alcohol ink paintings. She says her creations are inspired by Spirit, the highest energy in the universe. All of her paintings are blessed with essential oils and the inks are blown through a crystal straw using "Healing Breath." The originals are for sale at Everett & Charlie Gallery and prints are also available in 11x14 and 18x24 prints, as well as greeting cards.

Sandy Forseth, a gifted chalk street artist and Community Mandala Specialist, brightened W. 43rd Street with a beautiful chalk mandala. Arriving at 6 a.m. to measure and paint the outline of the mandala so anyone could fill in the spaces with chalk throughout the day was amazing. Children and adults joined in to meditate and create a beautiful piece or art together. Sandy watched in delight and likes to say, "COMMUNITY, creativity and the



Our volunteers in the purple shirts. power of play are my jam!"

Jurema Silva, a Brazilian psychic, brought her gifts to a sold-out room for a gallery reading. Tapping into members in the audience, she shared messages from many loved ones who have passed on and answered questions through her intuitive talents.

Jim Turner, an international known award winning watercolorist, set up his easel on the sidewalk and painted throughout the festival. His Plein Air street painting captured the spirit and essence of the day. More of Jim's work can be found in the gallery.

Dan Turpening strolled through the festival entertaining everyone with his accordion playing. Other musicians throughout the day included violinist RayCurt Johnson, and Gypsy Jazz guitarist Ryan Picone. Their musical talents brought smiles to so many, and it was



Suzie Marty (left) and Kelly Wagner

sweet to watch the children (and sometimes adults) dancing on the sidewalk.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the community of Linden Hills, the many volunteers who helped the day run smoothly with such kindness, (one vendor actually said the volunteers were like little gifts on the street) and finally to our sponsors of Art on The Edge, the *Southwest Connector*, Priority Partnerships, Linden Hills Dentistry, Lakes Area Realty, BodyLabUSA, and Heartfelt.

We are looking forward to Art on the Edge 2023!

With gratitude,
Suzie, Kelly, Dylan and Team "Art on The Edge"
www.EverettandCharlie.com
www.EdgeMagazine.net

▶ **Suzie Marty** is an artist and curator at Everett & Charlie art gallery in Linden Hills. She is also an avid supporter of buying local, and a marketing specialist for the *Southwest Connector*. Contact her at ads@swconnector.com.

▶ RED WOLF CHAI

watched our parents drink it every day."

Yousif explained that he and his partners wanted to share their knowledge about chai because "what we've experienced here with chai is not that good. What people are used to drinking, whether it's in a big chain coffee shop like Starbucks or an independent one, it's not that good because even though it's from an independent coffee shop, they use a syrup that's made by some big factory. So we just wanted to introduce people to a new way of experiencing chai."

Red Wolf Chai endeavors to establish a tradition of chai drinking in America where such a custom has not existed before. Yousif emphasized that the business wants to reach "everyone in a way" with its chai. Yousif described, "We have everyone from five-year-old kids to grown senior citizens who like all of our chai... There's different types of chai drinkers, whether you grew up on it or you were introduced to it by Starbucks. And then there's people who have never tried chai. There's people who may have tried it once and they hated it because it was a bad experience and then there's others who have been wanting to try it, either for health reasons, to leave coffee, or for the antioxidant effects."

Yousif illustrated the ways Red Wolf Chai has been working to establish chai in Minneapolis. "Reframing and redefining what chai is in the minds of people, that's number one. Introduce people to what we're used to in our parts of the world, give people a healthier alternative for caffeine (chai and tea itself has a lot of antioxidants and really healthy properties)..."

"There's some cinnamon, some cardamom, and a range of other spices, but ultimately it's in the brewing technique.



Red Wolf Chai sells its signature chai drink at Mill City Market on July 30. (Photo by Evan Vezmar)

A part of it is the spices, another part is the brewing technique, how long we let it marinate and simmer to let the flavors infuse into each other."

Red Wolf Chai also seeks to positively impact the community that it serves. Yousif described how "a big part of what we do is community work, so every once and a while we'll take some money and we'll donate it to charities. That's something we regularly do. So it's a little bit about introducing people to chai, but also making a difference in our communities. Sometimes we'll have high schoolers and middle schoolers that come, and we let them work in that environment in the farmers market so they can get communication skills and learn a little bit about businesses and how they operate."

Red Wolf Chai not only creates positive change in Minneapolis, but also focuses on sharing the story of the founders, from their love of chai to their East African roots. Yousif emphasized, "We bring [our story] into how we talk to people, that hospitality we have with people, and

even through the logo. The logo is a wolf that stretches through East Africa; that story of connecting different cultures. Even the wolf we're highlighting: It's a red wolf that's specific to the Oromia region that's endangered and we wanted to bring more awareness to it. But it also ties nicely to where we are in Minnesota and the Timberwolves.

"So it's a story that connects both cultures which we feel embodies us as people."

Starting a business has brought its own particular challenges, because although each of the founders had worked in businesses before, none of them had run their own business. Yousif added, "There's a lot of learning, from simple things like how much we should order to more complex things like what's our long-term strategy. So, there's a lot of stuff that we're learning as we're doing. The other thing is juggling this and our day-to-day job. All of us have a day-to-day job so juggling the two projects has been difficult. Sometimes we're making chai in our commercial kitchen space, we're up until 2, 3,

4 a.m. making the chai, and then we're up after four, five hours for our normal day jobs."

COVID-19 luckily did not have as big of an impact on Red Wolf Chai when it was founded in 2021. The pandemic, in fact, motivated Yousif and his partners to begin the business. He explained, "A lot of us had a lot of time to think during COVID and it just made us want to start... a new project... We had a year or two of reflection during COVID when everything was shut and by year two-and-a-half of COVID, we were like 'you know what, we want to start something.' So it actually gave us the reflection we needed to kick-start us and try something new."

Red Wolf Chai has garnered popularity throughout Minneapolis and the business has been successful since its inception. But the founders at the moment are content with continuing to share their chai through farmers markets, and emphasize that potentially opening a stand-alone restaurant is a long-term dream. Yousif stressed, "I'm more focused on our strategy of getting our chai mixture into coffee shops... The idea is that if we have our chai mixtures in a bunch of different coffee shops, then it's more accessible for people... As opposed to having one central location that everyone has to go to, it's more accessible for people."

Find Red Wolf Chai on select Saturdays at the Mill City and Fulton Farmers Market, and select Sundays at Kingfield Farmers Market.

▶ **Evan Vezmar** is a summer intern with the *Southwest Connector*. He is on the staff of the Blake School Spectrum newspaper, and will be a junior next year. He resides in Edina.

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EXTREMISM LEAVES EVERYTHING OUT OF WHACK

We need to start resolving conflicts for the greater good.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Sometimes, it feels like the whole world has gone crazy, and we're all on one big hamster wheel, going around in circles, accomplishing nothing.

We see this in Minneapolis. Pick any topic of community concern. Whether it's public safety or city planning, there's a good chance there is no consensus on what to do, and two sides have extremist viewpoints. We should have no police. We should have unlimited, fully militarized police. We need more street parking. We need all bike lanes. Lock everyone up. Lock no one up.

Going to extremes doesn't work. This is how we got to where we are. How much progress have we made in solving the city's problems in the last two years? We're stuck in gridlock. No one can agree on anything from the mayor's office to the city council to neighborhood associations, Facebook groups, street protests and Twitter. Everywhere you look, there are conflicts.

Conflict is nothing new. But now there's no negotiation, no collaboration,



By Eric Ortiz

no compromise. People used to be able to work together, even if they disagreed. They used to be able to find some common ground. Now, it's either-or options all day long. You're either with us, or you're against us. And if you're not with us, you're canceled. Or you're mocked and laughed at. Or worse.

What happened to both-and solutions? What's wrong with having some parking and some bike lanes? What's wrong with holding people at all levels of society accountable for doing the wrong things? Why can't we come up with humane solutions that work for everyone?

This isn't only a Minneapolis problem. This is an all-American problem, with Minneapolis as ground zero for extremist solutions. Extremism, from any direction, leaves everything out of balance. Instead of solving anything, we might even be going backward as a civilized society.

But there is good news. We can reverse course and learn how to resolve our conflicts in a civilized way. We can create win-win solutions for the greater good, aka the public good or the common good. And we have the Coen brothers – the famous filmmakers who were born and raised in St. Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis – to thank for this roadmap.

Remember their cult classic movie “The Big Lebowski”? Let's revisit the “mark it zero” bowling scene with Walter Sobchak (played by John Goodman), The Dude (Jeff Bridges) and Smokey (Jimmie

Dale Gilmore). Walter, a Vietnam War veteran and The Dude's best friend, believes Smokey stepped over the line when he rolled a shot. There is no definitive proof. It's Walter's word against Smokey's.

Walter: Over the line.

Smokey: Huh?

Walter: I'm sorry, Smokey. You were over the line. That's a foul.

Smokey: Bulls**t. Mark it 8, Dude.

Walter: Uh, excuse me. Mark it zero. Next frame.

Smokey: Bulls**t, Walter. Mark it 8, Dude.

B Smokey, this is not 'Nam. This is bowling. There are rules.

The Dude: Hey, Walter. Come on, it's just – hey, man. It's Smokey. So his toe slipped over a little. You know, it's just a game, man.

Walter: This is a league game. This determines who enters the next round-robin. Am I wrong?

Smokey: Yeah, but I wasn't –

Walter: Am I wrong?

Smokey: Yeah, but I wasn't over. Give me the marker, Dude. I'm marking an 8.

Walter: Smokey, my friend, you are entering a world of pain.

At this point, Walter pulls a gun out of his bowling bag and holds up the gun.

The Dude: Walter, man.

Walter: You mark that frame an 8, you're entering a world of pain.

Smokey: I'm not –

Walter: A world of pain.

Smokey: Look, Dude. This is your

partner.

Walter (yelling and standing up): Has the whole world gone crazy?! Am I the only one around here who gives a s**t about the rules?! Mark it zero.

The Dude: They're calling the cops, man. Put the piece away.

Walter (pointing the gun at Smokey): Mark it zero.

The Dude: Walter, put the piece away.

Smokey: Walter –

Walter (cocking the gun and pointing it at Smokey): You think I'm f**king around here. Mark it zero.

Smokey marks it zero.

Smokey: All right, it's f**king zero. You happy, you crazy f**k?

Walter sits down, uncocks his gun and removes the clip of bullets.

Walter: It's a league game, Smokey.

If it weren't for Smokey de-escalating the situation, things would have gone much different.

We need more Smokeys in the world today because there are a lot of crazy f**ks. We can't make them all happy, but if we take a page from the pacifist's guide for resolving conflict, we might avoid a world of pain.



Eric Ortiz lives in the Wedge with his family. When he's not community building, he's the director of media for Big Edition and writes bilingual children's books with his kids. Their first book, “How the Zookalex Saved the Village,” is available in English and Spanish.

ARE WE ACCOMPLISHING ENOUGH WITH THE JAN. 6 HEARINGS?

TEAMING UP FOR GOOD

Without an obstructionist Republican megaphone, these hearings are both coherent and revealing – nothing like what you get when one party is doing everything they can to obscure any progress or significant realization.

And yet, of course, people are asking: Will any of it matter? Once you have drunk the Republican Kool-Aid, you seem to remain forever deluded. Even Arizona Republican Speaker Rusty Bowers admits that while Trump is a liar and a lawbreaker, he'd still vote for him in a general election. Apparently, no matter what crimes the Republican elite has committed, run-of-the-mill Republicans will still vote Republican. It's part of their identity. They are who they are. And they don't feel the same way that we do about either hypocrisy or democracy.

A lot of people hate it when I talk this way. They call me intolerant. They call me ideological, and offensive, and “just as bad.” They say I'm not helping things by painting with such a broad brush and blaming people for not being able to see past or through their own culture.

Maybe. But I, for one, am tired of watching us turn the other cheek and



By Larry LaVercombe

then feeling it burn with another slap. I no longer believe that bipartisanship is healthy for us. If the Republican Party was a spouse, we would have gotten divorced. We'd be seen as foolish for trying to work things out with such an untrustworthy partner.

Which is exactly what they have been. Untrustworthy. And it didn't just start with Trump. The war in Iraq was based on a Big Lie, too.

We are taught not to judge. And many of us have been taught to accept virtually any moral stance. We've even been led to believe that it is immoral to make moral judgments. I don't buy it any longer. We've been married to an untrustworthy party, and we keep trying to work it out without offending anyone. I've come to see it this way: we may choose to quietly not offend, but we can't work it out. And I'm starting to wonder if not offending is the moral choice any longer.

Of the seven deadly sins, pride is number one. The flip side of pride is shame, and shame is perhaps the most difficult of all experiences. It takes courage to face your shame. Ask yourself this: Do you have the courage to admit that you've been wrong about something?

It isn't just the politicians who are unable to face the shame of having been so wrong for so long. It's your neighbor next door. That's the awful truth of this. It's too shameful to stop voting Republican after having voted for Trump twice.

You'd have to admit to yourself how wrong you were. You'd have to have courage.

And it's their lack of courage we see over and over again with their constant minimizing of their party's corruption. Before Trump, who would have thought the Republicans would have turned a blind eye to Russian intervention in an election? Who imagines that this didn't embolden Putin?

It's shameful the way the Republican party has traded decency for power. And it's shameful the way people allow themselves to be fooled by Fox News.

I know I lose people when I go this far with my words. And I don't like looking like an unforgiving hardliner. Truth is, I'm not unforgiving. But I do believe that Republicans have a willful indifference to the horrors perpetrated by their own party, from the hateful rhetoric against the Black Lives Matter Movement, to the jailing of children on the border, to the continued wrongness of their positions on guns, gays, women, climate change, etc.

They have been morally wrong on all the moral issues of our time – yet we non-Republicans refuse to make the moral judgment. We let them off the hook, as if it's just a preference, like chocolate over vanilla. To each his own... Right? No. Wrong. Voting is a sacred act, and a moral choice. And voting Republican is morally wrong at this point.

These Jan. 6 hearings are proving

truths beyond any doubt. But so did the impeachment hearings if you were looking at them honestly. The “politics game” is supposed to be played with respect for each other and respect for the rules, but they have made it clear that they do not respect us, nor do they respect the rules. We know this, but we keep hoping they will see the light someday. They won't. There is no changing a mind committed to remaining closed. The Republican party won't get healthy until they need to, and, in their own eyes, they haven't hit rock bottom, yet.

Meanwhile, Biden gets blamed for the inflation caused by war-time oil prices and post-COVID-19 supply problems.

So, what can we do? I, for one, still have faith in getting out the vote, and I still have faith that justice and decency will prevail.

We need to get the fence-sitters out to the polls. And we also need to stop fighting among ourselves, and encourage those of us who have lost faith to regain it. If we can increase our hold on the senate from 50-50 to 52-48, we can bypass the filibuster and then pass The John Lewis Voting Rights Act. That will make all the difference.

We have work to do. Let's do it.



Larry LaVercombe is a writer, filmmaker, and activist, born in Detroit and arrived in Minneapolis in 1975. He lived in a treehouse in San Diego before getting an MFA from the USC Film School. He writes most days, and as Team Larry he has been selling residential real estate in Minneapolis for 26 years.

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READ
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GFS: SOWING SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY



A few thousand White citizens tried to drive the Arthur and Edith Lee family from their home for a week. This photo was featured in the October 1931 edition of "The Crisis" magazine.



Jay the Gardener (left) and Carla Jo "CJ" Bielawski embrace as he holds a box of Black-eyed Susan seeds that have been passed along from the original garden tended by the Lees.

By JILL BOOGREN

The little white house at 4600 Columbus Ave. S. is a typical south Minneapolis home. It has a garden out back and another out front, where every year in mid-July the Black-eyed Susans bloom. Its simple serenity belies its roots in Minneapolis history, though, as indicated by a limestone pedestal on the front lawn bearing a plaque that describes how it earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

Formerly the Arthur and Edith Lee house, it is the site of a 1931 race "row," as termed by the then *Tribune* - a White mob numbering in the thousands had gathered out front to coerce the Lees to leave. They first tried paying them but ultimately resorted to hurling bottles, black paint and racial epithets at the home.

The Lees were Black. And though Arthur Lee was a war veteran and U.S. postal worker, that wasn't enough to break the racial covenant that denied home ownership to people of his color.

In a 1931 edition of *The Crisis*, "A Roman Holiday in Minneapolis," Chatwood Hall wrote, "Mr. Lee's first serious



On July 11, Brass Solidarity plays a few tunes in front of the Arthur and Edith Lee house at 4600 Columbus where an angry mob gathered in 1931 to force the family out. (Photos by Jill Boogren)

hint of trouble was a large sign placed on his front porch, bearing this inscription 'No N-s [racial slur is spelled out] Allowed in this Neighborhood. This Means You.'

"Please, never forget that it wasn't just the south that dealt in the Jim Crow behavior," said high school teacher and GFS resident Marcia Howard to community members who gathered in front of the home on July 11, 2022.

A steel sculpture that stands with the plaque, created by Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (3749 Chicago Ave.) with Obsidian Arts, has a portrait with this quote from Arthur Lee from July 16, 1931: "Nobody asked me to move out when I was in France fighting in mud and water for this country. I came out here to make this house my home. I have a right to establish a home."

Carla Jo "CJ" Bielawski, whose parents Carl A. and Pearl Lindstrom moved into the home in 1957, is the current resident and caretaker of the property. She keeps the Lee's contribution to the house alive by tending to the Black-eyed Susans that are planted throughout the property.

"Those are the same babies of the ones Edith Lee planted in 1931," said Howard. "And for that reason, the idea of commemorating what happened here and bringing it to the Square, where we have had an occupation that is markedly different than what happened here" - this drew cheers from the two dozen people there - "because we are there for equality. We are here for liberation. We're here for dismantling systems of racial redlining, profiling, inequity that happened here."

People tucked cut flowers behind their ears and, to the music of Brass Solidarity,

marched in procession to 38th and Chicago. There they were met by CJ who had already presented seeds to Jay the Gardener to plant throughout the Square.

"Today was the day 91 years ago that [the Lees] were told, 'Go. We'll give you money if you go,'" said CJ. "That man was American. Whatever his color is my color, we're all the same color underneath. We all bleed red. So let no more blood be shed."

The Lees moved within three years, and the neighborhood didn't have another African American resident for 30 years.

Jay held up a box of "thousands" of Black-eyed Susan seeds and embraced CJ.

"If you see Black-eyed Susans sprouting up from every hem and hamlet and corner of this Square, it's because Edith and Arthur Lee's legacy continues," said Howard.

See the University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice project and view the TPT documentary "Jim Crow of the North" to learn more about discriminatory housing practices in Minneapolis. See JustDeeds.org to see if your home has a racial covenant on it.

BUILDING POWER

Under The Peoples' Way that same evening, in another quiet act of solidarity, artist Jordan Powell Karis was constructing the components of a new wooden fist, like those that mark each of the four entrances to the Square. Once ready he hand delivered it to its destination - Akron, Ohio, where on June 27, 2022, Jayland Walker was killed by police in a hail of bullets shot as he was fleeing on foot. The medical examiner's autopsy determined that

Walker had 46 gunshot wounds; 26 bullets were recovered from his body.

Asked what moved him to build another fist, Powell Karis said, "I live in mostly White spaces. And in these White spaces everything is back to normal. And it's intolerable. It's truly intolerable to see White spaces continue on while people are doin' work and the work's not done yet. And it makes it harder for us to do the work when that continuation is happening unconsciously."

Five days prior, Powell Karis had no plans to do this. Something called him. He reached out to a reverend there, and it just clicked.

"The people there, they need the support. They need to know that they're being cared for by the rest of the communities out here," he said. "We gotta keep showing up for one another. We all just gotta keep showing up."

BLESSINGS

On the evening of July 14, to show solidarity with Jayland Walker's loved ones, activists gathered at the Square to bless the fist, which was now assembled and painted, for its journey eastward. Civil Rights Activist Rosemary Nevils offered the first blessing, pouring water for each name called of a person whose life was taken at the hands of police. But there was one more name to say today, once more from closer to home: Tekle Sundberg. (See article online).

The impact was felt throughout the Square. GFS community member C Chase had spent the night watching livestreams and trying to get information from residents.

"I had to tell people today that I can only stay a little while because I've got two vigils to attend tonight. We've gotta bless this fist to go to Akron for Jayland Walker, who was absolutely massacred. And in the early hours of the morning, overnight, we have someone presumably in what seemed to be a mental health crisis shot for it while his parents were outside," she said. A vigil was being held for Sundberg after the one at GFS. "And I'm in coordinator mode. I show up to this space that holds the grief and resistance to this very atrocity, and I show up to make sure we have water, to make sure people are seated, to make sure it's accessible for those who need it. And this is not who I wanna be in this space or in any moment. I don't wanna be facilitating other people's grief."

After community members spoke, everyone present was invited to sign the fist, which Powell Karis delivered the following day. One expression, written on its base, reads: "Love to Akron. Peace, Power & Love from GFS. Minneapolis."

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FARMERS MARKETS: RECONNECT, REFRESH AND RE-STOCK YOUR PANTRY

By **Susan Schaefer**
UNDER THE HOOD



Summer in the cities finds metro residents flocking like sheep to partake of the bounty offered at more than 15 local farmers market from various neighborhood locations.

Replicating the function of historic town squares, our modern-day farmers markets are places for neighbors to meet, greet, eat and frolic. Reflecting current passions, many markets feature way more than produce, protein and prepared foods, offering everything from mini-cooking and even yoga classes, to knife sharpening services, local crafts such as jewelry, ceramics and woodworking, and live music.

Outdoor gatherings like these have gained even more popularity with quarantine-weary urban area dwellers delighted to share safe places to reconnect, refresh and re-stock pantries.



Dawn2Dusk farm provides land, infrastructure, and sharing of knowledge of farming and markets, as well as building community to beginning farmers through 1-on-1 support. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

FARMERS MARKETS THROUGH THE MILLENNIA

Said to have originated in Egypt over 5,000 years ago, farmers and craftsmen have been provisioning city denizens throughout history. Archaeological data reveal that early farmers and artisans often measured their goods on scales, using barter to value items by weight rather than using a monetary system.

Though not farmers markets in the traditional sense, Native peoples of the Great Plains also engaged in trade between members of the same tribe, different tribes, and with the European Americans who increasingly encroached upon their lands and lives.

According to the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, trade within a tribe involved

gift-giving as a means of obtaining needed items and social status, "often taking the form of an exchange of products of the hunt (bison robes, dried meat, and tallow) for agricultural products, such as corn and squash. European and American items, such as horses, guns, and other metal products, were incorporated into the existing Plains trade system after the 17th century."

The first farmers markets in North America, in fact, date back to the 1600s and were brought by European settlers. Such markets were the primary means for customers from small towns to access

meats, dairy, and fresh produce. They were significant economic operations that attracted many people into city centers.

By the 1800s and 1900s, farmers markets were not only important for economic success, but also social interaction, as they were often the only means for rural and urban community members to meet.

FARMERS MARKETS HERE AND ABROAD

Growing up in Philadelphia, I was fortunate to frequent one of our country's earliest farmers markets, the historic Lancaster Central Market, which dates to 1730 when city planners had the foresight to

designate a 120-square-foot lot in the center of town as a public marketplace. This remarkable market has persisted throughout the years offering products from many vendors, notably from the celebrated Pennsylvania Amish community.

During my 10 years as a resident of the medieval European city of Maastricht, the Netherlands, I went weekly to the traditional Market Square with its "goods" market on Wednesdays and an expanded version on Fridays featuring fresh fish, artisanal regional products, and a famous textiles market. Living just across the Muse River in



MINNEAPOLIS FARMERS MARKETS

- Fulton Farmers Market | Saturdays May 21-Oct. 29 | 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | 4901 Chowen Avenue South
- Kingfield Farmers Market | Sundays May 22-Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., NEW LOCATION at the north end of MLK Park at 40th & Nicollet
- Linden Hills Farmers Market | Sundays beginning May 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 2813 W. 43rd St. (Settegrens of Linden Hills)
- Lyndale Farmers Market | Daily 6 a.m.-1 p.m., 312 East Lyndale Avenue North,
- Market After Dark | 4th Tuesday of each month, May-Oct. 6-9 p.m., 1315 Tyler Street NE (Bauhaus Brew Labs)
- Midtown Farmers Market | Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. May-October; Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. June-September/3-6 p.m. June-October, BACK AT 2225 East Lake St.
- Mill City Farmers Market | Saturdays, May-October, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 750 S. 2nd St.
- Nicollet Mall Farmers Market | Daily 6 a.m.-2 p.m. (June- October), between 6th and 9th St. on Nicollet Mall
- Nokomis Farmers Market | currently closed (hope to be back in 2023), on the corner of 52nd and Chicago Avenue S.
- Northeast Farmers Market | Saturdays, May 14-Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 629 NE 2nd Street (St. Boniface Church parking lot)

ST. PAUL FARMERS MARKETS

- Highland Park Farmers Market | Saturdays, June 11-Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Luke's Lutheran Church
- House of Hope Farmers Market | Fridays, May 13-Oct. 28, 1:15-5 p.m., 797 Summit Ave.
- Signal Hills Farmers Market | Fridays, June 10-Oct.28, 8 a.m.-noon, 1225 S Robert St.
- St. Paul Farmers Market {Downtown} | Saturdays, April 23-Oct.29, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, April 24-Oct.30, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 5-19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays, Nov. 6-20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 290 5th St. E.
- St. Paul Farmers Market {Securian} | Wednesdays, July 13-Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 400 Robert St N, St. Paul

▶ 6 FARMERS MARKETS



A perennial favorite: fresh, farm-raised flowers. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

the tiny, ancient Wyck neighborhood, I frequented its legendary Thursday organic market, which drew hundreds of locals as well as neighbors from nearby villages and towns. My neighborhood market was an authentic international experience where polyglot vendors spoke at least five languages, communicating with customers from nearby Germany and Belgium in the local Limburg dialect, Dutch, English, German and French.

NOSTALGIA, RESURGENCE FOR FARM TO TABLE

Back in the USA, the 1950s and 60s featured people transitioning from rural to urban life. Farmers markets diminished as a focal point for commerce and interaction as improved roads, transportation and technology drastically changed consumers relationship with food production, giving rise to an eventual 24/7 global economy where an itch for a midnight bowl of ice cream could be tickled by 3 a.m. trip to a nearby supermarket. During this era, most people had no idea where the food on their table came from. Presently in the United States, food travels, on average, 1,300 miles and changes hands six times before it is consumed.

But by the 1970s, there was a renewed desire for fresh and organic food, sparking a



Tera Forge Knives offers "while you shop" knife sharpening. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

revival of farmers markets and local coops. United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) data show that the number of farmers markets had increased by 63% over a six-year period from 1994 to 2000.

NAT'L FARMERS MARKET WEEK, AUG. 7-13

The USDA, which provides support and education for its broad membership, sponsors National Farmers Market Week each year during the first week of August.

Here in Minnesota, our nation's breadbasket, the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, (MFMA) provides services, programs and leadership that support and promote farmers markets across Minnesota, highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion.

One local market, the Mill City Farmers Market, runs its enterprise mirroring the MFMA. Operated by a unique non-profit founded by legendary restaurateur, Brenda Langton, in collaboration with the Mill City Museum, Mill City Farmers Market mission supports diversity, equity and inclusion. And fun! Known for its free cooking classes with prominent chefs, MCFM also features engaging children's activities and adult education, supporting over 100 local farmers, food



Café Palmira offers fresh brew and hand-picked and shade-grown coffee beans according to traditional Mayan customs, at Mill City Farmers Market. (Photo by Susan Schaefer)

makers and artists, the market has always focused on local, sustainable and organic food in a vibrant setting. The added benefit of the relationship with the Mill City Museum allows the market to operate year-round, outdoors May through October next to the Guthrie Theater, and inside the Museum on select Saturdays November through April.

With half the summer still ahead, consider incorporating a visit to assorted markets as part of your seasonal explorations. Your tummy and taste buds will thank you.



Something under the hood is not immediately apparent or obvious. This column uncovers stories that span the neighborhoods covered by TMC Publications. Susan Schaefer is a widely published independent journalist, creative writer, and poet. Her articles appear in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, PBS' online magazine, *Next Avenue*, *Next Tribe*, and *Beyond*. She was columnist and features writer for Minneapolis' *Southwest Journal* and *Minnesota Good Age* magazine.

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Check the State Fair schedule for the dates and times of Russ Henry's presentations on the Dirt Stage.

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Minnehaha Falls Landscaping creates outdoor environments that grow beauty, and support health and wellness. From this foundation grows our garden division, Giving Tree Gardens and our advocacy branch, Bee Safe Minneapolis.

STRATEGIES THAT CAN IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION

Strong reading comprehension skills are one of the foundations of a successful academic career. According to the Institute of Reading Development, students with strong reading comprehension skills get a big boost in all subjects, including math and science.

Parents concerned about their children's reading comprehension can try these strategies to bolster this highly valuable skill.

• **Let kids read what they like.** The

tutoring professionals at Oxford Learning® report that 73 percent of students indicate they would read more if they found books they liked. Parents can address this issue by taking children to their local libraries and letting them choose which books to check out. The more practice kids get with reading, the more their comprehension skills develop.

• **Read aloud to children.** Various studies have found that reading aloud to children significantly benefits literacy de-

velopment. One study from the National Association for the Education of Young Children found that listening to others read helps children develop key understanding and skills, including how stories are written. In addition, the Reading Rockets project, which aspires to bring reading research to life in the hopes of helping young children develop into strong, confident readers, notes that children can listen on a higher language level than they can read. That makes complex ideas more accessible.

• **Ask questions when reading to children.** When reading to children, parents can compound the benefits of this activity by asking youngsters questions about the book. Asking what, when, where, why, and how can encourage children to look for answers to these questions while they're being read to. As students advance and then read more on their own, parents can encourage them to ask these questions of themselves (if they're not already doing so on their own). Asking and answering these questions is a great way to strengthen reading comprehension skills.

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Tom Balcom stands near the residents of the house at 5017 Belmont Ave. that is on the cover of "The Doors of Tangletown" by Elizabeth A. Vandam, published in 2002. **View more photos from the tour online at www.swconnector.com.** (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

▶ 1 TANGLETOWN WALK

The tour began at the Washburn Library, where the Washburn water tower could be seen through the trees. Down the hill to Minnehaha Creek is where the Richfield Flour Mill used to sit. There are no known images of the flour mill. In the 1860s, there was a general store, blacksmith shop, and meat market on Lyndale. Post World War II photos show a chow mein restaurant, an auto body shop and the Boulevard Twins, a movie theater and bowling alley. It later became the Red Owl supermarket, and is now Kowalski's. (View images in online photo gallery at www.swconnector.com)

The original stone arch bridge spanning Minnehaha Creek on Lyndale was torn down in 2010 and rebuilt, making space for a trail underneath so people don't have to cross the busy street.

In 1886, this area was part of Richfield township, pointed out Balcom. It was annexed by the city and privately platted in 1887, in part, due to milling executive and Soo Line Railroad founder William D. Washburn. He was among the wealthiest men in Minnesota in the 1880s. He founded the Pillsbury-Washburn Milling Company, which later became the Pillsbury Company, and was eventually absorbed by his brother Cadwallader Washburn's firm, General Mills.

The well-known landscape architect, Horace Cleveland, designed the original plat of the 110-acre parcel, with winding streets that followed the natural depressions of the land. A real estate brochure by H.E. Ladd & Co. praised Washburn Park as a place "where the men of business can get away from the noise of the city and the inconvenience of small lots and crowded neighborhoods." Washburn Park was deemed a "retreat" along Minnehaha Creek. It included the land between the creek and 48th St., from Lyndale to Third Ave. The price of the one-quarter to three-quarter-sized lots ranged from \$900 to \$5,000.

Harry Wild Jones built the first house

WALKING TOURS

Preserve Minneapolis offers a variety of summer walking tours in the city. Buy \$15 tickets at www.preserveminneapolis.org.

UPCOMING:

- A Wander Through the Wonders of the Middle Wedge on Saturday, Aug. 13, 10-11:30 a.m. with Anders Christensen and Kathy Kullberg
- Lakewood Cemetery: Creating a Landscape of Memory Walking Tour on Thursday, Aug. 18, 6-7:30 p.m. with Peter Sussman
- Victory Memorial Parkway Walking Tour on Saturday, Sept. 10, 10-11:30 a.m. with Bob Roscoe
- Lowry Hill Walking Tour on Sunday, Sept. 11, 9-10:30 a.m. with Anders Christensen and Richard Kronick.

Contact tour coordinator Carson Backhus at tours@preserveminneapolis.org for more information.

in the neighborhood at 5101 Nicollet Avenue South, a shingle-styled Norman chateau that he called "Elmwood." The architect came to Minneapolis from Boston, and left his mark on the city. Among the other buildings he designed were Butler Square and the Lakewood Cemetery chapel. His Rustic Lodge was never built.

Another notable residence, 408 W. Minnehaha Parkway, was owned by the Thayer family. Frank Lloyd Wright was a friend of the Thayers, and designed a bay window on each side that was added during a home expansion. "Frank said he enjoyed visiting here," observed Balcom.

Charlie Brown cartoonist Charles Monroe Schulz was born at home at 919 Chicago Avenue South #2, and grew up in St. Paul's Highland Park. He owned a home in Tangletown at 112 W. Minnehaha Parkway from 1955-58 prior to moving to California. Balcom remembers a time when Schulz attended a school event where he drew sketches of his Peanuts cartoon characters. "It was nice to have him in the neighborhood," he said.

A drawing he drew on an interior house wall after the birth of a daughter that had been wallpapered over was carefully removed by the Schultz Museum a few years ago, pointed out Wade Johnson, who attended the walking tour with neighbor Mark Karraker.

"We're both big history buffs," said Johnson. In researching their houses, they've learned that around 1903, some roads were added in the neighborhood and others removed.

There are three public triangles in the neighborhood. About a hundred neighborhood houses were removed when Interstate 35W was put in, and the majority were torn down. The freeway is now the eastern border of Tangletown.

The stories about plane crashes in the neighborhood at the tower are not true, observed Balcom. A plane did crash at Dupont and Emerson in 1950, however. In trying to land in a blizzard, it clipped a flag pole at Fort Snelling and came down four blocks away from the Washburn water tower near Minnehaha Creek.

WASHBURN WATER TOWER

William D. Washburn served as the president of the Washburn Memorial Orphanage Board of Trustees. Located where Justice Page Middle School currently sits at Nicollet and West 50th, the orphanage needed water. In 1893, a brick and stone watertower was constructed at on the hill that is now 401 Prospect Ave. Water was pumped from Minnehaha Creek to the tower, and then piped to the orphanage.

By the 1920s, the 120 children at Washburn orphan asylum had dropped to about 10, and the orphanage was closed. The building was razed and a school built.

The city of Minneapolis purchased the water tower in 1916 and connected it to the city's water supply. It was inadequate in the 1920s, and was also razed.

The tower that replaced it in 1932 was designed by Harry Wild Jones, who collaborated with engineer William S. Hewitt and sculptor John K. Daniels, fellow local residents.

It is known for the eight hood-

ed knights stretching up the sides of the tower to eight eagles that stand atop the evenly spaced pilasters. The sculptures cost \$1,800, and the overall cost of the tower was \$85,000. It rises 110 feet. At the base, the walls are 24 inches wide narrowing to 18 inches halfway up.

The new tower held nearly eight times more than the original tower at 1,350,000 gallons. As a new historical plaque at the tower states, "It utilized modern hydro-engineering methods for the waterworks while incorporating reinforced concrete construction and external ornamentation." It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The tower was used until 2005. It is currently empty.

LUSTRON HOMES

The largest concentration of Lustron homes is found in Minneapolis, pointed out Balcom. There were only 6,000 built in the country.

Six Lustron houses are on the 5000 block of Nicollet Avenue, just south of Justice Page school: 5009, 5015, 5021, 5027, 5047, and 5055. Three additional Lustron houses are at 4900 and 4916 Cedar Avenue in South Minneapolis and 2436 Mount View Avenue in Bryn Mawr.

Each of these pre-fab homes was built in just 1.5-2 days following World War II. "This was a big deal for the housing market," said Balcom. However, the trades didn't seem to appreciate the construction method and the style, and the Lustron company was forced into bankruptcy, said Balcom.

"I have a special interest in hearing about this stuff," said Stevens Square resident Angela Anderson, who is a local real estate agent and finds the Lustron homes fascinating. She pointed out that you may pass a place a hundred times, but not notice something until you take a walking tour. "The idea of being a tourist is you can learn things - little things you learn that you'd never know otherwise."

WATER TOWERS IN MINNEAPOLIS

KENWOOD (LOWRY HILLS)

- 1724 Kenwood Parkway
- Built in 1910
- Designed by Frederick William Cappelen, then city of Minneapolis engineer
- 110 feet tall, making it the tallest structure in Kenwood
- Not been used to store water since 1954
- Ornamented with projecting ribs, narrow rectangular windows, and Lombard bands, suggesting a medieval fortress
- A late 1970s adaptive reuse proposal to convert the tower into condominiums was defeated by concerned neighborhood groups

PROSPECT PARK

- 55 Malcolm Avenue S.E.
- Built in 1914
- Engineer: F.W. Cappelen
- 320 ft. tall with a holding a capacity of 150,000 gallons of water
- Obsolete in 1952
- Known as the "Witch's Hat"
- Observation deck is open one day a year, the Friday evening after Memorial Day Weekend
- Also built to be a bandstand, but only held one concert because of 117 steps up

WASHBURN PARK (TANGLETOWN)

- 401 Prospect Avenue
- Built 1931-1932, \$85,000
- Architect: Harry Wild Jones, who also designed the Butler Square Building and the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel
- Engineer: William S. Hewitt, the inventor of the Hewitt System of reinforced concrete construction
- Sculptor: John K. Daniels, who also designed the milling figures on the Washburn Flour Mills Utility Building
- 110-foot structure, 1.35 million gallons of water
- Used until 2005
- Eight hooded knights surround the tower in perpetual vigilance while, overhead, eight eagles stand, as if pausing in flight, atop the evenly spaced pilasters.

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4:30 to 7 p.m., long-term planning presentation at 5:30 p.m.

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Administrative Offices
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Minneapolis, MN 55450

QUARTERLY TRANSIT SCHEDULE CHANGES COMING

Hi! I'd like to introduce myself to the *Southwest Connector* readers. My name is John Wilson and I have been a transit enthusiast since the 1970s. You may have seen my Metro Transit column in the *Alley* and my In Transit column in *Southside Pride*. Now my transit writing is available to *Southwest Connector* readers, as well. The *Transit Connector* will appear whenever there is transit news in southwestern Minneapolis.



By John Wilson

Once every three months, Metro Transit has something called a "pick." This is when drivers, in order of seniority, get to pick their piece of work for the next three months. It is also when any route and schedule changes are normally made.

Schedules are changing Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022. The following routes in the *Southwest Connector* readership area will be affected:

- Route 2 frequency will be reduced from once every 12 minutes to once every

15 minutes.

- Route 4 is being restructured entirely. Route 4 buses will now go straight down Lyndale instead of serving Bryant Avenue South between 31st and 50th Streets. This is, of course, faster and more efficient for people south of 50th, but it's kind of six of one and half a dozen of the other for people and businesses on both Lyndale and Bryant between 31st and 50th. Historically, the streetcar went down Bryant, and it is likely that is the main reason there are businesses located on that otherwise residential street. I count five restaurants, one bike shop, and one church along that stretch of Bryant. The equivalent stretch of Lyndale contains four restaurants, three churches, two convenience stores, one auto parts store, one dry cleaner, and one coin laundry. It appears the route change does improve business access.

- Route 9 frequency on weekdays during rush hour will be reduced from once every 20 minutes to once every 30 minutes.

- Route 18 frequency will be reduced from once every 12 minutes to once every 15 minutes.

- Route 21 will have minor eastbound schedule adjustments on Saturdays to improve reliability.

- Route 46 will be moved from Bryant Avenue to Lyndale Avenue between 46th and 50th Streets to match the changes to Route 4. The stop for Southwest High School is moving from 47th and Chowen to 47th and Abbott. The limited service branch on Nicollet for Washburn High School is being abolished. Schedule adjustments will be made due to the new routing and to better connect with the Orange Line.

- Route 467 to Kenrick Park and Ride in Lakeville is being restored after having been suspended for the pandemic. Six trips will run in each direction on weekdays.

- Route 612 frequency is being reduced from once every 20 minutes to once every half hour during rush hours. Times are being adjusted for better connections with Route 6.

Though most of this news is disappointing to say the least, I hope *Southwest Connector* readers get involved in trying to get Metro Transit on the right track.

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

WALK & TALK IN LORING PARK

Walk & Talk with a Naturalist: Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon at Loring Park during a guided stroll. The leisurely pace includes stops to observe and discuss different nature and history topics each week.

UPTOWN ART FAIR AUG. 5-7

The Uptown Art Fair, produced by the Uptown Association, is a juried fine arts festival. This year, it will be held Aug. 5-7, Friday noon-7 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

LINDEN HILLS HONORS BONNIE BOLTON

Bonnie Bolton, a LHiNC board member and very active member of the Linden Hills community, passed away unexpectedly on June 30. At LHiNC's July board meeting, the board and community paid tribute to Bonnie. Zumbro owner Barb Nei, who worked with Bonnie on the LHBA, said, "Bonnie was a delightful force of nature, immensely talented, generous with her time, and a ton of fun. She knew the true meaning of community, and shared it, with grace, hard work, and great humor, with everyone around her. I will miss Bonnie and so will Linden Hills."

44TH AND VINCENT PROJECT ON HOLD

In April, Good Neighbor Homes and Streetfront Development attended LHiNC's Zoning and Housing Committee meeting to share a proposal for a 38-unit apartment building at 44th Street West and Vincent. The project is currently on hold, after a Hennepin County District Court ruling in June suspended the Minneapolis 2040 plan, the city's long-range development plan, following a litigation challenge about its potential environmental impact. The developers had planned to present the project to the city planning commission in July; they now expect that presentation will be pushed back by 30 to 60 days. The developers are committed to presenting to LHiNC's Zoning and Housing Committee, prior to that public hearing, once the date is set.

LINDEN HILLS FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 17

The Linden Hills Festival will be on Saturday, Sept. 17. The festival regularly draws 3000+ people to Linden Hills Park to enjoy food, drink, music and family fun. Businesses can participate in a variety of ways.

FRESH PRODUCE AT MUELLER PARK

Wedge resident and LHENA board member, Daniel Martelly, is collaborating with the Parks department on a community garden pilot program in Mueller Park. These plants are meant to be enjoyed by all residents, so come on over and harvest some fresh produce and herbs to use in your next meal. The tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers are not quite out yet, but there are herbs aplenty.

UPTOWN THEATER REHAB

Rita Goodrich of MacDonald & Mack Architects has submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness application for a rehabilitation project at the Uptown Theatre located at 2900 Hennepin Ave. The Heritage Preservation Commission will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 317, City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., Minneapolis.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT KENNY PARK



A brief ceremony to celebrate Kenny Park's newly renovated playground was held on July 21, 2022. It kicked off the annual Kenny Festival, with Kenny Neighborhood Association Co-Chair Jon Erickson joining MPRB Superintendent Al Bangoura, President Meg Forney and District 6 Commissioner Cathy Abene, plus kids who joined in to cut the ribbon.

The Kenny Parent Foundation helped fund a new climber and play area. The project included additional new equipment, along with new decking, slides and paint for existing play structures. Improvements at Kenny and at dozens of other parks are funded by the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20 for short), which allocates funding using a data-driven, criteria-based system to help address racial and economic equity. www.minneapolisparcs.org/npp20

COMMUNITY SAFETY

the New York State Division of Criminal Justice, and as an assistant professor and former practicing psychologist at the University of Rochester.

He is a former president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and was a member of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

He has also appeared on national media networks, including CNN, and has written numerous editorials including "How to Build a Sensitive Cop," "Police and Communities of Color Need to Build Trust," and "Attacks on Police are an Attack on Community." He is the author of "The New Guardians: Policing in America's Communities for the 21st Century," published in 2016, and "In Defense of Public Service: How 22 Million Government Workers Will Save Our Republic," published in 2020.

In 2020, his firm, CL Alexander Consulting LLC, was hired by the University of Minnesota to review their police department's (UMPD) practices and to improve student-police relations and communication. That report called for significant changes including demilitarizing the UMPD and taking "a holistic systems approach to defining the roles for UMPD

and ways to better link with and integrate more appropriate responses to social issues such as mental health, welfare checks, domestic violence, sexual assaults, disabilities and homeless situations through an integrated Community Safety or Community Response Team."

"When we talk about public safety from this moment going forward, it is going to be from a holistic approach," Alexander said.

He has faced criticism in the past, particularly when he was working in Rochester, N.Y. There, a group called "Rochester for All," expressed serious concerns about his frequent absences, use of city staff time and outside business interests. They reviewed emails and other records, and concluded that Alexander "was paid to speak at a Florida conference, but put down time as regular work hours," had an executive assistant who "has been booking his personal travel as part of her regular job duties," and "did work for a government contractor [in Africa] that previously engaged in torture."

The Rochester watchdog group reported (<http://www.rochesterforall.com>) that Alexander was absent from City Hall for 28 days in his first 25 weeks on the job as deputy mayor, and that travel records raised potential ethical issues regarding his outside business activities. According to the group, the mayor, city council, the

city's office of public integrity and board of ethics did not act on the information and ethical concerns they raised.

Additionally, there was a formal complaint filed by a subordinate accusing him of sexual harassment and making repeated "unwelcome advances" when he worked as director of public safety in Georgia. It resulted in an investigation and a 166-page report, where Alexander denied all the allegations. The report concluded in February 2016: "In the absence of reasonable proof, the allegation cannot be substantiated and is reduced to 'she said, he said' and were not provable." Intimidation and retaliation allegations were "also determined to be without merit," according to the report.

Still, he clearly has the support of Mayor Frey who has called him "one of the best leaders that we could find in the entire country."

With a vote likely to occur on Aug. 4, Alexander and the mayor appear to be confident that he will be confirmed. "There is no one savior here. It's not me. It's not the mayor. It is all of us collectively," Alexander said. "Minneapolis has the opportunity to be the new brand of what policing looks like in America. We are going to make this the greatest city in America."

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The ArtCar parade gets ready to roll around Lake Harriet. The cars are interesting and the people that drive them are just as interesting. Gotta love city living...this isn't something you're gonna see in Woodbury. (Illustration by WACSO)



BRIEFS

STREET WORK ON NICOLLET AVE AND 31ST ST.

As part of the city's Vision Zero Plan to reduce traffic-related injuries and deaths, crews will be installing several cost-effective safety improvements on high injury streets and more than 160 intersections this year, including on Nicollet Ave. starting in the coming weeks. On Nicollet, from Lake St. to 46th St., they will install 18 reflective backplates on signs, 15 improved intersections, 20 delineator bump-outs, 6 delineated medians, 10 hardened centerlines and 2 hi-visibility crosswalks. On 31st St. to Cedar, they will install non-permanent safety treatments primarily using paint and bollards.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING

Adults may sign up by Aug. 19 for a no cost training by The Minneapolis Violence Prevention Community Champion Institute to learn about de-escalation, conflict resolution, and the public health approach to violence prevention. Those who complete the training can expect to receive a certificate, have access to violence prevention resources, be invited to monthly spotlight trainings to continue building your skills, and have continued support and networking opportunities in the future. The next training will take place from

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center, 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Room 105. Find more details and watch for future violence prevention training sessions to be posted on the city website.

CITY GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Mayor Frey has called for passing government restructuring amendments by the end of August. Council Member Linea Palmisano (Ward 13) has introduced the restructuring amendments that will be drafted in the weeks ahead. These will make changes to the ordinances governing the city attorney, internal auditor, city coordinator and create the new office of Public Service and Community Safety. A new chief operations officer could oversee the proposed new Office of Public Service which would include the 311/Service Center, city assessor, civil rights department, communications, community planning & economic development, finance & property services, the health department, human resources, information technology, intergovernmental relations, Minneapolis Convention Center, neighborhood & community relations, public works and regulatory services. As proposed, the community safety commissioner would oversee the new Office of Community Safety, which would include the fire and police departments, 911, the office of emergency management, and a

new office of neighborhood safety that will replace, or possibly include, the office of violence prevention now housed in the health department. The council also approved adding a city auditor position to the audit department. The auditor and the city clerk would report to the council.

SOUTHWEST CONSENT DECREE LISTENING SESSION

On July 21, at the Bryant Square Recreation Center, 3101 Bryant Ave S. roughly 60 people attended the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) community meeting to learn more about the consent decree and share ideas about what should be included in a consent decree to addressing race-based policing in Minneapolis. The research center has been hired by Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) to gather community input to help inform the decree. The center intends to include the ideas from the community in a report to MDHR that will inform any agreement made between MDHR and the city of Minneapolis. More details can be found at the MN Justice Research Center's website at <https://www.mnjrc.org/events>.

CLIMATE ACTION AND EQUITY PLAN SURVEY

The city of Minneapolis is updating its Climate Action Plan that was approved in 2013. They started a formal community engagement phase in July around how

to meet its goals of "eliminating carbon emissions and improving the daily lives of residents, particularly those most impacted by changes in our climate." People can fill out our survey and learn more at <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/climate-equity/community-engagement/>, and by emailing sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. City staff will also be tabling at upcoming this summer and fall, including at Urban League Family Day Aug. 27; and Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) Oct. 29.

SUMMER MEALS AND SNACKS FOR YOUTH

People 18 years old and under can find free nutritious meals and snacks from Minneapolis Public Schools this summer. Young people do not need to attend Minneapolis Public Schools to participate and can pick up food at parks, libraries, other community spaces, as well as at the Minneapolis Public Schools food truck and food bus. For locations and more information, use the Free Meals for Kids mobile app at <https://hungerimpactpartners.org/meals-for-kids/mobile-app/> or visit <https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/sfsp>.

Briefs compiled by Cam Gordon.

*Old homes! old hearts! Upon my soul forever
Their peace and gladness lie like tears and laughter;
Like love they touch me, through the years that sever,
With simple faith; like friendship, draw me after
The dreamy patience that is theirs forever.*

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