

NORTH NEWS



August 29, 2019

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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COMMUNITY'S DAUGHTER

Chanda Smith Baker
leans into the hard
conversations

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IS HERE!

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Chanda Smith Baker, Vice President of Impact for the Minneapolis Foundation, moderates a panel discussion on the criminal justice system as part of her "Conversations with Chanda" series on Aug. 5 at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.



Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the September edition of North News!

As the leaves and temperatures have begun to change, so too has our staff. Our three summer interns have finished their nine week reporting jobs with us. Huge thanks to Myesha Powell, Alissa Simmons, and Kailen Branson, whose final stories appear in this newspaper. We wish you the best as you head back to your respective schools—MCTC, St. Kate's, and Minnehaha Academy. We know this won't be the last we see of you at North News. Big thanks also to Kate Moos from Minnesota Public Radio and independent radio producer Melissa Townsend whose support of our interns as they learned to tell audio stories made for an extra special summer. As always, thank you to STEP-UP Minneapolis for connecting us with our talented summer workforce.

On Sept. 3, I will go back to school at North High for my fourth year of teaching the North

News journalism elective with social studies teacher Sam Wilbur. If you are a North High student (or know a North High student) who loves to write, take photos, or tell stories, come check us out!

We are also welcoming longtime contributing photographer David Pierini to our staff (see far right). David first began volunteering with North News in the fall of 2016; beginning in early August he joined our team as a part time staff reporter. Check out his photos of the first Camdentown Blues and BBQ fest on Page 6 and his story on MPS' Street Eats food truck on Page 12.

This paper is particularly special to me because Chanda Smith Baker, former CEO of Pillsbury United Communities (which owns North News) is on the cover. North News exists as it does today because Chanda and current CEO Adair Mosley saw the importance of resourcing a grassroots community news source back in 2015. Our three summer interns interviewed Chanda in early August, inspired (and a little star struck) by her conversation in community with Dr. Yusuf Salaam, one of the Central Park 5. Read all about it on Page 22.

Looking ahead to September, David, staff reporter Abdi Mohamed, freelance writer Anthoni McMorris, and I will be working

together to report on how the opioid crisis has affected North Minneapolis. We are in the process of connecting with people who live with addiction or in proximity to it in community, and we're gathering data from government and nonprofit leaders who are funding response efforts and providing resources. If you have a story you'd like to share, please reach out to us.

Last but not least: I have some exciting personal news to share. I've been selected as a Humphrey Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota for 2019-20. I will join nearly 40 other cross-sector professionals from the state of Minnesota (including Hawthorne Neighborhood Council Executive Director Diana Hawkins!) to develop my public affairs leadership. For nine months we'll learn about policy, connect with public officials, and take on projects that benefit our communities. Storytelling is my vocation, and I look forward to building knowledge in this new narrative space and bringing it back to North News.

Until next time,

Kenzie O'Keefe

Editor/Publisher, North News
kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
651-245-2647



We have a new staff member!

Newly hired staff reporter David Pierini has been a writer and photographer since the eighth-grade. He has degrees from Michigan State University and Western Kentucky University and has worked for a number of newspapers, including the *Chicago Tribune*. He was twice named Indiana Photographer of the Year while working for *The Herald* in Jasper, Indiana. He has been a contributing photographer for North News since 2016.

Photo courtesy of David Pierini

NORTH NEWS

2019 Issue #8

Circulation: 10,000 in North Minneapolis.
Delivered free on a monthly basis to
public places & homes in Near North & Camden.

125 West Broadway Ave. Suite 130,
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Phone: 651-245-2647
Website: www.mynorthnews.org

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Our summer interns are Myesha Powell, Kailen Branson, and Alissa Dummer-Simmons. Additional support is provided by The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Foundation.

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

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Next issue delivered: August 29, 2019

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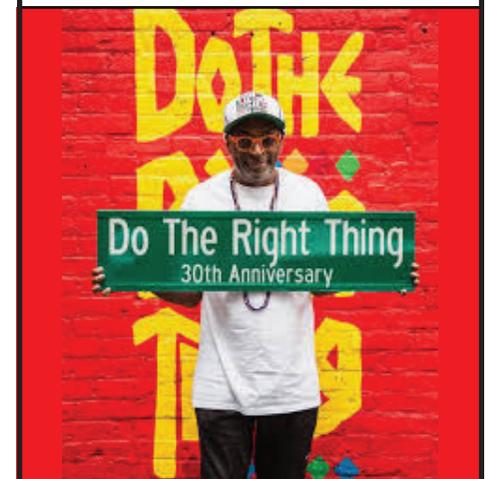


Black Women's Wealth Alliance founder Kenya McKnight announced her latest venture, a co-working space for Black Women, in a celebratory event on Aug. 19. Da Hive is located in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, on the corner of Emerson and Broadway, formerly home to nonprofit Neighborhoods Organizing for Change.

Read the full story by Abdi Mohamed on Page 8.

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North Minneapolis at a glance

Soul Bowl finds a permanent location in nearby North Loop

Known as a powerhouse in the pop-up restaurant world, Soul Bowl will soon have a permanent home. On Sept. 6 the Northside-based caterer will open inside Graze Provisions and Libations, the new North Loop food hall. Soul Bowl's chef and owner, Gerard Klass, wants the Northside to feel welcome. "We use soul food to bring people together. Part of this transition to the North Loop is making sure my Northside community has a place that they can feel comfortable in the North Loop," he said. Klass and his wife, Brittney Klass, run the business together. Collectively they have 30 years of restaurant experience. The two had planned to move into the Harrison neighborhood, but construction in the area, renovation costs, and a failed Kickstarter deterred that from becoming reality. Being a vendor at Target Field has taught the Klass family about running operations in a fixed physical location. The business has utilized social media and a word-of-mouth campaign to get the word out on its modern-day approach to soul food. With Instagram friendly dishes, online delivery options, and vegan items, Klass sought out to have an inclusive approach to the business. "We want to be the place that you're able to cosign," said Klass who added that customers can be "confident that the food is going to be consistent day in and day out."

Goddess of Glass has moved

The Goddess of Glass has moved from Penn and 44th Ave. N to the McKinley Neighborhood. A grand opening is planned for Saturday, Sept. 7 from 10am-4pm at 3300 Lyndale Ave. N, the former site of Serendipity Spot coffee shop and Jerry's Flower Shop. "I'm most excited about the bright light in the new space and trying some new things," said owner Connie Beckers. She says a pending offer on her previous building forced her to make the move. This is the third location for the gift shop and arts hub, which originally opened at Lowry and Penn Ave. N in 2010.

Masjid An-Nur initiates redesign to tackle flooding problem

Masjid An-Nur, the mosque on Lyndale and 18th Ave. N, has faced a chronic water management issue at the building. With the help of some public resources, that might be subject to change. Due to the mosque's layout, it has been damaged by water anytime it rains, costing thousands of dollars in repairs. The mosque's leader, Imam Makram El-Amin, says the issue could no longer be ignored. After reaching out to several organizations, Imam El-Amin connected with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) to find ways to tackle this problem. The organization awarded the mosque a planning grant of \$10,000 followed by an action grant of \$50,000. Seeing this issue as pertinent to the Northside, Imam El-Amin hopes to see more coordination from public and private groups to help community members who lack the resources to find solutions to their water management issues. "This is a problem for many residents and businesses here who have experienced water issues, yet there hasn't been a systematic or coordinated solution for this issue," he said. The mosque has awarded Metro Blooms a contract for their property redesign and aim to finish the project by Spring of 2020.

Paperboy Flyers has a new home

After taking some time away, Nate Streeter has returned to the helm of Paperboy Flyer Delivery, a paper delivery service based out of North Minneapolis. Streeter has been working in the paper delivery business since he was a child, accompanying his father on routes. At 21, he started his own delivery business. Currently Streeter operates Paperboy with his wife Leah. The two sold their company earlier this year, but after the new owners encountered some personal issues, Streeter returned to leading the company in July. Paperboy is now located in the Victory neighborhood on 3860 Thomas Ave N. Previously it was run out of Streeter's home. The new space gives delivery drivers constant access to materials and for printing equipment to operate. Keeping consistent with the business's Northside roots, Streeter is seeking to hire Northside residents as part time drivers to deliver materials door to door. Those interested will be able to find the application on Craigslist.



U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar was greeted by scores of hugs and requests for selfies at the Minneapolis Urban League's Family Day in Aug. 24, but she wasn't the only Ilhan in attendance. Ilhan Hassan, 10, got a hug from the congresswoman after excitedly telling her they shared a first name. **Photo by David Pierini**

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Warrant forgiveness for misdemeanors offered to youth

By **David Pierini** Staff Reporter

Youth with misdemeanor warrants can settle their cases without fear of arrest at a warrant forgiveness fair next month in North Minneapolis.

The Hennepin County Juvenile Warrant Forgiveness and Community Fair takes place on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10am-2pm at the Regional Acceleration Center, 1256 Penn Ave. N.

The day will be like a sped-up version of court. Public defenders will review charges with youth and their families and hammer out a deal with prosecutors. Judges and probation officers are on hand to settle cases, determine probation, collect fines, and order community service.

There are about 700 juveniles in Hennepin County, including several in North Minneapolis, who are eligible for warrant forgiveness, said Elizer Darris,

smart justice organizer for the ACLU, one of the fair's sponsors.

Community groups team up with attorneys and courts to sponsor warrant forgiveness days. This is the first one in Minnesota to address juvenile warrants, Darris said.

"Without getting a warrant resolved, you can't return to school, you can't get your drivers license or state I.D.," he said. "To move forward, come to this event and get your case resolved."

"No one has ever been arrested at the [adult warrant events]. We're intentional about that. You can show up, get your warrant resolved and not have the looming fear of arrest hanging over your head."

In addition to the legal proceedings, the fair will offer free food, games, health care and offer resources for housing and employment.

Mayor Frey delivers proposed city budget for 2020 amidst protest

By **Kenzie O'Keefe** Editor

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey delivered his proposed 2020 budget to the city council on Aug. 15. Throughout his speech he competed with protestors, who chanted Jamar Clark's name and insisted that he address police violence in the city.

Among Frey's proposed budget items are:

1) Funding for 14 new police officers, including eight neighborhood outreach officers and three officers to bring back the traffic enforcement unit. "There is no time to waste on false choices and binary options in addressing the causes of crime and violence in our city. We need safety beyond policing, but we still need police," he told the crowd.

2) \$500,000 for Village Financial Cooperative, the black-led credit union in North Minneapolis.

3) \$250,000 for MSP TechHire to support low income students who want to enter tech careers.

4) Increased funding to develop affordable

housing units and for the Stable Homes Stable Schools program.

5) Funding to support Minneapolis' cultural districts like West Broadway Ave, including \$200,000 for the Great Streets Facade Improvement Program and \$550,000 for prioritized street sweeps, trash pickup, and improved lighting.

6) \$75,000 toward alternatives to cash bail.

7) \$405,000 for response efforts to the opioid crisis, including hospital-based intervention efforts. "We can't arrest our way out of this crisis," he said.

8) An investment in the city's new Public Service Center opening next year.

Frey's full budget breakdown is available at www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/2020-budget. The city council budget committee will discuss it in early September, followed by internal and public hearings throughout the fall. The whole city council will vote on the budget on Dec. 11.



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catch up with our Council Members



WARD 4:
**Phillipe
Cunningham**



Happy September, Neighbors!

Fall is upon us, and that means that the halls of City Hall are now abuzz with 2020 City Budget discussions! Last month, Mayor Frey shared his recommended budget in which he outlined his proposals for our next year's spending. I wanted to take some time this month to share around the budget process and some ways that you can share your input in the coming months to make the Northside's voice heard as the City Council crafts and adopts the final 2020 City Budget.

For those who do not know, the City of Minneapolis has a nearly \$1.7 billion annual operating budget. The City's budget cycle happens every year. Because of this quick turnaround, the City Council spends most of our time reviewing only new budget request items, as opposed to assessing our spending enterprise wide. This timeframe also limits our community's opportunity to share their insight and opinions on the budget.* Nevertheless, I want to give resources to learn budget basics and share ways community members can participate in the Minneapolis Budget process as it will be the big topic in City Hall from now until the end of the year!

You can take a deeper dive into the annual budget process on the City's website, here: www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-basics. This website provides a timeline of the City's budget process, as well as a three minute video that walks you step by step through the budget process. This is a great tool to get a sense of the flow of our budget process.

Next, here are some important ways you can make your voice heard in the budget process! I cannot say enough about how important it is for our community to participate in this process. Northsiders sharing their stories and experiences are the starting point for critical change. Get involved!

There are three big ways to participate: **Attend public hearings:** attending public hearings, if you are able, gives you the opportunity to hear firsthand from other residents, as well as puts you in the room to address your elected officials in person. All scheduled items related to the budget can be found at www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-calendar. If you are unable to attend, see #3.

Contact your elected officials: please contact myself or the other City Council Members to share your thoughts, priorities and experiences. This information is very helpful in our deliberations and decision making. I have heard from so many of you already!

Submit comments for the public record, online: if you are unable to attend a public hearing or prefer not to call the Council Offices, you can submit your comments on the proposed budget online. Public Comment is another awesome way to share your voice, priorities and vision. Send your feedback to my email: Ward4@minneapolismn.gov and CouncilComment@minneapolismn.gov

I am looking forward to another budget season this year, and hearing from all of you as to how we can find ways for our community to benefit from the proposed changes to our growing city!

**To address these challenges, I am working with CM Linea Palmisano on a charter change to move the budget process to two years, but that is a topic for another column.*



WARD 5:
**Jeremiah
Ellison**



As the summer winds down (I know, I know, it goes by too quick each year) City Hall is in full swing and has a lot of business to finish before years end.

My biggest priority as we approach September is passing the Renter Protections work that I began with many of you. Our Renters' Assembly last year kicked off an important conversation that'll continue far beyond the passage of these two ordinances. Council President Lisa Bender and I shared a new draft of the Renter Protection Ordinances we've been working on for over the past year, and announced that a public hearing will be held at the Housing Policy and Development Committee on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 1:30pm.

I think it's important that I tell you all about a disgusting new experiment coming from the White House—it's called the "public charge rule" and it's basically furthering the racist and anti-immigrant attacks that have become routine for the White House. I've heard a lot of fear and confusion from constituents about who the rule does and doesn't apply to.

Let's start with the rule itself: to put it simply, if you're seeking a path to citizenship and the government thinks you are likely to use public assistance once you're here, they'll deny you a pathway to citizenship or permanent residency. But the rule DOES NOT APPLY to "applicants for U.S. citizenship, asylum, refugee status, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, TPS, VAWA, U or T visas or green cards based on these visas. It does not affect DACA or green card renewals."

Now, that's pretty confusing, if you have any questions please call Volunteer Lawyers Network (612-752-6677),

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.

Immigrant Law Center of MN (1-800-223-1368), or Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (612-332-1441) for free legal advice. I'm sorry to everyone who has to navigate these horrible federal policies. I will do my best to keep you informed and provide help.

On a much better note, the city passed our Wage Theft Ordinance recently, making it possible for us to enforce wage theft violations when they occur. Wage theft can take many forms: not getting your last paycheck after ending a job, not getting overtime pay when you've worked overtime, and the list goes on. The ordinance was the result of years of grassroots efforts by groups like CTUL and the trade unions and others, to make sure the City is taking every measure we can to protect workers.

Please sign up for our newsletter to get more regular updates from the Ward 5 office at minneapolismn.gov/ward5. And, of course, keep an out for more of these columns in North News.

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.

First Camdentown Blues and BBQ festival called "the very best Northside experience in years"

Hundreds gathered in the North Market parking lot for great barbecue and music on Aug. 17 for the Camdentown Blues and BBQ Festival. Some of Minnesota's best musicians, including Wain McFarlane, Ginger Commodore and Jellybean Johnson, paired well with the smoky meats of competitive barbecue.

By David Pierini Staff Reporter



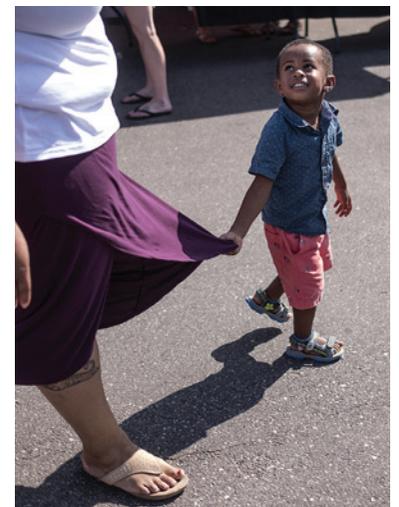
Valerie Turner, left, grabbed Sara Lane for a turn in front of the blues stage.



Local favorite Wain "The Dreadlock Cowboy" McFarlane.



Micah, 2, seems pleased with the pork rib held for him by his grandmother, Shaneen Moore.



Gerry Klass, 2, kept close to his aunt, Angela Hudson, as the two walked through the event.

Left, top: Billy Williams faced the smoke of the big grill for the team from Backyard BBQ. His work paid off with four awards including Best in Class.

Lowry Ave. is home to new healthy meal and happy hour spot

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

With much anticipation, New Rules Cafe and Spirits is now open to the public serving an assortment of meals, pressed juices and hand-crafted cocktails on Lowry Ave. The cafe held a soft launch on Aug. 3 and its grand opening on Aug. 24 during ITS Fest, a block party put on by communal marketplace NEW RULES (NR).

Chris Webley operates NR, which also serves as an event venue and creative co-working space. Webley hopes the new libations will bring more people in. He also plans to utilize the food to address growing health concerns in the black community. Some of the options on the menu include “Respect your Roots,” a drink that helps with high blood pressure and others that serve as educational pieces for customers.

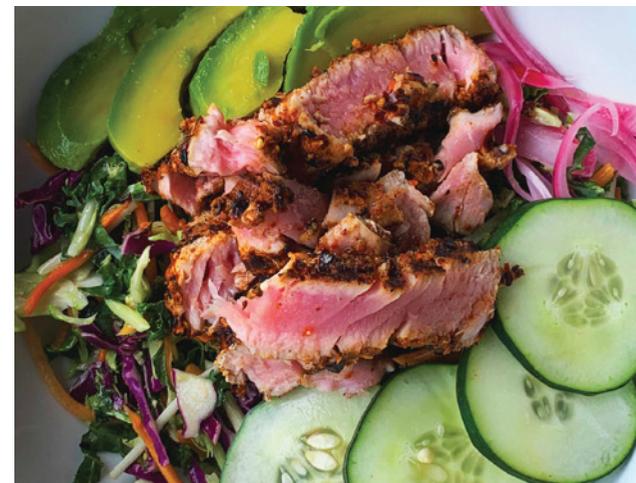
Many of the items served on the menu have a lot of crossover. With about 15 ingredients, Webley wants to offer his customers a variety of fresh options but also wants to take a lean approach to running the cafe. As for sourcing these ingredients, Webley draws from local businesses such as North Market and Good Deal Oriental Foods.

Although the cafe is another venture for Webley under his NR umbrella, he plans to open the space to

other food entrepreneurs and currently has a call for collaborators listed on his website. As the café begins to bring in business, Webley sees it as an opportunity to pass on lessons to others launching their own ventures. “We want to transition food back to the community in some type of ownership form,” Webley said. “We felt like we had to do it out the gate to learn the ropes and where the potential pitfalls are.” Currently, Webley is looking for people to fill weekend slots who can provide brunch and dinner options on Saturday and Sunday.

Now that the cafe is open, the focus has shifted to getting the word out. NR has enjoyed support from outside of the Northside but wants to draw more customers from the local community. “We really want to create a Northside base,” Webley said. “It’s great that folks come in from outside the neighborhood, [but] there’s definitely a local base that’s willing to support us.”

NR is continuing to take in new members as a shared workspace. Webley says the space is in its final phases in functionality. “The bike has been built, now it’s time to ride it,” he said.



Many of the ingredients in New Rules Cafe and Spirits' menu items are locally sourced, giving the food a fresh and health-focused feel. Above: the Ahi Tuna Salad is made with a mix of greens and coconut wasabi dressing. Bottom: the Northside Tuna Melt made on panini bread has been a popular choice for customers. **Photos by Kenzie O'Keefe**



Neighborhood chocolate shop takes another step toward becoming reality

By **Alissa Simmons** Intern Reporter

If all goes according to plan, Victory residents will soon have another place to get their sweet cravings sated.

Dancing Bear Chocolate, an artisanal chocolate producer, has been preparing and renovating their 4367 Thomas Ave. location since purchasing the property in May of this year. On Aug. 19, owners Joe Skifter and Steven Howard cleared another hurdle as they track toward opening their business: the city council's planning committee recommended the whole council approve their request to rezone the property from office/residential to commercial.

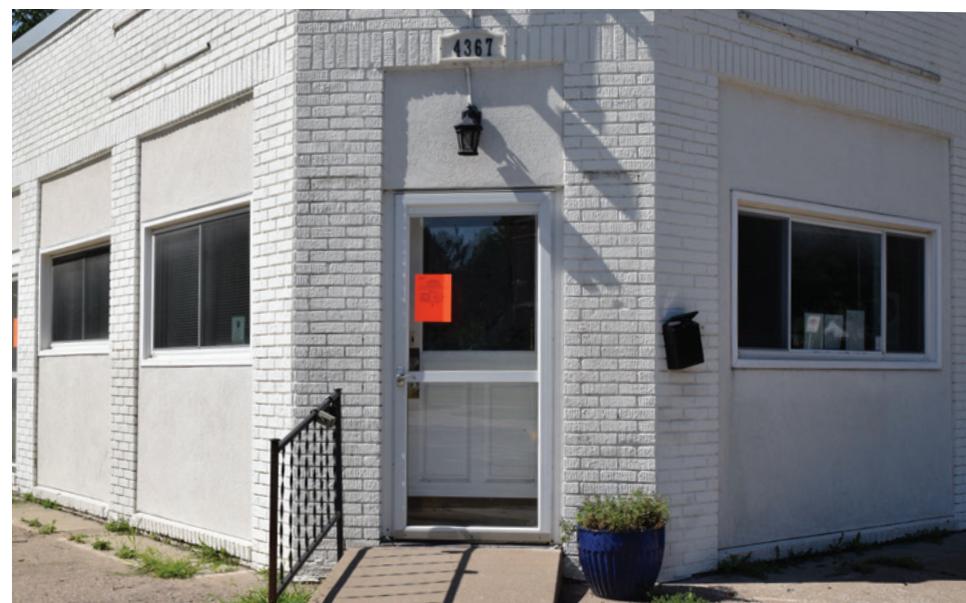
“Two individuals testified in favor of our rezoning and our uncontested application was placed on the consent agenda, it passed with little to no drama. Our application has to pass through a few more hands before it’s officially approved.....this is a huge relief. Thank you for all the amazing support and kind words. Let’s make great things here,” the owners wrote on their company Facebook page that day.

Despite the red tape ahead, work is underway at the site. In partnership with Better Futures Minnesota, a non-profit organization that creates construction jobs for men that have been homeless or incarcerated, Skifter and Howard have gutted the space and replaced the roof.

After the rezoning process is done, Skifter and Howard say they plan to complete the renovation with new floors, ceiling and installing a permitted kitchen. The two have plans to convert one of the doors into an old-fashioned walk-up service window where they will sell gelato, ice cream and chocolate confections. They also plan to install a signature chandelier in the retail space. If all goes according to plan, their shop could be up and running as early as October or November.

They won't have regular store hours. Instead they will host scheduled pop-ups and occasional sale hours and days. They plan to have extended hours during the holidays.

Skifter says the hardest part of starting a new business is the waiting and time delays, but he encourages others on the Northside that want



The owners of Dancing Bear Chocolate purchased their building at 4367 Thomas Ave. N in May. Rezoning and renovations will need to be completed before it can open. **Photo by Alissa Simmons**

to run a business to “just give it a try.”

In the meantime, their products can be purchased directly from them or on their Etsy

page: [etsy.com/shop/DancingBearChocolate](https://www.etsy.com/shop/DancingBearChocolate).

For the latest updates, follow them on Facebook.

Business incubator for black woman entrepreneurs opens on Broadway

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

Dozens of community members gathered together Monday, Aug. 19 at the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) for the unveiling of Da Hive, a coworking space for black women born out of the Black Women's Wealth Alliance (BWVA).

Da Hive is an initiative led by Kenya McKnight, the founder of BWVA, and serves as a platform to incubate some of the ventures launched by women who have been a part of BWVA. Located in the ECMN, the space consists of coworking areas, a quiet room, and a conference room all of which is designed to encourage a collaborative and educational environment for participants.

McKnight is focused on supporting black women entrepreneurs in the community. BWVA has held several workshops and programs aimed at improving business skills among black women in the community, but McKnight saw that women needed more support after the classes ended. With that in mind, McKnight launched Da Hive to continue the work of BWVA and help program participants on the next steps of

launching their own ventures and finding ways to sustain and scale their endeavors. "We're driving a lot of entrepreneurial and economic energy, but we don't have a place to incubate it in, to grow it beyond ideas. That's the critical gap we saw in our work," she said.

Da Hive's announcement on Aug. 19 was met with great excitement as community stakeholders and public officials attended the opening of the location and shared words of support.

Da Hive is funded by dollars from BWVA, which has received many local resources. Last year they landed a \$75,000 grant from the City of Minneapolis and other resources from organizations like the McKnight Foundation, Thrivent Financial, Nexus Community Partners, and Lutheran Social Service. Some of these resources along with membership donations is how Da Hive plans to sustain itself on the outset, but McKnight continues to be in talks with other organizations interested in supporting her work.

Keiona Cook graduated from the BWVA Wealth Academy, a three-month program aimed at giving black women entrepreneurs the skills needed to scale

a business and other aspects of running a business. Cook operates the nonprofit Lovely's Sewing and Arts Collective, an organization that teaches youth 4-16 the art of sewing and yoga. Program participants also sell their creations and learn financial literacy through their work.

Cook shared her excitement for Da Hive's opening and encourages other black women to utilize the space. "Creating a foundational space where black women can be expressive, accepted, and creative is very empowering," she said. "Don't just come there one or twice, actually make the space your own."

Since Da Hive's opening, McKnight has received more offers of support from the community in the form of books and individuals willing to teach workshops. The space currently has hours listed from 8am-8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Those interested in joining Da Hive can learn more by contacting the BWVA on their website.



Celebrate North Minneapolis and the great state of Minnesota at UROC Community Day 2019. This year's event features an appearance by University of Minnesota President Joan T.A. Gabel, demonstrations and activities, Goldy Gopher, live music, giveaways, and foods representing Minnesota's communities.

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2001 Plymouth Avenue North,
Minneapolis



Summer has wound down, supplies have been secured, classrooms are prepared, and the smell of fall is in the air.

Get in the mindset of another year with our news snapshots from area schools on **Page 11**.

Read about how the MPS food truck is wrapping up another busy summer on **Page 12**.

Learn about the project-based learning high school opening off Broadway on **Page 13**.

**THE 2019-20
SCHOOL YEAR
IS HERE!**

Sojourner Truth Academy students ran into a new school year on Aug. 19, one of the North Minneapolis schools to return to class before Labor Day. Photo by David Pierini

The first of the first days

While most schools in Minnesota were scheduled to return to class the day after Labor Day, two North Minneapolis Schools—Best Academy and Sojourner Truth Academy—welcomed students back in August. Faculty were outside both schools greeting students with hugs and high-fives. Some students strode in with fresh hair cuts and having grown a little taller over the summer. Others new to the school took nervous steps that moved surer with each welcome.

By David Pierini Staff Reporter



Behavioral counselor Rashadd Perkins greets seventh-grader Keevin Harvey as he gets off the bus to start the school day at Best Academy. The K-8 school of about 400 students started the new school year on Aug. 13.



Jaclyn Becklin gathered in her third-graders on her first day as a teacher at Sojourner Truth Academy.



Educational assistant David Sanner tried to coax an anxious student into class on the first day of school at Sojourner Truth Academy. She eventually joined her third-grade class.

School news snapshots

By Kenzie O'Keefe Editor

FREE IMMUNIZATIONS OFFERED AT THE DAVIS CENTER

The Minneapolis Health Department is offering eight free immunization events for children before school starts at the Davis Center, 1250 W Broadway. Appointments and insurance are not needed. Visit the Davis Center on Aug. 29 from 3-7pm, Sept. 3 from 9am-3pm, or Sept. 4 from 9am-1pm. Immunizations are provided in partnership with NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center and Minneapolis Public Schools.

HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ENTERS SECOND YEAR

About 7.3 percent of MPS students, more than 3,000 young people, experience homelessness. "Stable Homes Stable Schools," a partnership between the City, MPS, Hennepin County, and Minneapolis Public Housing Authority aims to reduce those numbers. Now entering its second school year of existence, city officials say the program is providing housing to 19 formerly homeless families through rental assistance and housing stability assistance to 40 families at risk. Seven of the 15 schools where the initiative is being piloted are on the Northside: Elizabeth Hall, Cityview, Bethune, Lucy Laney, Jenny Lind, Hmong International, and Nellie Stone. City leaders say more families are in the pipeline and the goal is to support up to 650 students by the end of year three.

NEW PRINCIPAL FOR NORTH HIGH

Former Lucy Laney Principal Mauri Friestleben has taken over as Principal of North High School this school year. Former North High Principal Shawn Harris-Berry has left the school to become an Associate Superintendent for Minneapolis Public Schools.

NO MORE CELLPHONES

Patrick Henry High Principal Yusuf Abdullah and new North High Principal Mauri Friestleben released a tough love message to their student bodies via a video released on Facebook on Aug. 20. Starting Sept. 3, there will be no more tolerance for cellphones in the classroom. "Why? Because we need to accentuate the academics. While you're in the classroom, you need to focus on that.

We believe strongly in that. We're going to hold you to that. Other high schools all across the metro area and state of Minnesota do the same. North and Henry are going to do that as well," said Friestleben, referencing the distraction and drama cellphones have brought to the Northside high schools in recent years.

FULL SERVICE SUPPORTS FOR TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MPS now has two "full service community schools." Cityview and Bethune will "seek to make sure students and families have robust community support so students can succeed in school," said district media relations coordinator Dirk Tedmon in an email to North News in August. "The work is still in the beginning stages of determining what resources are needed at each school," he added.

DISTRICT HIRES DIRECTOR TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS

MPS has hired a Director of the Office of the Ombudsperson to help families address issues and resolve concerns, according to district media relations coordinator Dirk Tedmon. Families should call Director Mitchell Roldan with any questions or concerns they have about their child's school or staff. Contact Roldan at: Mitchell.Roldan@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612.668.0234.

NEW PLAYGROUND FOR HMONG INTERNATIONAL AFTER FIRE

The playground at Hmong International Academy was destroyed by a fire on Aug. 2. "MPS Operations staff are working to clean up the area and make it safe for returning students. New equipment is being ordered and will likely be ready for use by our students near the end of September or early October," said Principal Jamil Payton in a letter he sent to the school community that day. He urged his community not to let the news "dampen your spirits for the start of school" and said "we are excited for the return of our students!"

PARENT EVALUATORS RECOMMEND CHANGES AT MPS

The 51 parents who make up MPS' Parent Participatory Evaluation program have recommended four major district changes:



Eighth-graders Emmanuel Boswell, left, and Imelle Cunningham, arrived for the first day of their final year at Sojourner Truth Academy.

1) better access to translated materials, 2) relevant and prompt information in families' home languages about their student's academic needs and support, 3) more communication about bullying and how MPS deals with cases of bullying, 4) ways for parents to volunteer in schools in roles that are key for their children academic success. For more information contact Engagement, Education, and Outreach Specialist Amanda Dionne at 612.668.2095 or Amanda.Dionne@mpls.k12.mn.us.

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS MEETINGS IN 2019

August 13, September 10, October 7, November 12, December 10

All are located in the Assembly Room at the Davis Center (1250 W Broadway Ave.)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS

September 24, October 22, November 26, December 17

All are located in the Assembly Room at the Davis Center (1250 W Broadway Ave.)



Above: Villalva and Gorecki arrive early at the Folwell Community Center and use the time to get meals lined up for stops with more kids.

Left: The Street Eats truck brings lunch to more than 100 kids at Hospitality House in Near North in a 20-minute time span during the summer. **Photos by David Pierini**

MPS STREET EATS FOOD TRUCK BRINGS YEAR ROUND MEALS TO HUNGRY KIDS

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

A two-person crew takes on hundreds of hungry kids each day and knows what kind of food they will like—even if they've never heard of it before.

Hunger followed Leonard Gorecki into adulthood. It guides the rapid chop of his knife. It is the fire beneath his grill. It is a navigator when he is behind the wheel of the Street Eats food truck.

The very thing that once gnawed on his childhood summers he now chases away with each of the 300 daily lunches he serves kids out of the truck as part of a summer meals program run by Minneapolis Public Schools.

The truck started rolling in 2018 after MPS's Culinary & Wellness Services received \$75,000 from Cargill through the Super Bowl Host Committee. The district found only 20% of the kids who qualify for free meals

during the school year were accessing other summer meal programs.

The truck feeds as many as 1,500 students per week in the summer. During the warm months of the school year, the Street Eats truck visits a different middle school or high school each day to give students an extra lunch option. The truck is also available to cater events.

Gorecki, 29, qualified for free school meals as a kid growing up in North Minneapolis. But the district at the time did not have a summer food program and Gorecki remembers the food insecurity and low energy he felt during extended stretches between balanced meals.

"We make sure no kid goes hungry during the summer time," Gorecki said while chopping red peppers for cheese steak sandwiches with his fellow truck mate, Denise Villalva, who sliced onions. "Kids can't think if they don't eat. I remember how that felt. This is why this job is important to me," he said.

"I definitely see myself in those kids who come to the window."

The truck drives to four or five different sites each day, including stops in North Minneapolis on Mondays and Tuesdays. In some locations, a line of children greet the blue truck with cheers.

Gorecki and Villalva serve a menu that appeals even to picky eaters. If a food is unknown to some kids, they have enough trust in the Street Eats crew to at least try it.

Each day is a different plate lunch—always served with a piece of fresh fruit—and the meals include an Angus beef burger, turkey tacos with cilantro rice and, on this day, Philly cheese steak sandwiches with potato salad. Most everything, from the potatoes to the beef, come from Minnesota farmers.

Villalva remembers the skepticism that greeted purple cauliflower and purple hummus. "They were saying, 'What is that purple stuff?'" Villalva said of the hummus made with beets. "They never heard of hummus and after they tried it, we couldn't keep it [from running out]."

The Street Eats crew have about 20 minutes to feed the kids at each stop. Gorecki works the grill and Villalva assembles and serves. They are often work a stop or two ahead.

Villalva works in a school kitchen when class is in session. Gorecki stays with the truck but will fill in as a cook in schools where he is needed.

On a recent trip to Hospitality House, a youth center with more than 100 kids ready for lunch, Gorecki had only enough time to put out the fruit stand before a line began to form at the side of the truck.

Some kids forget they have had the Philly Cheese Steak sandwich. Gorecki and Villalva remind them that they liked them before.

One, Trinity Mogaka, considers the side of potato salad and knows just how to eat it.

"I like to put the potato salad in my sandwich," she said. "It gives it a whole lot of flavor."

Corinne Altrichter (front), director of special education, and teacher Pam Madison set up a shelf unit in SOAR's PAES Lab. PAES stands for Practical Assessment Exploration System. Madison will be running the project-passed classroom.

Photos by David Pierini

MNIC's new SOAR high school building is owned by Family Baptist Church. Though the church has no formal relationship to the school, SOAR's leaders say the church community hopes to be supportive of their presence there.



NEW CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL TO OPEN AT 22ND AND GIRARD

SOAR will offer a project-based learning program for 17-21 year olds seeking a holistically supportive environment.

By **Kenzie O'Keefe** Editor

As recruiters for the Northside's newest high school "SOAR" have searched for students to enroll, they've gone downtown looking for the disaffected. When they encounter fighting or a weapon in a waistband, they see an opportunity to offer an alternative to someone who may believe they have no other options.

"We intentionally want homeless students, kids struggling with alcohol and drug abuse, kids that are gang related, kids that have been dejected from any other program or organization who are giving up on themselves because they feel like no one wants them anymore," said Reggie Womack, executive director of the Minnesota Internship Center (MNIC), the charter conglomerate that is opening SOAR and operates three other high schools in the Twin Cities. SOAR, a high school diploma program, is the only one that serves students over 18.

SOAR's first school year begins Sept. 3. School leaders will open their doors at 2201 Girard Ave. N to what they hope will be about 75 students. As of early August, 61 were enrolled. MNIC has leased the space—which includes an indoor basketball court, stage, cafeteria, and four classrooms—from Family Baptist Church. It was previously home to Prairie Seed Academy but has been vacant for a couple of years.

According to Dean of Students Byron Gulyard and Site Director Morgan McLaughlin, SOAR will offer 17-21 year olds who experience significant barriers to completing high school an opportunity to earn credits on a monthly basis through a project-based learning curriculum.

In contrast to traditional teacher-led learning in classrooms, project based learning puts students in the driver's seat. They develop their own projects which tend to have real world applicability. "If you pick your own path, you're going to stick to your path," said Gulyard.

SOAR stands for success, opportunity, achievement, and respect—"the four pillars our school was built on," according to Tracy Eberlein director of education for MNIC.

SOAR, and MNIC's other schools, take an all-encompassing approach to supporting their students. Through regular attendance, students can earn a Chromebook and a bus card. For homeless and highly mobile teens, the personal hot spot the computer's offer can be a lifeline. MNIC doesn't close because of weather—when other schools have snow days, its schools remain open for their students who may have nowhere else to go.

SOAR's staff recognizes that their students' victories often look different than straight As. "Our staff realizes how difficult it is for some of our kids to get here," said McLaughlin. Consistent attendance, credits completed, and walking across the stage at graduation are goals the school prioritizes.

Empathy and understanding will be crucial to instruction

at SOAR. As will be respecting students' agency and decision making. "We are standing there with open arms. We don't judge, [but] once you walk through these doors, you want to change. We're not grabbing your hand and saying 'come back in this building'; you are walking in here willingly," said Gulyard.

MNIC was founded by Kevin Byrne 16 years ago. Byrne passed away in 2017, and after a contentious search for a new director, Womack, who had worked for MNIC nearly since its inception, was selected.

"Reggie is not a traditional-type leader; he exudes a lot of authority but is totally open," said Antonio Cardona, who oversees the Office of Public Charter Schools at Pillsbury United Communities (PUC), MNIC's authorizer. PUC also owns and independently operates North News.

Cardona says MNIC's "biggest asset is their cohesive leadership team and ability to drive toward a shared vision." He says a lot of schools end up establishing a status quo and following it. Not MNIC. "Their growth mindset is really insane right now."

He says they are uniquely gifted at supporting their student bodies. "They're serving a student population that needs a right fit," he said. "Many of them used to be that kid."

MNIC operates three other charter schools in the Twin Cities: the Unity Campus on Fremont Ave. N and one in Rondo and Downtown.

Gearing up to go back

Businesses and organizations came together in August to get North Minneapolis students ready to return to school. The Camden Farmer's Market held a special back-to-school event that attracted family with school supplies, free backpacks, hair braiding and haircuts. H.White Men's Room also held a day of free haircuts that included free books, chess and the chance to help paint a mural.

By David Pierini Staff Reporter



Top left: Vanessa Francis, 6, is pleased with the reaction she is getting as Christina Marie finishes braiding her hair at a back-to-school event at the Camden Farmer's Market.

Top right: Malachi Beard, 13, gets his back-to-school haircut from Teto Wilson of Wilson's Image Barbers & Stylists.

Bottom right: Kanyah Ellis, left, and Marcella Meko Brown, both 11, picked up backpacks and school supplies at the Camden Farmer's Market. The market hosted a back-to-school event and passed out 500 free backpacks.

Bottom left: Soon-to-be third-grader Jeriah Hubbard scrunches his face as barber Houston White brushes away the stray hairs. H. White Men's Room gave free haircuts to 35 kids.



Elizabeth Hall Elementary Pre-K teacher Leslie Hanson got her 16th year of teaching started with hugs from some of her former students at the school's National Night Out celebration in early August.



Tynaisa Donald enjoyed learning the game of chess from local instructor DJ Hooker at H.White Men's Room, which hosted a back-to-school event that included free haircuts.



NRRC Board Elections

September 26, 2019
1:00-7:00pm
1303 Golden Valley Road

We are holding elections for the even numbered NRRC Districts and vacancies in odd numbered districts.

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The concrete surfers of West Broadway

By **Kailen Branson** Intern Reporter

As I walked up to Juxtaposition Arts' (JXTA) new skatepark in early August, a kid named Tommy was dropping in on a quarter pipe. He is only twelve and has been skating for just a couple weeks, but he skates as if he's been skating all his life. I knew that if anyone could teach me, it was him. I had to talk with him.

Throughout that day, he shared some skate wisdom with me and another beginner. Because of him, I figured out how to drop in on steep quarter pipes, how to pivot 180 degrees and come down a quarter pipe, and how to skate up and down a ramp without falling. Days like this are what every beginner hopes for: when you finally start to see improvement.

The skatepark was built by JXTA to attract skaters and artists from all around the Northside and beyond. Almost every time I've been at the park, there is always an experienced skater who encourages newer skaters to progress. To learn to skate, you have to have unshakable commitment. Constantly practicing without seeing any improvement can shatter confidence and commitment for a lot of beginners. Skating is hard; staying motivated to skate is even harder. Experienced skaters tend to encourage beginners because they know what it's like to feel

defeated by it.

Skating is fun, but it has its risks. You might slip out and slam into the concrete, or bail and roll your ankle when you land. Even something as simple as “wheelbite” (when your wheels make contact with your board and stop rolling) can send you flying through the air. Skaters are daredevils, challenging the laws of gravity and the limitations of the environment, trusting a piece of wood on wheels.

“Skateboarding is a really challenging thing to do. You can get injured from doing it,” Tommy told me that day we skated together. Injury is common in the world of skating, but despite this, many beginners have the pipedream that they won't get hurt. But the hard truth is: you will. A phrase I've heard from skaters is “Skate fast, eat shit.” Meaning, give it your all, and don't be afraid of falling. You're going to fall, you're going to get injured, it's part of skating. Each time you fall, you have to get right back up. There's something about skating, a thrill, that pushes you to keep trying.

Veteran skaters often encourage the younger generation to “join the brotherhood.” Unfortunately, that's just what it is: a brotherhood. You don't see many female skaters out there. As I skated at JXTA in August, the only female skater I met

Left: Hans Forsline, a fiber artist and longtime skateboarder, loves the creative interaction with objects in a skateboard park. To Forsline, it is a form of art.

Right: Bereket, a resident artist at Juxtaposition Arts, says she doesn't see many girls or women skateboarding and wonders why they're reluctant to join what is seemingly a male-dominated culture.
Photos by David Pierini

was a young woman named Bereket. She was a beginner like me. “There tends to be misogyny in that group of people. ...I can definitely notice the misogyny in the music they listen to, the way they talk about women, I've seen people here talk about women in really degrading ways while they were skating,” she told me. I personally have never witnessed any direct disrespect towards women, but I have noticed the lack of female skaters out there, and I will not disregard the perspective and experiences of a woman.

So it seems like there are plenty of reasons not to skate—injury, misogyny, the steep learning curve—yet people still do. But why? Everyone I talked to had a different reason. For some, skating is a sport, others a hobby, and even an art form. It's extremely versatile and unique. Hans Forsline, a JXTA employee and experienced skater said, “[Skateboarding] is like self expression, an outlet of creative space, and how you interact with and object that someone may see as just a piece of concrete, you know.”

For me, skating is a creative and highly customizable lifestyle. It's not just a simple sport or activity; it's a way of expressing yourself. No two skaters I've ever met have been the same. There's something that drives every skater. Whether it be the feeling of the wheels cruising along the concrete, the rush of wind in your face, the speed of bombing a steep hill, or landing that perfect kickflip you've been practicing for months. All skaters have a reason.

Attorney General and CM Ellison listen to community housing concerns

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

The Northside has been at the epicenter of housing challenges in Minneapolis. The foreclosure crisis, the 2011 tornado, the city's low vacancy rate, slumlords, rising property taxes, and inadequate, unaffordable, and insufficient housing supply have all contributed to unstable and often unsafe housing for many of the area's residents.

In their search for solutions, many in the community have turned to policy-makers for answers. Northside residents gathered on Monday, July 29 at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) to discuss housing issues that impact the area.

The forum was led by two prominent

local leaders who happen to be father and son: Ward 5 City Council Member Jeremiah Ellison and Attorney General Keith Ellison. Both stated a commitment to finding solutions to the housing challenges faced by Northsiders. State Representatives Raymond Dehn and Fue Lee, along with Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando were in attendance, highlighting shared interest in the issues.

Council Member Ellison announced two city ordinances he plans to introduce this fall addressing housing in North Minneapolis. The first would limit the screening criteria landlords use to deny renters the ability to gain housing, such as having late payments or an eviction. "We're not going to say landlords can't consider those things, but we're trying

to place some responsible look-back periods so if you have some blemishes on your record, and you've remedied them, and you're trying to enter back into the housing market so you're not iced out forever," Ellison said. The second ordinance would seek to curb excessive deposit fees from landlords. The council member shared instances of residents being asked to pay upwards of three months in advance before gaining access to a home.

Attorney General Ellison announced that his office was looking into approaching housing complaints as consumer issues. "Historically, the attorney general's office has not looked at housing and tenancy as a consumer issue," he said. Categorizing housing as a consumer issue would allow the

attorney general's office to have the authority to prosecute cases in which landlords might have engaged in discriminatory behavior. Many in the room seemed receptive to that idea as the attorney general referenced Minnesota state statutes giving him the authority to investigate matters of "business, commerce or trade."

Attendees of the forum explained varying issues related to affordable housing in the region. One community member was concerned with the possibility of landlords collecting application fees for a unit they did not intend to rent. Attorney General Ellison said that the fees are against state law but are known to happen.

GRADUATION

Lawrence University
Shauna Simmons

Miami University
Jillian Christie
Jenny Tourville

DEAN'S LIST

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Asiha Ahmed
Olufemi Akindumila
Samira Ali
Gisell Ayala-Corral
Jack Barthold
Samuel Barthold
Eliot Berven
Anders Billund-Phibbs
Abigail Clapp
Grady Cromer
Abdikadar Dahir
Sarah Doyle
Bradley Drahos
Miranda Edwardson
Ozge Ewert
Maria Godinez
Isabella Gold
Hannah Greenstein
Jackson Haas
Ikran Hassan
Redwan Hassan

Bruce Her
Mitchen Hockenberry
Jaysen Hohlen
Phillip Howard
Ella Johnson
Jonathan Landin
Kia Lor
Tou Hue Lor
Molly McCarthy
Michael McColgan
Henry Meeker
Quinn Morris
My Chi Nguyen
Aeryuana Powell
Rolyne Pritchard
Katelyn Rademacher
Hannah Reichl
Sierra Rodero
Ruby Roettger
Grace Rude
Inga Shierkolk
Isha Sharma
Aubrey Smith
Dylan Struwe
Rosamond Sturgis
Shea Swenson
Renee Thomas
Ariel Vang
Samuel Westermann
Helen White
Nicholas White
Chong Xiong
Wanga Xiong

Kevin Yang
Molly Yang
Sorena Yang

North Dakota State University
Emily Endorf
Alison Fleming
Rozlynn Lund

Lawrence University
Aniya Spears-McConnell
Spencer Sweeney

RESOURCES

The Census Bureau is hiring temporary employees for the 2020 Census. The jobs offer weekly pay, competitive pay rates, flexible hours, and paid training. By joining the 2020 Census team, you can support your community while getting paid to do it. Learn more here: <https://2020census.gov/jobs/>

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.

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

sign up.

Tuesdays – **The Twin Cities Mobile Market delivers affordable and healthy food weekly to locations across North Minneapolis and the Twin Cities.** A wide variety of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, and staples like rice and dried beans are available at below-market prices. Cash, all major credit cards, debit cards, SNAP/EBT, and Market Bucks are accepted! Questions? Call 612-280-2434. Their delivery schedule does change. For schedule and map information, check out: <https://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/tcmm/Pages/default.aspx>.

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

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

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

9/5 – **Urban Homeworks is hosting an open house** from 4-6pm at 1317 Thomas Ave. N., and will showcase a home that has been built in partnership with the University of Minnesota NorthSTAR Building America Team. The event aims to bring

awareness to the work that Urban Homeworks does and the way in which a home can have more energy efficiency and airtightness.

9/5 – **First Thursday Films at North High School** kicks off its programming with “Do the Right Thing” screening at 7pm. It is open to the public. North High will be hosting First Thursday Films each month in partnership with the Minneapolis St. Paul Film Society, Minnesota Historical Society and the Capri Theater. There will be a screening of films as part of Black Cinema: Under the Skin, which highlights black filmmakers and exploring black culture and experience. Tickets will be available in advance at mspfilm.org. North Community High School is located at 1500 James Avenue North in Minneapolis. Films will be screened in the main auditorium and will go on for the 2019-20 school year.

9/7 – **V3 Sports is holding its second annual Learn to Swim event**, featuring the Do More Than Tri clinic to introduce children to the concept of a triathlon. The event will take place at the University of Minnesota Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center, 1919 University Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN and take place from 9am-2pm.

9/7 – **Battle of the Badges** is set to take place from 11am-4pm as the Minneapolis Police Department and Minneapolis Fire Department square off in a BBQ rib cook off. The event takes place in North Commons Park and participants can enjoy free food, music and activities at the event.

9/7 – **Webber Park Library will host its Explore Nature! Event** from 10:30am-12:30pm where kids can enjoy nature themed activities, meet a live critter and learn about the Mississippi watershed. The event is in collaboration with the Mississippi Regional Park and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

9/11 – **Webber Park Library will facilitate Senior Surf Day** from 10am-12pm to help seniors learn computer basics and how to access websites that they might be interested in. Representatives from Senior LinkAge Line will help participants go through the day's program.

9/14 – **Open Streets West Broadway** is taking place 11am-5pm on the West Broadway corridor between Penn Ave N to Lyndale Ave N. The event is locally hosted by the West Broadway Business Coalition and part of the City of Minneapolis. Attendees can take part in activities, watch live performances, and shop. Metro Transit is providing free rides to the event. To learn more about Open Streets West Broadway or to participate in the event, email openstreets@westbroadway.org.

9/14 – **Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA)** will host a **day of art-making and provide activities for the community** in show of celebration after having received a \$50,000 Community Possible grant from U.S. Bank. The grant will go to help fund the inaugural programming season of the new skateable art plaza JXTA recently opened. The grant is a part of U.S. Bank's annual \$1 million fund focused on supporting organizations that are driving economic development in the areas of workforce preparation, affordable housing, and arts and culture. The event will take place from 11am-5pm.

9/19 – **The North Methodist Church is hosting its annual Smorgasbord (Church Buffet)** at 4350 Fremont Ave. N. It will be held from 5pm-7pm. Tickets cost \$12 for adults; \$5 for children and those under 5 get free access to the event.

10/3-12 – **The Alliance for Sustainability is looking for volunteers to take part in their Litter Be Gone initiative**, an annual series of community-wide litter

clean up events. There will also be an event on 10/5 from 9am-11am hosted by the North Commons East Block Club at the North Commons Park Building located at 1801 N James Ave, Minneapolis, MN.

10/10 – **Webber Park Library is hosting Percussive Dancing: Unlocking the Human Instrument** from 5pm-6pm. The library is collaborating with The Cowles Center and the event is funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Grades 6-12 are encouraged to participate.

Wednesdays – **Kid's Bookclub**. 2:30pm-4pm. Webber Park Library. No pre-reading required, we will share a book, discuss, and do a fun activity! Sponsored by Friends of the Webber Park Library. No registration required. Kids entering grades 1-6.

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.

Saturdays – **Read Together**. 10am-1pm. Webber Park Library. Sign up for a weekly 30-minute session to practice reading with a teen mentor. Come by or call the Webber Park Library to register. 612-543-6751. Kids entering K-3.

The Capri Theater is now closed, the old theater seats are being removed, and every nook and cranny of the building is being emptied in anticipation of a June construction start on the theater's renovation and expansion. While the theater is closed, Capri programming will continue at alternate Northside locations. See website for details.

EDUCATION

9/10 – The next **Minneapolis Public School Board Business Meeting** will be held on Aug. 13, beginning at 5:30pm at the Davis Center, 1250 W Broadway Ave.

9/24 – The next **Minneapolis Public School Board Committee of the Whole meeting** will be held on Aug. 27, beginning at 6pm at the Davis Center at 1250 W 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>

North Minneapolis Schools need 38 literacy math tutors for the 2019-2020 school year according to Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps. Anyone interested is encouraged to apply now at readingandmath.net or by calling 866-859-2825. Tutors will begin in Aug. 2019.

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.

The City of Minneapolis has named Nina Robertson the new director of the Step Up Youth Employment Program. Robertson has served as a Step Up program manager since February of 2016. Robertson replaces former Step Up Director Anna Peterson, who now is the Chief of Staff in the Commissioner's office at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

HOUSING

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.

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

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 at: www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease.

The City Council approved a Renter-First Housing Policy — a framework that affirms the City's commitment to advancing renter protections and developing new tools to support affordability and stability in rental housing. The implementation of the Renter-First Housing Policy will include both early intervention and safety-net strategies. Highlights include strengthening enforcement measures to ensure repair issues are addressed quickly while minimizing negative impacts on the renter; targeting inspections efforts toward properties in disrepair or with a high volume of renter complaints; and creating financial opportunities for property owners to maintain housing conditions and affordable housing without increasing rents. Learn more here: <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/2132/Renter%20First%20Policy%2003.01.19.pdf>

The City of Minneapolis is now accepting applications for the Minneapolis 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program, which helps property



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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.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/WCMSP-214366>

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has developed a new program to help first-time homebuyers who have faced barriers to buying a home through traditional mortgage lenders. Under the program, homebuyers can buy on the open market using Habitat's affordable, fixed-rate mortgage. They can even work with the Realtor of their choice, complete Habitat's homeownership education and buy a home in their preferred neighborhood or city. The new program reaches a broader income range, including those who may think their income is too high to qualify. Households earning \$40,000-\$80,000 have successfully bought a home in Habitat's redesigned homeownership program. The program revolves around an "unbeatable mortgage," a 30-year fixed-rate with monthly payments set to no more than 30 percent of income. Down payment assistance may be available. Interested residents can find more information on the mortgage program at: www.BuyWithHabitat.org or by calling 612-540-5660.

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

The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority's (MPHA) Board of Commissioners has appointed Deputy Executive Director Tracey Scott to serve as the MPHA's Interim Executive Director. The interim appointment has gone to the Minneapolis City Council and gained confirmation. MPHA is also filing for its Moving to Work (MTW) Annual Plan with HUD and plans to host a number of meetings and public events to share what's new in their 2020 MTW Annual Plan. To find details and read the drafts, go to MPHAOnline.org/MTW.

BE AWARE

The City of Minneapolis has banned a hazardous chemical, Perchlorethylene known as "perc," that is used in the dry-cleaning industry. Perchlorethylene is the main chemical solvent used in dry cleaning and may cause cancer as well as damage to internal organs. The City of Minneapolis worked in tandem with several organizations that include the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota

Department of Health, and the Minnesota Cleaners Association to convert all known dry cleaners away from perc.

For planting season, the City urges all Minneapolis gardeners, landscapers and farmers to protect pollinators. That means avoiding pesticides that poison bees, butterflies and other pollinators both by avoiding applying pesticides and avoiding buying plants that were already treated. Protecting pollinators also means landscaping or gardening with the kinds of plants that nourish pollinators. Pollinator populations are in sharp decline because of an ongoing loss of plants that feed and shelter them combined with a large-scale expansion of pesticide use by homeowners, landscapers, property managers and farmers. Neonotinoids and other systemic pesticides have been shown to kill and weaken bees and other pollinators. One-third of the food and drink produced in the U.S. depends on bees, butterflies and other pollinators. We need healthy pollinators for healthy communities in Minneapolis, a healthy ecosystem and a healthy food supply. Find more resources and information about how to protect pollinators here: www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees.

Homegrown Minneapolis invites community members to participate in any or all upcoming meetings or weigh in online to **help develop a food policy action plan.** City staff intend for the plan to guide the City toward a more equitable, climate resilient, just and sustainable local food system and local food economy. Access to healthy and local food is important for the health of people who eat it, for the local communities it helps support and for protecting the climate. For more information on upcoming topics, meeting dates and locations and how to stay involved, please visit their website at www.minneapolismn.gov/foodactionplan

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board would like to hear from area residents as they embark on improving the facilities at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary. The constructed is slated for 2020 and 2021 and will include an all-gendered, family-friendly, accessible bathroom, building an addition to the visitor center and re-envisioning the front entrance. To participate in this project, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EloiseButler> and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board website.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is excited to announce **"Parks for All,"** a new comprehensive planning process that will set its priorities and policy direction for the next decade. Parks for All will engage Minneapolis residents and park users, along with MPRB staff

and commissioners, over the next two years to shape the future direction of Minneapolis' park and recreation system. The last MPRB Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2007 and set a vision through 2020. Parks for All is the next MPRB Comprehensive Plan, which will guide the Minneapolis park and recreation system for the next decade. The MPRB Comprehensive Plan guides everything done by the MPRB. It articulates why the MPRB exists, identifies how the MPRB performs its work, and describes what the MPRB hopes to become. Parks for All is separate from the recent City of Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan. It solely covers the Minneapolis park and recreation system. The plan will build off other recent MPRB plans including service area master plans for neighborhood parks, master plans for regional parks, RecQuest, the Urban Agriculture Activity Plan, the Skateboard Activity Plan, and other plans and policies that have been developed by MPRB in recent years with community input. The Comprehensive Plan is as much process as product. Community engagement will be central to the development of the policy direction, but the process contains important opportunities to do community building around the park system. Visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/parksforall.

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

People must be at least 21 to buy tobacco products in Minneapolis as of Oct. 1, 2018. 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 City's Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinance took effect Jan. 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 Jan. 1, 2018. Small businesses with 100 or fewer employees will be required to pay workers at least \$10.25 beginning July 1, 2018. Large businesses have until July 1, 2022. to reach a minimum wage of \$15 an hour and small businesses have until July 1, 2024 to reach \$15 an hour.

Through its 311 service, the City of Minneapolis has opened a **new hotline for reporting hate crimes.** Which are harassing behaviors motivated by prejudice. The hotline number is 311 for anyone calling from within the city of 612-673-3000 statewide. The 311 hotline will be answered 7am-7pm weekdays and 8am - 4:30pm weekends. Those with a report to make can also call the Department of Justice at 612-664-5600. As always, in the case of immediate physical violence, property damage, or threats, people should call

911.

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

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Da Hive, a coworking and educational space for black women, launched in late August as an extension of the Black Women's Wealth Alliance. BWWA's founder, Kenya McKnight, operates Da Hive and aims to make it a location for black women entrepreneurs, students and employees to work towards their economic goals. Many of BWWA participants are enrolling as members of Da Hive after having taken several business related workshops. The space will help incubate a number of businesses and continue to host workshops to improve the business skills of their members. To learn more about Da Hive visit www.dahive-us.com.

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.

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

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“You don’t get into leadership and forget where you came from”

Our conversation with Chanda Smith Baker

By Alissa Simmons, Myesha Powell, Kailen Branson Interns, Kenzie O’Keefe Editor | Photos by David Pierini Staff Reporter

Birthered from North Minneapolis’ rich history, launched by its success stories, and activated by its decades of struggle, Chanda Smith Baker is, as she calls herself, “a community daughter.”

She has found vocation in giving back to this place that raised her. She worked for 17 years at Pillsbury United Communities (PUC). Under her leadership as CEO, PUC purchased and relaunched this newspaper and North Market grocery store. She is currently the Senior Vice President of Impact at the Minneapolis

Foundation where she hopes to more inclusively define philanthropy and who gets to participate in it.

Through the Foundation’s recently launched podcast series “Conversations with Chanda,” she addresses some of the thorniest social issues of our time—white supremacy, violence against marginalized people, and abuses in our criminal justice system—with local and national leaders such as Robin DiAngelo, Edgar Villanueva, and Valerie Castile. She counts her

five children among her mentors, alongside pioneer civil rights icon Dr. Josie Johnson and former PUC CEO Tony Wagner.

In August, *North News* summer interns sat down with Smith Baker at her home and discussed her life and work on the Northside.

This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.

What does it mean to be the Vice President of Impact for the Minneapolis Foundation? Essentially my job is to look at the best ways for us to make an impact in community. Where are the needs? How can we respond to them? How do we get people engaged in the issues? How do we utilize all of the tools that we have, like advocacy and grantmaking and convening? My job is to bring all of these components together in a way that allows for progress to be made in communities.

Who or what inspires you to be an advocate for the community? I've been motivated by essentially debunking the stereotypes and by raising the complex narratives that actually exist in community. I like to say that this neighborhood raised me, and I feel very responsible to giving back to it. Living in 55411 is complex and also offers valuable perspective.

On Aug. 5, you spoke with Yusef Salaam as part of your "Conversations with Chanda" series. Was there anything he said that has stuck with you and that you think the community should hear? Dr. Yusef Salaam was one of the Central Park Five. He went to prison for seven years for a rape that he didn't commit. What struck me about Yusef was that he didn't let that circumstance make him bitter or negative. As he stated in his use of Maya Angelou's quote, "You should be angry. You must not be bitter. Bitterness is like cancer. It eats up the host. It doesn't do anything to the object of its displeasure. So use that anger. You write it. You paint it. You dance it. You march it. You vote it. You do everything about it. You talk it. Never stop it." The best way to rise up from something that kicks you down is to not allow yourself to go where people are trying to take you, but to elevate above it. Have it be your testimony and have it be a gift into the community.

You're a community leader who has fought against gun violence. With the recent mass shootings, and the school year approaching, how should the community stay safe? My cousin Kristopher Miller was shot and killed in 2011. I hope we don't all become proximate to gun violence. I believe that one way that we stay safer is by having a lot more grace, by being way more connected, by not letting small beefs get to a point where it's worth taking one's life. The adults in our community have to lean in and be more responsible for the young people that are in the community that are falling between the cracks. For those of us that are aware of people who have guns in our schools and in our community and aim to do bad, we have to get over the lack of reporting it.

Your career is all about pushing tough conversations with the public. How do you approach those questions as a mother? The Minneapolis Foundation is committed to pushing topics and conversations of importance that are grittier. We are focused on creating a space for the conversations we are having in our own communities of comfort—and bridging our differences to better understand where someone else is coming from. I can't necessarily separate who I am as mother from who I am as neighbor and grandmother. I bring all of that forward. The way that I lead is that you don't get into leadership and forget where

you came from. If you allow people to see where you've been imperfect and where your pain has been, and you lead through that, it allows you to leverage your leadership in a relational way, not in a positional way.

The Minneapolis Foundation received a donation from the Justine Ruszczyk settlement. What do you plan to do with that money, and how do you plan to keep incidents like this from happening again? I feel very responsible for upholding Justine's legacy and the intentions of that family to honor her memory by helping to make life safer for everyone. This is a complicated moment. We know that there's been too many young black and brown men who have lost their lives through police shootings including Jamar Clark, Philando

"I've been motivated by essentially debunking the stereotypes and by raising the complex narratives that actually exist in community."

Castile, and Thurman Blevins. The outcome of those cases has not been equitable. We also know that change happens through many levers. That's why I'm currently participating in a working group that our Attorney General Keith Ellison and our Commissioner of Public Safety John Harrington have put together to look at police-involved incidents across the state. I'm using my time and my role with great intention to be in places that will allow me to have influence so that we can begin to shape the type of future we'd like to see.

You've used art to fight violence. Do you think art can heal the community? When [my cousin] Kris was killed, it was my first week being the president and CEO of Pillsbury United Communities. My leadership story is very much connected to his murder. I was in so much grief at the time. I needed to do something that would allow me to shift from thinking about how he died to how he lived. I came in contact with this exhibit that was out of New Orleans—*Guns In The Hands of Artists*. I brought that here on the fifth anniversary of [Kris'] passing away for me to be able to heal. I was thinking: this might be away we can bring in other artists and other community members who maybe didn't recognize they were artists but could maybe find a place to be creative, to be able to move that energy of grief into energy of hope.

You're a lifelong Northside resident, how have you seen the Northside evolve over the years? The more things change, the more things stay the same. I've always just loved the energy of the Northside. I love my neighbors. I love my kids being here and embedded. I love going to the football games and the basketball games and seeing how the community comes together through the good and bad. I love walking around and seeing people who look like me. I love seeing kids and looking at them like: do I know your family? What's your last name? I love that sense of relationship. That's what it feels like. There's a history of people giving back to this community that are from this community. It's important for us to tell the stories of our heroes and sheroes that are coming from this neighborhood because it's important to have motivation and inspiration.

What are your hopes for the future of the Northside? I hope that everyone who lives here feels like they belong. I hope that everyone that lives here and feels like they belong finds a place to give back. We have an obligation to push beyond where we think we can go. I hope that it never loses its flavor. I hope that with all of the development and things that are going on, that we can maintain the sense of community, the sense of self, the sense of identity that is in the fabric here.



Smith Baker speaks with Yusef Salaam, one of the Central Park 5, as part of her "Conversations with Chanda" series.

Northsiders have high expectations of their leaders, sometimes asking their leaders to individually solve challenges that are generations in the making. How do you handle peoples' often outsized expectations of what you alone can do to make a difference? Trying to meet the demands of a role that aren't necessarily realistic is very challenging. I've had to mature into it, and I still have moments where it's hard. Part of leadership is actually setting boundaries and making hard decisions. I have to recognize why people have outsized expectations. It's because they believe in you, because they have seen failed leadership, because people don't have trust in systems, and they've been disappointed. I tend to take it as an honor when people push.

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