

NORTH NEWS

November 29, 2018

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the December edition of *North News*.

Earlier this month, I had breakfast with Macalester College Professor Mahmoud El-Kati at Avenue Eatery. Over bacon and egg sandwiches, he told me how he is fixated on the idea of race as a pervasive myth, as an idea that continues to infect our societies despite its unscientific origins. He explained how he thinks about racism as zealotry, as a harmful story that is as powerful as religion.

I think a lot about the harm that widely told and rarely interrogated stories can do, especially when decades go

by and so many of us become detached from the people and cultures they came from in the first place. This time of year, I question my relationship with the Thanksgiving story. As my family celebrates the holiday with a feast, football, and a turkey trot, it's easy to sideline the stories our celebrations stem from and become complicit in erasing our country's history of genocide as we celebrate a falsely reductive story about indigenous Americans and European settlers peacefully sharing a meal together.

Dr. El-Kati also shared with me his devotion to destroying the story of race, and he explained how Albert Einstein is an important figure to think about in that context. Einstein, El-Kati explained, understood how imagination is often superior to intelligence—how the future tends to be architected by those who imagine new stories and dream us creatively into entirely new paradigms.

This month I've felt thankful to be

surrounded by dreamers. Dreamers like the folks that make up Pillsbury United Communities' leadership team who invited truth-teller Shaun King to be the organization's annual fundraiser's keynote speaker (Page 16).

Dreamers like many of our new elected officials, who are bringing under—and never—represented identities and new ideas to positions of power. Read more about Kimberly Caprini, Irene Fernando, Fue Lee, Raymond Dehn, Keith Ellison, Ilhan Omar, and others who won transformational races on Nov. 6 on Page 11.

It was with great sadness that I wrote about two of the Northside's most influential and inspirational dreamers—Houston and Donise White. In early November, Donise transitioned after battling an illness that took her life. Together Donise and Houston created HWMR, an incubator for new narratives about black folks and the Northside—the kind of stories that make you believe that chronic disin-

vestment can be overcome, that resiliency will win, that new ways of existing less violently together as humans will manifest in our lifetimes. Houston is still dreaming and has created a scholarship fund in his wife's name. Read about it on Page 21.

As this holiday season continues, I'll be enjoying time with my family, interrogating the stories we perpetuate through our celebrations, grieving the losses of this year, and feeling hopeful about where our emergent leaders will take us in our next journey around the sun (and the journalism we'll get to create about them!). Dr. El-Kati says he would never want to live in any time but this one. He says it doesn't do much good to be anything but optimistic. I agree.

Stay warm out there,

Kenzie O'Keefe

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FREE PARKING

North Minneapolis *at a glance*

WCNO moves forward with new board members



At its annual meeting on Nov. 8, Webber Camden community members elected many new board members to their neighborhood organization after months of controversy and tension. Board members are: Ebani Butler, Casey Fritz, Anna Gerdeen, Leslie Grilley, Johnnie Johnson, Nina Robertson, Pat Suhrbier, Lisa Totushek, Houston White, and Robin Lewis. Both the mayor and Ward 4 Councilmember Phillippe Cunningham attended the meeting. Cunningham praised attendees for participating in healthy democracy at the local level. "It's been amazing to watch that happen and be part of it," he told the crowd.

Photo by Kenzie O'Keefe

Veterans honored at flagpole on Armistice Day



A few hundred people gathered at Victory Memorial in North Minneapolis Sunday for a Veteran's Day ceremony that marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Dignitaries looks turns speaking at the podium and the crowd was visibly moved by the vocals of gospel singer Robert Robinson, who sang three songs, including the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America." A group of Junior ROTC cadets from the General Colin L. Powell Leadership Academy presented the colors and an honor guard from VFW Post 494 fired three volleys to honor those who lost their lives serving their country. Following a moment of silence, a C-130 H3 transport plane flew over the flag flying over Victory Memorial Plaza to conclude the event. **See more photos from the event by David Pierini on Page 4.**

Lead and asthma remediation dollars to be spent in North

The Northern Metals Advisory Council met Nov. 19 to discuss environmental justice issues and over \$500,000 in remedy funds secured for the community for asthma and lead remediation. According to Roxanne O'Brien, a community and environmental justice organizer, the meeting was a great success as the advisory council decided to use the funds to connect directly with community through schools (and school nurses) as well as clinics. The advisory council hopes to work with families, educating them about lead and asthma issues, as well as the environmental justice organizing happening around Northern Metals. Those suffering from asthma or lead issues can contact O'Brien at 612-434-8868 or Mindstates22@yahoo.com. The advisory council is also seeking partnerships with clinics and schools to discuss asthma and lead remedies.

City of Minneapolis seeks public comment on 2019 budget

The City of Minneapolis' final public hearing seeking public comment on the 2019 budget is scheduled for Dec. 5 at 6:05pm at Minneapolis City Hall. Comments can also be submitted online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>. The mayor's recommended city budget is \$1.6 billion. Other public hearings were held in Nov. 2018.

Minneapolis Park Board names Superintendent finalists

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board has named its finalists in its search for the next MPRB superintendent. The finalists are Alfred Kent Bangoura, the Recreation Superintendent for Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Subhajeet Seve Ghose, the Director of Louisville Parks and Recreation in Louisville, Kentucky.

Interviews were held in Nov. 2018; an announcement announcing the new superintendent is expected to be made in late Nov. or mid-Dec. 2018. The MPRB Superintendent provides day-to-day leadership for the 6,811-acre park system. MPRB has also extended its contract with Interim Superintendent Mary Merrill through the end of 2018.

CM Ellison leads talks around moving MPD 4th Precinct

According to a *Star Tribune* article, Minneapolis City Councilmember Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) is in discussions with city staff about the possibility of moving the Minneapolis Police Department's 4th Precinct in an effort to spur economic growth on the Northside. The proposal, which was co-written by former city council candidate Ian Alexander, has long been quiet, according to the *Star Tribune*, but if it goes through the precinct would be moved to one of two other Northside locations

by 2024: one a few blocks away from its current location and another near Hawthorne Crossings.

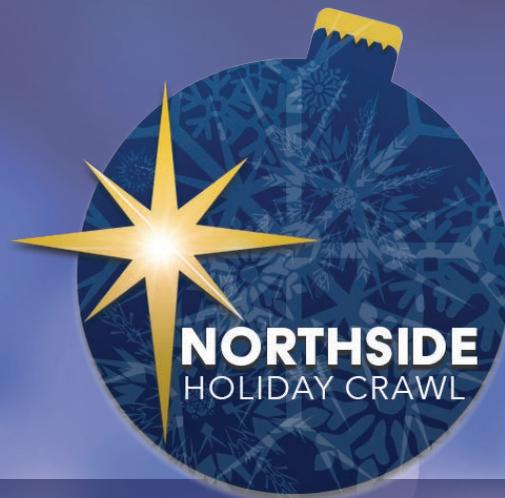
Upper Harbor Terminal survey results now available

Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board (MPRB), as well as the City of Minneapolis, and other project planners are currently compiling the results of survey recently released on the future of the Upper Harbor Terminal. 259 people responded to the survey. Organized survey results will be shared with the community in late-Nov. or early-Dec. 2018. MPRB will be asked to approve a "minimum park boundary" and the Minneapolis City Council will be asked to consider — and approve — the updated concept plan in early 2019, tentatively. To view survey results, check out: http://upperharbormpls.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-10-21_UHTSurvey-FULL-no-names.pdf.

Veterans Day continued from Page 3...



Above: Cadet Maria Herrera and José Dominguez-Rosas plant the flag in front of the stage near Victory Memorial. *Left, Above:* A C-130 transport plane flies over Victory Memorial Plaza in North Minneapolis to conclude Sunday's Veteran's Day program. *Left, Below:* Kathleen Richert, right, places a red poppy in the hat of Suzanne Newsome. *Photos by David Pierini*



THE NORTHSIDE HOLIDAY CRAWL FEATURES SHOPPING
AND EVENTS ALL ACROSS NORTH MINNEAPOLIS
FROM BLACK FRIDAY TO NEW YEARS DAY.

Every Saturday in December check out the Shop Northside Holiday Boutique at 931 West Broadway from 11am-4pm as well as local author readings and book sales at Avenue Eatery and art sale brunches at Breaking Bread.

More info at: northmpls.org/holidaycrawl or facebook.com/northsideholidaycrawl.

CATCH UP WITH OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Minneapolis City Councilmembers Phillippe Cunningham (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) were inaugurated in January 2018. *North News* has invited them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.



WARD 4: Phillippe Cunningham

Thank everyone for attending the last Quarterly Convening of 2018! We had a great group of residents participate. The meeting was organized into two parts: an overview of the 2019 proposed City budget and its impacts on the Northside, and an update on the Ward 4 Action Plan and progress on its goals.

It has been a busy, productive year in our office with leading and supporting some big work! First, the City Council unanimously passed the updated Conduct on Licensed Premises Ordinance, which clarifies the process and provides needed resources and services to tenants and landlords to sustainably address chronic criminal and disruptive behaviors in our neighborhoods. Before the end of the year, we will also pass pilot program, MFD mobile integrated healthcare, will provide low-level medical services during emergency calls. It is very costly to send out a \$500K fire truck for a strained ankle! This pilot program includes a 2019 budget investment for five new positions in the Fire Department to staff the work. By providing these medical services, the City is saving a lot of money AND research shows this greatly reduces return ER visits for aftercare and reduces the overall costs to the patient and taxpayers.

We are also working with our State Rep. Fue Lee to identify how we can more equitably address property/special assessments. While it is great we are finally seeing investments being made at a disproportionate rate in Northside roads, the additional cost burden of special assessments is placed on working people who cannot afford any extra expenses. You can defer the cost with interest if you are 65+ or have a disability; however, this can cause families to lose the ability to build generational wealth. If someone with unpaid assessments pass-



es away, the money becomes due immediately to their next of kin. We are working to determine what we can do to create a more equitable system.

With the recent tragic death of Travis Jordan, many on the Northside have been asking why the MPD's mental health co-responded program is not in the 4th Precinct (the Police Precinct that serves Wards 4 and 5). Because the 2019 proposed budget to expand applies only to downtown, I have been pushing for months for a city-wide expansion of the program, particularly to cover North Minneapolis. I am currently working with my City Council colleagues to include this citywide expansion, as well as a robust violence prevention investment package in the 2019 City budget.

My approach to public safety is through a public health lens. That means investing in evidence-based strategies for violence prevention, intervention, and enforcement, as well as addressing community and childhood trauma and the re-entry needs of the formerly incarcerated back into our community. I am wholeheartedly committed this work. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes and out in the community. I am leading the work to create the Office of Violence Prevention and Intervention. It is a national best practice to have such an office for all of the violence prevention efforts the City leads to be more effectively coordinated. Additionally, in 2019, we will be updating the Blueprint for Violence Prevention.



WARD 5: Jeremiah Ellison

On Thursday Nov. 15, we conducted our second Northside Assembly. Our attendance was good, and I'm hoping to continue to grow participation in this co-governance model. For those unfamiliar with People's Assemblies, I'd love to give you a bit of context.

I was first introduced to the assembly model when a friend told me about Mayor Chokwe Lumumba from Jackson, MS. Mayor Lumumba was elected in Jackson back in 2013, and while he passed away shortly after taking office, the legacy of his grassroots organizing and the mark it left on the local government are undeniable.

Essentially, assemblies are a way for community to co-create policies and move relevant political ideas forward. It's a form of direct democracy, and can serve doubly as a way to educate community on bureaucratic systems that would have otherwise remained invisible. Lumumba had been organizing these assemblies years before he got into office, and was able to use the co-creation/co-governance model to shape his campaign platform. Once the elections were over however, it was more important than ever to continue meeting. The assemblies were a good way to hold elected officials accountable and measure success.

While I didn't have the decades of foresight that Lumumba had, I knew that if elected, I wanted to solidify a co-governance model that demystified city processes and equipped my neighbors with the power to move a collective agenda. These first two Northside Assemblies were a success in that regard, but I think we can do much more to get neighbors involved.



Towards the end of our most recent assembly, the agenda had to be modified to accommodate the attendees of the Jamar Clark vigil. They were welcomed into the assembly, and many of them spoke very powerful words, and expressed their demand for a fair justice system. After the attendees of the vigil were done, many hung around to experience the closing remarks of the assembly, and expressed gratitude and interest in attending future assemblies.

Funny enough, what distinguishes these meetings from other city official-lead meetings is that they are regular. That might seem simple (and it kind of is), but one-off meetings can lack the kind of follow-up needed to really get a recognizable victory.

Our assemblies will continue to be regular. The next one will be on February 5th, 5pm at UROC. Come if you're interested in creating a policy agenda that we can pursue together. There's built in accountability and transparency here.

If you want a deep dive into what happens at the assemblies, sign up for newsletter at minneapolismn.gov/ward5, and always feel free to call or email us at 612-673-2205 or ward5@minneapolismn.gov.

New Northside gym opens in THOR HQ building

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

If you're looking for a community to get healthy with, ME & I Fitness is North Minneapolis' newest effort. The gym seeks to "motivate, educate, and inspire" people to a healthier way of life, while also giving them the chance to put themselves first. The gym's name plays on those dual goals. The "ME" is pronounced "M.E." and the "ME & I" stands for "motivate, educate, and inspire."

The gym, which opened the first week of Sept. 2018 in the new THOR Companies building (1256 Penn Ave.) is owned by Jeffrey Scott, a longtime Northsider, who calls the gym his "homecoming," after leaving a 25-year career in the financial sector. Scott also has over a decade of personal training experience on the side, and he still owns an emotional intelligence consulting business.

"The whole idea is we want to motivate people to take control of their lives and make changes that impact their lives, educate them about how to do that, and inspire them to move forward and actually take the action. Ultimately that is the bottom line," said Scott.

ME & I Fitness focuses on functional fitness. The gym offers both group training and personal training, alongside neuro rehab therapy/sports training, as well as several fitness classes with the hope to grow to somewhere between 25-30 classes a week.



Rachel Capeder does a set of exercises using free-weights under the supervision of personal trainer Grace Witthuhn. According to Witthuhn, personal training agreements begin with a fitness assessment and a fitness consultation. Witthuhn charges \$70 for every 60-minute session. Photos by Cirien Saadeh



Jeffrey Scott, owner of ME & I Fitness and North High School graduate, also owns an emotional intelligence consulting firm. The gym is owned by that firm.

According to Scott, Saturday's Body Pump class is particularly popular and they hope to begin offering "Strong by Zumba" (think workout routines set to music by the producer Timberland, instead of dance) in December. They also have functional training equipment, including kettlebells, medicine balls, and resistance bands, alongside a whole host of cardio equipment, including WiFi-enabled treadmills.

The gym is 18+, but for younger athletes doing performance training with parent supervision. Locker rooms are unisex, with mirror-less individual showers and bathrooms, and a shared sink and mirror space. Scott currently employs five personal trainers, including himself, and more trainers are welcome to rent space at the gym for a daily rate.

"As a trainer my focus is functional movement and then improving your overall quality of life. Aesthetic goals follow from that," said Grace Witthuhn, a trainer who joined

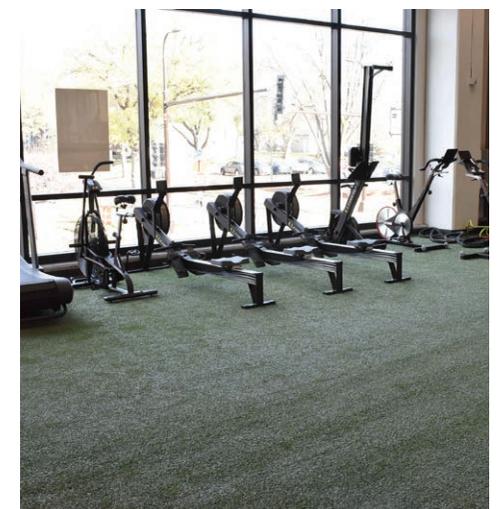
the gym around a month ago. According to Witthuhn she likes the gym because of Scott's focus on a clean space and its community-oriented mindset. Witthuhn joined the gym alongside a client of hers, Rachel Capeder.

"It's a really great space. So welcoming. People are really helpful," said Capeder, who like Witthuhn, travels from St. Paul to workout at the new gym, often at 6am in the morning, if not earlier. "The feeling of accomplishment from doing the workouts, that's my favorite part of this."

The gym is open seven days a week. On Monday through Friday, they are open from 6am-9pm, on Saturday they are open from 8am-6pm, and on Sunday they are open from 11am-3pm.

For those interested in signing up, you can stop by the gym during any of its open hours, register online, or through its app, "ME & I Fitness." Membership pricing, along with group and personal training pricing, is avail-

able on their website. There is also a daily drop-in rate of \$10/day and a class drop-in rate of \$15.



ME & I Fitness is home to a large empty area of grassy turf which members can use for a variety of exercises. Machines can be moved around the space as needed.

Shop local

YOUR GUIDE TO NORTHSIDE HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

With the holiday season underway, North Minneapolis small business owners and entrepreneurs have come together to offer more opportunities than ever for the community to keep its dollars in the neighborhood.

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter



1 Demery's Aromatherapy Spa Elements
Soaps, salts, and shampoos (for yourself and your pet) from Demery's Aromatherapy Spa Elements. Prices vary (bars are **\$5** and doggie shampoo is **\$10**). Check them out online or email them at demerysinc@gmail.com.



2 Nature's Syrup
Nature's Syrup specializes in body butters, organic deodorants, lip and hand nectars, and leave-in conditioners. Prices vary (lip nectars are **\$5** and body butters are **\$20**). You can find Nature's Syrup at Bella's Beauty and Hair in Brooklyn Park and online at www.naturesyrup.com and an assortment of their goods at the Theodore Wirth Park Trailhead.



4 YumYum Brownies
YumYum Brownies sells brownie jars, rice krispie treats, and other sweets. Buy individually or in packs. Owned by youth entrepreneur Jerrilyn Shephard, YumYum Brownies sells brownies all over Minneapolis-St. Paul with an ever-changing schedule. Contact them via Facebook or Instagram to place an order.



5 Shaka Attack
These animal storage zip bins are adorable gifts and make cleaning up fun for your littles, which is a present for moms and dads too. Storage bins are **\$34.99** and come in a variety of animal shapes and sizes: giraffes, monkeys, hippos, and elements. Other child-friendly gifts include tummy time pillows, playmats, and floor cushions. Shaka Attack, is owned by Nikeisha Brathwaite, a Northsider, who sells her goods online at www.shaka-attack.com.



6 Thought Healing
Floyd Williams, owner of Thought Healing, is an energy healer and author who sells stones and crystals, and offers energy healing and aura photography. "Energy reading is about showing and revealing to a person their full potential. It restores balance," said Williams. Williams' Book, "A Thesis on Self," is **\$10**, stones are **\$5-\$20**. More information: www.thought-healing.info.



3 The Pragmatic Artisan
Meesh Barlow, or The Pragmatic Artisan, is a local artist who sells her art at The Goddess of Glass. Barlow's fine jewelry ranges in price, from **\$18-\$300**. Barlow also makes laser-cut wood purses, also available at The Goddess of Glass.



7 Johanna Morrow
Johanna Morrow is a Northside artist who sells her work at The Goddess of Glass (4400 Osseo Rd.) These small paintings are **\$18** and make an excellent stocking stuffer.

Beautiful Classy Driven (BCD) and the West Broadway Coalition will be hosting **four holiday themed-week-end boutiques at 931 W Broadway**. The Dec. 1 boutique will be focused on holiday fashion. Dec. 8's theme is handmade holiday gifts. Dec. 15 is holiday stocking stuffers and white elephant/secret Santa gifts. Dec. 22 is dedicated to last-minute shoppers.

Sanctuary Covenant Church (2018 Aldrich Ave N) will be hosting **"Christmas on Broadway," on Dec. 1** from 6pm-8:30pm. The Christmas event will have holiday treats, pony rides, a Christmas tree lighting, and a Christmas Market and Holiday Maker Fair. For more information, visit: sanctuarycov.org/events-main/christmas-on-broadway.

This year's **Holiday on 44th**, a Northside tradition, will be held **Dec. 7** from 6pm-9pm. While Holiday on 44th is not really for shopping—the event seeks to bring to life a winter wonderland on 44th between Morgan and Upton—there will be a craft fair. Holiday on 44th is a free, family-friendly event. For more information visit www.holidayon44th.com.

Plymouth Christian Youth Center (2210 Oliver Ave N) will be holding a **Children's Gift Sale on Dec. 8** from 9am-1pm. For just \$1, young Northsiders can pick out five gifts for their loved ones.

Plymouth Ave Art Studio (2404 Plymouth Ave N) will be hosting a **Holiday Craft Market on Dec. 8** from 10am-6pm. For more information search Plymouth Ave Art Studio on Facebook.

POP UP EVENTS

Tooties on Lowry, a longtime Northside establishment, will be hosting a **"Mix & Mingle: Holiday Market," on Dec. 15**, from 12pm-4pm. The pop-up's vendors will be selling locally made glass art, spices, jewelry, home decor, Tooties' gift baskets, and hand knit hats. For more information check out the Facebook page for Tooties on Lowry.



The school board report

Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Minneapolis residents overwhelmingly voted yes on two MPS referendum questions during the Nov. election. The MPS Board must adopt the levies proposed in the referendum questions on Dec. 28. Read more on Page 13.

The Board voted for schools to start after Labor Day for the next three school years. The calendars for those two school years still include a two-week winter break and a one-week spring break. According to an MPS press release announcing the new first-days-of-school, over 7000 people completed an online calendar survey on school schedules and over 80% of those individuals voted for a post-Labor Day start time.

Online enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is now open for MPS students: schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us.

MPS will host an Early Childhood Education "Birth to Kindergarten Resource Fair" on Dec. 1 in South and Dec. 8. in North at the Mona Moede Early Learning Center (2410 Girard Ave N., Door #14). 9am-1pm.

The MPS Board of Directors discussed legislative priorities during its Nov. 13 Business Meeting. In a memo written by MPS Superintendent Ed Graff, Graff discussed his legislative priorities amidst the changing power dynamics in the State Legislature, as well as the new Governor-Elect, Tim Walz. Graff prioritizes increased funding for English learners, special education, general education service, access to services supporting families including child care assistance, community-based mental health services, and affordable health care, and reducing the length of state tests for high school students and funding the ACT for all students.

The next MPS Board of Education Business Meeting is Dec. 11, beginning at 5:30pm. The next MPS Committee of the Whole is Dec. 18, beginning at 6pm. Both will be held at the Davis Center (1250 W Broadway Ave).

Educator Spotlight: Tamala Washington-Green

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Tamala Washington-Green, Secretary at Olson Middle School, is new to Olson, but not new to North Minneapolis. She has worked for Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) since Sept. 2007, as office manager in the district offices for the College & Career Readiness department. Before that, she was school secretary at Bethune Elementary School and the media clerk at North High School. Washington-Green was born and raised in South New Jersey, but she has lived in the Northside since 1989 and has two MPS graduates, one a Polar and the other a Patriot. Washington-Green's recommenders, which included a North High alumna as well as a parent and their student from Olson, nominated her for the Educator Spotlight because of her gentle demeanor and her love for Northside kids.

What does a day in your life at Olson look like? There really isn't a typical day and I think what I appreciate most about the work is the variety. Most days I start out with a plan, but most mornings, I rarely get to execute it because the needs of the building are ever-changing and you just need to adjust and adapt to meet them. But, primarily, my goal is to make sure our busses are getting in for our students on time, making sure our parents have communication about a late or disabled bus, so that they can communicate with their student, greeting our customers and families and clients as they come in, and answering phone calls about attendance. Then I get those calls from families, the first thing I want to do is acknowledge that their child is ill and tell them that I'm sorry to hear that and let them know that we're looking forward to seeing their student back the next day. Some days I'll walk in and we'll have four subs waiting; sometimes there are none.

What is your role within the school community? The teachers, they are the planners. They come up with the big ideas and then my job is to make sure that all of the small details fall into place so that it actually happens. Field trips are an example. Teachers and staff will decide what is an



Washington-Green sits at her desk in the Olson Middle School office. Washington-Green is new to Olson, but not new to MPS. Photo by Cirien Saadeh

appropriate field trip or what is an exciting thing that is coming up, but instead of having them bogged down with the details like finding the bus, getting permission slips, getting lunch, and all of that, I will take over those pieces and that will allow them to stay in the planning and focusing on developing and delivering a curriculum for that field trip. My role is to make sure that the plans and goals and expectations can be implemented in the building, whether that is making sure we have enough supplies, enough staff members, that all of our equipment is working, and making sure that all of the little things that need to happen are in place.

What makes you passionate about this work? To make sure students know that they have options and choices. That is important to me.

What is your favorite student memory? A student had a difficult encounter with another student and was very upset by what had happened. Even though I'm the office support staff, I could tell that the student was in crisis, and so I left behind my desk to see about that student and to just make myself available by being warm and by letting them know that I care about what happened with them, and that we could talk it through and resolve it. What I didn't realize was that the student was truly struggling

with a personal issue and my care for them meant I could connect them with the social worker and our speech pathologist to work through those issues. Having the opportunity to build trust with someone and then direct them to someone who could offer support was an impactful and memorable moment for me.

What do you love about North Minneapolis and why work in Northside schools? Community recognition. I came from a very small town where you had one school and one grocery store; you just knew everybody. For me, I want our students to know that there are people caring about them right here in the community. They see me at the grocery store and at the laundromat. It is that reflection of someone who looks like you, that is in your immediate community on a regular basis. It's a sense of connection even though I don't know everyone, a sense of familiarity that often makes you want to step your game up.

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, email North News at ciriens@pillsburyunited.org. Please provide contact information for the person you recommend.

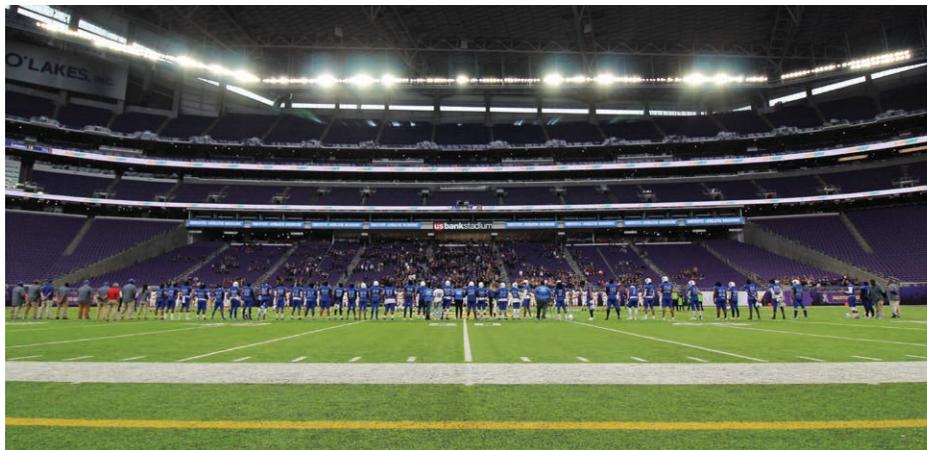


Student stories

North News has a journalism class partnership with North High School. 14-18 year old students in our class produce stories about their communities each month. Here's what they came up with in December.

Polars make it to state semi-finals; lose to Barnesville

The North High Polars football team advanced to the Class 2A semifinals on Nov. 16 at U.S. Bank Stadium. They lost to Barnesville High School, 20-34. It was their first loss of the season. They have made it to the state tournament in three out of the last four years. In 2016, they won the Class 1A championship title. *Photos by Timya Carlisle, Eddie Beamon, and Sam Wilbur*



Bussing to school: safety hazard vs convenience

DeShawn Davis | North High

High school students who attend Minneapolis Public Schools have been taking Metro Transit buses instead of yellow school buses since 2012. It's been a mixed experience for students.

Students benefit in some ways by having the free Metro Transit passes from MPS. It helps them be more flexible and have freedom in their lives. North High junior Taurus Murry Jr. said, "I would choose the transit card because I can leave the house when I want to. Then when school is over I can hang out for like a 35-45 minutes with the guys, and [then] I go to the gym. Then when I leave from the gym, I be needing a way home if my mom don't come pick me up." He relies on his Metro Transit pass for that.

Most students don't always have the funds to get on the bus without the transit card MPS gives them. Students wouldn't be able to go to the mall, go to their friends' houses, go out to eat, and get to work without these cards. The Metro Transit card helps students financially by letting them use it Monday-Sunday, 5:00AM-10:00PM. Without it they would have to pay \$2.50 to ride the bus each time. It's nice to have many bus options.

But there are some downsides to using Metro Transit busses versus yellow school busses. Safety for the students on Metro Transit busses is not always guaranteed. A lot of students have to worry about "A lot of people [that] be pretty drunk or high," said North High student Brandon Tucker. "[It's] too many people crowded and just always late."

Road construction as well has made things confusing. When student were asked if they thought it was fair for district to switch from the yellow school busses to the Metro Transit busses, Tucker said, "No, because someone's life can be endangered on the city bus, and they should have at least let us know so we could be the ones to pick one or the other."

Despite the issues most students would say the Metro Transit bus pass is still beneficial even with the consequences that go along with it.

Lucy Laney parents take on local liquor store

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Every morning Chaun Webster and Verna Wong walk their fourth and third grader across Cleveland Park to school. Often, they are alarmed by what they encounter there.

"I walk my kids to school in the morning and we see broken liquor bottles and people passed out in the park," said Webster.

According to Lucy Laney Principal Mauri Friestleben, the park has been a longtime concern of school parents and neighborhood members. The school is located next to a sober house, Affirmation House, as well as a liquor store, Union Liquors. According to Friestleben and others, too often the park (which includes a school playground) is trashed with liquor bottles and populated by people who are drunk or passed out.

"I've been here for ten years. It's always been a question or concern. There's been a few things—a car accident in the alley

last summer, the sober house, so over the years it's always remained a topic," said Friestleben. "We have about 500 kids here and they are the future and what they see when they come to school, walk to school, leave school matters."

Webster and Wong began organizing parents around the liquor store in Summer 2018. They have held meetings meant to engage parents, students, faculty, staff, and community members in discussions about student safety and parent concerns. Weber says progress has been slow.

"It's not up to me to decide what we should be organizing for. We need to keep meeting and the parents need to make the decision about what they want to see happen for their children," he said.

According to Friestleben, at the park, parents are currently discussing a letter they received from Councilmember Philippe Cunningham regarding the issue, and once they have formulated a response to

it, they will schedule their next meeting. The letter from Cunningham discusses a number of issues including some of the ways in which the sober house, Affirmation House, and the work that Regulatory Services are doing to get the sober house back in compliance. The letter also touches on the liquor store and the proximity of the liquor store to Lucy Laney.

"People have been asking questions. They don't want to criminalize the customers, but they want to hold the students up in high esteem. There has been a concern about the high concentration of liquor stores in North Minneapolis. And the location of a liquor store next to a park. There's been a lot of conversation around the historical context, understanding the old school and when that was built in the 20s, when Union Liquor opened, when the new Cleveland site was planned, what sorts of rights the liquor store has planned, and the conversations between parents is that

it doesn't really matter to them. If I bought a house and wanted to put my roots down I would do everything I could to make the place a better place," said Friestleben.

Lucy Laney is currently a Pre-K-5 school and used to be a Pre-K-8 school. The current school was built in the late 1990s, inspired by the former Cleveland School that sits where the current Lowry Ave. post office is located. According to a Lucy Laney social media post, the former Cleveland School was built before the Union Liquor Store was built, but the current school was not.

Union Liquors is owned by JPOC Inc. JPOC's CEO is James O'Connell. According to State of Minnesota liquor license records, Union Liquors opened in Nov. 1992. The owners of Union Liquor could not be reached for comment.

This is a developing story. North News will continue to update you as it unfolds.



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2018 ELECTION RUNDOWN

Voter turnout was high citywide; referendums passed, and women of color finished hard-fought campaigns with historic victories.

Kenzie O'Keefe | Editor

The fate of the state and the country felt at stake in the Nov. 6 midterm election. Democrats were hoping to take back majorities in both the state and federal governments' legislative branches.

Despite a history of low voter turnout, the Northside, which tends to vote overwhelmingly Democratic, seemed energized by the possibility of a big blue wave. Northside resident Bernadette Roberts was among the first in line to vote at her polling place on election morning. "[Voting] is essential, especially in these days and times when people are being led astray. ...because of past years of apathy in this community, I make a point to vote. I've never missed an election since I came of age. I try to represent those that don't vote," she said.

Campaigning at Breaking Bread Café in North Minneapolis on voting day, Keith Ellison was quick to acknowledge all he saw as at stake in the election. "I think it's important for us to shift the dynamic and really assert a more inclusive vision for the country. Let's start right here in Minnesota, right here in North Minneapolis," he said.

And Northsiders did. North Minneapolis voters elected the first woman of color to the District 2 Hennepin County board seat. They helped elect Northside resident Kimberly Caprini to an at-large school board seat and propelled Ellison to the MN Attorney General position.

RESULTS

Minneapolis Public School Board

Of the four candidates running for the two open at-large seats on the board, Kimberly Caprini and Josh Pauley prevailed with 33.6% and 28.7% of the vote respectively. Incumbent Rebecca Gagnon and Northsider Sharon El Amin landed 18.8% and 18.2% of votes.

Hennepin County Commissioner for District 2

Irene Fernando defeated Blong Yang with 57.5% of the vote, becoming one of the first people of color to sit on the Hennepin County board. Angela Conley of District 4 shares the first-time title with Fernando.

Hennepin County Attorney

Incumbent Mike Freeman comfortably defeated Mark Haase with 54% of the vote.

Hennepin County Sherriff

Dave Hutch narrowly defeated incumbent Rich Stanek by 2,340 votes in a tight race where over 500,000 votes were cast.

State Representative for District 59A

Incumbent Fue Lee easily won a second term in his seat with 86% of the vote.

State Representative for District 5BA

Incumbent Raymond Dehn secured his house seat again, landing 82.3% of votes.

Minnesota Attorney General

Keith Ellison defeated Doug Wardlow with 49% of the vote. Despite polling in the final weeks of the race that put Wardlow in the lead, he landed just 45.1% of votes in the race.

Minnesota Governor

Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan defeated Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom with 53.8% of the vote, compared to Johnson and Bergstrom's 42.4%.

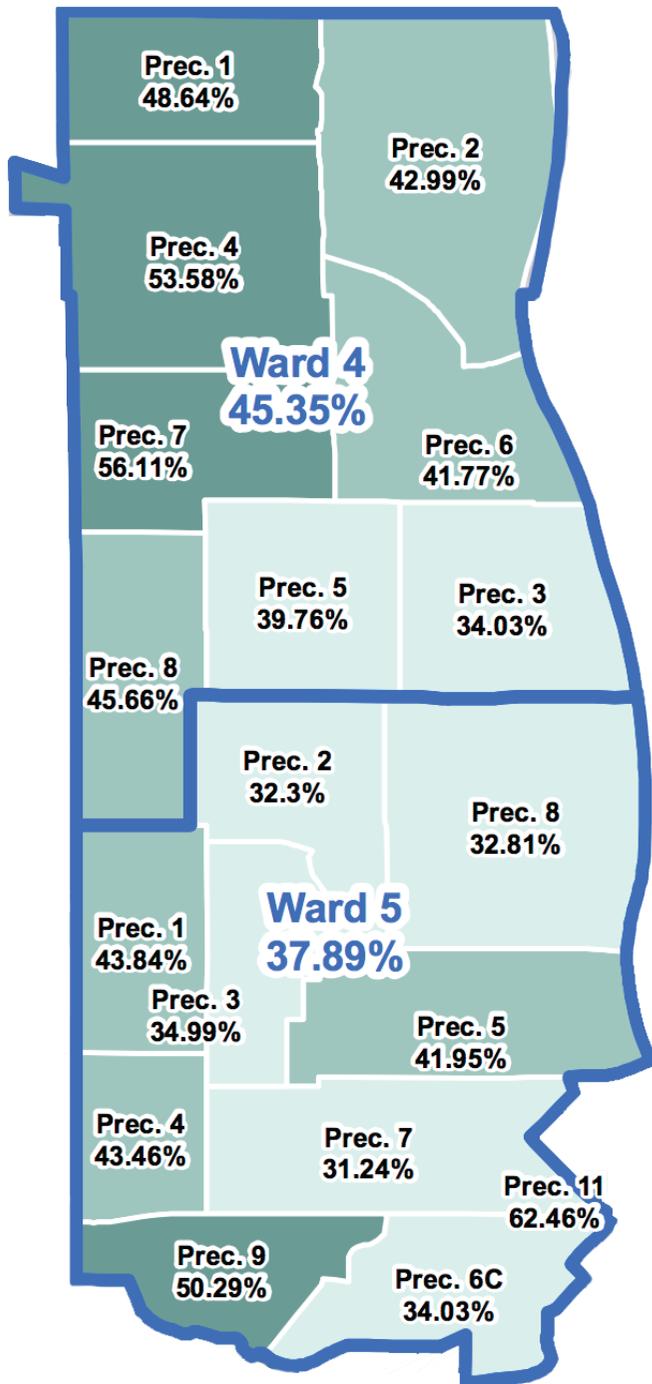
Congressional District 5

Ilhan Omar became one of the first Muslim women to be elected to Congress in the US (she shares that title with Rashida Tlaib of Michigan). She announced her bid for the seat after Keith Ellison announced his run for Attorney General earlier this year.

Midterm voter turnout increased citywide and in North

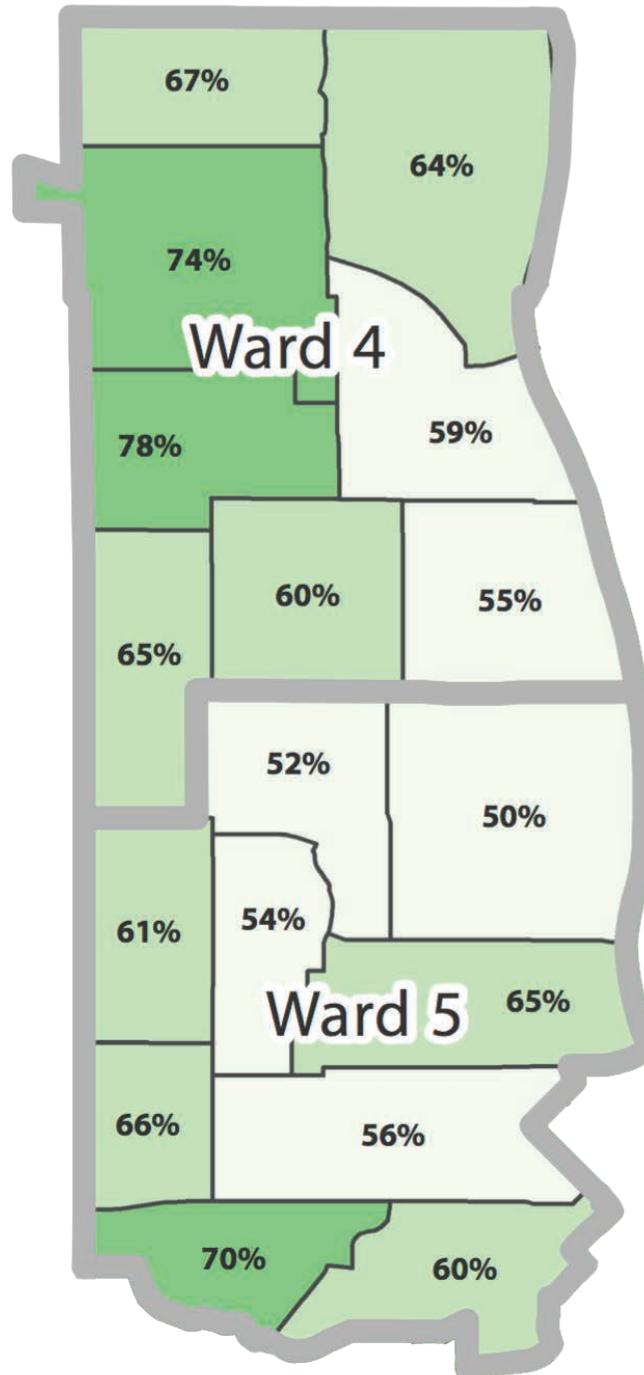
But, North Minneapolis turnout remains among the lowest in the City.

2014 REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT



2014 citywide turnout average: 56%

2018 REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT



2018 citywide turnout average: 76%

“[Voting] is essential, especially in these days and times when people are being led astray...because of past years of apathy in this community, I make a point to vote. I’ve never missed an election since I came of age. I try to represent those that don’t vote.”

**Northside resident
Bernadette Roberts**

2018 VOTER TURNOUT BY WARD

- WARD 1: 79%
- WARD 2: 73%
- WARD 3: 74%
- WARD 4: 65%**
- WARD 5: 58%**
- WARD 6: 65%
- WARD 7: 78%
- WARD 8: 81%
- WARD 9: 72%
- WARD 10: 76%
- WARD 11: 83%
- WARD 12: 83%
- WARD 13: 86%

Referendum dollars will roll in for MPS, but there is more to be raised

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Minneapolis voters responded positively to two Minneapolis Public Schools referendum questions on the 2018 ballot. The two questions pertained to district funding. The first asked voters to increase the district's general operating fund levy and the second asked for the establishment of a capital funds and technology levy to pay for the district's current technology expenses.

Throughout Minneapolis, approximately 150,000 voters voted yes on the first question. Approximately 44,000 voted no. On the second question, just over 135,000 voters voted yes. Just over 52,000 voted no.

"We could have raised the dollars in a referendum in the last election, but we did now because we saw that we could not make it without it. I'm very pleased that Minneapolis recognized that. I think what happens next for the school board is making sure that we continue to have small class sizes, keep up with technology, and also take the fight to the Capi-

tol, because part of our deficit was due to the fact that we pay 90% of special education and ELL services, not just for MPS but for private and charter schools, as well. We would not have had a deficit if we didn't have to do that," said Kerry Jo Felder (District 2) for MPS.

Despite its importance, the increased funding will only make up 5% of the district's total budget, according to Ryan Strack, MPS Administrator for Board and Government Relations. And it will also max out the district's ability to levy funds through property taxes, unless the Minnesota State Legislature amends that law to increase the amount of money that school districts can levy through property taxes. According to Strack the amount of money that MPS can levy through property taxes is \$2,168 per pupil, adjusted annually for inflation. The estimated increase in property taxes, for MPS, for the average home in Minneapolis will be \$139, beginning in 2019.

"It is one significant important part of the budget, but it is 5% of the overall

budget, so it has to be looked at with all the other parts of the budget: state funding, which grants are available," said Strack. "The funding will help provide a sense of stability and will help us move from a place where we are constantly in a budget crisis deficit mode toward a place where we can set a foundation and have predictability on programming, both at the school level and the district level."

MPS, like other school districts, are also funded by federal and state government, but neither body has fulfilled their commitment to fully funding English learner and special education which forces a large financial burden on the district to fulfill. Additionally, the 2017-2018 legislative session did not include a supplemental budget, though Governor Dayton's proposed budget did include a significant amount of money for school districts. Governor-Elect Tim Walz, a former educator, has not yet indicated what his budget, and any supplemental budget, might include for education.

In a statement released after the election, Superintendent Ed Graff thanked the community for voting in support of the referendum questions and asked for further support.

"In the coming months, we will need everyone to continue to stand with us as we advocate for schools to receive the state and federal funding they deserve—especially for special education and English language services. And as we develop our 2019-20 budget, we will need the public's involvement as we determine what resources, programs and support we are able to provide at each one of our schools," said Graff.

In a Nov. 13 MPS Board Meeting the Board discussed additional funding and voted on a resolution guiding the district's legislative priorities for the 2019-2020 legislative biennium. Read more about these priorities on Page 8.

Minneapolis' votes to change liquor license requirements

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

On Nov. 6, Minneapolis residents voted, overwhelmingly, to remove area and space requirements for liquor licenses from the city charter.

Those area and space requirements came in the form of a "seven acre rule," a Prohibition-style rule which limited full liquor licenses to downtown Minneapolis unless a restaurant owner went through a costly exemption process beginning in the Minnesota State Legislature. This process can cost upwards of tens of thousands of dollars. Proponents of the referendum question believe that ridding the city of the ordinance creates a more equitable playing field for Minneapolis restaurants.

New Rules CEO Chris Webley has been a big advocate for the liquor law referendum. According to Webley, the reformed liquor law will have two big benefits. First, it will allow new new and existing restaurants to better support themselves because it would allow them to have full liquor menus. Alcohol is traditionally the most profitable aspect of a

restaurant menu. And, second, he hopes it will allow for Northside restaurants to be more competitive, not with each other, but with restaurants across the City of Minneapolis.

There are no restaurants in North Minneapolis that currently have a full liquor license. And, according to Tooties on Lowry owner Lilli Johnson, that might not be changing, at least for Tooties, a longtime Northside favorite.

"We cannot make a decision about applying for this new liquor license yet, until we find out more about what the application process entails," said Johnson. Johnson worries that the cost of the full liquor license process might be too costly and overly difficult to maneuver, as with their current wine and beer license, which means that Tooties might not be able to benefit from the new ordinance.

"It will [give] restaurant owners along the Lowry Ave corridor, for example, the means to compete with other major business corridors throughout the city that have density on their sides," said Webley.



While no Northside restaurants currently have a full liquor license, under the new ordinance all Minneapolis restaurants would have the option to apply for one. Photo by Angie Garrett

Most voters seemed to agree with Webley. Election night results show that over 70% of Minneapolis voters (almost 130,000) voted in favor of an amendment to the liquor ordinance in comparison with the almost-28% (approximately 50,000 voters) who voted against a charter amendment. Still others have their concerns.

"I don't mind some restaurants having a liquor license, but some areas around the Northside are dangerous at night and if there is a restaurant at night serving alcohol in the Northside, it might lead to some problems," said Handsome Xiong, an Assistant Manager at Banana Blossom restaurant on Lowry Ave.

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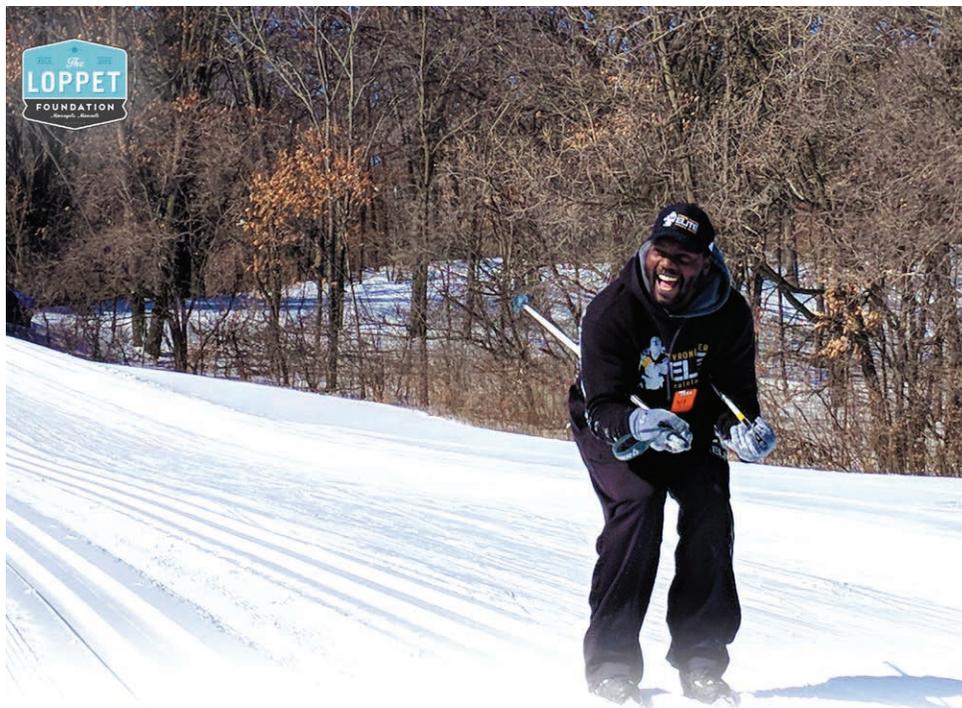
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Humboldt Heights Part II: a historic, racially mixed Northside neighborhood

David M. Feehan | Contributor

The story of Humboldt Heights through the years of the Great Depression and the leadup to World War II parallels in many ways the story of other North Minneapolis neighborhoods. On Humboldt, Irving, and James Avenues North, from 49th St. to 53rd St, families struggled to make ends meet; breadwinners feared for their jobs, and the world was filled with uncertainty as Europe and the East became engulfed in war. Some residents of Humboldt Heights enlisted in the Armed Forces; others were drafted.

As the war ended, and soldiers came home, there was a sudden and unmet need for housing. Rental housing was much in demand, and the answer on the Northside was the Mississippi Courts, 100 units on the banks of the Mississippi River. Developers were looking for buildable lots throughout the city, and Humboldt Heights had a number of them.

By the late 1950s, Humboldt Heights had largely assumed its current shape, and several of the families that would shape the neighborhood for decades to come were in residence. The baby boomer children of some of these families are now in their 60s and 70s. Some individuals have moved on, some have passed away, and some still live in the neighborhood. Most of them may not have achieved major fame, but in one way or another, they made a difference—in the lives of their families, their community, and beyond. I grew up in this neighborhood, and want to share a few of these families' stories.

THE BARKSDALES

Norval Barksdale and Wanda Barksdale were married and beginning to start a family. They needed a house. Norval had served in the Navy, and when they encountered restrictive covenants and prejudice from homeowners on the Southside, they elected to buy a home at 5214 James Avenue N. Norval had secured a job with the Postal Service as a mail carrier, a good job for a black man at that time. Norval's father was a highly respected academician who had taught at a

university in Paris, but Norval decided to bypass college and opt for a steady job as a postman, after a brief stint with Greyhound.

Their first child, Norval Palmer Barksdale III (known by friends and family as Boxie) was born in 1945. Three girls followed: Linda, Stephanie and Kathy, and one more son, David. I met Boxie when he was wrestling for Patrick Henry High School, and I was wrestling for De La Salle. We discovered we were neighbors, had similar tastes in music and adventure, and became best friends. I was soon "adopted" by the Barksdale family, probably spending more time with the Barksdales than with my blood relatives. I worked with Linda at the Model City Communications Center, David and my younger brothers Jim and Tom were best of friends, and Kathy and I stay in close touch to this day.

Boxie was one of the best wrestlers Henry High ever had. He not only finished as a finalist in the state wrestling

tournament, but tied Paul Hatchett from Central High for the best time in the 100 yard dash. I only tested him once on the track, and he beat me by 10 yards in the 100; but on a basketball court I could beat him regularly in one-on-one matches.

Boxie introduced me to African American society in the Twin Cities. He took me with him everywhere—to clubs, parties, and other social events. We frequented the Blue Note, the Ebony Lounge, and Cassius Bar, and even occasionally the Regal Tavern, commonly known as the "Bucket of Blood." We drank, danced with girls he knew, and occasionally got in fights, though not with each other. Boxie had also trained as a boxer at Phillis Wheatley, well-known for its boxing program.

Because of Boxie, I became familiar with the pool hall and "after hours" joints on Plymouth, and with the local bootlegger who sold half pints for a dollar.

At some point in 1966, Boxie was ar-

rested with a friend who had a couple of joints in his possession. The judge offered Boxie a choice: enlist in the Army, or go to jail for possession. Boxie opted for the Army, and much to our relief, was sent to Germany, not to Vietnam.

In the summer of 1968, not long after Martin Luther King's and Bobbie Kennedy's assassinations, we learned that Boxie had been killed in what was reported to be an auto accident in Germany. It was a great loss, felt not only by close friends and family, but by all who knew him.

THE LASLEYS

Steven Lasley's family came to Minnesota from Paris, Missouri. Until he was about ten years old, the family lived at 1402 Emerson Avenue N. Steve's family included grandparents who lived in Humboldt Heights, and siblings Leon, William, Edward, Aleta, and Valerie. Steve asserted that the move to "the

Continued on Page 17...


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Youth interview renowned civil rights journalist Shaun King

Shaun King was the keynote speaker at Pillsbury United Communities' annual fundraiser. PUC owns *North News* and is dedicated to supporting grassroots community media efforts in Minneapolis.

Daija Triplett | Intern

In his work as an activist and journalist, Shaun King uses his voice and his platform, especially social media, to shine a light on racism and injustice. He rallies and unites people of different backgrounds, and tells the story of today's civil rights struggles with depth and compassion. He shares information about what is going on in the African American community. He advocates for black people all over the world.

I had the pleasure of introducing King at Pillsbury United Communities' annual fundraiser on Oct. 23 at the Machine Shop in Northeast Minneapolis. After his speech, a couple of *North News* interns and I had

"It took me a while to understand that the justice system in America is not broken. It's actually fully functioning exactly how it is intended to function."

Shaun King

an opportunity to speak with King and ask him questions about social justice, mass incarceration, and the Black Lives Matter movement. It was a very interesting conversation particularly because most of us follow him on social media. Being able to speak to him in person was a great honor.

In his speech at the PUC event, King taught a history lesson, touching on many unknown aspects of US history. He also spoke about the problems in the United States, and what we need to do as citizens to fix them. He talked to us about how our country is in a "dip" — a deep hole of racial inequalities and political problems. He talked about steps that we as a society need to take to fix the problem. He spoke in a

conducting way as if he wanted us to start immediately. Honestly, I was ready to begin. Listening to him speak about the "dip" brought a lot of things to my attention about the world that we live in. Even though it was not a new fact to me, King spoke about the United States having the highest incarceration rate in the country.

On the topic of mass incarceration, he said: "It took me a while to understand that the justice system in America is not broken. It's actually fully functioning exactly how it is intended to function. It's actually a well oiled machine. It's not broken; it's an amazing system. It was built and designed to undercut and undermine a very particular group of people, and it has done that with great success." That was something I had never heard before, but once I heard it I knew exactly what he meant. The justice system has successfully weakened people of color by separating black men from their families, stripping them of their rights, and taking them away from society. Black people make up the largest percentage of the prison population.

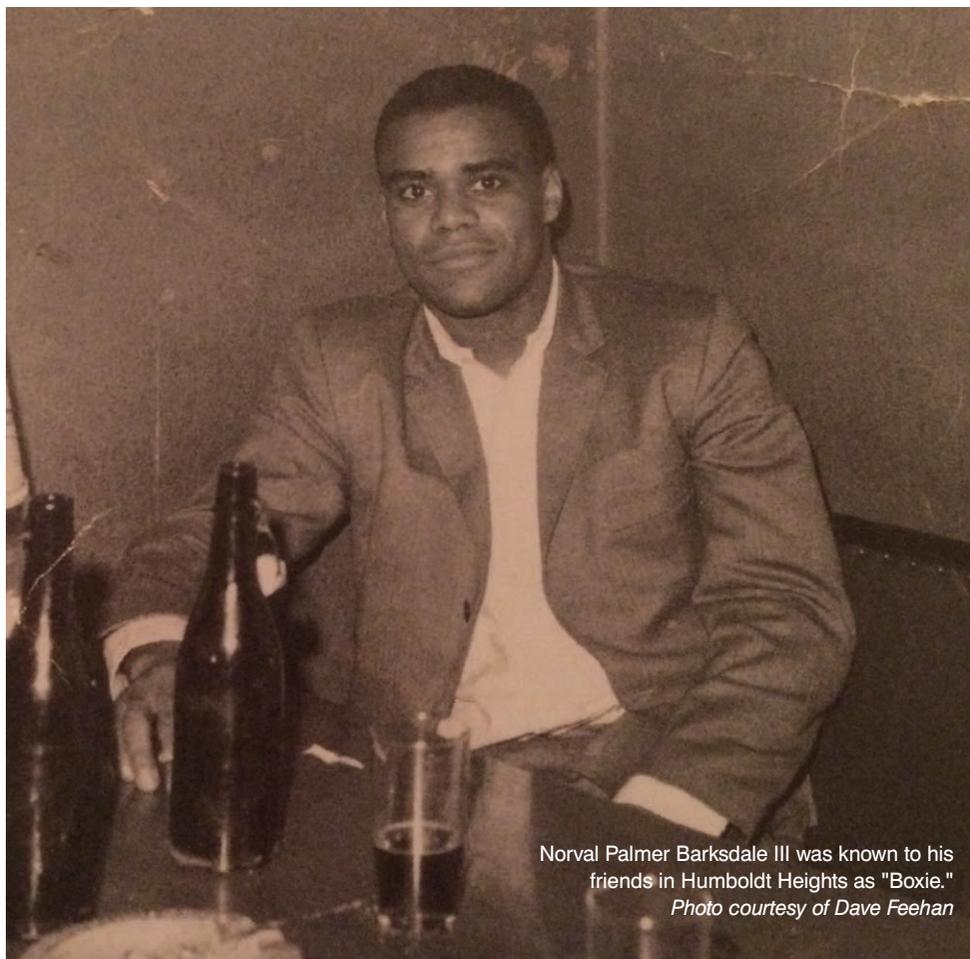
Ashley Powell, another *North News* student journalist, asked King: "What do you think journalists responsibility is to social justice?" King said: "First and foremost it's to document the world you know as it actually is, and particularly, when it comes to social justice, to tell stories from the perspective of people who are actually experiencing injustice. ...We don't get any real justice and sometimes the best we get is not good enough, but the best we get is making sure people's stories are at least told honestly, and that's what you all get to do."

Speaking with an activist and journalist like Shaun King who is very educated and has great influence made me not only want to continue my journey to becoming a powerful journalist but also to use my voice as an advocate for the injustices and inequalities throughout my society. I want to be able to have the respect from my own community and from communities across the nation. I don't want people to look at me as if I'm just another reporter or writer. I want to earn that respect from my community and to keep it.



Above: Journalist and activist Shaun King was the keynote speaker at Pillsbury United Communities' (PUC) annual fundraiser on Oct. 23. PUC owns *North News*. Photo by David Pierini. Below: High school journalists from the *North News* and KRSM youth programs interviewed King after his speech. Photo by Cirien Saadeh

...Humboldt Heights neighborhood cont. from Page 15



Norval Palmer Barksdale III was known to his friends in Humboldt Heights as "Boxie."
Photo courtesy of Dave Feehan

sticks" probably changed his life. "I was smoking and stealing cars with a friend," he said. But his mother sensed that he was close to getting in trouble, and moved the family to 51st and Irving. Steve said that his friend ended up going to prison, and that he might have done the same, had he not moved.

When he arrived in Humboldt Heights, he met George Jackson, who lived across the street. They quickly became close friends. Steve recalls when he and George were asked to try out for the Shingle Creek little league team. Neither one had a glove or spikes, and neither one had played organized baseball. But they frequently played stickball, and when the coach of the little league team hit a ball to Steve, he fielded it cleanly and made the play to first base. After handling a number of balls barehanded, the coach asked the boy who was playing shortstop to lend Steve his glove. With a glove, it was apparent that Steve was a natural. After fielding several more balls, the boy who

was playing shortstop told the coach, "He's better than I am. Let him play shortstop and I'll play third base."

Steve went on to play center field for Patrick Henry, and starred on Henry's basketball and football teams as well. This led him to enroll at North Hennepin Community College, where his team won the conference championship. Steve then decided to pursue a degree in communications, and graduated from Central State University in Ohio. After briefly considering a coaching career and a broadcasting opportunity, he moved back to Minneapolis, began teaching English and obtained a Master's degree from St. Thomas University. He taught in the Minneapolis school system for 30 years, ten of those at North High. He coached basketball, and eventually served as athletic director until he retired.

Steve has been married for 31 years to his wife Elizabeth. They have two sons, Steven Jr. and Nathaniel, and one daughter, Shelina.

THE SCHOFIELDS

Thornton Jones was born in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of New York City in 1946. His father passed away when he was 18 months old, and his mother, Doris Marian Schofield, moved to Minneapolis, where they lived briefly with his grandparents at 5127 James Avenue N. Also living in this small house were more than a dozen relatives. Shortly after, Thornton (known as TJ by friends) moved with his mother to the projects and then, when his mother got a job as a librarian, they bought a house on the Southside. Thornton attended Warrington, Bryant, and Central, where he played football, basketball, and ran track, competing in the quarter mile, 880, and relay. He and some friends formed a speedskating club, and would travel from park to park, challenging local kids in a popular skating game at the time, "Pom Pom Pullaway."

When his mother bought another house in Humboldt Heights, TJ took the bus to Central to finish his high school education.

Education was a high priority in the family, so TJ enrolled at Mankato State and then attended Minneapolis Community College. It was about then that he discovered his passion for acting and media. He worked at the Guthrie Theater as an usher while in high school, and because there were so few black actors in Minneapolis, he began to get opportunities for minor parts in local plays. He also got involved in radio, first as an engineer with KUOM, the campus radio station. Soon, he was on the air, hosting a variety of Oldies and R&B shows.

TJ, Boxie and I were often referred to by friends as the "three musketeers" because we were seen together so frequently. TJ introduced me to Dudley Riggs, owner of the Brave New Workshop, and even encouraged me to audition for a part in one of their improv performances.

More recently, TJ saw a need to help black men become better fathers, and signed on with the Center for Fathering. This led him to work with MAD DADs, another organization promoting

positive roles for fathers.

THE ADAMS

Richard Adams came to Minneapolis during the last half of his senior year from Massillon, Ohio, and Richard graduated from Central. After high school, he took classes in electronics repair, and when Control Data was looking for black enrollees to join the company, Richard signed up. Company officials quickly discovered how bright he was, and offered him a more substantial opportunity. After years with Control Data, Richard decided to launch his own company, and now runs a home based business offering computer services to other companies. He has become a master in technical writing, and has produced manuals for a number of larger companies.

Richard is also known for his vast music collection and his general knowledge of music, jazz in particular. His friends recall his playground skills as a basketball player, often playing with Steve Lasley, George Jackson and me at Olson Junior High.

THE JACKSONS

George Jackson is one of eight siblings, the son of Francis Bernard (FB) and Annie Jackson. The Jacksons are originally from Macomb, Mississippi. George's dad worked at Minneapolis Moline, and they bought a house in Humboldt Heights that had originally been owned by the Schofield family. George was a dominating center on Patrick Henry's basketball team. He was an equally dominating pitcher in little league. But while George spent his career working for Minnegasco, he also pursued his passion as a musician. A self-taught harmonica player, George now performs at "Big George Jackson," and is a well-known blues singer, not only around the Twin Cities but nationally as well. He writes his own lyrics, and has performed with other well-known blues artists. As he approaches 70, George is still actively performing. I still remember trying to guard George in ferocious two-on-two games at Olson. What an impossible task!

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 Monday-Thursday from 4pm-5:30pm and 6pm-7pm. On Fridays, youth open boxing is offered from 4pm-7pm.

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.minneapolismn.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 612-280-2434. 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 block club grant** through the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council. 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 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>

The City of Minneapolis offers **free energy efficiency home visits** and 0% financing on recommended energy-saving upgrades while funding lasts to qualified households with a family income less than \$94,300. Homeowners and renters can call 651-328-6220 or visit mncee.org/hes-mpls to schedule a visit.

Pillsbury United Communities' Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave N) hosts **free community dinners** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm-7pm.

12/8 – Pillsbury United Communities has partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace for a **free bunk bed giveaway**. 9am-3pm. Bunk beds will include sheets and a mattress and will be delivered a free of charge on Dec. 8 from 9am-3pm. To register for a bunk bed, contact J.T. Harney at 612-787-3640 or jonteshah@pillsburyunited.org.

12/10 – **The 2019 Juneteenth planning** meeting will be held from 5:30pm-7pm at the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (2117 West River Rd.)

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Fridays – **Family Storytime**. 10-11am. Webber Park Library. 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.

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12/1 – **Early Birding: Winter Birds**. 9am-10:30am. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Join us for a morning of bird watching! Binoculars provided. All ages. Free.

12/2 – **The Story Garden Annual Edible Winter Tree Festival** will be held from 3pm-5pm. There will be a bonfire, cocoa, cookies, and storytelling. Location: 35th & Humboldt Ave N. For more information contact Dani at danielle@folwell.

12/2 – **Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts pres-**

ents its annual Advent Procession Service. Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent, and enter this season of hope in the darkest time of the year. Candles, incense and beautiful music all invite the listener to engage in this profound liturgical season. 4pm at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (3045 Chicago Ave S), free and open to the public.

12/8 – **Nature Art: Ginger-Bird Houses**. 1:30pm-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Invite birds into your backyard by crafting an edible snack house for them. \$10, all supplies included. Kids under 13 are free. All Ages.

12/6 – The Film Society of Minneapolis-St. Paul, in collaboration with the Capri Theater and the Minnesota Historical Society, presents **Detroit**, with a discussion to follow led by David Grant, at 7pm., Dec. 6 at the Capri Theater, 2027 West Broadway, Minneapolis, MN 55411. Tickets to First Thursday Films are \$5 and can be purchased in advance at www.mspfilm.org or at the door the night of the show. Directed by Kathryn Bigelow, the Academy Award-winning director of the films *Hurt Locker* and *Zero Dark Thirty*, Detroit tells the gripping story of one of the most terrifying moments during the civil unrest that rocked Detroit in the summer of 1967. The docu-drama centers on a group of rogue police officers who respond to a complaint with retribution, rather than justice, on their minds. For more information, visit: www.thecapritheater.org

12/8 – **Teen Geekery Club** 12:30pm - 2pm. Webber Park Library. Are you an anime and manga fan? A cosplayer? A fan of *Doctor Who*, *Steven Universe*, *Voltron*, *Gravity Falls*, *Homestuck*, *Supernatural* or other fictional works? If yes to any of these, Teen Geekery Club is for you! Watch anime, create and share your artwork, and discuss your favorite fandoms. All fandoms welcome! Sponsors: Friends of the Hennepin County Library, Anime Twin Cities. Grades 6-12.

12/8 – **The People's University**. 2:30pm-4pm. Webber Park Library. The People's University uses open-access syllabi as tools to help us learn together through reading, multi-media viewing, and discussion about the historic contexts for the world we find ourselves in today. In this series, the University of Minnesota Immigration Syllabus will help us better understand U.S. immigration history, xenophobia, deportation policy, and border policing. Guest lecturers: Jessica Lopez-Lyman from the University of Minnesota

Tuesdays – **Boot Camp at The Trailhead: Tammie's most popular class** - Boot Camp is a multifaceted and high-energy class that combines elements of strength and cardio to create the perfect morning workout. As you work your way through the various stations, you'll find this session challenging you in varied ways as each targets a different muscle group. Boot Camp is a great way to get in a well-balanced

and challenging workout before you start your day. Theodore Wirth Parkway Trailhead, 6:15am-7:15am.

12/8 – PCYC's Annual Children's Gift Sale, 9am-1pm. Donations of gifts and dollars are needed, and volunteer opportunities are available. For details visit pcyc-mpls.org or call Catrice O'Neal, 612-643-2026. Thank you!

12/12 – **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.

12/15 – **Explore Nature!** 10:30am-12:30pm. Webber Park Library. 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. Kids event.

12/16 – **Family Funday: Sleep, Flee, Freeze**. 1:30pm-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). When the cold winds of winter start to blow, where do the animals go? Learn about hibernation, migration and other ways animals survive our winters. All ages. Free.

12/20 – **"Music for the Holidays,"** an annual holiday tradition, will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Free event while supplies last. Dinner at 5:30pm followed by a concert at 7:30pm. Get tickets at musicfortheholidays.com.

12/21 – **Winter Solstice Celebration**. 5:30pm-7:30pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Rejoice the coming of longer days with an evening of celestial fun. Make a luminary and enjoy the warm glow of a bonfire while sipping hot cider! All Ages. \$5. Kids under 13 are free.

12/29 – **Outdoors: Fur, Tracks and Scat**. 1pm-2:30pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Learn how to spot signs of our local animals by examining their fur, tracks, and scat. Create your own tracks and try passing our identification challenges. Ages 6 & up. Free.

12/22 & 12/29 – **Free Snowshoe Rentals**. 11am-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Get into the spirit of the season by dropping in to check out a pair of snowshoes to explore the park. All Ages.

UROC presents "Joy in Translation" in the UROC Gallery. Fine art photographer Anna Min spent the last year seeking out joy and wonderment in the modern world and answering the question, "Where does joy go when it's not around here?" The resulting exhibit, "Joy in Translation," is a collection of images designed to delight the eye, inspire joy, and give the heart hope for another day. The gallery showing has opened and will remain open through Jan. 31.

EDUCATION

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) seeks volunteers interested in mentoring and tutoring youth in grades K-5th grade who are living in supportive housing in Camden. Volunteers are matched 1:1 with a youth to build a strong relationship, tutor in literacy concepts, and engage in enrichment activities like arts & crafts, games, creative play, etc. To apply, visit www.ppl-inc.org/volunteer or contact Volunteer Coordinator Caitlin Dougherty at caitlin.dougherty@ppl-inc.org / 612-455-5108.

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 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

Just like eating greasy food can clog people's arteries, grease and fat can build up in drainpipes in homes and restaurants and out under the streets. Clogs in the pipes can cause sewage backups into basements and call for expensive repairs. The City is hoping to raise awareness about the impacts that grease can have on plumbing at individual properties and in the City's sewer system. **A new rule has passed that allows the City to charge property owners for cleaning, repairing or replacing City pipes clogged with grease.** The grease rule sets up a framework to mitigate risks and decrease the costs to rate payers. Problem spots in one-tenth of the sewer system have cost the City close to \$1 million since 2012 to keep pipes flowing. The clogs divert money and time from other critical sewer system needs as crews

are inspecting pipes and cleaning out grease every two weeks. The costs of these services in a small number of locations are borne by sanitary sewer rate payers across Minneapolis. Find more information here: <http://www.minneapolis.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease>

The City Council passed a measure on Nov. 2 reforming the way the City works with landlords and renters when complaints are made about disruptive criminal and nuisance conduct to provide more protections for tenants and resources for landlords to resolve problems. Highlights of the amendments to the City's Conduct on Licensed Premises ordinance include: 1) A violation of the ordinance cannot stem from 911 calls reporting domestic violence, domestic abuse, a health-related emergency or any other similar tenant assistance response. 2) When a Minneapolis Police Department crime prevention specialist determines that an incident at a rental property requires City intervention after reviewing a police report, a letter is sent to both the landlord and the tenant about what needs to be done to resolve the problem issues. 3) A new interdisciplinary panel convened by the City's Regulatory Services Department will review the issues and help determine a community-centered approach that encourages landlords and tenants to resolve problems with a goal of discouraging unnecessary tenant displacement.

Sidewalks are a critical part of Minneapolis' transportation system and they should be open for everyone. With the snow season upon us, here's a refresher on the City's rules. Minneapolis ordinance requires property owners of houses and duplexes to clear sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall and all other property owners must clear their sidewalks within four daytime hours. In addition to relying on complaints reported to 311, this season City inspectors will also be out in neighborhoods actively looking for sidewalks that aren't shoveled. Failure to shovel and maintain your sidewalk could result in a warning letter and, if left uncleared, a bill for the City to remove snow from your sidewalk. An average bill is approximately \$150. People should call 311 to learn more about resources available to people who may need

help clearing their sidewalks. Several nonprofit organizations are ready to provide for-hire services or provide help when the snow falls. Find more information at www.minneapolis.gov/snow/shovel.

Snow season is around the corner, and Minneapolis residents should watch their mail over the next several days for information to help them avoid tickets and tows when a Snow Emergency is declared in Minneapolis. The City of Minneapolis is sending out about 177,000 Snow Emergency brochures, one to each household in the city. The brochure has graphics and text showing where to park during the three phases of a Snow Emergency. Folks should hold on to the brochures throughout the winter and have them handy whenever a Snow Emergency is declared. The brochures contain the Snow Emergency parking rules and lists ways people can find out when to move their cars for a Snow Emergency. The more people follow the Snow Emergency parking rules and help their neighbors and visitors do the same, the easier snow season is on everyone. Snow Emergencies are declared whenever there's enough snowfall to warrant a complete plowing of our streets. To get that done, people need to follow the parking rules and move their vehicles so crews can plow the full width of the street. When the snow flies, City Public Works crews have enormous jobs to do, with more than 1,400 miles of streets, parkways and alleys that need to be cleared. It's important for drivers to follow the Snow Emergency parking rules so plows can do the best job possible clearing snow. Vehicles parked on the street in violation of Snow Emergency rules can be ticketed or towed. For more information, visit: <http://www.minneapolis.gov/snow>

Six public artworks are in the final stages of fabrication and will be installed by the end of 2018, including two works for Nicollet Mall, one for Bde Maka Ska and three for 26th Avenue North. Once complete, all of these works can be explored, along with the City's entire collection of public art, as part of six interactive tours that can be accessed on any mobile device. For more information: http://www.minneapolis.gov/dca/dca_map

The City of Minneapolis released the final draft of its 2040 Comprehensive Plan, a holistic document that will guide the city's development over the next 20 years. The Planning Commission and City Council will review the draft and seek additional community input this fall, with final adoption expected in December 2018. The Comprehensive Plan is based on 14 goals adopted by the City Council, including reducing disparities, providing access to affordable housing and living-wage jobs, creating a sustainable community, and remaining a healthy and diverse economic center. The final draft of the plan is the product of a two-year engagement process and integrates more than 10,000 public comments collected during a robust, four-month community engagement period. The City made significant changes to the plan in response to public input, which are shown in the marked-up version of the plan available at minneapolis2040.com. Public comments can be submitted to the Planning Commission and City Council online at minneapolis2040.com. The interactive website provides opportunities to view either a marked-up or clean version of the plan segmented by topics. A clean version of the plan is available for download as a PDF document. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Oct. 29 and the City Council will also hold a public hearing the week of 11/12. The City Council is expected to vote on the Comprehensive Plan in December before submitting the plan to the Metropolitan Council.

People must be at least 21 to buy tobacco products in Minneapolis as of 10/1. Minneapolis raised the age from 18 to help protect younger generations from lifelong nicotine addiction, tobacco-related illnesses, and the tobacco-related health disparities between white populations and people of color. Research shows raising the age to buy tobacco will keep an estimated 30,000 young people from starting to smoke over a 15-year period in Minnesota. Almost all adult smokers – 95 percent – started smoking before age 21, and nicotine is addictive. If people don't start smoking by age 21, there's a good chance they won't start at all. This ordinance came about with advocacy from the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota, the Minneapolis Youth Congress, and Northpoint Health and Wellness Center.

CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about certain rights and their responsibilities as it relates to the Cold Weather Rule (CWR).

ADVERTISING IN NORTH NEWS

RATES

SIZE	B&W	COLOR
Full Page	\$1100	\$1100
1/2	\$600	\$600
1/4	\$350	\$350
1/8	\$200	\$200
1/16	\$110	\$110

Please inquire for pricing if you'd like a different size than the ones listed.

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Worship 10:30 am Sunday
After School Program Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm.
Pastor Kelly Chatman

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or call 612.302.3424

The CWR protects residential customers who are experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection as defined in the CWR. However, residential customers must contact CenterPoint Energy to set up a payment plan. Customers who anticipate having trouble paying their entire natural gas bill, have received a Notice of Proposed Disconnection, or need gas service reconnected are all urged to call CenterPoint Energy to establish a payment plan. A payment plan will include what is owed and the amount to be billed. The plan will also take into consideration a customer's financial situation and any other special circumstances. The plan must be agreeable to both the customer and CenterPoint Energy. If an agreed-upon payment plan cannot be reached, customers have a right to appeal under the CWR. Call CenterPoint Energy to set up a payment plan at 1-612-372-4680 or 1-800-729-6164. For additional information, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com/ReadyForWinter.

Emerald Ash Borer was recently found in Golden Valley, MN. Because EAB is in the area, don't wait to take action. Have a certified arborist inspect your tree, even if it looks healthy. You vastly improve the chances of your trees surviving and optimizing the effectiveness of the treatment when you act early. Plus, treating an infected tree is much less expensive than removing and replacing it. Look for these EAB symptoms: Increased woodpecker activity, chewing damage on edges of leaves, d-shaped holes in the bark, bark splitting or S-shaped tunnels beneath the bark, canopy dieback that typically begins in the top one third of the canopy, multiple sprouts of new growth at the trunk, and missing buds on the outer limbs of the trees. If treating your tree isn't an option and your tree needs to be removed, do so quickly to reduce the risk. Then, get planting!

The City of Minneapolis Health Department has completed an evaluation of the temporary greenway installed on Irving Avenue North from June 2016-May 2017 to find out how a greenway could work in that location. The report summarizes the evaluation findings but does not make recommendations for what could happen in the future. Read the report and find more about the north Minneapolis greenway project at www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/northminneapolisgreenway.

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

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 Veteran 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.

In response to the rapid growth of shared **motorized foot scooter networks**, the City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee passed an ordinance amendment requiring the sharing networks to obtain a license agreement with the City and follow rules for parking in the right of way. State law already regulates how low power vehicles like foot scooters operate in the street. The City's proposed regulatory framework is intended to be welcoming to new transportation options like motorized foot scooters, but requires networks to operate in an organized manner consistent with City rules.

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.

The City Council received the City's first-ever State of Data report: a document that outlines the current way data is managed by the City and provides a roadmap to improve transparency, accountability and accessibility. The report is a point-in-time summary of where the City of Minneapolis stands with respect to data governance and management, including the way data now informs policy decisions by City leaders and how accessible and understandable that data is. The report also presents a roadmap to making the City more data-driven in operations and services, and looks at how data use is evolving into the future. The 2018 State of Data Report is available on the City's website. The holidays are filled with joy, happiness and time together with family and friends. Too often the joy turns to sorrow when a family is notified of a loved one's tragic death on Minnesota roads due to someone driving impaired. To help keep families together this holiday season, Minneapolis Police along with Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Robbinsdale, and the University of Minnesota Police Departments will be participating with law enforcement statewide in an extra DWI enforcement campaign running on weekends starting Nov. 21 through Dec. 29. The enhanced DWI enforcement campaign is a component of the state's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) program. The Minnesota departments of Public Safety, Transportation and Health collaborate on improving traffic safety for all. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes – education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma response.

With utility customers around the country being targeted by scammers, CenterPoint Energy is continuing its efforts to raise awareness and educate customers about utility imposter scams. Posing as utility company employees, scammers are calling customers to tell them they are behind on their bills and have a short time to make a payment. The customers are told to pay with their credit card or purchase a Green Dot pre-paid debit card with Bitcoin or other type of reloadable debit card. The scammers then tell customers to load the cards with money and provide the serial number from the card to avoid having their service shut off at the meter. To avoid falling victim to any scam, visit UtilitiesUnited.org.

Following **Minneapolis fire laws** will help keep our neighborhoods safe and livable; outdoor

NORTHnotices

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 complaint about a recreational fire, call 311 or email Minneapolis311@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 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 12/18 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>.

To place your notice:
Email kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
or call 612.302.3424



FOREVER YOUNG

Remembering Donise White

1981-2018

Kenzie O'Keefe | Editor

Earlier this year, community culture maker and HWMR owner Houston White wrote a column for *North News* that celebrated the “phenomenal women” in his life.

“My journey in life has been greatly impacted by the presence of my dear wife Donise White. She is the inspiration behind the entire women’s line at HWMR and the embodiment of the modern phenomenal woman,” he wrote.

On Thursday Nov. 8, Houston and the community said goodbye to that phenomenal woman when she transitioned peacefully surrounded by her loved ones.

Donise, 37, was known for her self-assuredness, intellect, bright smile, timeless style, and giving fair and thoughtful advice. She caught everyone’s eye but was never the loudest voice at a gathering.

“She was so outspoken without words,” said her friend, comedian Shed G. “Her

presence just exuded joy. In a crowded room, she stood out. It was her overall personality. It wasn’t just because she was beautiful and successful. It was also her energy,” he said.

She embodied “true black excellence,” said her friend, Minneapolis Public School Board-elect Kimberly Caprini. “The woman I knew brought light in every moment as she moved through a room. Timeless beauty, completely classic.”

“She would give really logical, ‘I’m here for you’ advice. Some days when I couldn’t think of anything positive to say, she was right there buzzing in my ear,” said her friend, community artist and anti-violence activist Nikki McComb.

“Donise taught us that authenticity was just as important as impact. Yes, she taught us black excellence, but she also taught us true faith, hope, and love; all wrapped up in a smile that could light up the night sky. She still does!” said her friend Jeffrey Aguy.

The Whites, who spent two decades together, once considered leaving Minneapolis because—as an ambitious, creative, career-driven African American couple—they didn’t feel like there was space for them in a city known for its racial disparities and microaggressions.

But instead of leaving, they stayed, they loved, and they built. They devoted themselves to being models of black love and entrepreneurship. They poured into their relationship, their careers, and several clothing brands that have turned into movements. Together they have motivated a diverse cross section of our segregated city—from Northside teens, to local entertainers, to the mayor and the police chief—to celebrate “Black Excellence” and “Be the Change.” They have stayed positive; they have unfailingly chosen unity over division.

“Our primary aim as a unit is and was to change the narrative about black love, break generational curses and to

sow seeds that would benefit others,” Houston wrote on Facebook on Nov. 18.

“Her legacy will forever live as I carry our life’s mission forward,” he said.



The Whites sit outside HWMR on 44th Ave. N. Photos courtesy of Houston White

In lieu of flowers, Houston has set up a scholarship fund in his wife’s honor and is asking those who love her to contribute. Donate here: <https://www.gofundme.com/the-donise-white-scholarship-fund>

DISH FROM OUR NEW COMMISH



Fernando reflects on her win from a couch in her campaign office.



Fernando held her election night party at La Doña Cervecería in Harrison neighborhood where she lives.



Irene Fernando is bringing new ideas and new identities to the Hennepin County Board.

On Nov. 6, Irene Fernando was elected Hennepin County Commissioner for District 2. She and District 4-elect Angela Conley have made history by being the first two people of color to be elected to the board in its over 150 year history.

This month, she spoke with *North News* about her youth-staffed campaign, her goals for her first term in office, and how all her professional roles up until this point have prepared her to be an active and innovative commissioner.

By Daija Triplett | Photos by David Pierini

Fernando will be sworn in on Jan. 7, following in the footsteps of current District 2 Commissioner Linda Higgins, who announced her plan to retire last year and later endorsed Fernando.

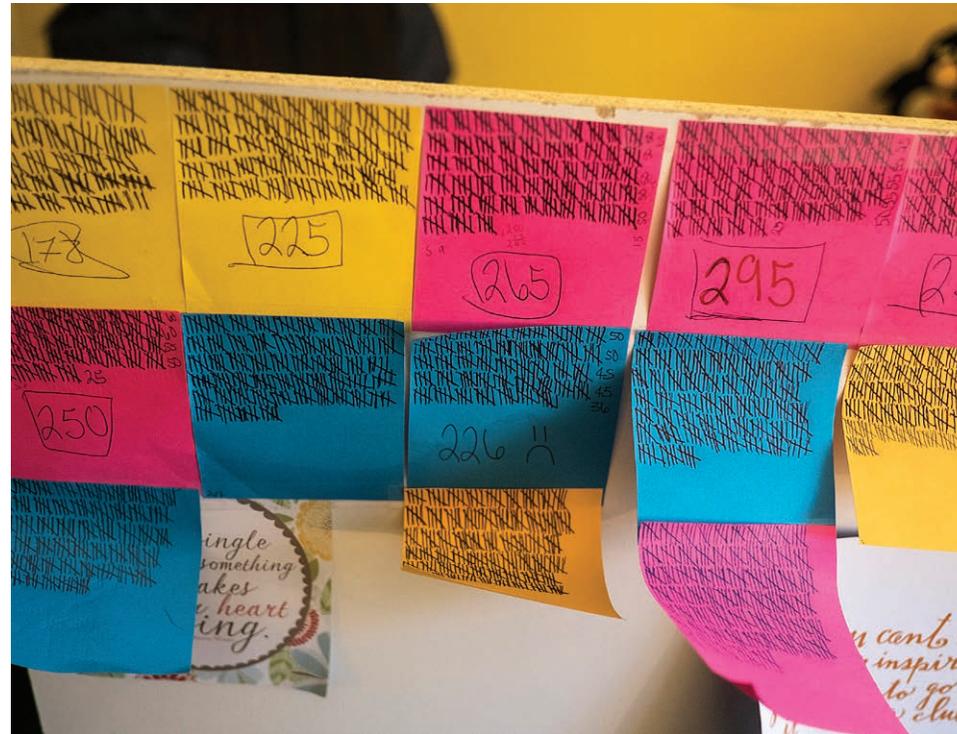
Fernando rallied voters with a campaign that communicated greater advocacy, transparency and equity for the county through a clearly articulated policy agenda, her “Commish Dish” YouTube videos, and an occasional Beyoncé reference. She’s fun but she means business.

Fernando, who is Filipina and the daughter of immigrant parents, grew up in Carson, CA. She moved to the Midwest when she was 17 to attend the University of Minnesota, where she completed both an undergraduate and graduate degree and founded a nonprofit, Students Today Leaders Forever. She is a social entrepreneur who received a Bush Fellowship, and she campaigned for commissioner while working full time at Thrivent where she focuses on talent development and organizational design.

She has lived in Harrison for over a decade with her partner Kent and their dog Ernie.

You just won a big race after a long campaign season. How are you feeling? I’m energized at the idea of very different viewpoints being present on the board. I’m hopeful that we can make very material points of progress toward more equitable allocation of funds and resources. We don’t even know what they get to decide because we haven’t had leaders who are independently interested in that type of transparency.

What changes would you like to see happen in Hennepin County? How do you expect to make those changes as a com-



missioner? I would like to have a more focused allocation around housing. There are a lot of committee appointments I get to weigh in on. How are we getting a different set of voices on those? I’m interested in what a true partnership approach could look like. This campaign was able to achieve a very broad set of supporters, including people who tend to disagree with each other.

What was it like to grow up with immigrant parents in America? I grew up in Carson, CA. Both [my] parents [are] from the Philippines. I am the second born in the U.S on my dad’s side and the sixth born on my mom’s side. If I were to describe what it’s like to grow up in an immigrant household, there is a really heavy amount of translation that’s needed. Language but also a lot of code switching, especially for a really early immigrant family [like mine]. That’s something we learn really really early on. It’s helped me in my career and in this campaign. The culture of Filipinos generally is humorous [and] laid back. [You] have to have thick skin. [My devotion to] developing leaders of all ages really comes from my background. [In my family], everyone had responsibility.

You started a youth leadership nonprofit when you were a student at the U. What did you learn from that experience that you’ll bring to this role? Starting a nonprofit [requires] a lot of

organizing. The first thing was to reveal leadership through service, relationship and action. We believe that everyone has leadership ability and responsibility within them regardless of title. We had over 30 part time and full time staff on this campaign at any given time. Most of them were women. Most of them were people of color. For most of them, this was their first time in that type of role. [The decision to do that] comes from my youth leadership background. [I believe that it] does not matter what you’ve done; it matters what you would like to do.

What type of things did you learn as a Bush Foundation Fellow that you’ll bring to this role? Starting a nonprofit at a young age, I became a community leader and a bit of a symbol in some ways. When I became a Bush Foundation fellow, that was my first [time] investing into myself as a person. The Bush Foundation really allowed me to invest in myself as a leader, and that’s a vital component to being able to win a campaign of this size because when nobody’s listening, I still had to convince people to select me over somebody else.

What do you admire about your predecessor, Linda Higgins? I cannot give Linda enough ups on this. She announced early that she was retiring, and in her letter, she said she was doing so in



Above: Fernando celebrates her win on election night. Left: Fernando credits phone banking efforts for her victory. Her phone-banking team was made up entirely of youth of color who meticulously called potential voters.

enough time so candidates had time to organize. Then she waited to see how things went and then endorsed. She came into politics as a trailblazer. There weren’t a lot of women, particularly not younger women. She very powerfully and meaningfully entered politics, and she powerfully and meaningfully retired from politics.

How do you want the district and communities to measure your success in your first term? When I first started running it was visibility, transparency, and accessibility. My biggest point of progress is not people agreeing or disagreeing with what I vote on, but is it more visible? Is it more transparent? And is it more accessible? The second thing that I would say is partnership. I’ve worked really hard to create a really really diverse coalition of people. The third would be [that] people should feel different. For example, I still want to do meet and greets. They’re common for campaigning, but not super common when people are in office.

What do you want people to know about you? I will not pretend to know the challenges and struggles and sacrifices of all marginalized identities, but I hold narratives and have access to narratives that have never been in these rooms and that have never been considered and never been incorporated. That’s what motivated me to run and what I’m most excited about. We can give life to these ways of being and living, and not only can they be included in the conversation but that it will make our decisions stronger. I will work very very hard to do that.



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NEW DAY LOAN

an alternative to payday loans

	NEW DAY LOAN	Traditional Payday Loans
LOAN AMOUNT	up to \$500	up to \$1000
REPAYMENT PERIOD	1, 3 or 6 months	2 weeks
INTEREST RATE	8%	Average 252%*
FEES	No added fees, ever	\$15-\$30 to for each \$100 borrowed*
APPROVAL TIME	within 24hrs	Same Day

*data from the Payday Lending Health Impact Assessment Fact Sheet

Example of repayment plan options	TERM	MONTHLY PAYMENT*
LOAN AMOUNT	1 month	\$503.33
REPAYMENT PERIOD	3 months	\$168.89
INTEREST RATE	6 months	\$85.29

*monthly payment calculation includes added interest

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Drop in M-F: 9am-12pm
Appointment M-F: 12-3pm