

NORTHOGRAPHY: A CIRCULAR PHOTO OF A 'HOT DOG' SIGN WITH '1.50' AND '1.50' ON ITORTH NEWS

June 28, 2018

• Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

• www.mynorthnews.org

THOR HAS COME HOME

Born in North Minneapolis, THOR Companies founder Richard Copeland discusses bringing his business back to the Northside

Neighbors **Page 21**

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The Upper Harbor Terminal: will it be a gentrifying force or community wealth builder? **Page 6**

Our top picks for fun activities in North Minneapolis this summer
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"Newsroom objectivity may result in an absence of truth." – Ruben Salazar



Letter from the Editor

Back when we relaunched *North News* in 2016, I wrote almost every story in our newspaper for at least the first six months. I received several suggestions to stop printing my byline at the beginning of every story because it was distractingly redundant. I'm relieved to say that we've come a long way from that reality.

I've always felt convinced that the only way to get close to any kind of truth is to have it created by many voices with many worldviews. We need to pay attention to whose voices are unfairly absented and whose are undeservingly elevated.

I don't believe in journalistic objectivity

– I find it dangerous. Each of us is insidiously influenced by our subjective experiences even as we try to strip them from our journalistic writing. Pretending we can rid ourselves of our conscious and unconscious biases when we express ideas often justifies leaving folks with different perspectives and experiences out of the conversations entirely. White writers write from our set of white experiences, and it's no wonder that in a field dominated by white people, non-white folks in our country express overwhelming distrust of mainstream media. We have to do better.

My discomfort over the many pages of writing generated by me in *North News* kept me driven to build business and editorial infrastructure for *North News* that would allow us to fully realize our mission: to be a platform for community-created journalism in North Minneapolis, showcasing narratives by all of us, for all of us. Months like this one make me feel like we're finally, truly beginning to live that mission.

We have two new contributing writers:

community members Jessica Enwesi and Sharon Brooks. Enwesi, a native Northsider who recently returned home from college at Iowa State with a journalism degree, covered the Dads, Dreams, and Donuts Fathers' Day event at New Rules on Lowry (Page 16). Brooks wrote a poetic, introspective column about her experiences loving people behind bars and supporting their family members (Page 9).

We also onboarded SIX new paid interns since our last paper published (see photo below!). Five of them are local high school students through Achieve Minneapolis' STEP-UP program. One, Mathias Durie, is a journalism student at Bethel University.

Mathias will spend the summer working on an in-depth feature story about the correlation between participation in high school athletics and success in college and later on in life. As a college football player, he brings lived experience to the piece. He also brings video editing expertise to our team and will be picking up other small assignments throughout the summer. Check out his first video piece – on *North News*' top picks for summer activities – on our Facebook page.

Our five high school interns have begun their time with *North News* at a ThreeSixty Journalism reporting bootcamp at the University of St. Thomas. For two weeks they've explored their own personal stories, written their college essays, and learned the basics of a job in journalism. We're excited to have them back and

picking up assignments for *North News* in the beginning of July. Let us know if there's a particular story you'd like to see them cover.

This edition of *North News* was finalized on the heels of a trip I took to Detroit for the Allied Media Conference, an annual gathering of media makers from all over the world. At the conference, I learned about Movement Journalism, which explores how journalism can meet the needs of communities that are increasingly experiencing attack in our country – immigrants, queer folks, black and brown folks, people experiencing poverty...the list goes on and on.

My favorite souvenir from the trip is a set of posters made by an artist named Billy Dee who works with a movement journalism collective in the South. The posters showcase the "superstars" of the movement. One of them depicts Mexican-American journalist Ruben Salazar alongside a quote of his: "Newsroom objectivity may result in an absence of truth." I think of this and feel grateful for the diverse bunch of multi-generational, multi-ethnic, LGBTQ, POC and white folks with subjective experiences who drive us toward a shared truth in North Minneapolis.

Kenzie O'Keefe

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If you want *North News* on your doorstep NOW, subscribe for \$30 per year. Email kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org or call 651-245-2647 to sign up.

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North News is an enterprise of



INSIDE OUR "O"

Young entrepreneur launches Northside hotdog stand

Should a fierce hunger call this summer, community members can head over to 1510 Penn Ave. N, where Jaequan Faulkner, 13, is ready to serve a customer a Polish sausage or beef frank with soda and chips. Rather than wait for customers to come to him, Faulkner tries to flag down passing motorists with bold signage, a call out and vigorous waving. The Sojourner Truth Academy eighth grader talked his uncle into providing moral support for the stand, as well as a hot dog warmer and crock pot.

Photo by David Pierini



North News welcomes six interns to our team this summer. From left: Daija Triplett, Bryan Salinas, Blessing Kasongoma, Mathias Durie, Hunter Holzer, and Myesha Powell. All six will be with us until mid-August.

North Minneapolis *at a glance*

Emily's F&M Cafe owners looking to retire and find a buyer

Emily Benincasa, the owner of Emily's F&M Cafe (2124 44th Ave N), is looking to retire and is seeking someone to carry on the business she and her family have worked to create over the past 50+ years. An Edina Realty listing shows the asking price of the 2,090 square foot property as \$450,000. The American diner is open daily from 7am-2pm and specializes in breakfast and lunch.

44th and Penn Ave Redevelopment Plan adopted by City of Minneapolis

A plan to commercially redevelop the intersection of 44th and Penn Ave was put into place by the city of Minneapolis' Economic Development and Regulatory Services Committee at a May 15 meeting. The City plans to obtain two properties (2139 and 2147 44th Avenue North) for future redevelopment and construction of transit-oriented, mixed-use commercial and multifamily housing. Attendees of a Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA) meeting responded with overwhelming support of the plan and want to see the city obtain these properties for redevelopment. This intersection has seen a large amount of change with the emergence of Tori 44, a modern Asian restaurant specializing in ramen, and the addition of a Bus Rapid Transit Line on Penn Ave and one coming to 44th Ave as well.

Flint leaving North to be new coach at Cretin Derham Hall

Former North High Lady Polar's basketball coach Crystal Flint has accepted a job as the next head coach for the Cretin Derham Hall women's team. Flint is an alumni of the University of Minnesota where she played basketball for the Gophers from 1989-1994. Flint also spent 12 years as a MSHSL official before becoming the Polars head coach. She amassed a 54-30 record over her three year run with North, improving the team's record each year. Flint joins a Raiders team coming off a 23-7 season including a first place regular season finish in the Suburban East Conference.

Wirth hopes to reopen by July

The Wirth Cooperative Grocery, which opened in October 2017, has been closed since April due to an evaluation being done by Northside Economic Opportunity Network's (NEON) Food Business Incubator (FBI) program. The co-op announced earlier this month that it plans to reopen its doors by the end of June. With an emphasis placed on purchasing produce and products from local farmers, producers and vendors, Wirth gives back financially to its community.

New Rules launches the Northside Vitality Project

New Rules has begun phase 1 of its Northside Vitality Project this summer. The project hopes to put community funding and self-determination back into the hands of Northsiders with the belief that communities know best what they need to thrive. As part of the project New Rules has launched its "Northside Vitality Survey" in an effort to assess the community's "economic ecology." The survey is available online through the New Rules website: www.blog.newrulesmn.com/the-northside-vitality-project.

The Doorway celebrates 15 years in Victory neighborhood

The Doorway for Better Health, a local massage therapy and bodywork clinic, is celebrating its 15th year in the Victory neighborhood. The Doorway is owned by David Wicklund and his wife. Wicklund grew up in the Northside and says his clinic treats everything from headaches to marathon runners and individuals of all ages. "It has always been my intention to make sure that there is at least a single treatment room facility in the Northside so that I can keep my roots here," said Wicklund. For appointments and pricing information check out: www.thedoorwayforbetterhealth.com.

Community mourns death of another black man



On Saturday, June 23, Thurman Blevins Jr. was shot and killed by police in Lind Bohanon neighborhood. A large protest and vigil to honor his memory were held the day after. MPD says it has body camera footage of the incident but has not yet released it. An investigation is ongoing. The community continues to grieve.

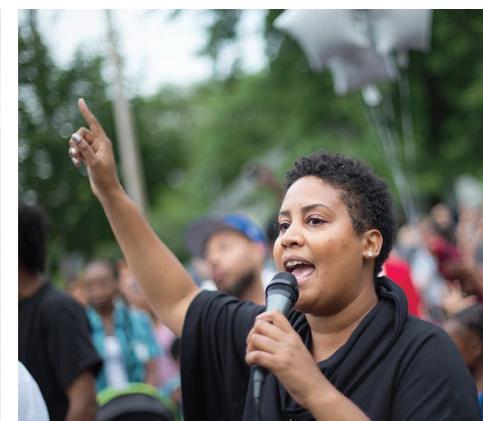
Above: Some of Thurman Blevins' cousins, including Da'Rell Moore, second from right, gathered each other in as they listened to speakers at a vigil on Sunday, June 24.

Right: Mitiae Chamberlain holds a sign to honor Thurman Blevins Jr. Mitiae was among hundreds who gathered Sunday evening at the intersection of 48th and Camden avenues to express anger and anguish for Blevins' death.

Bottom right: Activist and business owner Raeisha Williams, whose brother Tyrone Williams was fatally shot earlier this year, spoke to mourners at Sunday's vigil.

Bottom left: Flowers and cards were placed by a stop sign at the intersection. Blevins was shot in a nearby alley.

Photos by David Pierini



Candidates for local elections pour in right before filing deadline

Minnesota politicians, who spent June 1-3 at their respective DFL and GOP conventions, could never have imagined the changes to Minnesota's election landscape that came about in the last 48 hours of the state's candidate filing deadline, which closed at 5pm on June 5.

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Here is what Northsiders need to know:

- Lori Swanson announced on June 4 that she was running for the governor's seat alongside retiring Congressman Rick Nolan (District 8) and withdrew her candidacy for Minnesota Attorney General after withdrawing her nomination for the DFL endorsement.
- Following Swanson's decision to vacate her attorney general seat and pursue the governorship, Congressman Keith Ellison (District 5) withdrew his candidacy for re-election to the US House of Representatives and announced that he will instead be running for the Minnesota Attorney General seat. Also in the race is the DFL-endorsed Matt Pelikan, an attorney and activist.
- Ellison announced his decision to seek the Attorney General seat early June 5. By the end of business on June 5, 11 individuals — including At-Large Minneapolis Public Schools Board Member Kim Ellison had filed to run for Keith Ellison's

seat but she has since withdrawn her nomination. Keith Ellison was endorsed by Governor Mark Dayton within hours of announcing his candidacy.

- State Senator Bobby Joe Champion had announced that he was seeking Congressman Ellison's congressional seat, but suspended his candidacy on June 11 which he announced via Facebook post. While it is too late for Champion to withdraw his name from his ballot, he has stated that he will be actively campaigning for his fellow Democrats. "Serving in Congress would be a great honor for me in which I believe I would do a job that would make my family, community and the state of Minnesota proud," said Champion. "Notwithstanding, serving in the State Senate is a job that allows me to do many things for the good of our community. Working for our community is what matters most to me. All of us must dedicate ourselves to resisting the regressive forces

that seek to make our beloved state move in the tragic direction that our neighboring Wisconsin has moved. We must stand together."

- There are several individuals running for Hennepin County Commission (District 2), including DFL-endorsed Irene Fernando and former Minneapolis City Council members Natalie Johnson Lee and Blong Yang, both of whom represented Ward 5 in the early 2000s and mid-2010s respectively. Kim Ellison had also explored seeking this seat but did not receive the DFL endorsement and dropped out of the race. Tim Bildsoe and Lyab Waldsmayate are also in the race.
- Weeks ago, former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty announced he was running for the gubernatorial election and that he would forgo the endorsement process and go directly to the primary. His running mate is Michelle Fischbach, a Republican and former state senator —

Continued on Page 17

Cleveland Neighborhood Association and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board present...

11th Annual **Live on the Drive** THURSDAY JULY 12

34th Avenue North & Victory Memorial Parkway

astralblak Funk, hip-hop, and Afrobeat fusion Formerly Zuluzuluu

6PM - 8PM

Wonder Woman at dusk

LiveOnTheDrive.org

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CATCH UP WITH YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER

North News has invited Minneapolis City Council Member Phillipe Cunningham to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper. Council Member Jeremiah Ellison was also offered a spot in the paper.



WARD 4: Phillipe Cunningham



Have you heard the buzz about the Minneapolis 2040? If you haven't, then now is the time to get involved! The Minneapolis 2040 is the City's draft Comprehensive Plan that lays out a combination of policies and action steps to act as a catalyst for a citywide conversation about how the city will grow and change in the years to come. The policies relate to some of the City's goals of achieving safe and clean neighborhoods, reducing racial and economic disparities, affordable housing and the availability of living wage jobs. You may ask why this is important right now, and it's because the Minneapolis 2040 draft is currently in its public commentary period until July 22nd. This time serves as a window of opportunity for residents to voice their concerns on the ideas presented in this Comprehensive Plan as well as present their own ideas and recommendations for their neighborhood and city at large.

I am particularly interested in this opportunity because it has allowed me to engage with my residents in the 4th Ward about this important long-term planning process. North Minneapolis has been continuously isolated and excluded from core decision-making processes in the past and this presents itself as an opportunity to build a stronger community within the 4th ward by cultivating a common vision for the future of North Minneapolis. To have this vision incorporated into the planning process, we must be named and acknowledged during this public commentary period by having our voices

heard and documented.

An initial step was for me to hold a conversation about the Minneapolis 2040 Plan during one of my monthly community events for Coffee with Cunningham where I was accompanied by the Director of Long Range Planning, Heather Worthington. Even Heather was able to recognize that the input on the plan had been uneven and that engagement with the Northside needed to be improved. I encouraged the residents of the 4th Ward to bring curiosity, passion and hope to the discussion we had with her and to courageously participate in an opportunity that can allow us to build political power together in a new way.

In addition to this event, I will be posting policies from the Minneapolis 2040 on my office's Facebook page so they can be readily accessible for folks before the period of public commentary ends on July 22nd!

This monthly column will be dedicated to updating you on important work happening in City Hall and in the Ward 4 City Council office. Also, please like the Ward 4 Facebook Page at www.Facebook.com/CMCunninghamWard4.

Wolfpack Promotionals is thriving on the Northside



KB Brown moved Wolfpack Promotionals into his new W Broadway Ave. space in March after over two years of renting space at NEON. Brown says Wolfpack offers 800,000 different marketing items for Northsiders to choose from. *Photo by Mathias Durie*

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Since KB Brown, owner of Wolfpack Promotionals, moved his business to North Minneapolis three years ago, profits have gone up 100-fold and orders are increasing at such a pace that things were starting to get lost until he, his wife Katie, and staff put in a new shop management system.

Together, the five-person business provides all the materials their customers need to promote their organizations and their work. A printing expert, Brown says he can print on anything and that his product list is approximately 800,000 items long and ranges from leather keychains to mugs and every style of clothing available.

Wolfpack (2038 W Broadway Ave) rents out an unassuming building across the street from the Capri Theater. Until recently they were operating out of NEON's small business incubator down the street. They moved west on West Broadway just a few weeks before the Penn Ave Improvements Project began in earnest, but Brown says the transit construction has only helped their business as transit construction forces people to

slow down.

"My wife Katie and I are thriving here. A lot of it has to do with the fact that both she and I have a customer service background, and we make people feel comfortable. That's why the store is set up the way it is. You know, people love the way that feels. We kept the business feel of the place; we made sure that it didn't feel like a hole in the wall," said Brown. Orders must be done in person.

According to Brown, however, working in the Northside has also had its unique challenges. They have been asked to do a number of memorial shirts since moving into the neighborhood. Brown says that the work of printing those shirts takes an emotional toll on staff. He is not sure if Wolfpack will continue to offer the service. He much prefers graduation shirts and says he printed shirts for several Northside graduates recently.

"We've printed more than our fair share of memorial shirts; it's not something we like to do. We do it because we know that our pricing is fair. We do good work and we're cognizant of the fact that the family is in turmoil. So we try to do our best to

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1 mile
of riverfront

One permanent business
currently operating:
**Mississippi
Mushrooms**
All other businesses
are operating on a
temporary lease
through the City.

48
acres

Redevelopment
discussions
began in
the 2000s

\$15 million in
the MN legislature's
bonding bill was
allocated to the UHT

The Upper Harbor Terminal is riverfront land in North Minneapolis that project planners hope will one day be a mixed use business and residential park.
Photo by Calvin O'Keefe

With millions on the line, North Minneapolis looks to the riverfront

The 2018 Minnesota Legislature Bonding Bill included \$15 million in matching grant funds for the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT). The City of Minneapolis has been tasked with funding the remaining \$15 million. With \$30 million on the line for starters and the potential for millions more to be spent on an assortment of amenities, the question is not how will North Minneapolis be changed by UHT's redevelopment, but what say will Northsiders have in that change?

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

We hit the streets of North Minneapolis to ask community members what they think about the UHT. Here's what they told us:



Lynette Tolbert recently moved to Brooklyn Park but spends much of her time in North Minneapolis: "I had no idea about it, but maybe I have not been here enough."



Walter Anderson lived in North Minneapolis for years and now lives in Robbinsdale: "It's bullshit. I had no clue about this and I'm pretty well informed. It's already got the industrial use; why not just use that and create new jobs?"



Day York has lived in North Minneapolis for the last five years: "I didn't know about it, but I'm a little on both sides. It needs to be affordable for community, not an extension of Northeast. It needs to be actually affordable and not for developers. With THOR involved, I trust it more. I want to see businesses from the community, family-owned businesses there. And for it to be North Minneapolis, it needs to have community gathering space."



Jenna Lee Johnson has lived near the Upper Harbor Terminal for the past eight years: "I was familiar, but I admit I did not read all the email updates. It's just, I need to know what is going to happen. I need to make decisions about my life. If they are going to redevelop, I want to make my residence a commercial property. Should I sell, fix, do? I want to see Upper Harbor Terminal developed; I want to see the elevated cultural existence it brings."



Robert Smith has lived in North Minneapolis for many years on and off: "I never heard of it, but if it benefits the neighborhood, I'm all for it. If it actually has affordable businesses I want it and I would actually send kids there to hang out; kids need a place like that."



Ursula Patton has lived in North Minneapolis for years: "I never heard of it. But they need to do actually affordable housing. They need to give homes to the homeless people on the streets; I worry about them. They need to take care of people having a hard time. And they need to have things for kids to do to get them off the street too."

A 50-acre stretch of North Minneapolis riverfront, the Upper Harbor Terminal, is moving closer to dramatic redevelopment, and the transformation will almost certainly change North Minneapolis' relationship with the Mississippi River. The UHT site is currently home to industrial land, a former industrial waste dump, and a number of historical landmarks, but a community performing arts center, an amphitheatre, new affordable housing, and, possibly, a variety of eateries and restaurants, amongst several other ideas, are all envisioned for its future. Project planners have conducted an assortment of preliminary engagement activities, in phases, since 2016, but questions remain: what does North Minneapolis have to say about the project? What do people know about UHT and what do they want to see there?

Discussions regarding the property's redevelopment began in the 2000s as both the City's Office of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) began to consider strategic planning for UHT and other properties. At the time nothing was done, but then Con-

gress required that the lock at the Port of Minneapolis be shut down in order to keep Asian carp (an invasive species) from traveling downriver.

It was not until 2016 that more serious discussions began to take place. At the time CPED and MPRB shared a request for qualifications; they received a proposal from one development contract, United Properties, who invited THOR Companies and First Avenue Productions into the development process with them. In 2018 project planners approached the Minnesota Legislature for \$15 million dollars in funding which would support the pre-design work and some infrastructural updates. The request was approved and matched by the City of Minneapolis.

Many have grand visions for the underutilized site, but others are concerned about the project's potentially damaging impact on the community. If hundreds of millions of dollars are invested, the community has the opportunity to build wealth and enjoy new amenities. But these possible benefits could mean the potential for current Northsiders to be pushed out by rising property values and amenities that aren't culturally relevant to them.

According to Ann Calvert, who works for CPED, deeper

and more expansive community engagement is set to begin as planners enter the next phases of what might eventually become a massive development, though no official dates have been set yet.

The City of Minneapolis hopes to recreate the site as a re-established riverfront parkway and destination setting, while also connecting Northsiders to some amenities it currently lacks. Northside residents and leaders want to ensure that their voices are not only heard in the engagement process, but that North Minneapolis is fully reflected in the vision and eventual development.

CPED Director David Frank believes the UHT's redevelopment will be positively transformative for the Northside but recognizes that there may be some unintended consequences. For example, he says that despite project planners efforts to include affordable housing in the vision, they cannot control the efforts of surrounding landlords and property owners who might wish to raise rents if the site's redevelopment goes according to plan and the area becomes an increasingly desirable place to live.

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Soul food chef Lachelle Cunningham has gone solo



Photo by Myesha Powell

The well-known chef has left Breaking Bread Cafe to focus on her own brand

Kenzie O'Keefe | Editor

After several years of being the head chef of Breaking Bread Café and Catering, Lachelle Cunningham has left the Northside restaurant.

The locally acclaimed chef says she grew immensely from her experience at

the community-focused breakfast and lunch spot and made many connections there. She says she is leaving because she didn't have the capacity to entrepreneurially position herself for "greater things."

"There's no bad blood, but I did have to cut the cord completely," she said in late May.

Now that she's no longer with Breaking Bread, Cunningham, along with her business partner Alysha Bellamy, have relaunched Chelle's Kitchen, the catering business Cunningham started in 2011.

Cunningham is known for cooking soul food that thwarts its unhealthy stereotypes and fuses it with global flavors. She focuses on "nutritional healing" and has a preference for plant-based meals. She says she wants to "normalize healthy eating in the community."

Cunningham says she thinks best under pressure and prefers to cater large events, often for thousands of people and occasionally for celebrities like Randy Moss. Someday she'd like to make a meal for Barack Obama or, maybe, Erykah Badu.

But despite enjoying high profile, upscale catering gigs, her mission is to impact and educate the average person

through her food. She can be found all summer at community events, like the Camden Farmers Market, and says to keep an eye out for upcoming pop-up events.

Though the leadership team at Appetite for Change says they're sad to see Cunningham leave Breaking Bread, they're excited for her new endeavors. "We're honored to have played a role in training/development which we know will follow her to take the next steps in her career," they said in an email to *North News*.

As of mid-June, the café did not have a new executive chef, but the AFC leadership team says they're "excited" about their kitchen manager, Imani, Cunningham's mentee. "She's young, brilliant, and has so much potential in the industry, and we're excited for some new summer recipes," they said.



North High intern Myesha Powell helped conduct our interview with Cunningham and Bellamy at Tori 44, the new ramen restaurant in Victory neighborhood. Powell is a self-described picky eater and wanted to share her thoughts on dining with chefs at a meal that pushed the limits

of her taste buds. Here is her story, in her own words:

I decided to tag along to an interview with Lachelle Cunningham and Alysha Bellamy that was conducted at Tori 44 – they suggested going there. I had never eaten there before; the place had just opened up. I love food, but I'm a picky eater. When we walked in, I liked the set up, but it felt like I walked into a chill box. We got seated and looked through the menu, trying to figure out what to order. It was hard to do. They didn't have any pictures on the menu to help, and I didn't know any of the dishes. I tried a squid ink ramen with clams first. I liked the clams but was not a big fan of the ink noodles. I felt like I was chewing a rubber band. Then I tried a chicken rice dish. It was decent, but the chicken tasted like the seasoning was put on after it was cooked and it wasn't as juicy as I thought it was going to be. The black sauce that came with it tasted like an orange peel. I wasn't really feeling the meals that I picked, but Bellamy gave me a piece of the duck leg she ordered, and it was amazing! If I go back there again, I'll get the duck leg for sure!

By Myesha Powell | Intern

All are invited to showcase their artistic talents at FLOW Northside Arts Crawl

The application to be a FLOW artist is available now on the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition's website.

Kenzie O'Keefe | Editor

FLOW, the annual Northside arts crawl, will celebrate its thirteenth year at the end of July.

Beginning on Thursday, July 26 and stretching through Saturday, July 28, several key North Minneapolis nodes will showcase the vast array of artistic talents the community has to offer.

Unlike many other local art crawls and festivals, FLOW is focused on creating space for artists of every expertise level – from seasoned professionals to apprentices and hobbyists.

Farrington Llewellyn, the engagement

strategist for the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC) which organizes FLOW, invites everyone – "from beat boys to ballet [dancers]" – to share their art with the community during FLOW. "It's a nice balance of practicing to professional," he said.

The WBC accepts artist applications right up until the weekend of FLOW. Apply for free at wbc.submittable.com or in person at WBC – 1011 W Broadway Ave, Suite 202. A information session for interested artists will be held July 9.

FLOW artistic director Dudley Voigt says the community should view FLOW as an invitation to share its creativity. "We define artist really broadly," she said. "One of my favorite artist applications I ever got was a grandmother and her grandchildren. She made jewelry as a hobby and the kids drew greeting cards. They

set up a table and sold them at FLOW."

Each day of FLOW offers something different. Thursdays festivities are on Plymouth Ave from UROC to the new THOR building to the cluster of arts organizations between Sheridan and Russell.

Friday will focus on the stretch of Broadway between Logan and Penn. Joe Davis and HCubed will be putting on a Freedom Friday performance at Freedom Square and the West Broadway Farmer's market will be underway. "We're already there on Friday; we want the community to have a more focused experience on that end," said Voigt.

Saturday's opportunities – open studios, interactive opportunities, and food vending, will mostly take place on Broadway between Lyndale and Girard.

Sadly, one of the community's most influential artists will not be present at

FLOW this year. Juan Andre Reed, who is perhaps best known for his angel-covered electric boxes on West Broadway, passed away this Spring. Voigt says she hopes FLOW attendees will pay attention to Reed's influence and "voice" on the corridor.

The FLOW map and guidebook will likely be available a week prior to the event.



Photo by Mark Peterson

NORTHnews

Looking out for the loved ones of the imprisoned

Sharon Brooks | Contributor



Sharon Brooks is the founder and executive director of Peace of Hope, a nonprofit that provides services, education, and advocacy work

for families of the imprisoned. Brooks is originally from Chicago but first moved to Minneapolis in 1996. She is currently working on a Masters Degree in advocacy and political leadership at Metro State University. North News invited her to share her personal story and motivation for her work in this column.

It's morning. I know because I hear my bird friend outside my window singing. Just like the morning he woke me singing in 2011 and all the mornings in between during my son's imprisonment, all the way through to his release in 2016.

I look out the window and my bird friend is there, singing to me his morning song. Yes, my son is free now and living well on the outside, but my own routine is hard to break.

I didn't get a break.

It's my nephew who's inside now, so here I go again. I really could have used a break!

I shower, dress and make an egg, usually sunny-side up, but this morning I'll do scrambled with onions. Extra onions.

I have four meetings today. It used to be one if I pushed hard, but that was years ago. Now it's multiple meetings at Sammy's place. I almost let all the tears flow there once. North News

That might have been cool. I'm cool. Sammy is cool too.

First meeting – done! But I just had to reschedule the second. The third meeting showed up early and the fourth was mostly paperwork. Now I feel claustrophobic. My big sister Regina says that

phrase whenever she's in a long car ride.

Oh oh... I'm doing it again. Staring in everybody's eyes to see if I can recognize my secret in their face: Healing through unimaginable suffering. Waiting for my bird to sing.

I wave and speak. I smile and eat.

Today is especially rough. I reminisce on how I made it through when my son was behind the wall.

I cut down the block to check my P.O. Box for a letter. Nothing.

The tears well up and breathing comes in short fast bursts, so I pull out the jail-house picture we had taken together.

Hands visible, respectable distance measured between us, while prison guards closely watched our guarded smiles.

175 months, 3 days, 6 hours and 8 minutes left until he gets out...

It's morning again. I know because I hear my bird friend outside my window singing.



Kids Ride Free

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From left to right: **Carter Johnson, Javeon Mottley,
Victoria Washington and Azhae'la Hanson.**

The Young Heroes Scholarship is awarded annually by the members of Sanctuary Covenant Church. To learn more about the Efrem and Donecia Smith Young Heroes Scholarship, please visit <http://sanctuarycov.org/resources/young-heroes-scholarship/>

Make the most of your summer in **North Minneapolis**

North Minneapolis has countless fun, family-friendly events going on this summer. Whether you're looking for an active adventure or just want to sit and enjoy some free entertainment, *North News* has you covered with these top picks. **By Mathias Durie | Intern Reporter**

1 Eat on the Avenue

Eat on the Avenue is a twice weekly event highlighting the local restaurants on W Broadway Ave. Beginning June 1, it occurs every Friday and Sunday from 11am-2pm as well as one Wednesday a month from 5-8pm. All dates and times are available on the Eat on the Avenue Facebook page. Dine-in options include Sammy's Avenue Eatery, Breaking Bread Cafe and Wendy's House of Soul. Fridays feature various food trucks lined up on W Broadway Ave. between Bryant and Emerson Ave. while Wednesday and Sunday events provide a food courtyard at Sanctuary Covenant Church. This year's vendors will offer a diverse array of cuisines including East African, comfort food, Latin Fusion, Mediterranean, and vegan options.

2 Shop at the Camden Farmers Market

The Camden Farmers Market kicked off Thursday, June 7 with a variety of food trucks, tents and tables. The market will take place every Thursday from 3-7pm at North Market until Oct. 11. Some attractions include a Bombon gelato + espresso truck, soulspeak handcrafted jewelry, free chair massages by Doorway Massage Therapy, Vanlice lemonade, vegan options from Chelles' Kitchen, Wha' Jamaican food, and a live DJ. New vendors and entertainment are added each week to ensure fresh food options and fun experiences all summer long.

3 Get creative at FLOW Northside Arts Crawl

FLOW is a three-day art festival in North Minneapolis that highlights community members' artistic talents. This year's 13th annual event will be July 26-28 and takes place on Plymouth Ave. and over a mile and a half of W Broadway Ave, stretching from the Mississippi River to Penn Ave. This non-juried, self-guided tour highlights various theatres, galleries, commercial and vacant spaces, featuring creativity in forms ranging from rap and ballet to graffiti and artisan work. FLOW, put on by the West Broadway Coalition, will feature over 300 artists of all ages with levels of experience from practicing to professional at 35 different locations along the corridor. The weekend celebration begins Thursday with a Plymouth Ave. block party running from 6-10pm. Friday's events go from 3-10pm and include ticketed events, preview parties, opening receptions, and the West Broadway Farmers Market. Saturday is an all day affair (11am-9pm) with indoor and outdoor activities at Freedom Square, the Capri Theater, Juxtaposition Arts, and the KMOJ stage.



Latoya McCoy held her arms out as her daughter, Aaliyah, 2, jumped in the water at Webber Pool. Photo by David Pierini

4 Take a dip at Webber Pool

North Minneapolis is home to the only naturally filtered, chemical-free pool in the country. Webber Natural Swimming Pool (4330 Webber Pkwy) opened for the summer June 9 and is open every Tuesday-Sunday (closed Monday) from 1-7pm. Daily admission is free and lap swim (11:30am-1pm) is \$3 per day (Tuesday-Friday). WNSP is accessible for all ages and swimming levels with its zero depth entry, shallow pool, open swimming area, jumping platform and lap swimming lanes. Swimming lessons can be purchased at the rec center, pool house or online and are offered Tuesday-Friday 11:30am-12:10pm and 12:15-12:55pm. WNSP also offers free lifeguard training Thursdays at 5:30pm.

5 Enjoy music and a movie at Live on the Drive

The 11th year of the outdoor summer concert series Live on the Drive is in full swing as the second event of the summer will take place July 12 on the corner of Victory Memorial Drive and 34th Ave. The band astralblak, formerly known as ZULUZULUU, will headline the July edition and Wonder Woman will be screened after the concert. The final Live on the Drive event of the summer will be August 9 with PaviElle performing and a showing of *A Wrinkle In Time* to follow. All events feature food vendors and start at 6pm. Be sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on and a few dollars to grab a snack before the show.

6 Buy local at the W Broadway Farmers Market

The West Broadway Farmers Market (WBFM) began on June 15 with a variety of vendors and entertainment. The market is open every Friday now through October 12 from 3-7pm at Freedom Square. Regular vendors include Appetite for Change which offers fresh, local produce, Chang's Kettle Corn, and the Animal Rights Coalition. The WBFM is a perfect place to shop and talk with local vendors while dancing to live entertainment. The West Broadway Coalition sponsors the event and more information such as event dates and directions can be found on the West Broadway Farmers Market Facebook page.

7 Hop on your bike for a Slow Roll

A group of welcoming and adventurous Northsiders take a bike ride through North Minneapolis every Tuesday night. Slow Roll is an event based originally out of Detroit that has made its way to the Twin Cities. A seven mile route is marked out each week in a different section of the city to highlight every aspect of North. The event begins at 5:30pm with free bike tune-ups and music from a live DJ. Slow Roll also provides bikes and helmets for anyone that needs one. The night ends with a celebration of the journey by enjoying a free meal provided by local businesses.



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Freedom day celebration returns to Bethune Park

Rain called off the scheduled parade but it didn't stop a celebration of freedom at Bethune Park on Saturday, June 16. The North Minneapolis celebration of Juneteenth, commemorating the June 19, 1865 announcement of the end of slavery in Texas, included music, dance, stories, awards, food, and a re-enactment of Major General Gordon Granger's announcement to enforce the order.

By David Pierini | Photographer



For 20 minutes, Bethune Park was filled with the holy spirit and the voice of gospel singer Jovonta Patton.

Miss Black Minnesota USA, Thandisizwe Jackson-Nisan, held the Juneteenth flag during the opening of festivities at Bethune Park.

Queen J delighted in the legs of her daughter, Amor, kicking as she hears the music of gospel singer Jovonta Patton.



Renowned storyteller Nothando Zulu performed a piece called "Libations." She poured a drink on a squash plant from South Africa.



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Minnesota's Coldest Music



Charish Washington, center, and her mother, Faith Washington, were impressed with Twin Cities Masquerade, a hip-hop dance group based in Harrison Park.



Kamarii Slack is also known as Little Sassy to the coaches and dancers in Twin Cities Masquerade.

A promotional graphic for the UCare Tri-Loppet triathlon. It features three panels: a runner on the left with a race bib number 337, a person paddling a canoe in the middle with a bib number 220, and a cyclist on the right with a bib number 251. The text "WE RUN + PADDLE + BIKE" is prominently displayed in the center. Below the images, it says "Round up your relay team for the UCare Tri-Loppet — an off-road triathlon in MPLS Bde Maka Ska to The Trailhead July 22, 2018" and "LEARN MORE AT LOPPET.ORG".

A promotional graphic for Serendripit Spot. It features the text "Sip Into Summer" in a large, bold font. Below this is a stylized black coffee cup with a white flower inside. The logo for "Serendripit Spot" is shown, featuring a red cherry and green leaves. The text "Coffee shop Sunday - Thursday (daytime) 3300 Lyndale Ave N 612-564-3478" is displayed at the bottom.

A promotional graphic for Camp Capri. It features the text "SUMMER CAMP CAPRI" at the top, with a sun and waves logo. Below this, it says "Middle School Scholars present" and "four little girls BIRMINGHAM 1963 by Christina Ham". The background shows a blue sky with clouds and a photo of four young girls. At the bottom, it says "7pm Thursday, August 9 Free @ the Capri" and "thecapritheater.org • 612-643-2024 2027 West Broadway Ave., Minneapolis 55411".

The school board report



Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

The Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Board met for its last business meeting on June 12 until the school year resumes in August. Here's the breakdown:

After nearly a year of debate and discussion, the MPS Board has approved its 2018 - 2019 budget. According to a MPS press release, the budget balances expenditures and revenues without accessing the district's dwindling reserve funds. Directors Walser, Samuels, Jourdain, Inz, Gagnon, Ellison, Arneson, and Ali voted in support of the budget. Director Felder voted against the budget. Additional details on the budget and its impacts will be forthcoming; the budget should balance MPS' budget and clear the district's \$33 million deficit.

MPS is continuing to ask Minnesota legislators for support for special education and English learner funding and will have a two-question referendum on Minneapolis' November ballot. If Minneapolis voters approve both questions, MPS will receive approximately \$30 million more in property tax funding for schools. The first question asks Minneapolis voters to consider an increase in MPS' operating levy to the state allowed maximum, which would mean a total of \$18 million in additional revenue. The second question pertains to a tax levy, and, if voters approve the request, \$12 million would be shifted from the district's general operating fund towards a technology budget though no new technology is proposed or funded by this levy. The MPS Board will be engaging community members in discussions related to both referendum questions and working to get-out-the-vote in the coming months.

The first day of school for grades 1-12 is August 27; the first day of school for Pre-K/K students is August 28.

MPS will be providing free meals throughout the summer in North Minneapolis outside of North Market to any youth ages 18 and under. True Food Bus will be serving meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12:45pm-1:05pm. The MPS Street Eats Food Truck will serve food on Tuesdays from 12:45pm-1:45pm.

There are no MPS Board meetings scheduled for July. Meetings will commence for the new school year in August. The first Board meeting of the new school year will be August 7 at 5:30pm and the first Committee of the Whole will be August 28 at 6pm. Both will be held at the Davis Center (1250 W Broadway Ave).



Alyson Quinn is founder of the Minneapolis Nature Preschool

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Educator Spotlight

Alyson Quinn is the founder and board chair of the Minneapolis Nature Preschool, a nonprofit formed in 2016. The preschool and day camp seeks to connect students, as young as three, with nature by inviting them to explore woods and water, and get their hands dirty. Quinn has been an educator for 18 years. She has taught science at several schools, including Edison High School and MERC Alternative School. She also taught with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa and in a second grade classroom in South Carolina, as an Americorps member.

Why do you think it's important to build a space like this on the Northside and then bring kids out to the river and parks? What do you hope for with this? I think it goes back to having a strong personal connection to nature. I always have been interested in catching frogs and toads and salamanders and being outside, and I worked for the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa and loved being in nature with a group of people from all different backgrounds and noticing how nature is a great equalizer. I think there's the personal perspective of seeing nature as this ever changing, beautiful exploration, that I think is just wonderful in my life, and I want to share that. And the other piece is just understanding that trauma is common in a lot of people's lives and our world is increasingly stressful and busy and being in nature and especially in green spaces can be really restorative.

What is your teaching philosophy? It is constantly evolving, but I know that all children have an innate curiosity in them. Everyone is born inquisitive. The goal is to not snuff that out by teaching just one way, but to really say, "you're excited about this; let's explore and learn together." Teaching high school biology was my focus

for so long, and then I taught physics. I didn't have a ton of physics background, and I really had to read up and learn. When I was learning alongside my students, I really enjoyed it, and they really enjoyed it because I was remembering how to be a student. As a teacher, remembering how to be a learner is imperative. Being curious yourself and constantly learning new things and exposing yourself to new experiences is really valuable.

What is your favorite teaching moment? One of my favorite moments was last summer's Nature Adventure Camp. We were trying to navigate a shallow creek to find where the source was; we were trying to find this pond. These two boys were debating if a fungus they found was sea coral or a mushroom. Teacher West is a naturalist, he came by and said, "it's a coral mushroom, so you're both right." Both boys were proud of their discovery and had some of the language to describe it and felt really strongly that they were right. West made each child feel important, found natural compromise, and shared the name of a mushroom that many adults can't identify. Personally as a student, I studied paleobotany (the study of prehistoric plants). I really enjoyed a fossil dig we did in the Dakotas. It was so exciting to be cracking open rocks and looking at plants that were 65 million years old. Sorry if I'm geeking out, but it was so much more fun than sitting in a classroom!

North News launched this column to highlight the work of Northside educators doing innovative and socially just work in our North Minneapolis classrooms. If you have any recommendations for our upcoming spotlights, you can email North News at ciriens@pillsburyunited.org. If possible, please include contact information for the person you are recommending.

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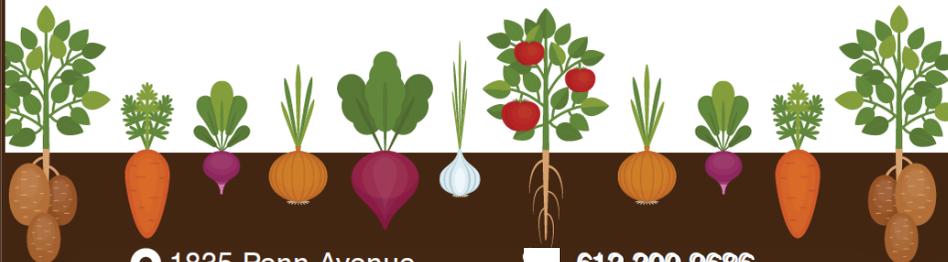
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Dads and daughters envision a brighter future for themselves and community

A Northside organization is committed to facilitating stronger relationships between fathers and their daughters.

Jessica Enwesi | Contributor

The New Rules building on Lowry Ave. was teeming with excitement as fathers and their daughters created inspirational vision boards on Saturday, June 9.

The Dads, Dreams and Donuts event was hosted by Beautifully, Classy, Driven (BCD), an organization that seeks “to motivate and push people to their ultimate success destination.”

The annual event is in its second year and is meant to give fathers and their children a relaxing space to creatively map out goals and envision future achievements while munching on sweet treats.

Believing that BCD is the very essence of who they are, the CEO and

the vice president of the organization, Markella Smith and Shemeka Bogan, expect their own husbands and children to be ambitious individuals who strive for excellence while maintaining the same expectation from their community. For this reason, Smith and Bogan started hosting the event in the same neighborhood Smith grew up in.

“A lot of the time people have ideas, but they don’t follow through with them. Most of the time it’s because they don’t have the support that they need, and they stop pushing for their goal,” Smith said. “We do this event to show people that they should keep pushing, that they have support. The Northside needs this, we need more positivity [in the community].”

Guests were able to use a plethora of magazines and art supplies to plan their future accordingly, take family photos in front of a black backdrop, make personally designed thank-you cards and enjoy some much-needed

family time.

Eric Morgan, a minister and youth mentor from Cottage Grove, Minnesota, brought his two teenage daughters, Angelina and Aliya Tchougo, to the event to showcase the importance of a father’s role in a household.

Morgan, who grew up without a father, had a rambunctious childhood. He often found himself entangled in gang-related violence and systemic poverty that was difficult to avoid.



Eric Morgan poses at the event with his son and his two daughters, Angelina and Aliya Tchougo. Photo by Jessica Enwesi

After years of personal reflection and getting his life on track, Morgan became a minister at Light the Way Church in Cottage Grove and a mentor for a youth mentorship program named Zone 316.

Morgan has dedicated the rest of his life to utilizing community events such as “Dads, Daughter and Donuts” to be a positive influence for his children and youth in the community.

“When people say that you can’t achieve something, that should give you the motivation to be successful,” Morgan said. “[BCD and I] are trying to unclog the youths’ minds that they can’t succeed. [Instead], they can use their minds to say and be whatever they want.”

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Upper Harbor continued from Page 6

In an effort to offset these potential consequences, project planners have sought community engagement from across the City of Minneapolis.

“We tried to do engagement at many different levels because there’s no one method. So sometimes it was popping up at events like FLOW. A lot of times what we’ve tried to do is piggyback on events that were happening in North and then take a bus out to the site,” said Kate Lamers, a project planner with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

In 2016, project developers began working with North Minneapolis-based Juxtaposition Arts’ Environmental Design Team. Their intergenerational leaders and youth apprentices led doorknocking efforts, site visits, and hosted community discussions for North Minneapolis and Northeast residents in 2017. JXTA’s work was the second round of engagement opportunities focused on the redevelopment. These engagement sessions, according to Kristen Murray, whose focus is tactical urbanism and community en-

gagement for the organization, touched on major themes brought up in previous engagement sessions, and attempted to dig deeper into community perspectives. Themes included mobility and leisure, facilities, art and culture, music, shops and markets, eateries, green spaces, youth and kids, and miscellaneous thoughts and concerns.

According to raw data from JXTA, Northsiders wanted to see hangout places and play areas; grills and picnic areas; green spaces; a Green Garden Bakery kiosk, a community center for teenagers with a clinic and cooking classes; a movie theatre; a farmers market; music for all ages; local non-food vendors; craft fairs and flea markets; river access and activities; a mini market; seafood and health food eateries; and an arcade. Northsiders also discussed using the UHT redevelopment to provide jobs for houseless and low-income people; safety concerns; and the environmental safety of the river and the surrounding land; and support for Northsider entrepreneurs.

Non-Northside residents wanted to see park amenities for adults and youth; addressed safety concerns; public sport spaces; bike trails and public transit access; movie nights; river access; socially relevant art; and an arcade.

Project planners say they will continue their engagement efforts in order to dig even deeper into community perspectives, but no timeline has been set yet. Juxtaposition Arts has organized the raw data from 2017, but has yet to release any demographic information. At least 150 of the 400 people who participated in 2017 engagement activities told organizers that they live in North Minneapolis.

Northsiders and North Minneapolis leaders have continued to stress the importance of being involved in the visioning process.

“If North Minneapolis is written out of the will, then what will happen is another generation of isolation, bigotry, and redlining,” said Michael Chaney, Executive Director of Project Sweetie Pie. Chaney imagines an eco-village that draws together North

Minneapolis’ food and agricultural justice organizations and needs in an effort to support their work and make North Minneapolis a nationally recognized food justice leader while building the Northside economy. According to Chaney he participated in engagement activities and is organizing some of his own.

“We should not be thinking about food at this space as if it’s an add-on or a nice spice; the whole space needs to be about food and agriculture. This is on the headwaters of the Mississippi; we can become a lighthouse for the nation around food and agriculture,” said Chaney.

Ward 4 Councilmember Phillippe Cunningham says the redevelopment of UHT, which sits entirely within his ward, is an opportunity to build community wealth within the Northside. Cunningham says he is committed to ensuring the redevelopment includes new affordable housing, though if and how much affordable housing will be available is still unknown.

“There’s a way for them to do this development organically, without tearing this all down, so people can grow on it and we want to be part of that,” said Ian Silver-Ramp, founder of Mississippi Mushrooms. According to Silver - Ramp, the City of Minneapolis recently awarded a \$7000 grant to Mississippi Mushrooms to install solar panels on their farm located on the Upper Harbor Terminal.

Ann Calvert with CPED says, aside from continued engagement efforts, project planners expect to take at least the next 18 months to finalize a design on the property and to open up project bids and confirm project developers and designers.

Redevelopment discussions formally began under the tenure of former Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. Rybak, who currently heads the Minneapolis Foundation, is not involved in the project in an official capacity but urges project planners and community members to think big.

“I hear people talking about big bold visions and I hear people talking about reflecting the community and I sometimes hear a subtext that there’s a tension between those two ideas,” said Rybak. “We have a golden opportunity to really create a jewel and it would be a tremendous shame to think small.”

Candidate filing continued from Page 4

and President of the State Senate — who was appointed Lieutenant Governor (due to state statute) after former Senator Al Franken stepped down and former Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith became Minnesota’s junior senator. Fischbach will be running for the same seat she currently holds, just with a different governor. At the same time, the GOP endorsed Jeff Johnson for Governor running alongside Donna Bergstrom.

- The DFL endorsed Representative Erin Murphy (District 64A) for governor and State Rep Erin Maye Quade (District 57A) for lieutenant governor. Congressman Tim Walz (running alongside State Rep. Peggy Flanagan) had not committed to abiding to the endorsement process and plans to run in the primary. Between the DFL and the GOP, several others are also running for governor/lieutenant governor.
- Both Senators Tina Smith and Amy

Klobuchar are up for re-election. This will be the first time since the late 1970s that Minnesota has had both US Senate seats and the gubernatorial seat up for grabs in the same year.

- Both Representative Raymond Dehn (59B) and Fue Lee (59A) are running for reelection for their State House seats. Neither is running unopposed in the primary. In the primary, Dehn will be running against Lisa Neal Delgado; Lee will be running against Grace Moua.
- All candidates had until June 7 at 5pm to withdraw their candidacy. Minnesota’s primary will be held on August 13. The General election will be held on November 6. Early voting and same-day registration are options for both election. Check out <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting> for more information.

Wolfpack continued from Page 5

relieve that aspect of it. And we’re not gonna charge a million dollars for a shirt like some of the other printers,” said Brown.

Brown says Wolfpack item prices depend on design and coloring. He recommends bringing a design or at least detailed notes on what you want to see into the shop so he can work with you. According to Brown, his wife Katie will price out the proposal and work with Brown to ensure that the print proposal meets everyone’s needs. Brown notes that they typically work on six larger projects a week between Tuesday and Saturday, as well as several smaller projects. They typically ask for a week’s turnaround time for projects.

Wolfpack Promotionals is closed weekends. On Monday - Friday, they are open from 10am - 6pm. Find out more at facebook.com/wolfpackpromotions.

GRADUATION

Marquette University
Nicholas Bauer

Missouri S & T
Alec Frederick Voracek

St. Cloud State University
Nathaniel Akouete
Blake O'Donnell
Nicholas Wilson
Christina Zimmerman

Gustavus Adolphus College
Yee Lor
Moua Yang

Whitman College
Kaia Knutsen

North Dakota State University
Michael Coughlin
Aryn Anne Kuehn-Larson
Morgan v. Larson
Lauren Marie
Kelly McNaughton
Matthew D. Teawalt
Ryan David TerSteege

Iowa State University
Jessica O. Enwesi
Shawn M. Phillips

U of M - Crookston
Melvin Saah Tumbay

Knox College
Naja Woods

St. Norbert College
Thomas Bockenbauer

DEAN'S LIST

Tufts University
Grace McEnery
Elizabeth Shaheen

UW La Crosse
Elizabeth Eckhoff

University of Minnesota - Duluth
Adebisi Ajayi
Kasden K Watson
Lensa Hassan
Nathan DeRosier
Caleb J Derosier

RESOURCES

Neighborhood HealthSource hosts **free and reduced cost mammograms** for eligible women every month at one of their three Northside clinics. Call 612-287-2433 or visit neighborhoodhealthsource.org for more info.

Northside Boxing Club (1704 33rd Ave N) offers free lessons to kids ages 9-21. Training includes boxing drills, technique work, running and strength conditioning.

Each session ends with a healthy meal. Hours are 4pm-7:30pm, Monday - Friday.

Swimming equipment, soccer goals and a skate park are among the new equipment, facilities and improvements coming to parks and recreation centers across Minneapolis, thanks to funding from the **Hennepin Youth Sports Program (HYSP)**. The Youth Sports grants were announced by Hennepin County's Board of Commissioners at their meeting last week, and were awarded to 22 cities, school districts, and parks and recreation agencies throughout the county.

Hennepin County funding assistance for lead paint – Homeowners and landlords may be eligible for a free home test and as much as \$8,000 in lead reduction costs, such as new windows. Contact: healthyhomes@hennepin.us or 612-543-4182.

Minnesota Solid Waste & Recycling customers who have not signed up to participate in the **organics recycling program** may do so at any time by visiting www.minneapolisismn.gov/organics. There is no extra cost, but you have to sign up.

Tuesdays – The **Twin Cities Mobile Market** delivers affordable and healthy food weekly to locations across North Minneapolis and the Twin Cities. A wide variety of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, and staples like rice and dried beans are available at below-market prices. Cash, all major credit cards, debit cards, SNAP/EBT, and Market Bucks are accepted! Questions? Call 612-529-8054. Their delivery schedule does change. For schedule and map information, check out: <https://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/tcmm/Pages/default.aspx>.

Do you live in Near North or Willard/Hay? Then **your block could be eligible for a mini club grant** through the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, NRRC. Funds are available for a project or event you want to create. For more information call 612-335-5924 or email contactus@nrcc.org.

The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council-NRRC is partnering with Mid-Minnesota Legal

Aid to connect residents of Near North and Willard Hay with **free attorneys**. If you are having legal troubles that relate to your home or business and live in the Near North or Willard Hay neighborhood visit their clinic at the NRRC office Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am - 3pm or set up an appointment by calling 612-335-5925.

Spend Diversity Dashboard – The City of Minneapolis has developed a new tool, available to the public, that details the city's discretionary spending and the improvements the city can make in increasing participation of women-owned and minority-owned businesses in City of Minneapolis contracts.

What's Up 612! is an online resource for children and youth, ages 5-21, where citywide after school activities can be found. More information can be found at: <http://www.whatsup612.com>

Explore public art using interactive map tours developed by the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. To take a self-guided tour or more information: arcg.is/mplsart.

FREE FOOD

MPS will be providing free meals throughout the summer in North Minneapolis outside of North Market to any youth ages 18 and under. True Food Bus will be serving meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12:45pm - 1:05pm. The MPS Street Eats Food Truck will serve food on Tuesdays from 12:45pm - 1:45pm.

Come summertime, free nutritious meals for kids can be a click away. For the second summer, a mobile phone app showing kids where to get free nutritious meals includes approximately 700 sites across Minnesota. Hunger Impact Partners (HIP) is a local nonprofit aimed at nourishing children so they get a healthy start in life to support academic performance. The app, called **Summer Eats Minnesota**, is free at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Powered by GPS, it shows locations of summer food sites, their menus and days/hours of operation. Kids 18 and under can show up without pri-

or signup for free meals at these open site locations, including park and recreation sites, community centers, libraries and schools. The app shows the distance and directions to the nearest sites. For more information about summer meals: <https://www.summereatsmn.org/>

Pillsbury United Communities' Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave N) hosts **free community dinners** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm - 7pm. The Oak Park Center also hosts **free hot lunches for youth** (ages 18 and under) on Mondays - Fridays, from 11:30am - 1:30pm.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

07/26 - 07/28 – **FLOW Northside Arts Crawl** is a three-day celebration of the arts in North Minneapolis. Since 2006, FLOW Northside Arts Crawl has become both a community celebration and premier art event in North Minneapolis. FLOW is a non-juried, self-guided tour of studios, galleries, theaters, commercial and vacant spaces over a mile and half of the West Broadway corridor. From b-boys to ballet, graffiti to graphite, rap to rhapsody, fine artist to artisan, practicing to professional, FLOW showcases the great art being made every day on the Northside. FLOW is a program of the West Broadway Coalition that showcase over 300 artists of all ages and experiences at 35 different locations with an exciting day of indoor and outdoor activities.

07/11 – **Senior Surf Day**. 10am-12pm. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet, and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line. Registration required. Register online or at 612-543-KNOW.

07/12 – **Duke It Out**, 5pm - 6:30pm. Learn the secrets of stage combat from an experienced Guthrie teaching artist. Slap, punch and kick without hurting anyone – just like actors do it on stage! It looks real, but it's just pretend. No experience necessary! Collaborator: Guthrie Theater. Funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage

Fund. For youth entering grades 6-9.

07/14 – **Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts** - summer edition - presents a concert by the Fort Wayne Children's Choir of Fort Wayne, Indiana, as part of their Midwest tour. The choir is an afterschool music education curriculum that has grown from one choir to nine different ensembles, involving over 300 children! This free event will take place at 2pm, is open to the public, and will be held in the (air-conditioned) nave of Mount Olive Lutheran Church (3045 Chicago Ave S).

07/14 – **Explore Nature!** 2pm - 4pm. Enjoy nature-themed activities, meet a live critter, and learn about the Mississippi watershed and our regional ecosystem. Collaborators: North Mississippi River Regional Park, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

07/19 – **Zombie Portraits**, 5pm - 6:30pm. Use observational drawing practices to explore the form, structure and facial anatomy of the human face and skull, then superimpose "zombie characteristics" onto those portraits, including various rotting flesh textures, scars and exposed bone. Materials provided. Sponsors: Friends of the Hennepin County Library, MELSA (Metropolitan Library Services Agency). Collaborator: Artistry at Bloomington Center for the Arts. Entering grades 7-12.

07/24 – **Slime Table Fun**, 4pm-5pm. In this drop-in workshop, learn about chemistry while making your own container of slime to take home. Materials provided. Sponsors: Friends of the Hennepin County Library, MELSA (Metropolitan Library Services Agency). Collaborator: America's Fun Science. Kids.

07/27 – **Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts** presents a program of hymns and reflections which proclaim the Gospel in a variety of cultural styles, from a variety of times. This hymn festival precedes and is offered in conjunction with a two-day conference on liturgy co-sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) and Mount Olive Lutheran Church, entitled "With Hearts and Hands and Voices." This free event will take

place at 7:30pm, is open to the public, and will be held in the (air-conditioned) nave of Mount Olive Lutheran Church (3045 Chicago Ave S).

07/31 – **Try Rock Climbing** 3pm-7pm. Get introduced to the sport of rock climbing with a 25-foot-tall portable climbing wall! A Three Rivers Park District waiver signed by a parent or guardian will be required for each climber before they can participate in the program. Waivers are available at the library. Sponsors: Friends of the Hennepin County Library, MELSA (Metropolitan Library Services Agency). Collaborator: Three Rivers Park District. Entering grades 2-12.

8/9 – 7pm, **The Summer Camp Capri production of Four Little Girls** by Christina Ham. This will be the last production at The Capri Theater before the groundbreaking for its new building.

Due to renovation work, beginning 9/6, First Thursday Films at The Capri Theater will screen at North High School (1300 Irving Ave. N). Capri Glee!, Capri After School Theater (CAST) and Camp Capri Third Saturdays activities move to PCYC (2210 Oliver Avenue N) starting this fall.

Mondays – 2pm - 5pm. Sign up for a weekly 30-minute session to practice reading and do literacy activities with a **teen mentor**. Come by or call the Webber Park Library to register. 612-543-6751 Sponsored by the Webber Park Friends. For kids entering grades K-3.

Wednesdays - **Kids Book Club**, 3pm - 4:30pm. No pre-reading required, we will share a book, discuss, and do a fun activity! This program runs Wednesdays from June 13-August 15. No session on July 4th. Sponsored by Friends of the Webber Park Library. For youth Entering 1st-5th Grades.

Fridays - **Family Storytime**, 10am-11am. For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

EDUCATION

Teen Tech workshop is held every other Thursday. North Regional Library, 5pm - 7pm. Get creative and make music, videos, animation, and other projects using high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines. Led by the library's Teen Tech Squad. More information at <http://www.hclib.org/about/locations/north-regional>.

MN Comeback and Great MN Schools, sister organizations building a community of great schools, have launched **Minnesota**

School Finder. This resource guide for parents provide objective, relevant information on schools across Minneapolis so parents can find schools that are the best fit for their kids.

BE AWARE

The Health Rural and Urban Kids Project measures chemicals in children living in Minnesota urban and rural communities that may harm child development. Children ages 3 - 6 from zip codes 55411 and 412 can join when they complete the Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Screening. Families can make an appointment for screening by calling 612 - 668 - 3715 or visiting <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/7r95my98>

The board for Hennepin County's Housing and Redevelopment Authority has approved **\$2.2 million in funding for seven transit-oriented development (TOD) projects**. Projects include a mix of infrastructure, housing, retail, and services — all located within walking distance of transit. These projects will create 1,045 housing units, more than 52,000 square feet of commercial space and 97 jobs. Among the many benefits of TOD, the program helps reduce disparities through greater mobility and access to places to live, work, and play; decreased household spending on transportation; increased walkability for a healthier lifestyle; and diminished pollution and environmental destruction.

June is National Healthy Homes Month. National Healthy Homes Month reminds people to check their homes for potential health hazards and make their homes the healthiest possible for their families. Minneapolis offers resources to help Minneapolis residents take action on making their homes healthier. The City of Minneapolis offers: free soil testing for lead and free testing for children under 6 for lead exposure. Find information at <http://minneapolismn.gov/health/homes/lead/soil-testing> or call 612-673-2710.

CenterPoint Energy would like to remind the public of the following important **natural gas safety tips** when there is severe weather: Following a severe storm, be alert for leaking natural gas. If you smell, hear or see a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately on foot and tell others to do the same. 1) Do not drive into or near a natural gas leak or vapor cloud. 2) Once safely away from the area, call the CenterPoint Energy emergency natural gas leak hot line at 1-800-296-9815 and 911 to report the location and description of the leak and CenterPoint Energy will send a trained service technician immediately. If the pipeline operator is not known, call 911. 3) If natural gas is leaking, do not turn the

lights on or off, smoke, strike a match, use a cell phone, drive a car or operate anything that might cause a spark including a flashlight or generator. 4) Do not attempt to turn any natural gas valves. Improper operation of valves could make the situation worse.

A draft of the City's comprehensive plan is now public and for review. The online plan, called Minneapolis 2040, is a draft framework of interdependent policies, topics, actions steps and maps intended to drive a citywide conversation about how Minneapolis will grow and change over the next two decades so all residents benefit. This draft plan is the result of extensive civic engagement over a period of three years, involving residents, business owners, developers and just about anyone with an interest in the future of Minneapolis. Over the coming months, the City will do extensive outreach to residents to hear their concerns and ideas to improve the quality of life in the City. Comments will be collected at public meetings as well as online through July 22, 2018. That feedback will be taken into consideration as City staff revise the plan for City Council consideration. Comments can be made at minneapolis2040.com or shared on Twitter: #Mpls2040 @Mpls2040.

A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Translation and interpreting services are available upon request to ensure all residents have the ability to participate. People can apply through the open position pages linked below and stay up to date on vacancies, position descriptions and timelines by visiting minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings. The positions are open until filled. There are 99 open positions on 15 City boards and commissions.

The City of Minneapolis will add to its home visiting nurse program for pregnant women and infants; later this year, it will also reach out to the fathers with services such as connections to education and job training, employment skills, mental health and parenting skills. The program provides home nurse visits for families at high risk for premature births, low birth weight, infant mortality, child maltreatment, childhood injury, and maternal low education and income and high unemployment. The City will partner with the Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association (MVNA) and the Goodwill-Easter Seals FATHER Project to deliver nurse home visit-

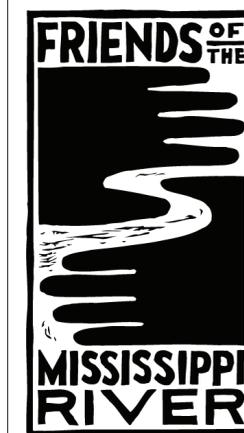
ing services and fatherhood advocacy work.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Council Members Jeremiah Ellison and Phillippe Cunningham are urging the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to **step up enforcement of pollution standards in the area surrounding Northern Metals Recycling in North Minneapolis**. The letter from the lawmakers follows reports that the levels of air pollution – including the dangerous airborne particulates (PM10) – near the shredder are again exceeding the federal standard. If particulate levels continue to exceed the federal standard, MPCA is allowed to take additional enforcement action prior to the company's 2019 relocation.

Northpoint Health and Wellness has announced an eviction prevention pilot program. This program is open to anyone who lives in Hennepin County, lives in a rental unit, and is concerned about being evicted or being unable to pay rent. Mediation services, legal help, and housing case management is available for renters; services are also available for landlords interesting in assisting their tenants. To enroll in the pilot contact NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc. at 612-767-9159 or visit 1315 Penn Ave N.

The City of Minneapolis can help renters who want **smoke-free** housing, and it can help property owners make their buildings smoke-free. For smoke-free rental housing help, renters and property owners and managers can call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/smoke-free.

The City Council has approved the creation of a new division in the City Coordinator's Office to help drive the City's work to reduce and eliminate racial inequities throughout City government. **The Division of Race and Equity** will include staff of the City's equity team who will engage with City departments to set goals and expectations around race



Work for the river!

Friends of the Mississippi River is seeking a Communications Associate (apps due 7/9) and Database Coordinator (apps due 7/30).

Learn more at FMR.org

equity, assist in accelerating the City's efforts and progress around racial equity goals and create accountability.

The Minneapolis City Council approved two ordinances to support **programs that will help the City accelerate toward its energy and climate change goals.** One ordinance for gas and one for electricity raises the franchise fees by half a percentage point – about 59 cents monthly for the average household. The rate increase will take effect in the spring.

Minneapolis has joined a statewide program to help **reduce homelessness among veterans.** Since the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs launched the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry in 2014, it has housed 1,218 homeless veterans – 613 in Hennepin County. Minneapolis* and Hennepin County have the highest concentration of homeless veterans in the state. Anyone who served in the U.S. armed forces, Army Reserve or National Guard can join the registry regardless of the type of discharge. Homeless veterans or their representatives are encouraged to call 1-888-LinkVet (1-888-546-5838) or complete the application online at the website for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Veteran Registry.

The **City's Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinance** took effect 1/1/2018. There will be a tiered phase-in period for small and large businesses. Large businesses that employ more than 100 workers will be required to pay employees a minimum of \$10 an hour beginning 1/1/2018. Small businesses with 100 or fewer employees will be required to pay workers at least \$10.25 beginning 7/1/2018. Large businesses have until 7/1/2022 to reach a minimum wage of \$15 an hour and small businesses have until 7/1/2024 to reach \$15 an hour.

Through its 311 service, the City of Minneapolis has opened a **new hotline for reporting hate crimes.** Which are harassing behaviors motivated by prejudice. The hotline

number is 311 for anyone calling from within the city of 612-673-3000 statewide. The 311 hotline will be answered 7am-7pm weekdays and 8am - 4:30pm weekends. Those with a report to make can also call the Department of Justice at 612-664-5600. As always, in the case of immediate physical violence, property damage, or threats, people should call 911.

For planting season, the City of Minneapolis urges all Minneapolis gardeners, landscapers and farmers to **protect pollinators.** That means avoiding pesticides that poison bees, butterflies and other pollinators: avoiding applying pesticides and avoiding buying plants that were already treated. Protecting pollinators also means landscaping or gardening with the kinds of plants that nourish pollinators. Find more resources and more information about how to protect pollinators here: www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees.

The Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Jacob Frey have set goals for Minneapolis to move to 100 percent renewable electricity: for municipal facilities and operations by 2022 and citywide by 2030. These goals serve as a strategy to meet the City's aggressive greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate change goals by moving away from fossil fuels. The City of Minneapolis is committed to ensuring that all residents and businesses, no matter their race, income, wealth or credit history, can access and benefit from renewable energy and energy efficiency. Find more information about Minneapolis' action on climate change in the resolution and the City website.

Following **Minneapolis fire laws** will help keep our neighborhoods safe and livable; outdoor fires are permitted 9am-10pm, fires must be less than three feet in diameter and two feet high, and a fire must be completely out before being abandoned. Illegal open burning or recreational fires could result in fines that start at \$200. For more information on recreational fires or to register a com-

plaint about a recreational fire, call 311 or email Minneapolis 311@minneapolismn.gov, or to register a complaint about a recreational fire outside 311 hours, call 911. The Fire and Police departments are authorized to extinguish a fire immediately if it is hazardous.

The City Council has authorized the City Attorney to initiate a **lawsuit against manufacturers and distributors of opioids.** The proposed litigation will seek to recover monetary damages incurred by the City in responding to the opioid crisis in Minneapolis and injunctive and other relief. The City of Minneapolis joins a number of states, counties and cities across the country that have filed similar lawsuits against drug makers to help recoup costs associated with fighting the opioid epidemic.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (**MPRB**) has **banned all tobacco products** on Minneapolis park properties and owned and/or operated facilities.

The Minneapolis City Council has passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination against Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher holders. Under the ordinance, landlords will only be obligated to consider to renting to voucher holders. That means a landlord cannot refuse to rent, impose unique standards, or otherwise treat HCV holders differently from tenants without vouchers. Landlords retain their ability to screen the voucher holders like other tenants using legal criteria.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Minneapolis Business Portal is a new online platform designed to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners to the information and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business. The online portal, available at business.minneapolismn.gov, features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources to help both new and existing businesses.

Kindred Kitchen, an initiative of Appetite for Change, hosts a new member weekly kitchen tour every Tuesday until Dec. 18 at 10am. Tours are hosted at Kindred Kitchen at 1206 W. Broadway Ave. Tours are your time to learn more about becoming a commercial kitchen member and our Northside Food Business Incubator, ask food business related questions, and jump into the kitchen. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1493935500702137/>.

Northside Economic Opportunity Network is now accepting applications for their brand new private office spaces that feature windows, open workspaces and more. There are several office space and pricing plans available, ranging from a drop-in guest pass (\$10/day) to a platinum plan (\$500/month with private office). For more information visit <https://www.neon-mn.org/spaces>

Northside Economic Opportunity Network's **Thinking About Business Workshops** will be held the third Saturday of every month from 9am-1pm at NEON's office (1007 W Broadway Ave). These workshops are ideal for pre-venture entrepreneurs who consider going into business for the first time. The July workshop will be held July 21. The workshops are free; tickets and more information are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thinking-about-business-workshop-tickets-37517470765>

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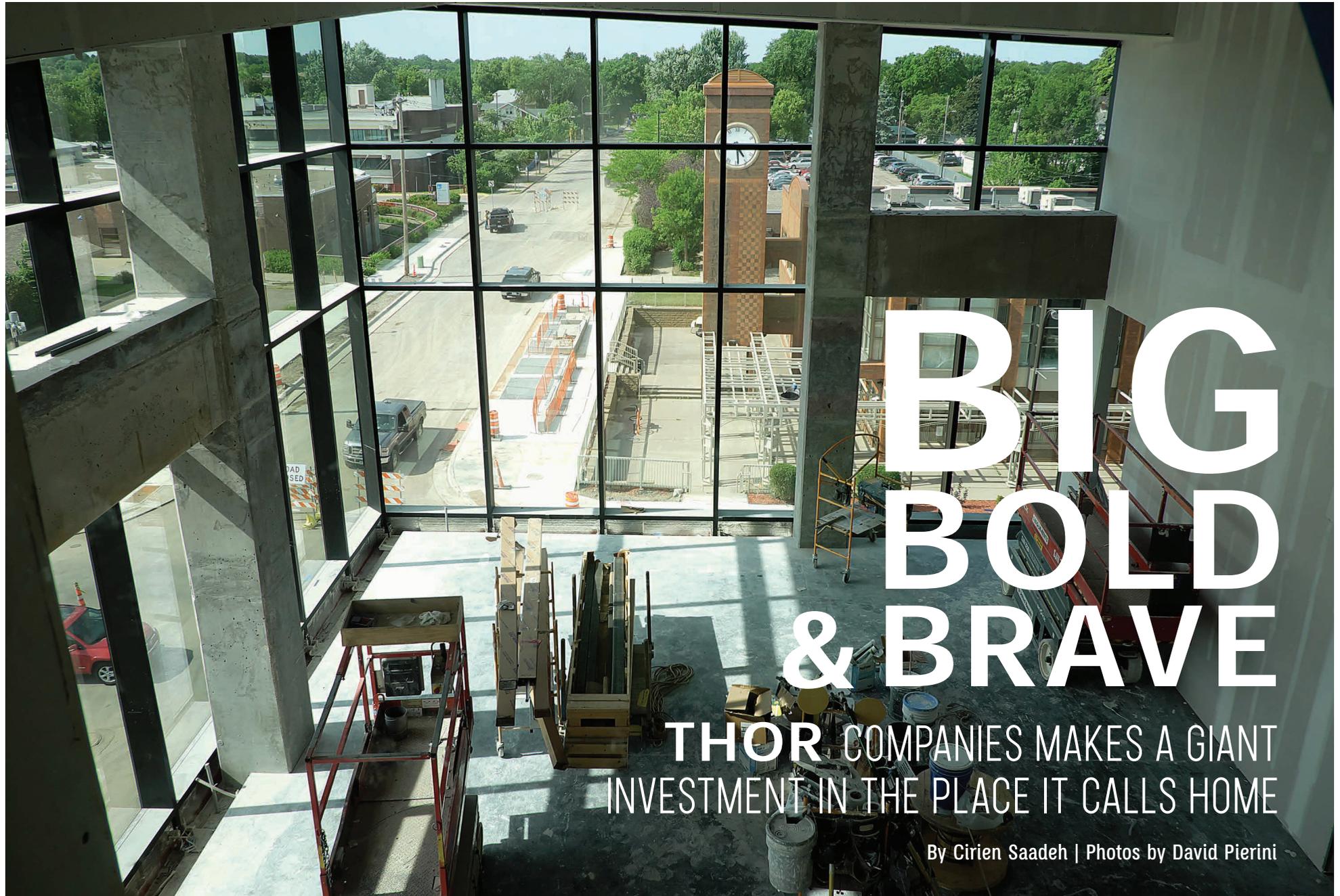
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Richard Copeland, the founder and chairman of the largest minority-owned construction company in the state – THOR Companies – was born in the Sumner-Olson housing projects in North Minneapolis, just blocks from his company’s nearly completed multi-million dollar headquarters at the Penn and Plymouth Ave. N intersection.

Over the past 39 years, Copeland has steadily grown his business. In his first year his annual volume was \$80,000; THOR now

makes that amount in five minutes. Copeland credits much of the company’s growth and success to its CEO Ravi Norman’s ambition.

In addition to their own \$36 million headquarters being built on Penn and Plymouth, THOR helped build the Minneapolis Urban League across the street and is currently the contractor on the Estes Funeral Chapel next door. Their own headquarters will be the home to six black CEOs. At the same time, THOR is one of the major developers working with the City of Minneapolis and the Min-

neapolis Parks and Recreation Board on the potential redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal. Across the country in Las Vegas, THOR is working on their biggest contract ever, a \$105 million build of an MGM Grand Convention Center on the strip.

This month Copeland sat down with *North News* to discuss his decades-long career in construction and his hopes for THOR’s presence in North Minneapolis.

Continued on Page 22

"I built my business organically. I drove the truck; I shoveled the dirt; I hammered the nail."

– **THOR** CHAIRMAN
RICHARD COPELAND



THOR Companies founder and chairman Richard Copeland is excited to have his first office with a view in THOR's new headquarters building.

How do you define success? I define success by your ability to help others. We have to have resources to help others. I've had resources to help others achieve their dreams which helps me achieve mine.

How do you define failure? I've spend a lot of my time focusing on my failures and the organization's failures rather than taking the time to celebrate all of the successes I've had and we've had as a company. Failure is something I face and run from every day. That's what has driven me to be successful – fear of failure.

What legacy would you like to leave your community? Leave it a better place than I found it. It seems like there is very little progress in the community. We have ebbs and flows. We have successes and a lot of failures, but the struggle continues. From when I first started, some of the same problems that confront the community still do. We gain ground, and then we lose ground. It's like it's static. I want to leave the community a better place and the city in a better place because of my influence in it and on it.

How did you come up with the name THOR for your company? We were sitting around over a case of beer. I went to do an estimate and the people were surprised to see me coming through the door. They thought they were going to see a Norwegian guy or a European guy. We were talking,

and we were laughing, like "we should name the company THOR and surprise everybody when we show up." The next morning, I got up and they had written THOR on the side of my pickup truck. It stuck. I guess I get the last laugh.

What challenges have you experienced running a significant minority owned company in a field that is predominantly white? How much time you got? I've seen and faced it all. I've been blacklisted. People have tried to put me out of business many times. You have to keep your head down and stay vigilant, because there are forces at work that don't want to see you be successful on both sides of the community – majority community and minority community. I've grown a lot. I've learned a lot. And things I had to do to get where I've gotten are things I would never do any more. When you're up to your ass in alligators and you work all day and do marketing and billing at night...it's cost me a couple marriages. But staying vigilant and having that ability to get back up when you're knocked down is probably one of my greatest strengths. I'm used to getting knocked down, but I always get back up. It just makes me more determined to fight the good fight.

What do you want THOR's relationship with the Northside to be? I want to have a positive impact on the Northside. I live on the Northside. We are actively engaging businesses to try and get them to move to the Northside. We want to be the first catalyst of this economic engine that's going to drive the revitalization of this community.

Why build at this intersection of Penn and Plymouth? This is where the riots were – both my brothers went to jail.

Black people couldn't buy gasoline at the gas station. This was a thriving Jewish community at that time. Then they built the McDonald's right where we are. Then I built the Urban League across the street. It was one of my first big projects, I don't know how long ago it was but a long time ago. This corner had the land available. It has visibility and proximity to downtown which made it very attractive to us. Plus, I can walk to work.

Do you foresee any challenges being here at this intersection? We're filling a large void in this community. The challenges that we're going to face on this corner are unknown to us now. We're not here yet. Ask me in a year.

What are your hopes for the intersection? My hope for the intersection is to be a beacon of hope for the entire community, not just the Northside. Revitalizing this community and making the Northside vibrant with tax paying residents helps our entire community. We're only as good as our weakest link. And so our hope is to strengthen this part of the community in an overall effort to help the entire community.

How will your headquarters help that weakest link? Like I said, it's a beacon of hope, and it's the first of many businesses that will relocate to this community. We're one of the developers on Upper Harbor, which is 48 acres on the river on the Northside. Between this property and that one there are a lot of vacant spaces. We see that as an opportunity – as an asset, not a liability. And we are going to try to drive more economics to this part of the community. And this land here on the corner is the beacon that is going to draw people to the Northside.



D'Angelos Svenkerson, vice president of THOR development, gave a tour of the company's new headquarters on June 18.

Many folks in this community fear the possibility of gentrification. What are your thoughts on that? It takes integration. A community shouldn't be strictly made up of one ethnic group or two ethnic groups. The thought behind Heritage Park – it's the largest economically integrated community in the entire state of Minnesota. With that economic integration comes cultural and racial integration. So I think it's a positive thing. People shouldn't be pushed out of a community; others should be invited in.

What reactions are you getting from community now that your building is here? Can you hurry up and finish so we can get some peace and quiet over here? Those are the kinds of calls we get. It's a real aggressive effort. We made a lot of noise building this building. We're hoping to get this done, Estes done, and the roadway done and get the flow of people and commerce moving again.

What is your favorite part of the new building? The community room. We'll have a stretching machine and a ping pong table and couches and a square where people can get in and huddle down. I'm excited about having an office with a view. I told a traffic manager at Ford Motor Company one time – "someday I'm going to have an office on a second floor with a view overlooking the city." She laughed at me and said "don't be silly." I remember that to this day. I said "Mary Lou, you watch." Of course, she has long since passed away but she's looking down and she's not laughing at me anymore.

What advice do you have for young Northside entrepreneurs who are trying to get their own idea or businesses off the ground? I built my business organically. I drove the truck; I shoveled the dirt; I hammered the nail. And I did it just by taking in more money on average than I spent. I got back up when I was knocked down. I seized opportunities. I would say to a young entrepreneur — take baby steps so that when you fall over, you're not going so fast that you kill yourself. Accumulate over time and be patient and kind to yourself. Understand that you'll take two steps forward and sometimes you'll have to take three steps back. But over all, over time, you can accumulate wealth and responsibility. And, be generous with folks.

What is one moment in your career that you would do over again? I used to have a real fiery temper. I would stick my foot in my mouth. I made a lot of enemies. To this day there are general contractors in this town who swear they'd never work with me, who talk about me, and bad mouth me. One of the diversity directors for one of the biggest construction companies in town told me, "our company has a diversity initiative and a diversity officer because of you. Our owners hate you, but we're a better company because of you." So I've had that kind of impact, and I've taken a lot of shots in the back of the head for things I've said and the aggressive attitude I've taken. At one point the vast majority of our businesses, 85% of our business, was in other markets because of some of the things I've done here or the stand I've taken or the mistakes I've made. When you are growing a business you make a lot of mistakes and so cutting your teeth and bouncing back from your mistakes, there's a lot of fallout. And when I make a mistake, it's big and by that I mean it's blown out of proportion. Having made those mistakes, having started with \$200, there's a lot of bodies along the way.

How do you want this space to transform your company? We've been in Class C office space my whole life. We worked out of my house to start. We've never had that polished image of a successful company. Now we're moving into Class A space in the heart of the community. That says a lot about us, about the community, about the city. The county has been phenomenal in getting us to this point. Target has been phenomenal. We do work for Target, and Target is a lease holder in this space. So many people have leaned in to make this possible. On our side, Ravi Norman, the CEO of THOR Companies, has done things and taken us to places I never could have. So I try to give some guidance; no one listens to me anymore, but I'm here for the ride. I work on the business, but mainly I work in the business.

Favorite career moment so far? I can't isolate one. The groundbreaking here. The groundbreaking on the Xcel Energy arena. Winning five bids in one day. Being the first minority company to ever build a structure on the Las Vegas Strip, a \$25 million sales center, and being the first minority company to have an unlimited license in Nevada. To have touched and had my hand on every sports facility in this community. The milestones are endless. I couldn't possibly have a favorite moment in the business.

What is your favorite building? This is my favorite structure we've ever built. But probably one of my favorite projects; we were the contractor on the largest hotel remodel job in the history of the world. We remodeled 5000 rooms in 50 weeks at MGM Grand. It was 100 rooms a week and the logistics of that to make that project operation was a feat. I never saw it coming or thought we'd figure it out but we did, and we came in \$5 million under budget. I mean right now our company does as much volume in five minutes as what I did in my whole first year in business.

Who do you admire in this community? I don't know if it's commonplace or not, but so many people take credit for our success. Rather than feeling like I'm not getting enough credit or whatever, I look at that as a positive that so many people have led to the success of the company. I'm not a very smart guy; I'm not a great business man or contractor, but what I have been is an open vessel for people to lean in on for people to create this amazing company. It's really been a product of the environment not a product of my work.



FLOW Northside Arts Crawl Artist Application Open

Are you a Northside Artist? Apply to participate in the 13th annual FLOW Northside Arts Crawl!

**APPLY AT
WBC.SUBMITTABLE.COM**

Contact FLOW Artist Coordinator Felicia Perry with any questions
feliciaperry@westbroadway.org

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