

NORTH NEWS



February 28, 2019

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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Letter from the Editor

A polar vortex. Six days of school closings. Over 30 inches of snow. One accusation of being fake news. What a month it has been!

Amidst the weather-related chaos (including a Saturday spent rounding up space heaters for a friend in Victory whose pipes had frozen) a paper was delivered, we took 17 of our student journalists from North High on a field trip to the *Star Tribune*, we made coverage plans for stories, and then adjusted them over and over when event after event was canceled.

You'll notice this paper is light on student stories (blame the snow days). We have our biggest class yet—32 students—at North High, and we can't wait to bring many of their first stories to print next month.

As our dedicated readers know, we have been following the Upper Harbor Terminal development closely for the past three years. Earlier this month we attended one of the

rallies at City Hall where those opposed to the current concept plan were urging council members not to approve it. We posted a recap of the event on our Facebook page—one of many pieces of coverage we've produced on this topic. A handful of Northside residents we know well—from neighborhood organization meetings and covering them in this paper—took issue with the post, accusing us of being biased in favor of those opposed to the plan and even, in one case, calling us “fake news.”

I feel the need to address the fake news accusation because it feels like a threat, and delegitimizing your community news source has real consequences. Our society requires healthy press to function effectively. We, and our brothers and sisters in this work across the country, are your watch dogs. We stay up late reading hundreds of pages of court documents (see Thor, Page 6). We attend or watch every minute of five hour long school board meetings. We figure out when our senators are abusing their staff members.

Cumulatively, our small staff holds several degrees in journalism and has decades

of experience doing this work on the ground in communities. Our sense of selves and our livelihoods depend on our unwavering commitment to parsing out the truth. We know the tenets and ethics of this profession. We constantly question the privileges, biases, and blind spots we carry into our work. We are committed to giving voice to all perspectives, and we know that to truly do this, we can't just write one story or post about one rally on Facebook. We have to stick around and commit to many, many stories for as long as situations are unfolding.

We have to know our history, investigate our present, and keep an eye toward the future.

We offered to do interviews with a couple of the vocal critics (and, of course, all are always welcome to write a letter to the editor), and they all declined. We'll keep

asking, and we hope you'll keep sharing. By all means, if you think we've erred, let us know. We want to listen to your grievances. But please, before you call us fake news, give me a call. That's my personal cell phone number in my email signature.

Kenzie O'Keefe

Editor/Publisher, North News
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for taking time to report on stories that are deeply impactful to the Northside community. Last month, you ran a story focusing on Neighborhoods 2020. Reflecting on that story and the recommendations that came out, I want to highlight a few points of tension that are critical to address in the proposal before many Northside organizers, represented by the Northside Neighborhood Council (NNC), would feel ready to support before moving forward.

While laying key groundwork for multicultural representation, accountability, and addressing disproportionate funding across the city, the recommendations fail to provide a framework for restructuring NCR and strengthening the relationship between Cultural Groups and Neighborhood Organizations, a focus on tools to support board representation, and adequate funding for all groups to respond to the level of meaningful work that is required to align with the expectations laid out.

Moving from the focus of what is not in the document, a key issue that is written into the recommendations centers on a very punitive structure. While accountability is critical to success, without the sense and support of empowerment, the sense of accountability is diminished. Accountability and empowerment exist together, just like freedom and responsibility. If you're going to hold someone accountable for something, you have to move out of the way to allow that person power over the process and outcome.

The NNC is asking for NCR to enter into a more supportive and resource focused role, rather than an overreaching big governmental one. With the loss of NRP funds that Neighborhoods had power with, they are moving away from the grassroots organizing of before, and are slowly being enveloped by the city, which in time, turns Neighborhood Organizations into an extension of the government, stripping them of their autonomy.

With about a month left in the public comment period, the NNC is working hard to develop a solution and sample structure where NCR, Neighborhood Organization and Cultural Groups can thrive as collaborative tools for residents to address inequality and disparities in their lives. At the end of the day, strong multi-racial Neighborhood Organizations are a critical solution to combat racial disparities and injustices in our city. NCR must wield its position and resources responsibly to support transformational work for local neighborhood change.

Danielle Tietjen, Folwell resident and chair of the Northside Neighborhoods Council (NNC)

North News welcomes letters to the editor. Please send to kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org or to North News, 125 W Broadway Suite 130, Minneapolis, MN 55411. They must be signed, under 300 words, and relevant to life in North Minneapolis.

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Story ideas and letters to the editor under 300 words are always welcome. Unsigned letters will not be run.

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INSIDE OUR "O"



The Northside is now home to a distillery. Craft cocktails, like the "Black Knight" pictured here, are served at British-inspired Royal Foundry Craft Spirits (241 Fremont Ave. N) from 3-10pm, Monday-Thursday. Hours are extended Friday-Sunday. Their homemade spirit specialties include London dry gin, rum, and single malt whiskey.
By Kenzie O'Keefe | Photos courtesy of Mike Krivit Photography

Read the full story on Page 13

North Minneapolis at a glance



North High athletes commit to colleges

On Feb. 6, eight North High senior football players signed their letters of intent to continue their athletic and academic careers. The biggest name of the bunch was Omar Brown who signed to play college football at The University of Northern Iowa. Amongst the eight players, three, Jeremiah Stewart, Taquarius Wair and Jaylen Watson, decided to team up and play at Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN. Another pair of football players decided to play together like they have for the past four years of high school; Armon Dalton and Kehyan Porter will be attending The University of Mary in Bismarck, ND to play for the Marauders. Coach Charles Adams III has had a ton of success in the recent years getting kids to college. One of the biggest names out of Minneapolis North has been Tyler Johnson '16 who is now a receiver for the Minnesota Gophers. Polars center, Izaiah Yeager, will be going to Butler Community College in Kansas which has six national championships in football alone. Other players who signed to college include Kawntel Jackson (North Dakota State College of Science), and Daniel Crandall (Minnesota State University Moorhead). Brown said his goals for his freshman year at college include, "Getting bigger, better, stronger and to work hard enough to be able to play my freshman year." He also said he wants to "get prepared now rather than later and focus on nothing but football. The Polars lost a lot of seniors this past season, but they have good athletes to fill in spots and are expected to make another run at a State Championship this fall. By Zachary Yeager, North High

Upper Harbor Terminal concept plan moves forward

Following several weeks of delays, the Upper Harbor Terminal proposed concept plan has passed through the City of Minneapolis' Economic Development and Regulatory Services (EDRS) Committee. The Feb. 19 meeting began with about 40 ralliers prior to the committee meeting and included 90 minutes of city presentation and amendment discussion. Several members of the Minneapolis City Council not on the EDRS committee, as well as

Mayor Jacob Frey, also attended the meeting. Councilmember Phillippe Cunningham (Ward 4), alongside Councilmember Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5), proposed amendments to the concept plan which included directing City and project staff to explore options to "hold the land in public trust," as well as options for "displacement mitigation." The proposed and amended concept plan passed out of the committee unanimously.

Pool renovated at Franklin

North High School's Alumni Association, the Northside Schools Collective, and North Minneapolis Community members have collaborated to get Franklin Middle School's 15 year old, unused pool newly renovated. The ribbon cutting was on Feb. 6 and it will be open to the public for lessons in a few weeks. It will be used as a five lane teaching pool and for swim practices for the students.

New District 7 Met Council Member will soon be selected

The Metropolitan Council is the regional policy making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services for the Twin Cities metropolitan region. By March 4, Governor Tim Walz, who is responsible for nominating Met Council members, will have selected new Met Council members for its 16 districts. The Met Council nominating committee has completed their recommendations for all 16 districts, and they are in the Governor's hands. District 7, which includes North Minneapolis, is currently represented by Gary Cunningham, executive director of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA). The three candidates recommended to replace him were C. Terrance Anderson, Robert Lilligren, and Juana Sandoval. On Feb. 25, Walz notified the MN State Senate of his intention to appoint Lilligren.

Broadway Pizza remains open despite rumors

Despite a viral rumor saying otherwise, Broadway Pizza (2025 West River Rd N) is not shutting down. According to owner Jim Krui-zenga, there have been discussions of selling the property between the owners, but no real

YMCA brings "the beauty within us" to Black History Month



The Harold Mezile North Community YMCA invited families to celebrate Black History Month on Feb. 22 with an event called "The Beauty in Us." Children were treated to a dinner before families played a game of "Black Jeopardy," sat in on a cooking demonstration and helped build a vision board for the community. The night ended with performances from local artists. Here Troy Miller began to dance and lip sync as a DJ played the Temptations classic "My Girl." See more photos by David Pierini on Page 16.

movement has been made on that. "Our plans are, if possible, to be here for a long time yet. I never say never, but the restaurant has definitely not been sold and we are not closing." The original rumors, which circulated primarily on Facebook, announcing the restaurant's imminent closure blamed the closure on property taxes, but Krui-zenga and co-owner Randy Winger say there is no truth to that rumor. "The property taxes on that property are pretty much in line with what they should be," said Winger. Krui-zenga seconds Winger and says that, if the rumors were true, property taxes would not have been a factor. Winger says a bigger factor might have been labor costs.

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Record snowfall closes schools six times

By **Cirien Saadeh** Staff Reporter and **Danae Lawson** Patrick Henry

Brionna Harder, an IB Global Politics and African American History teacher at Patrick Henry High School, has seen her students only twelve times since the semester started in late January. Between holidays, conferences, cancelled after school activities, and inclement weather days, there just has not been a lot of school in February. It's a concern to some.

"I want our kids to be safe, I want our kids to not be put in situations [where] they are going to be put in harm's way because of conditions that are going to be unsafe, because we have stuff to do," said Harder. "It's really difficult to expect that classwork is going to get done and sometimes it can't be, unless you're actually in front of the kids."

Harder notes that the lack of school impacts both students, who need the

classroom time, and teachers, who need to continue adapting their schedules in order to use the classroom time that they do have most efficiently.

"I think we will see the impact of all of this later on in the school year, as we get closer to graduation. Some of the kids are really running out of time for credit recovery; when afterschool activities are cancelled, the Alternative Learning Center does not operate. For my own classes, I will need to collapse lessons or drop lessons from the curriculum that I would not typically drop."

According to Minneapolis Public Schools Chief Operating Officer Karen DeVet, the decision to cancel school due to weather is not an easy one. It requires discussion and coordination between all sectors of MPS, including plant maintenance and academics.

And it requires the district to make the tough decision: is it healthier for kids to be in school or to stay home?



Theo Gonzalez shovels his roof on Logan Avenue N after a snowfall that set a state record for February. He wanted to clear his roof before more snow fell over the weekend. "The roof is flat enough for me to get up here," Gonzalez said. "If I slip, I will try to fall into the snow piles." **Photo by David Pierini**

"We take student learning very seriously, which is why we hesitate to call school off," said DeVet. "And I know, from time to time, some of our families

Continued on Page 15

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catch up with our Council Members



WARD 4:
**Phillipe
Cunningham**



Neighbors,

Last month was Black History Month, which gives us time to reflect on the monumental contributions Black Americans have made and continue to make on the history of the United States. I want to take a moment to shine a light on Black entrepreneurs who are unsung heroes of the Northside.

A true pathway to the equitable prosperity Black ancestors fought and died for is found in community owning and operating our own businesses in our own neighborhoods. I recently asked people to share some of their favorite local black-owned businesses on Facebook. As always, our community had an outpouring of support, recommendations, and highlights - some of which I'd like to share with you this month!

In no particular order:

Noir Elite Fitness, spearheaded by Chaz Sandifer & Valerie Turner, two working mothers dedicated to creating a beautiful legacy for their community through fitness. They can be found out in the community at North Market or a local park dancing and bringing joy out of so many while they improve their health!

H. White Men's Room, the creation of its namesake, Houston White, who has used his shop and clothing line to inspire our community to "BE the change" and also celebrate "Black Excellence." Houston continues to positively influence & engage our community.

New Rules, where Christopher Webley, Papa MBye & Markella Smith worked to create a community innovation hub to give an underserved community a flexible environment to meet and create.

Juxtaposition Arts, where Roger &

DeAnna Cummings are leading an incredible team dedicated to empowering young Northside artists with skills in design, production & marketing, preparing them to be self-sufficient creators

Wilson's Image, a barbershop & salon offering everything you could need, from cuts, and fades to texturizer and up-dos. It is owned by Teto Wilson, who is an amazing community leader and Ward 4 resident.

Black Women's Wealth Alliance, founded by its president, Kenya McKnight, the Black Women's Wealth Alliance is dedicated to supporting black women in saving and investing their money, and building wealth. Kenya was also just recently recognized in a North News article: <https://mynorthnews.org/new-blog/neighbors-kenya-mcknight>

We are blessed by so many amazing black-owned businesses on the Northside! Far more than could ever be listed in less than the 500 words we get for this column. I encourage everyone to support and lift up the Black-owned businesses in our community every opportunity we get. Entrepreneurship is an incredible pathway to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty for all communities, particularly in the Black community. This is only if we give our support, our love, and our business to these community leaders!

Please promote, shop and support our local economy!



WARD 5:
**Jeremiah
Ellison**



My friend—and constituent—Neeraj Mehta always challenges me to ask the question "who benefits?", especially as it pertains to the development of North Minneapolis. Despite its brevity and simplicity, I believe it's the most important question a policymaker can regularly ask themselves. I love the question because it is, plainly, the essential function of government boiled down into two words. Whether it's large corporations or poor communities; whether it's communities of color or the vague "everyone" (which, by default, almost always ends up being middle class white people). When it comes to policymaking, the question "who benefits?" always has an answer, but rarely are we proud to pronounce that answer or be honest about it.

This question has been at the center of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) conversation. The EDRS (Economic Development & Regulatory Services) committee was supposed to review and vote on the UHT redevelopment concept plan (a plan before the final plan) back in mid-January, but we ultimately chose to delay the vote until Feb. 19 because community (rightly, in my opinion) felt that the question of who benefits? had not been properly examined.

While it can be tricky to come to an answer when looking at a "concept plan", the final plan (known as the "coordinated plan") will offer a much clearer picture a year from now. The answer to who benefits? will be at the center of my mind then, as it is now.

We did approve the concept plan on Feb. 19 at the EDRS committee, but not without a healthy number of edits. Edits that aspire to bring us closer to ensuring that working class and working-poor, longtime communities of color benefit. The Northside has faced decades of disinvestment, and we have a duty to get

Minneapolis City Council members Phillipe Cunningham (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) were inaugurated in January 2018. We have invited them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.

projects like this right.

To that end, I want to talk about three priorities I have with regards to UHT that I think will lead to substantial community benefit.

First, I believe finding a serious pathway for the city or the community to own the land underneath the development is important in maintaining public accountability and valuing the public's right to the riverfront. Second, I feel that finding a way for Northsiders to own portions of the development—whether through investment cooperative(s) or community land trust—is an important step towards business development and wealth building. The third priority I'll list (but not my last priority when it comes to UHT) will be to develop and enact the City's first anti-displacement policies—ensuring that black communities, communities of color, and immigrant communities, the ones that comprise our current North Minneapolis, get to benefit from developments and not be pushed out by them. Only a few cities have centered anti-displacement in any meaningful way, and I think Minneapolis should join that list.

All of these topics are so much deeper than what can be covered by my allowed word count here, but if you want to get into the weeds with me on any of these topics please reach out or stop by open office hours and let's discuss it over coffee.

Thank you, and as always, I look forward to seeing you out in the community! Call my office at 612-673-2205 or email me at ward5@minneapolismn.gov.

Thor's headquarters are located inside the Regional Acceleration Center, a building the company constructed last year.
Photos by David Pierini



Despite financial trouble, Thor founder says his business will live on

By Kenzie O'Keefe Editor and Cirien Saadeh Staff Reporter

In January, news broke that Thor Companies, Minnesota's largest minority-owned company, which opened its Regional Acceleration Center (RAC) on Penn and Plymouth in Sept. 2018, is undergoing potentially ruinous financial challenges.

Thor's lender, Sunrise Banks, has sued for \$3 million in unpaid loans and debts and has requested a receiver take control of the company, according to Hennepin County Court documents. Several attempts to reach Sunrise Banks were unsuccessful.

Thor has countersued. In late January, Copeland told *Black Enterprise* that his company has had a credit line with the bank for 11 years and has steadily reduced their line of credit; he also said that just under half the contested \$3 million is "not legitimate."

In late February, Copeland told *North News* that Thor had hired a chief reorganization officer (Manchester Companies Inc.) and is hopeful a settlement can be reached. "There are a bunch of entities that are playing a part in how this restructuring takes place and looks," he said. "We believe [and] are confident that it's all going to come together."

Copeland says Thor's business model will change significantly moving for-

ward; they will liquidate much of their equipment and "become more of a construction manager than a general contractor." That change is "essential to our reorganization strategy," said Copeland.

Thor's fate has the potential to impact the economic future of North Minneapolis. The RAC is both Thor's headquarters and home to several other businesses; it has been championed as a beacon of hope for the economically embattled Northside.

THE FUTURE OF THE RAC

Costing \$36 million to complete, the RAC dwarfs the other institutions on the bustling Penn and Plymouth corner. Building tenants include Me and I Fitness, the African American Heritage Museum, and Build Wealth Minnesota. A second Sammy's Avenue Eatery location is an-

anticipated to open sometime this year (it's been delayed due to construction requirements), and both Target Corp. and the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) lease large spaces in the building.

Hennepin County owns the building's entire fifth floor and 420 of its 625 parking spaces, property it paid over \$20 million for as part of its NorthPoint Health and Wellness expansion plans. "We felt like it was a real win for the county and Thor," said David Hough, Hennepin County Administrator, in early February.

Hough says the county was optimistic about the largest minority-owned construction com-

"Our hope is that [Thor] will be able to ride the storm. They have done excellent work on this building."

Stella Whitney West,
NorthPoint Health &
Wellness CEO

pany in the state being on the Penn and Plymouth corner and that they are "sorry" Thor is struggling. He does not anticipate Thor's financial issues affecting the county's piece of the building. "The building will be maintained," said Huff, "The asset is taken care of. The main issue...is how [Thor is] going to address the leins on their portion of the property."

NorthPoint CEO Stella Whitney West says Tri Construction is finishing the fifth floor build out and NorthPoint employees will move into the RAC in March, a month before they break ground on their campus expansion on the Northwest corner of the intersection. "We saw it as a win-win and still see it as a win-win," she said.

Me & I Fitness owner, Jeffrey Scott, says that Thor employees leaving the company has negatively impacted his business; he has lost 6-12 gym members, who used to work in the building. "I'd be lying to say it doesn't hurt. Obviously, when you're a small business, every dollar and every member, every client counts," he said.

Both Scott and Sammy McDowell, owner of Avenue Eatery say there has been little communication from Thor about what their financial

trouble means for their building tenants.

"There hasn't been any communication from Thor or any of the building owners," said Scott. "I believe they're providing information on a need-to-know basis and at this point there is nothing I need to know that I don't already know."

McDowell says that whether or not Thor continues to be his landlord he will continue to track towards opening his coffee shop inside. "We're not going anywhere," he said.

PENN AND PLYMOUTH DEVELOPMENT WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT A HITCH

Anchor organization leaders on the Penn and Plymouth Ave. corner say they're not worried about Thor's situation negatively impacting the corner's economic success.

Tracy Wesley, Estes Funeral Home director, described Thor's situation as "an anomaly" and

**"Failure is something
I face and run from
every day. That's what
has driven me to be
successful: fear of
failure."**

**Richard Copeland,
Thor Founder and Board
Chairman**

likely a "management issue." He says his business, along with those in the RAC seem to be thriving. "there's been such a positive reaction to our new business. ...Whatever is going on with THOR, it's specific to them. It's not so much a factor of where they're located as it's what's going on their their business."

Hough says he and other county leaders are optimistic about the future of the corner, which they've invested \$68 million in. They're particularly excited about the NorthPoint expansion groundbreaking, set to happen in April. "This is a huge deal. It still is a huge deal," he said.

"Our hope is that [Thor] will be able to ride the storm. They have done excellent work on this building. This is an asset for this community," said Whitney West.

THOR'S FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Thor's partnership with Sunrise Banks began in Oct. 2009 when Franklin National Bank of Minneapolis, which preceded Sunrise Banks, lent \$3 million to Thor. Thor was meant to pay back the loan plus 2% interest (totaling \$3,725,000) by April 2018. In April 2018, Thor took out an extension on the loan and agreed to pay back the loan, with interest, by Dec. 31, 2018. According to court documents, Thor failed to make the payment and on Jan. 8, 2019; Sunrise Banks demanded the loan and interest be repaid immediately. The lawsuit summons states that Sunrise Banks believed that Thor was in default and they requested that the Court put the collateral of Thor into the hands of Sunrise Banks.

The summons reads, "Upon information and belief, Borrower [Sunrise Banks] is insolvent or in imminent danger of insolvency. Borrower is unable to meet its liabilities in the usual course of its business and has insufficient assets to cover its liabilities." These liabilities include payroll and other debts.

Community members have worried that the company would not be able to move past the financial challenges, while others have wondered about what the financial challenges meant for the future of the project and project partners.

"We're very saddened that it's occurring and I hope that Richard Copeland and Thor weather this and move forward and continue as a business," said Hough.

Thor Companies and Sunrise Banks are currently locked in counter-lawsuits. Sunrise's lawsuit is asking the case judge, Susan Robiners who was appointed to Hennepin County Court in 2006 and re-elected twice, to require Thor to pay back compensatory damages, the requested \$3 million, plus interest. Sunrise Banks has also requested that Thor be placed under a court-ordered receivership, which is situation in which an organization is placed under the responsibility of another, particularly when the originating company has financial difficulties, as Thor has had.

Because of the company's financial challenges, Thor has lost much of its staff, including former CEO Ravi Norman, who is now the CEO of Norman Global Enterprises.

As of late February, requests for a "motion hearing" have been cancelled for Feb. 28 and March 22. A motion is a request for a ruling.



Thor founder and board chair Richard Copeland stands in the Regional Acceleration Center just before it opened in the summer of 2018. "Failure is something I face and run from every day. That's what has driven me to be successful: fear of failure," he told *North News* then.

What that means for the future of the lawsuits is yet unknown. Hennepin County Court documents from early February discuss the Feb. 28 hearing, which was meant to discuss, at least in part, the request for a receivership by Sunrise Banks.

Still despite the organization's challenges, Northside community leaders still have their hopes for answers—what happened and where do we go from here—and for a bright future for the company.

"There are always ups and downs in business. When [Copeland and Thor] are ready to tell their story, the community will embrace them just like any other member of our family. We don't throw people out of our family. We'll say 'you can do this. You can do it again,' that's what we need to be about," said Whitney West.

"The story isn't finalized yet," said Copeland.

Police department continues search for new Fourth Precinct leader

The station has been without an inspector since December.

By Kenzie O'Keefe Editor

Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo says he hopes to install a new Fourth Precinct inspector by April.

Finding a long term leader for the Northside police station, which has seen three inspectors come and go in three years, has proven difficult. MPD officials held a forum at the Davis Center on Feb. 21, asking the community to provide input that would help the chief choose a next inspector who sticks.

Arradondo began the forum with an apology for the incident that led to his removal of the precinct's last inspector, Aaron Biard, an over 20-year veteran of the department, back in December. A Christmas tree at the station was decorated with racist ornaments by two police officers, prompting swift denunciation by the mayor, chief, and community leaders. "I know that's caused pain and frustration to many of you," said Arradondo, who was born on the Northside and says he understands community to be committed to safety that is "not just the absence of crime but the presence of justice."

Arradondo says he has interviewed every lieutenant, commander, and

inspector in the department to assess their possible interest and fit with the role. The number of people who "want to do this job" is "smaller than you might imagine," said Arradondo. He says "character" (or "the words people use to describe you when you're not in the room") is the most important selection factor for him.

Over 50 community members, including Northside city council members and school board directors, attended the forum, which was moderated by Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, a Northside resident and decorated academic who told the crowd she has "been leading police community dialogue for almost 25 years now."

Small groups put together lists of qualities they would like to see in a next Fourth Precinct Inspector, a job that requires both an ability to internally manage a team of 125 sworn and civilian employees at the station and an ability to build deep trust with community members.

Northside resident Kathleen Acaso says she's looking for an inspector who "believes in de-escalation whenever possible."

"I would like him to be comfortable in my community," said Lynne Crockett.

Kimberly Caprini says she wants "an inspector who realizes when their own staff needs to not work," she said.

"I don't want someone who just protects the officers," said Jamar Nelsen,



Community members teamed up with city leaders to brainstorm lists of qualities they would like to see in their next Fourth Precinct Inspector. At the end of the event on Feb. 21, each group shared their lists with the whole crowd. **Photos by Kenzie O'Keefe**

adding that he would like to see a woman of color considered for the role.

Other comments stressed a need for an inspector who is out and about in the community and influences their officers to do the same.

"I would like him to be comfortable in my community."

Lynne Crockett

Assistant Chief Mike Kjos is temporarily leading the Fourth Precinct while the search for a new leader is underway. This is his second temporary stint at the precinct. Kjos held the position prior to Biard's appointment, after beloved Inspector Michael Friestleben was removed from the role in 2016, prompt-

ing great community outrage. Many in attendance at the forum spoke of Friestleben's presence in community as a model that the next inspector should follow.

Before landing on Biard, then MPD Chief Janee Harteau selected John Delmonico as Friestleben's replacement in April of 2017, but his appointment was blocked by then Mayor Betsy Hodges, whose texts to Harteau revealed that she believed him to have done "racist stuff" during his tenure in the department. According to the *Star Tribune*, Delmonico later sued Hodges for defamation of character but the judge dismissed the case.



Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo says he is committed to finding an inspector who is the right fit for the community.



The school board report

Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By **Cirien Saadeh** Staff Reporter

February was an odd month for Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), with several days off for planned holidays, parent-teacher conferences, and extreme weather conditions. MPS has offered resources for students to keep up with their studies. These include Naviance for 6-12 grade students who have access to at-home internet. For students with identified special learning needs, participation and work is reviewed and agreed upon individually. For more information on closure resources check out: http://mpls.k12.mn.us/closure_resources

On Feb. 19, MPS hosted a community-wide 2019-2020 budget discussion. The discussion included presentations by MPS staff, including Superintendent Ed Graff, community discussion, and a questions and answer session. State law requires that next year's school budget be approved by June 30, 2019. The district is aiming to complete the budget in April in order to ensure that teacher postings are posted in a timely manner. These budget discussions and other meetings are meant to help the district plan for budget allocations and finalize district priorities. Learn more at http://mpls.k12.mn.us/2019-2020_budget.

The MPS School Board is expected to vote on a three-year contract for Superintendent Ed Graff in March. The proposed contract pays Graff \$230,000, up from \$225,000 annually, and an increase to his monthly car allowance from \$400 to \$420.

The Stable Homes, Stable Schools program has been voted on and approved by the Minneapolis City Council on Feb. 15. The program is the result of a partnership between the City, MPS, and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and would provide the families of homeless pre-K through 8th grade students with apartments. Families would cover 30% of the rent and the City of Minneapolis would cover the remaining rent. 15 schools are currently enrolled in the program including several Northside schools: Lucy Laney, Jenny Lind, Hall International, Cityview, Hmong International, and Nellie Stone Johnson. If the pilot program is a success, Mayor Jacob Frey has proposed extending the program to high school students and their families.

Educator spotlight Morgan McDonald Sr.



Morgan McDonald is this month's Educator Spotlight. He was recommended because of the love he has for his school and the impact he has had on his students. **Photo by Cirien Saadeh**

By **Cirien Saadeh** Staff Reporter

For Morgan McDonald Sr., Student Support Specialist at Lucy Laney Community School, positivity is everything. McDonald was recommended to North News as our Educator Spotlight, because of the love he shows for the school community and the impact he has had on students, including a dramatic decrease in suspension and expulsion levels. As Student Support Specialist, McDonald deals with behavior at the school and on busses, liaises with parents, and bridges the gap between home and school. He also founded the Lucy Laney Boxing Academy, a registered USA Boxing school, recently inaugurated on Jan. 9. McDonald was raised in Illinois and graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He made the decision to go into education because of his mother, who he says taught him what not to do, because of her own troubles. McDonald joined the Lucy Laney community seven years ago, "give or take," and has four kids, two of whom attend Lucy Laney.

How do you build a positive relationship with students? Honest truth, I am trying to be that person that I needed, that I really needed. I actually had some dope people

in my life. My basketball coach, my mentor, I call him my big brother and another mentor, I call him my dad. He is not my dad, my dad died when I was six. Those two men, they taught me a lot, what to do, what not to do, how to dress, code-switching, they taught me all that. They did it to groups of kids. I think I was just one of those kids that listened and both of those guys gave me a torch, they poured into me, and my spirit loved it. I owe it to my ancestors, to them, to pass that torch on. I had men in my life who really showed me some things, who talked to me. I don't know if they knew what they was doing, but I appreciate them.

You discuss code-switching a lot. What does that mean to you? To me, code-switching is being able to communicate with someone from different backgrounds, different upbringing, being able to live in both realms of our society. Will Smith, I love how he speaks. Mrs. Frestleben, I watch her speak, how comfortable she is and how she plays with words. I know they can code-switch, they've been on both sides of the fence and can jump the fence at any time. There is nothing wrong with teaching kids to code-switch. They already code-switch with their

parents, their friends.

What is your teaching philosophy? I just love on the kids. Once you love on them, they are gonna let you know what they need. You can learn your kids, they are gonna let you know when something is wrong. Get to know your kids, pour into them, figure out what pushes them. Give them role models, they are going to mimic them, they are going to reach for that. Kids have to see that there is greatness in them, they need to be able to have their own cycle, away from their parents cycle. They need someone there to pull it out of them. I also believe that if you put positive stuff out, positive stuff happens. You put positive energy out, positive energy is coming back.

What is your favorite quote? When Mrs. Frestleben told me that I was going to like the new theme for the year, I asked her if it had to do with boxing. When she put it up, I don't know, it actually brought something out of me, because boxing is my sport, my kids' sport. I don't make them do it, they love it.

For those able to support the Lucy Laney Boxing Academy, you can do so by donating workout gear, boxing gloves and bag gloves, exercise equipment, and/or boxing gear. Email McDonald at Morgan.McDonald@mpls.k12.mn.us. Lucy Laney Boxing Academy will be hosting State Junior Olympics on May 3. You can contact McDonald for additional details.

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.



Loppet wants Northsiders to get outside

New Theodore Wirth building invites year-round outdoor adventuring

By Daija Triplett *Intern*

The Loppet Foundation and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) have partnered to create a facility called The Trailhead, an open-year-round, 14,000 square foot building that serves as a launching pad for outdoor activities.

It is a place for serious outdoor enthusiasts and curious newcomers, young and old, who want to enjoy activities like skiing, biking, hiking, running, snowboarding, tubing, and more. They also have a gym inside the facility along with a new restaurant called Cajun Twist. This winter, a portable sauna has been available just outside the building.

The Trailhead is located where the Par 3 building used to be, North of Highway 55 right across from the Theodore Wirth Golf course.

So far, the community seems very pleased with the facility. "It feels like I am at a cross country ski resort," said Adam Kuenzel, who was using The Trailhead facility in February. "I used to go to a lot of different ski areas around the city but since Wirth and a couple of others make snow, I have gotten used to coming here a lot because you can pretty much count on coming to ski here," he said.

Those who use the facilities seem to love them, but many in the North Minneapolis community don't

More than 400 elementary school kids took to the Loppet Winter Festival race course at Theodore Worth Park in early February for the Minne-Loppet race. Here, Ezekiel Straub, part of the Bethune Community School team, stayed upright as he raced across the finish line. **Photos by David Pierini**



Shakira McMorris smiles as she leans in to receive her Minne-Loppet medal. **Photos by David Pierini**

yet know about them. "We need to get more people from North Minneapolis out there," said Loppet Adventures Director, Anthony Taylor.

"I think the community's response has been surprised," said Taylor. "When you are sitting in here, it's all windows so you're really connected to the outside. Another thing is the surprise about the activity that's going on. So when you are in here right now in the middle of winter you see skiers go by there are snow shoe-ers, there are bikers outside biking."

The Trailhead facility is open to everyone, but the crowd isn't as diverse as Taylor wants it to be yet: "The highest users tend to be white, moderate, middle class and male," he said. "So my job and part of what we are really excited about is using this building to change that. What we really want to do is diversify the users and we think The Trailhead can be key to that."

Taylor says youth engagement is a big part of the community outreach strategy. "We run a lot of school programs so currently we're involved with [eleven] elementary schools in North Minneapolis, three middle schools in North Minneapolis and then the three high schools in North Minneapolis, he said.

"We're doing a lot of youth engagement so we see a lot of that programming but what we really want to do is connect more strongly to North Minneapolis families and engage their desire to be healthier, to be more active, to have their kids be better in school, and we believe in using the outdoors as a strategy for that is the difference, most people don't think of using the outdoor activities as a strategy for doing better in school."

Learn more about The Trailhead at loppet.org/the-trailhead.

The Trailhead gets a "Cajun Twist"

Theodore Wirth's new restaurant provides necessary fuel—with a kick!

By **Cirien Saadeh** Staff Reporter

The Theodore Wirth Trailhead now has a spicy kick. A new restaurant, Cajun Twist, opened in mid-January. Serving breakfast and lunch, the restaurant is the work of owner and head chef Teona Washington, who started Cajun Twist as a pop-up and catering business in 2015, inspired by her time working in New Orleans' French Quarter.

"I lived in New Orleans for quite a while, and while I was there, I learned how to make the food working on Bourbon Street. When I moved back to Minnesota, there was no Cajun food really available here. You have some, but it's not authentic," said Washington. "So then I decided I need to bring this here. I started doing these pots of gumbo myself, and then people started requesting more and more. I started doing the red beans and rice, then jambalaya, egg rolls, things like that and it just grew and grew and grew," she said.

According to Washington, Cajun Twist has had incredible success so far. All the snow has brought many skiers to The Trailhead, and the restaurant has been serving 1,500 people during a typical week.

"The community response has been amazing. We've had so many people that were not just supportive of the restaurant, but just supportive of me as a person. That kind of blew my mind to see so many people stand up or take initiative to make sure that I succeeded as a business owner, as a small business owner at that," said Washington.

Cajun Twist's success is despite the fact that Washington is not actively marketing the restaurant yet, and she doesn't plan on hosting a grand opening event until the snow melts away.

"A lot of people still don't know that we're in here, which is kind of intentional because we've been so swamped. I have not really posted or done any type of marketing to let people know that we are open because it's just been so busy," said Washington. "I think once things slow down in the spring when there's not so many skiers coming in, once it slows down in the spring, then we'll start promoting and marketing."

Cajun Twist has a staff of 15 people, most of them part-time. They serve breakfast and lunch and are open 7am-9pm, seven days a week. According



Above: Teona Washington, owner of Cajun Twist, was inspired by her time time working on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Bottom: Cajun Twist has two po' boys on its menu. Featured here is the beef po' boy. **Photos by Cirien Saadeh**

to Washington, community favorites are either the Bayou Burger or the gumbo.

"I love the gumbo, but my favorite is the Bayou Burger. The gumbo is a New Orleans tradition, but there's something about a burger. I think people just love a good burger," said Washington.

Learn more about Cajun Twist, including their catering options, at eatcajuntwist.com.

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North High freshmen went to the Guthrie Theater to see the Shakespeare play *As You Like It* on Feb. 21. "I learned that everybody can't get what they want but everybody can get something in the end," said freshman Joy Cunningham. **Photo by Samuel Wilbur**

How to support a new student

By **Mohamad Mohamad** North High

Many students transfer to different schools. Some of the hardest parts of transferring to a new school for me were getting to know people and finding my way around the school. Another hard part for new students might be making friends. Some students that transfer schools probably moved to a different state, like myself. Many students also transfer schools because of insufficient grades, parents' divorce or bullying.

6 out of 14 students in my journalism class have been to only one high school. When I came to this high school it was big compared to the other one I used to go to in Ann Arbor, MI. It was hard to find my way around the school. It was also kind of hard to get to know people which a lot of people struggle with at first. However, it was easy to get used to the schedule because it was similar to my old high school. At North High, we change classes each semester but at my old high school we stayed in the same classes until the next year. Junior Said Mohamed, who is new to North this year, said, "The hardest part of adjusting to the new school was getting to know where the classes were". Another student named Takyiah said what surprised her was, "I was not expecting the school to be this small." She also said the hardest part was getting to know people.

People can support new students by showing them around the school the first couple days. People can also support new students by being friendly and helping them during class. What helped me adjust to this school was people helping me find where my classes were and teachers helping during class.

Understanding Black History Month

By **Frank Blount** North High

I reached out to former North High history teacher Courtney Bell to ask her about Black History Month because she taught black history here. I asked her what the month means to her and whether or not MPS honors it well. Here are her thoughts:

"I acknowledge and appreciate the sentiments of Carter G. Woodson and his efforts to have Black History Month established. To show honor to the contributions of people of African descent in this country and throughout the world, I teach our history to all who will listen. I personally believe that there must be a genuine acknowledgement of people of African descent in all arenas of life and societally that is not the case. While their population is largely children of African descent, there is no consistent effort made to undo the very same societal prejudice and oppression that African Americans endured in the past and presently therefore upholding the status quo. I deeply admire Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, Dorothy Height, and Marian Wright Edelman. The history of the African Diaspora and all of its people is important year round, not just in February. I want North High School scholars to learn African American History in the form of a year round curriculum that is uplifting and empowering. I want North High scholars to see themselves mirrored in every curriculum that they learn and to aspire toward the greatness that our ancestors achieved even in the face of oppression and dehumanization."



Student stories

North Minneapolis violence

By **Ary Taylor and Jenelle Robinson**
North High

In North Minneapolis, there have been multiple acts of violence recently: shootings, fights, and killings. It has affected many people: parents, students, siblings, and friends.

At North High School on Jan. 16 at 12:30pm, gunshots were fired from the sidewalk west of the 15th Ave. and Irving Ave intersection. During the shooting multiple students were in the hallways of school, but none were in the hallway where the bullet came through the front door. This has affected me and many other students in the school because anyone who knows, a bullet doesn't have a name on it, so it could have hit anyone. Thankfully nobody was injured.

How are we supposed to feel safe if things like this happen? North High Principal Dr. Shawn Harris-Berry said, "It was concerning because it creates a culture of unsafety. ...North High needs to be a safe haven for students, and the fact that that was shaken for the students, it was very disturbing for me as a principal." Many students and parents thought school should have been canceled the next day, but Harris-Berry and Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) made the decision to keep school open.

"We live in a society where there is always

something going on in somebody's life and we can't get stuck. We have to take care of ourselves, but we still have to push forward. What I know is that when you have your education, you can decide where you go in life and what you do in life, and if we stop everything, everytime there is an incident, we won't have time for instruction because something in our society is always going on," said Harris-Berry. "If we would have stopped school that would say that the outside forces dictate what happens in here, and the outside forces cannot dictate what happens inside of North High School."

Another violent event was a fight at Edison High School on Dec. 20, 2018. A young man had his head stomped on by more than one person during the fight. Police were called twice that same week for a fight prior to that which was also on the news. The girl that was in the first fight ended up having to go to the hospital from her injuries. Things like this makes us as students worry about what our community has come to. We don't even feel safe enough to walk to the bus stop alone with having to worry about something happening. When will all the violence stop? When will young teenagers be able to feel safe to walk outside? When will the community come together to stop the violence? We have to think about the younger generation and make sure they grow up into a world full of peace and not violence.

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New distillery brings “British spirit” to Glenwood corridor

Royal Foundry Craft Spirits will celebrate its grand opening March 7-9.

By Kenzie O’Keefe Editor

The Fremont and Glenwood intersection now boasts internationally inspired beer and spirits.

Royal Foundry Craft Spirits (RFCS), a British-themed “grain to glass distillery” has just opened behind La Doña Cervecería, the Latinx-inspired brewery Sergio Manancero launched last fall.

RFCS is a British-American mashup much like its founders, married couple Nikki and Andy McLain. Nikki is the Chief Marketing Officer. Her husband Andy, the “dreamer,” is Chief Distiller. Andy is British; his parents are both from towns outside Windsor (“where the queen lives”), England. Though he was born in Minnesota, he was raised in Europe. Nikki is American. Their Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Kelly Everhart, is also American.

Nikki says her husband’s interest in pub culture and distilling led them to a critical decision-making moment in late 2015: would he continue working for a custom home builder,



The cocktail room at Royal Foundry Craft Spirits has ample space for the new business’ growing crowd of customers. Photos courtesy of Mike Krivit Photography

or would they launch their own distillery? “We needed to draw a line in the sand: either we’re going to do it or not,” she said.

They decided to go for it, and three years later, they’re opening their business. It took them a full year of looking at real estate before they landed on their 15,000 square foot building at 241 Fremont Ave. N. According to Nikki, it was love at first sight. “We drove by our property and Andy was like ‘that’s it!’” she said.

They appreciated the building’s size—they didn’t want to grow out of their space “in a year or two”—and its Northside location: “We truly believe that the neighborhood has so much potential, and we hope other business owners see that as well. It’s a really untapped part of Minneapolis that a lot of people don’t know about,” Nikki said. Royal Foundry has a ten-year lease and plan to stay “for the long term.” They plan to collaborate with, not colonize, the local community. Nikki says they’re committed to partnering with local businesses, particularly food ven-

dors as the distillery doesn’t make food of its own.

Inside the building, the palatial space boasts a cocktail room, a private event space, and lanes for “skittles,” a popular British pub game that’s similar to bowling but with a smaller, heavier ball and nine pins. When the weather is better, they plan to build a “British Cycle Speedway,” a short cycling track, out back. Nikki believes it will be the first of its kind in the country. “We’re going to ask you to wear a helmet,” she said.

Right now, Andy is making gin from scratch “literally 24/7,” said Nikki. Gin is the first spirit they plan to bring to market. Soon, Andy will make rum and single malt whiskey, but both require significant aging—three years for the whiskey. While that’s happening, RFCS will serve rum and whiskey cocktails with spirits they blended from another distillery. RFCS also makes all of their own bitters, shrubs and mixers.

RFCS will soon debut a new 16-cocktail menu; cocktail room visitors in February

encountered just eight. They range from \$8-\$12 apiece. When asked about pricing of their cocktails, Nikki explained the craftsmanship behind the making of spirits and the time and energy the team spends making the drinks. “We don’t strive to be the expensive cocktails in town. We definitely don’t want to be that,” she said.

For those interested in getting behind the scenes, RFCS plans to launch cocktail classes come March. “People can get in on the experience of making the drinks,” said Nikki.

RFCS shares an address with La Doña, and this summer, they may share a street fair. Nikki says she and Manancero have talked about possibly partnering on a Women’s World Cup celebration as soccer is a beloved pastime in both of the places their businesses are inspired by.

RFCS’ grand opening celebration will take place March 7-9. Mention this story and receive \$1 of your drinks for the rest of the year.

Learn more at royalfoundrycraftspirits.com.



The Prince Harry is made with rum, ginger, lime and classic bitters.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On February 19th, the Economic Development & Regulatory Services Committee of the Minneapolis City Council approved the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) Concept plan. I want to thank Chair Goodman and Committee Members, especially Councilmembers Cunningham and Ellison, for listening to residents and initially delaying a vote on the UHT concept plan.

At the committee meeting, Councilmember Cunningham offered five amendments to the concept plan that were accepted by the committee. These amendments were items that community members helped draft and were the result of a broad coalition of Northside residents, anti-displacement, and environmental activists coming together to strengthen language in the concept plan. The Co-Creation Team pressured elected officials to amend the concept plan to utilize a racial equity framework to help guide redevelopment policies at this site, include community ownership opportunities, incorporate eco-district protocols, Green Zone and environmental standards, implement anti-gentrification and anti-displacement strategies, and provide co-creation governing opportunities in the next phases of planning.

The UHT concept plan now moves to the full council for a vote March 1. It's important that community members and activists are vigilant as the process moves forward to ensure that a community benefits agreement is included into the land purchase agreement of this site. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and access would be better honored if the City ensures that this project puts people of color, especially African Americans from North Minneapolis, as primary beneficiary. Northside residents deserve the opportunity to shape the riverfront in a way that could better serve community and enhance the river.

Alexis Pennie is a Northside resident, UHT Co-Creation Team member, and serves on the boards of the Above the Falls Community Advisory Committee and Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership. (NNC)

North News welcomes letters to the editor. Please send to kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org or to North News, 125 W Broadway Suite 130, Minneapolis, MN 55411. They must be signed, under 300 words, and relevant to life in North Minneapolis.

Henry Principal continued from Page 21

our purpose in life and how to get over certain obstacles. He did not care what others thought of him and he was not going to let anyone tell him how to do his job. As a consequence, he butted heads with many people, but people who understood and knew what he fought for supported him. My freshmen year I did not care who the head coach was but at this time it made a lot of sense to have Coach Hayes.

I remember a Black man, Harry Oden, a representative of UMD, talking to me a half a dozen times after the game. He played basketball and graduated from UMD and was currently a principal for a high school in Milwaukee. He loved watching basketball and continues to support UMD athletics. Eventually, he came to my house and pushed for me to visit UMD. My family and I took Harry up on his offer and decided to visit UMD. After the visit, I made up my mind and decided to attend UMD. That was the beginning of a lifelong relationship with whom I call my mentor Harry Oden.

Harry stepped up to the plate and took me under his wing. He made sure that I was taken care of because he promised my parents. Harry and I would have great conversations on the issues of being an African American student athlete on a predominantly white campus, the importance of graduating from college, and life after college. Harry played a very important role in my life as a young adult and continues to inspire me now.

Coming from a neighborhood with several success stories, but far too many tragedies made it nearly impossible for me to get to where I am at without the support of my family, coaches, counselors, community members, friends, mentors and many others. It was extremely important from birth that my parents were very disciplined and focused in their faith and lifestyle. From there, I was able to internalize the morals and values I learned as a young child and use that to guide me though life. Many times, I made the wrong choice and dealt with the consequences, but more often I was surrounded by positive people and programs that became more attractive to me than the negativity around me. For that, I live a life-long philosophy that no one should go through life without giving back to what has been given to them.

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NEWS

SNOW continued from Page 4

struggle with that, but we do feel that our students are better off in school," said DeVet. "There's definitely benefit from receiving direct instruction and so we take that very seriously."

DeVet also notes that the district has considered a digital learning platform that could be used during inclement weather. She notes that in order for such a program to be implemented, the district would need to increase their technical capacity and ensure that all students had at-home access to the technology and tools they needed to make use of such a platform.

According to MPS Media Relations Coordinator Dirk Tedmon, the district does not yet have to add days to their academic calendar to make up for the number of inclement weather days called, but they are watching to make sure that students meet the required number of hours and days.

The district began with 174 days on its academic calendar (after cutting

them down from 176), and is currently at 168 because of the weather. There is a state minimum, for high schools, of 165 days.

"Some of our Community Partnership Schools, middle schools and K-8s may be getting close on hours (not days) because of scheduling differences, and we are monitoring that. If needed, we will need to take action such as reducing the number of half-days scheduled for the rest of the year. Our elementaries and comprehensive high schools are good on hours right now," said Tedmon.

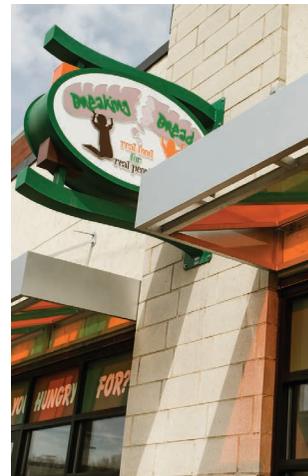
The district does recommend that students and parents make use of their e-learning platform Naviance for 6-12th grade students. They also discuss a variety of school closure resources on their website. You can find that at http://mpls.k12.mn.us/closure_resources

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YMCA celebrates "the beauty within us" for Black History Month

The Harold Mezile North Community YMCA invited families to celebrate Black History Month on Friday, Feb. 22 with an event called "The Beauty in Us." Children were treated to a dinner before families played a game of "Black Jeopardy," sat in on a cooking demonstration and helped build a vision board for the community. The night ended with "Showtime at the Mezile" with performances from spoken word and hip hop artists and a short set of pieces by violinist Debbie Moore. **Photos by David Pierini**



Top: Taronda Richardson plants a kiss on her niece, Navaeh Richardson, 6, while she arranges a selfie that includes her nephew, Nazir Richardson, 4. Taronda Richardson is the YMCA's branch manager.

Middle: Rico Bush shouted out an answer during "Black Jeopardy," which tested two teams' knowledge of black history and culture. Rico helped his team to win.

Left: Violinist Debbie Moore performed three songs, including a piece from the musical "Hamilton."



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How to be successful in life amidst adversity: Patrick Henry's principal tells his story

Patrick Henry High School Principal Yusuf Abdullah planned to give this speech at his high school's annual 100 Black Men Strong Event on Feb. 8. The event was rescheduled for March due to a snow day, so North News invited him to share his thoughts and advice on family values and positive relationships here.

By **Yusuf Abdullah** Contributor

I was born at St Luke's Hospital in Racine, Wisconsin on August 30, 1976. The year when a gallon of milk sold for \$1.42, a loaf of bread sold for \$.30, a new car sold for \$4,100.00, a gallon of gas sold for \$.59, and a new house sold for \$54,750.00. The year when the thrilling movie, "Rocky", came to the big screen with co-stars Sylvester Stallone and Carl Weathers as Rocky Balboa and Apollo Creed. The year when Jimmy Earl Carter Jr. (Democrat) beat out Gerald R. Ford (Republican) in the election for President of the United States of America.

My full name is Yusuf Adil Abdullah. I am the principal at Patrick Henry High School. I received my Master's and Bachelor's degree in education from the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) and received my license to be a principal from St Cloud State University. My wife, Nneka, and I have been married for 15 years and have two sons and a daughter.

As a youth, I grew up in a neighborhood challenged with crime, drugs, murder, and "came of age" in the 1980s at the height of the crack epidemic. I have witnessed large street fights, shootings, and a number of drug raids. I have seen drug dealers riding down the street with their fancy cars as well as the "crackheads" searching for their next hit. There were no doctors or lawyers walking the streets of my community. There was one politician that everyone hated and called a "sellout." Where I lived, hustlers reigned, and it was easy to follow their example. Many youth landed in juvenile detention centers before their eighteenth birthday. As a result, these young people had difficulty getting back into the mainstream of society, even during their adult lives.

I remember one of my elementary classmates jokingly called me a "school boy" because I was bringing homework home. I challenged him and convinced him that I was not a "school boy" so he would not continue to call me that in front of people. Who wants to be a school boy? He was always the one who got into trouble in school, but in the streets, he was popular and smart as a whip. He was smooth and became cool with the girls. He always called himself a "pimp."

Now, he is constantly avoiding the police. He since has served a number of sentences due to drug charges.

So why me? Why was I able to escape a life of trouble with the law? What makes me so special or capable? What did I have that others did not have? Many of the

“**So why me? Why was I able to escape a life of trouble with the law? What makes me so special or capable? What did I have that others did not have?**”

people in my neighborhood that I knew and hung around with had some of the same opportunities that I did; some even had more. What led me to my successes as a youth, and as a result leads me to experience success as an adult? These are some questions that I pondered over 18 years ago and today I will share with you what I have discovered.

Of course, I did the typical stuff such as choosing a good group friends to hang out with, setting goals to keep me focused, having a spiritual connection, and I dreamed a



Principal Yusuf Abdullah speaks with '18 valedictorian Keaton Clarke in the Patrick Henry High School library. **Photo by Cirien Saadeh**

lot. We hear those things all the time. What I want to share with you is the power of having family values and the importance of healthy relationships.

FAMILY VALUES

My mom and dad focused on raising a "good" family. They read about successful Black people and it became evident to them that structure was important in life. Disorder, screaming or disrespect couldn't survive in my house. They believed the "proper" education for our family was a must. It included our connection with both the immediate and human family. Even though most of the people in the neighborhood resembled us, we knew a larger family of millions lived in other parts of the world. They educated us about the historical slave trade and its inhumane treatment and reminded us that others had also suffered. We were taught about the special qualities of all human beings and our innate nature, unless suppressed, wants to strive for excellence. Black Excellence! This is why I preach PFamily with Patrick Henry High School. My Pfamily!

POSITIVE ADULT MODELS

As I reflect back on my past, it was understood that when I was away from home it was important that I surrounded myself with positive adults. Adults that were not only able to lead by example but also assist in guiding me in the right direction. Two people came to mind Coach Hayes my high school basketball coach, and Harry Oden, the one who recruited me to play basketball for UMD.

Our coach, a Black man, Bob Hayes, stood behind his players 100%. He told us when we were wrong, and he praised us when we were right. He was very tough on us and spent a lot of time talking about life and making good decisions. He would spend extra time with the Black players and talk more about

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GRADUATION

St. Cloud State University
Yvonne Mbariket
Kaochengyeng Yang
Alexandra Hedquist
Kate Schroeder
Tony Yang

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Larrick Potvin
Trevor Meland

University of Iowa
Bernitha Asare

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Miami University
Jillian Christie

DEAN'S LIST

Gustavus Adolphus
Yee Lor
Olivia Kunshier

Mount Mercy University
Cassidy Courey

Miami University
Katie Ercolani

Connecticut College
John Rudd

St. Cloud State University
Amanda Ferry
Kaochengyeng Yang
Jennifer Chue
Max Friedman
Alexandra Hedquist
Anna Nelson
Ploua Thao
Kayla Wendlandt

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Mira Grinsfelder
Alec Keebler
Josie Madden

The College of St. Scholastica
Janell Ritari
Danielle Schmidt

North Dakota State University
Amelia R. Walker
Jackson J. Funke

Bethel University
Sidney Meader

Colby College
Sidney C. Liu

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

University of Wisconsin-Stout
Willem Tieleman
Tsim Yang

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Tufts University
Elizabeth Shaheen

ENROLLED

Carleton College
Sagal Ahmed
David Ahrens
Jack Rybarczyk

RESOURCES

The City of Minneapolis is now accepting applications for the **Minneapolis 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program**, which helps property owners obtain property tax reductions for agreeing to keep a portion of rental units affordable for 10 years. For more information check out: <http://www.minneapolis.gov/cped/housing/WCMSP-214366>

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.minneapolis.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@nrnc.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.

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.

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

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Registration is on now for the Capri Glee! Adult Community Choir under the direction of J.D. Steele. Spring session rehearsals take place on Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm, April 2-May 30, culminating in a joy-filled concert at 7pm Tuesday, May 7. Rehearsals and the concert are held at the Capri Theater. Anyone age 18 or older is welcome to sing, and there is no fee to participate, though contributions to the Capri will be accepted. Register online at thecapritheater.org or call 612-643-2058.

Ongoing Thursdays – **Community Coffee & Conversation**, 11am-1pm. Get to know neighbors and enjoy complimentary beverages. All are welcome at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N).

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.

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.

3/2 – **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.

3/2 – **Family Movie Sing-a-Long.** 2:30p-4:30pm. Webber Park Library. Here's your chance to burst into song in the library! Learn songs from Happy Feet and then watch the movie and sing along together! Sponsor: Friends of the Webber Park Library. Collaborator: Hopewell Music Cooperative North.

3/7 – **Healing Circle: Living with Suicidal Thoughts.** 6pm-7:30pm. Webber Park Library. A mental health practitioner from The Zen Bin will present this community-healing circle. It will be a safe space for discussion, support and resources, as well as an opportunity to learn self-healing tools that can be personally applied to your life right away! Do not suffer in silence; we are here to join you on your healing journey.

3/7 – **Black Panther will be screened at The Capri Theatre as part of its First Thursdays @ the Capri.** The cost is \$5 and the screening begins at 7pm. This film series is a partnership between the Minnesota Historical Society, the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul, and the Capri Theater. This program is made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008.

3/9 – **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.

3/10 – **Join Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts for a contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent!** Typically associated with Advent and Christmas, this service is designed especially for those caught up in preparations

for the coming Easter and spring seasons. It provides an opportunity to withdraw from the busy-ness of life to pray, sing, listen, smell – an opportunity to fully enter into the season of Lent, a time to renew our lives as baptized children of God. The event takes places at 4pm and will be held at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (3045 Chicago Ave. S.). The event is free and open to the public.

3/16 – **The People's University.** 2:30pm-4pm. Webber Park Library. The People's University uses open-access syllabuses 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 lecturer: An organizer with the group MIRAC will be sharing about the work they do.

3/22 – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) continues the ninth season of its **Chamber Music Series at the Capri** with Familial Music at 7pm, Friday, March 22 at the Capri. Free tickets are available to this concert on a first-come, first served basis by registering for the tickets at thecapritheater.org or by calling the SPCO box office at 651-291-1144.

3/23 – **Create a Vision Board.** 2pm-4pm. Create a vision board – a collage of words, pictures, and affirmations that represent your goals and dreams for the year. Materials provided. Teens and adults.

3/30 – **The UROC 2019 Annual Youth Summer Resource Fair** is a summer showcase for parents and children. It will be held 2001 Plymouth Ave N., from 11am-2pm, and is free and open to the public.

4/15 – **Club Book, a program of the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA), is thrilled to announce an exciting new season of author events hosted in public libraries throughout the Twin Cities.** Winter headliners include chart-topping novelist Don Winslow, Top Chef finalist and memoirist Kwame Onwuachi, and Minnesota's own Leif Enger. Club Book events are free and open to the public. Seating is on a first come, first served basis, and doors open 45 minutes before each program. Author's books will be available for sale and signing. For those unable to attend, podcasts of the programs will be available within a few days of each Club Book event. Club Book with Kwame Onwuachi will be held on April 15 at the North Regional Hennepin County Library at 6:30pm. Cooking sensation Kwame Onwuachi is one of America's best known chefs of color, and a vocal ambassador for Afro-Caribbean fusion cuisine. He first gained a national following as a Final Four contestant on the 2016 season of reality television juggernaut Top Chef. He wowed the judges, time again, by ingeniously melding elements of his parents' Nigerian, Jamaican and Creole cultures into never-before-seen culinary masterpieces. Industry

mainstay Zagat named Onwuachi to its prestigious "30 Under 30" list in 2016. While still in his 20s, Onwuachi parlayed his celebrity into a posh restaurant in Washington D.C. – which quickly went belly up. Undeterred, Onwuachi learned from his mistakes and started anew with Kith and Kin, an Afro-Caribbean eatery in Washington's tony new Wharf district. Onwuachi chronicles his personal successes and failures, and perspectives on being a black chef in America more generally, in the anticipated Notes from a Young Black Chef. Early reviewers praise it as "a powerful, heartfelt, and shockingly honest memoir of following your dreams." It debuts on April 9.

4/22-26 – Prince fans, especially those in town for the Prince Celebration 2019 are invited to visit the Capri Theater where, on January 5, 1979, Prince played "the gig that started it all." **Prince Legacy Tours at the Capri** will be offered on the hour from 10am-4pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, April 22, 23, 24, 26; Thursday, April 25 tours are available from 10am to 12pm. Tickets are \$20 and are available online only at www.thecapritheater.org/prince-legacy-tours-2019. (No walk-ups.) Proceeds from ticket sales go to Capri Theater arts programs including the Capri Youth Apprentices.

5/7-12 – **In celebration of its rich history and bright future on Minneapolis' northside, the Capri Theater presents six days of performances** just before doors close and construction begins on the theater's 20,000 square foot expansion and renovation. All events take place at the Capri. Admission information for each event can be found at thecapritheater.org.

EDUCATION

March 1 – The next **Minneapolis Public School Board Committee of the Whole meeting** will be held on March 1, beginning at 6pm at the Davis Center at 1250 West Broadway Ave

March 12 – the next **Minneapolis Public School Board Business Meeting** will be held on Feb. 12, beginning at 5:30pm at the Davis Center at 1250 West Broadway Ave.

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>

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.

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.

HOUSING

Starting over the next few years, home-buy 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 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.minneapolis.gov/smoke-free. **ers and renters will be able to learn energy information about a Minneapolis home or apartment before they sign on the dotted line.** In February, the Minneapolis City Council approved three policies that combined touch all housing types in the city: residential energy Benchmarking, time of rent energy disclosure, and time of sale energy disclosure. The goals of these policies are to reduce overall housing costs, ensure homeowners and renters have reliable information about their energy costs when deciding where to live, and reduce carbon emissions. These policies are recommended in Minneapolis' Climate Action Plan and will help the City make progress toward its community-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals. Minneapolis joins nearly 20 other cities in adopting residential energy benchmarking for large buildings.

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

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.

If the weather gets cold enough this winter and there is no water when you turn on the faucet, you might have a frozen service line. Freezing temperatures can force the frost line deeper underground where it can reach water service lines to your home. This can freeze water in the pipes and prevent it from getting to your faucets. Fortunately, this occurs relatively rarely. Most service lines are buried deep enough to not freeze in the winter. Although water mains are maintained by the City, the service line that brings water from the street to your property is the property owner's responsibility. If you suspect you have a frozen service line, you'll need to contact a qualified contractor who specializes in thawing frozen service lines. Call 311 for in-

formation on contractors who do this type of work. Find more information, including tips on preventing water lines from freezing at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/water/WCMSP-188958>

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.

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.

BE AWARE

Snow season is here. The City of Minneapolis sent out about 177,000 Snow Emergency brochures, one to each household in the city explaining the rules. The brochure has graphics and text showing where to park during the three phases of a Snow Emergency. The brochures contain the Snow Emergency parking rules and lists ways people can find out when to move their cars for a Snow Emergency. 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.minneapolismn.gov/snow>

Carbon monoxide (CO) exposure incidents increase during the winter months and CO is often called the silent killer. It is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that when inhaled, enters the blood stream preventing proper absorption of oxygen, leading to illness and even death. Treatment for CO exposure is fresh air or oxygen. Severe exposure requires medical attention. Do not return to your home or building until the source of the problem is discovered and corrected. For more information about natural gas safety, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/BeSafe or call 612-372-4727 or 1-800-245-2377.

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.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease>

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.

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

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.

Through its 311 service, the City of Minneapolis has opened a new hotline for

reporting hate crimes, harassing behaviors motivated by prejudice. The hotline number is 311 for anyone calling from within the city of 612-673-3000 statewide. 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.

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPEMENT

Every month the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition meets for lunch on the third Thursday of the month from 11:30am-1pm at 1101 West Broadway Ave. The next lunch will be held on March 21.

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.

Every month the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition meets for lunch on the third Thursday of the month from 11:30am-1pm at 1101 West Broadway Ave. The next lunches will be held on Jan. 17, Feb. 21, and March 21.

ADVERTISING IN NORTH NEWS

RATES

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Full Page	\$1100	\$1100
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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.

RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN

22nd & Fremont Ave. N.,
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Hospitality and Welcome to all.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN (ELCA)

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Adult Bible Study 9 am Sunday
Prayer & Praise 10-10:30 am Sunday
Worship 10:30 am Sunday
After School Program Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm.
Pastor Kelly Chatman

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

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612-529-7726

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
at 9am

Worship at 10:30am
Nursery provided

Pastor Dale Hulme

www.stolaf Lutheran.org
and on Facebook

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Diversity thrives here!

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

The FAMILY TRADE

Charles Caldwell (center) and his children, Nakesha (left) and Kenneth (right) pose amidst their paintings as they hung their black history month art show at UROC.



The Caldwells have brought their creative talents together in a Black History Month art show at UROC.

By Kenzie O'Keefe Editor | Photos by David Pierini Contributor

Since he was six years old, North Minneapolis has been Charles Caldwell's community and canvas.

His mural on the side of the 4th Street Saloon welcomes travelers to the Northside as they exit 94, cross the river heading West, or journey up Washington Ave. from downtown. His portraits of towering community leaders dress up a vacant building on West Broadway.

He has given the community an unwavering commitment to making art here—and a next generation of artists. His son Kenneth is an art teacher at Sojourner Truth Academy and a well-known painter, who hosts community "Paint and Sip" nights. His daughter Nakesha is a real estate agent and construction manager by day and a newly awakened painter by night.

For the first time ever, the three of them have

produced a shared gallery show—Caldwells celebrating black history and beyond—that opened in the middle of Black History Month at the University of Minnesota's Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center (UROC) on Plymouth Ave. It runs through April 13 and focuses on what's most important to all three humble, hardworking, a hugely talented Caldwells: family, friends and community.

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What do you want the community to know about your upcoming show?

Kenneth: For me, the show is something I've been wanting to do and play around with for a while. My pops and I have never done a show together. This work is from live artists, a family of artists. We're part of making history.

Charles: I've always wanted to do a community show celebrating Black History Month and introducing myself with Kenneth and his works. We decided to do it at UROC. It's a community space. In the course of that, Nakesha had started painting. She went from one piece to two to five. I was amazed. We decided to have her join us. We're a family of the community. The show is a free for all. It's a friendly get together. Life will go on afterwards.

Nakesha: There are a lot of people who are struggling and not getting to do the things they're passionate about. We're blessed enough to be able to create and share. These works are our history. We are black history.

Charles: We want to share our passion. Society is in turmoil. We want this to be a period and time of compassion. I'm radiant and energized and overwhelmed by the honor of my children.



Charles Caldwell is a multidisciplinary artist who has lived and worked in North Minneapolis since he was six years old.

Nakesha, it sounds like you found art recently.

Nakesha: I'm 38. I did a book filled with drawings about hair for the first time at 34 years old when I was pregnant with my son. It was a happy period for me, seeing how much of my dad was in me. When I got pregnant with my daughter, I wanted to revisit art. I started painting after I had her.

Charles and Kenneth, when and how did the two of you find art?

Charles: In sixth grade, I walked into art teacher Richard Scott's classroom at Lincoln Junior High School and was fascinated by the art being created there. Scott was a Caucasian and Native American gentleman who looked like a giant. He was a hippie with a ponytail and a sash and dashiki with bell bottom jeans and cowboy boots. Coming from the South, the interaction he had with students was amazing to me. There was so much freedom. I was too young to be in the class, but he said he'd give me an assignment, and if I could carry it out, he'd let me come into the room anytime. He gave me a block of wood and a carving tool and told me to carve it into a ball in a cage. I went home and carved through the night. I had a ball in a cage by morning. I walked up behind Mr. Scott when I got to school and rattled that ball in that cage. That's where my art began. That was my life changing moment. He and I kept in touch all the way to his 75th birthday.

Kenneth: I remember sitting in first grade trying to draw. I ended up getting held back because I spent all my time drawing. My dad used my interest in the art as an incentive to do better in the classroom. He rewarded me with things like a sketchbook and pencils. One time I came home and there was a professional table with a nice little light with a nice little bench.

What has art taught you about each other?

Kenneth: I saw someone I could identify with in my dad; someone who looked like me who was doing something that was not normal like playing basketball or football was. I admired the level of respect and recognition that he was given from doing these things. We'd go out to the store, and he'd stop 20 times to talk to people. It felt like he knew everybody. He was a celebrity in the



Kenneth Caldwell touches up his well-known painting of Prince.

"I'm radiant and energized and overwhelmed by the honor of my children."
Charles Caldwell

neighborhood and he was my pops. Now my daughter and my son tell me the same thing.

Nakesha: From these two, I have learned what it means to go after your passion. I've also learned what it's like to be stifled by life and its complications and how to persevere and overcome those things to fulfill what comes from within. Right now, I'm going to school full time, working full time, and I have two kids who are one and four years old. I'm raising them as a single mother. I wake up at five in the morning and sometimes I don't get home till 9 or 10 at night, but I'm like "let me do just a couple strokes before I go to bed." When I pick up my paintbrush, I have a smile on my face. I'm dancing. It makes me feel so good about who I am and the family I was blessed with. Then it's 3am.

Kenneth: I can definitely relate to the late nights. You get lost in the paintings you're creating. I remember when my dad had a studio at George Robert's place on Plym-

outh. It didn't have any windows. One night, I went in to do a few things and was just in a groove. By the time I came out, birds were chirping. I wasn't tired at all. It was amazing to be so into your work. Being in that zone is indescribable.

Charles: I think the creative process lets people reach down into an inner self and use our imaginations. We're so driven by our technical society now; you don't get to use your mind much.

Charles, you've created huge pieces of public art in this community. What do you hope to tell people about North Minneapolis through your work? What legacy do you hope to leave here in the community?

Charles: There is such a negative view about the community. For me it's about constantly keeping it positive. I want to continue loving the community, spreading that faith and belief in people that come from a place that's not supposed to be positive. I think there are a lot of good families in this community. I think the community needs to have anchors of that. There are a lot of people coming in and out of the community. It's good to be constant.

Nakesha, why do you think you arrived at art so much later in your life than your dad and brother did?

Nakesha: When I look at my work, I think, man, if I'd discovered this a long time ago, think about how far along I'd be. But, I was trying to do something where I'd be super rich. I thought about being a doctor or a lawyer, and then I got into real estate. I have a degree in real estate studies and am doing one in construction project management right now. I was living in another state. Sitting down and drawing fills that void a little bit and makes my dad proud of me. It was amazing how much joy it gave me to embrace that blessing in my life.

Charles: I'm sure I feel exactly the same way Mr. Scott felt when I walked in with that ball. I'm rattled and I've been rattled in the same way since I walked in and saw the painting of your kids. You have creative talent at your core. We're going to take this experience and have it as a family and make some decisions about where we go from there.

Is the rest of your family artistic?

Nakesha: All of our kids really have a passion.

Kenneth: I don't tell my kids I want them to be an artist, but I want to show them they can be bosses and not just workers. I have them shadow me often. It's like being a carpenter, not everyone will build houses, but everyone is



Nakesha Caldwell didn't discover her artistic talents until she was 34. Her family's show at UROC is the first time she has shown her work publicly.

going to know how to use a hammer.

Nakesha: I hear Phylicia Rashad saying, "Before kids talk, they sing. Before they write, they draw. Before they walk, they dance."



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