

# NORTH NEWS

May 26, 2023

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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## ALSO INSIDE

The many threads of fashion designer Keiona Cook

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Farewell to Ascension Academy's Ms. Jean

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## \*Marked for demo:

A family business is in limbo over light rail plans

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The Dimensions in Hair salon is marked with the color pink for demolition under one of the proposals to send light rail up and down West Broadway Avenue North. Photo by David Pierini



## Letter from the Editor David Pierini

One teacher wrote, "Ariel was one of the happiest students in my room. Her forehead kisses, her smile and her laughter lit up our space everyday. It feels like a light has been extinguished."

I never got a kiss on the forehead from Ariel but I am grateful for meeting and photographing her and her mother last year during the Minneapolis Public Schools teachers strike. I interviewed her mother, Sophia, for a story on how a strike impacts children in special education.

Sophia Foster was grateful for the love the North staff showed her daughter, who lived with cerebral palsy and autism, and supported the push for better pay.

When a teacher sent me an email about Ariel, I didn't initially remember the name. The teacher jogged my memory with the photo that appears with this column and I remembered she blew me a kiss good-bye. I also remembered how she never tired of saying "I love you, mom."

"God gave me a beautiful daughter," Sophia Foster said.

Ariel's class paid tribute that morning. They played her favorite Michael Jackson songs and danced.

How will you be remembered? What are the memories that will stick?

Ariel Foster made that easy for family and friends. She stuck them to their foreheads.

The North High tenth-grader passed away on May 19, leaving behind countless kisses to peoples' foreheads. There were scores more she blew to people when they weren't in close enough proximity to be gathered in by her loving arms.

Ariel was in special education at North and shortly after news of her passing from a medical emergency on May 19, the school published a Facebook post with the perfect epitaph – The sweetest Polar.



Ariel Foster with her mother Sophia in March 2022. Photo by David Pierini

# North Minneapolis at a glance

## Minneapolis Sound Museum celebrates the Northside with Capri Theater event

The city that has its own unique sound will soon have its own sound museum.

The Minneapolis Sound Museum will celebrate the city's rich music legacy as well as provide a recording space for future waves of song artists.

The non-profit organization setting out to bring a museum to Minneapolis will hold its first community fundraising event on June 7 from 6-10 p.m. at the Northside theater where Prince played his first solo show, The Capri Theater.

Museum board member and daughter of legendary music producer Jellybean Johnson said plans are to find a home for the museum in North Minneapolis.

The event, which falls on what would be Prince's 65th birthday, is called "Tales from The Northside; Stories of the Minneapolis Sound." It will feature oral histories and a panel of guests who will explore how North Minneapolis was fertile ground for this sound.

There will be live performances and an art sale featuring Minneapolis music-related pieces. Contact Marty Bragg at <https://www.minneapolisoundmuseum.org> for more information.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/0b7c88a0-b98b-42be-905c-f709b2d86298>

## Injured black bear spotted in North Minneapolis

A black bear with an injured front paw was euthanized by officers with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources after it was spotted wandering the streets of North Minneapolis on May 7.

Various Facebook posts showed the bear in a local park and on side streets near Girard Avenue North. At one point, the bear was photographed resting in the front yard of a home. The DNR, Minneapolis Park Police and Hennepin County sheriff's deputies used a drone to track the bear.

DNR officers caught up with the bear near 22nd Avenue North. The DNR, according to a report in the May 7 Star Tribune, only kills bears it believes could be a threat to people.



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[thecapri.org](http://thecapri.org)

## Northside music school celebrates 11 years

Andrea Myers led the flute choir during a piece at the annual spring concert at Hopewell Music Cooperative North, 4350 Fremont Ave. N, on May 13. The free concert was in celebration of the school's 11th year and featured a flute choir, vocal choir, ukuleles and orchestra and jazz ensembles. Hopewell's mission is to improve access to music education in North Minneapolis with affordable, inclusive and engaging music programs. Photo by David Pierini

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## A remodeled Sumner Library will retain much of its 1915 feel

By David Pierini, Editor

When first presented with architectural renderings for an interior redesign, some of the longtime patrons of the Sumner Library were not happy.

For starters, the renowned and very busy lead architect, Mohammed Lawal, was unable to attend the meeting. He had led a loving renovation of the old library in 2005 and developed a close relationship with the influential Friends of Sumner Library.

The furniture depicted was too modern, the adjustable metal shelves inside the classic wood bookcases made jaws drop and the thought of removing the rounded bench, where parents sometimes read to children, was inconceivable.

"It was volatile," said Susan Breedlove. "I've been using that library for 50 years and we just felt everything was out of line with creating an environment that is contextual to the current one. It wasn't making sense."

Critics, including Breedlove, sent emails to Lawal that night and Hennepin County library officials felt compelled to organize

another meeting.

On May 8, patrons got a redress. Lawal was on hand and had assured them the project was just as personal to him. Sumner was where he learned to read as a boy.

Lawal and library officials announced changes. The circular bench will stay, worn book case shelves will be replaced with a matching wood, not metal, and officials promised furniture befitting its historic designation.

Sumner will close for renovations in September and reopen in the fall of 2024. Plans are still underway to continue critical after-school services, like homework help, at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center on Plymouth Avenue North.

The historic library that is one of the few remaining landmarks of the old 6th Avenue North was funded by industrialist Andrew Carnegie and opened in 1915. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is named after Charles Sumner, a U.S. senator from Massachusetts and outspoken abolitionist.

The feel of the interior, with its Gothic design elements and vaulted ceilings, will remain. New to the eye will be furniture and a carpet dense enough to support wheelchair movement. Adult and youth selections will no longer be mingled. Each will have their own section of the library. The rounded bench will switch sides to the youth section.

Hennepin Library officials met with youth, held three community meetings and received input from 150 patrons. Young and old requested separate spaces.

There will be a redesign of staff work space and meeting rooms will be remodeled for smaller groups. The Nellie Store Johnson room, the largest of the meeting spaces, will become two rooms. An audit of reservations revealed more than 90 percent of the meetings were for less than 20. The rooms will include tech for patrons who need to be in virtual meetings, remote job interviews and other appointments.

"There is a broad spectrum of ideas and opinions and we're going to focus on making the best decisions we can with

the information we have from the survey, the youth engagement and from these community meetings," said Anna Schwindt-DeGroot, library service manager for the Hennepin County Library system's northern region. "My number one takeaway when reviewing all of this data is that Sumner Library is a valued and community space. We know people love the library as it is currently designed. We want to make sure that the library is updated to reflect and respond to the needs going into the future."

Breedlove said the most recent meeting with Lawal had patrons feeling like the renovation was back on track.

Lawal was emotional at the meeting. He told the gathering that he attended the 2005 dedication wearing his three-month-old son, Waziri, on his hip in a baby sling. He noted that the May 8 meeting was just weeks away from his son graduating high school. He will be in his first semester of college as the new renovation is underway.

"Sumner is one of those projects where it's so close to you, so near and dear," he said.



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## catch up with our Council Members



### WARD 4: LaTrisha Vetaw

May was very busy for the Ward 4 Office. It started with me being "Principal for the Day" at Olson Middle School and attending Mayor Frey's State of the City Address. Turning Point, Inc. was kind enough to give us a tour of their facility. We have been working with our partners at the state-level to get Turning Point some funding for some much-needed capital improvements. Sondra Samuels and the wonderful people at the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) hosted us at their annual Soar North Gala. I presented an honorary resolution proclaiming May 21 as "No Menthol Sunday" throughout the city. Our friends at Xcel Energy gave us a tour of their Riverside Plant. Lundstrum Performing Arts honored me as their Community Honoree at their annual gala. Our officers at the Fourth Precinct had their annual Open House with brats and burgers, and finally, I hosted our new Health Commissioner for a tour of the ward. We are gearing up for an even busier June.

#### Crime Victim Services Update

We have been getting lots of calls regarding services for victims of crimes. If you or someone you know has been a victim of a violent crime, the Minnesota Crime Victims Reparations Program may be able to help. The reparations program provides financial help to victims and their families for losses incurred as a result of crime.

The Minneapolis Police Department has a new kiosk in the Public Service Building, 505 S. Fourth Ave., to help victims submit an application to the State

Crime Reparations Fund. It is located outside of the Records office on the second floor. Service Center employees can direct you to the kiosk as well. You can also submit an application online at [dps.mn.gov/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/pages/crime-victims-reparations.aspx](https://dps.mn.gov/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/pages/crime-victims-reparations.aspx)

Crimes involving an injury or death are covered (property crimes not included): Homicide, assault, child abuse, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, domestic abuse, stalking, criminal vehicular operation and drunk driving.

**Eligibility criteria includes:** The crime must have occurred in Minnesota, or in a foreign country without a compensation program; crime must be reported to police within 30 days; claim must be filed within three years of the crime, victim must cooperate fully with police and city or county attorney in the prosecution; and a victim must not have committed a crime or contributed to the incident through their own misconduct

All available collateral sources must be used first, including health insurance, Medical Assistance, vacation/sick leave, short- and long-term disability and Social Security benefits

#### Find Crime Reports Online

Minneapolis community members can find crime incident reports made in your neighborhood on the City's website at [minneapolisismn.gov/government/government-data/datasource/crime-dashboard/](https://minneapolisismn.gov/government/government-data/datasource/crime-dashboard/)

The Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialists will no longer be sending weekly crime updates to residents, but you can get the same information online with updates on police activity in your neighborhood at [minneapolisismn.gov/resident-services/public-safety/police-public-safety/crime-maps-dashboards/](https://minneapolisismn.gov/resident-services/public-safety/police-public-safety/crime-maps-dashboards/). If you have questions about a particular incident in your community, you can still reach out to your Crime Prevention Specialist. The Fourth Precinct has two crime prevention specialists: Shannon McDonough ([shannon.mcdonough@minneapolisismn.gov](mailto:shannon.mcdonough@minneapolisismn.gov)) and Bill Magnuson ([william.magnuson@minneapolisismn.gov](mailto:william.magnuson@minneapolisismn.gov)).

Continued on page 23

Minneapolis City Council members LaTrisha Vetaw (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) were inaugurated in January 2022 and January 2018, respectively. We have invited them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.



### WARD 5: Jeremiah Ellison

The weather is warming up and my office has been working on environmental justice policies. North Minneapolis includes a heavy industrially zoned corridor. Along with numerous industrial facilities, Olson Memorial Highway and Interstate 94 contribute to the disproportionate burden of air pollution in our Ward. The City is updating its zoning rules to match the development guidelines that the City Council already approved with Minneapolis 2040. Though zoning can feel like an unknown territory for most people, it's an important function of city law and historically has played a major role in disenfranchisement. My office has been working with community environmental justice members to push forward policies for a cleaner environment through more efficient use of land which helps create more complete neighborhoods. Good land use zoning helps promote affordable and accessible housing and eliminate disparities by ensuring ample access to a variety of land use designations.

This month I was proud to announce that a moratorium I authored to stop any new polluting businesses from starting up in Minneapolis passed unanimously on the city council. We're working on changing the rules to make it so polluting businesses aren't allowed at all. This moratorium will make sure no new polluting businesses start up in the meantime. Additionally, I created

a legislative directive requesting the Mayor develop an environmental justice checklist to evaluate future moderate and high-impact polluters. This will hold businesses accountable and ensure they meet environmental justice requirements. It's important we protect our environment and make our city cleaner and healthier. While these two actions won't eliminate all polluting in the city, it's a significant step towards a more sustainable future. I'm proud of the council's unanimous support. It shows we're all committed to protecting our environment and the health of our residents.

In collaboration with Councilmember Wonsley, we brought forward a resolution about Olson Memorial Highway that passed unanimously. It states the city's support to immediately improve the safety and pedestrian access of the highway. The neighborhoods adjacent to Olson Memorial Highway lack a walkable neighborhood due to the size and speed of the roadway, which killed off small businesses and created negative health impacts with air pollution to those living nearby. The reconstruction of the corridor is planned to begin in 2028.

As always, join me from noon- 1 p.m. every Monday for Open Coffee Hours! These are informal and a chance for me to hear directly from you while we share coffee or a meal (virtually). Office hours are on a first come first served basis. Please try not to call past 12:50 p.m. as we want to leave enough time to chat about what you'd like to discuss. Please RSVP at [www.minneapolisismn.gov/ward5](https://www.minneapolisismn.gov/ward5), and staff will follow-up with the call-in details. Reach out to my policy associate, Dieu Do, at [dieu.do@minneapolisismn.gov](mailto:dieu.do@minneapolisismn.gov).



Lisa Spicer bought *Dimensions in Hair* from her dad and she intends to pass it to her grown children working with her.

## Light rail plans put a hair salon's generational wealth on hold

As they considered how light rail would travel down West Broadway Avenue, engineers determined Lisa Spicer's hair salon might have to be torn down in the name of progress and public transportation.

Spicer says no one has formally told her this.

No one involved in the Blue Line extension project has set foot in the *Dimensions in Hair* salon, started by her father and step-mother 32 years ago, to inform her of such a possibility, she said.

Not one engineer, manager, or elected

leader with a vote on where the route might go, has sat with Spicer to discuss a value built on five generations in the hair business.

What price would they put on a space where her children grew up and two now occupy chairs, her son a barber and daughter, a nail technician with customers who travel from Iowa, Illinois and the Dakotas?

What of the stylists? Some are booked out for weeks because of their touch with natural hair. They learned from Spicer with a simple direction – follow what I do.

Minneapolis is a city short on spaces just for Black and Brown people. Salons and barber shops are sacred in community. They are consecrated with bustle, gentle laughter that flows from chair to chair and intimate conversation built on years of trust.

Spicer herself can't put a price on this or the generational wealth her business creates. But she wishes someone tied to the project would pay her a visit.

"I shouldn't have to find out from someone passing out a flier," Spicer said of a meeting organizer who told her. "Yeah,

Story and photos by David Pierini, Editor

somebody saw an X on a map and said mine is one of the impacted buildings.

"I had one plan – buy the building from my dad, work here until I retire, support other stylists, bring my kids along and then they will inherit it. I never imagined I would be right here trying to ponder this. It's very stressful."

### 'Rondo 2.0'

Officials are expected to make a route recommendation later this year to connect the North suburbs with the downtown.



Spicer cultivates a family feeling for her customers. The grandchildren and in some cases, the great grandchildren of original customers occupy the shop's chairs.

Engineers are looking at two proposed routes to bring light rail through North Minneapolis, West Broadway Avenue and 21st Avenue, which would connect to Broadway right near Irving Avenue.

Spicer's shop sits on the southeast corner of West Broadway and Irving avenues.

**"I had one plan – buy the building from my dad, work here until I retire, support other stylists, bring my kids along and then they will inherit it. I never imagined I would be right here trying to ponder this. It's very stressful."**

Lisa Spicer, owner of Dimensions in Hair

Many of the mostly Black-owned businesses on West Broadway are opposed to the West Broadway route. They fear the elimination of street parking, displacement during construction and the loss of a space for cultural events, like Juneteenth and Open Streets West Broadway.

The West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC) earlier this year announced its intention to fight the West Broadway route, calling it "Rondo 2.0," a reference to the once thriving Black neighborhood in Saint Paul that was

cleaved in half by the construction of I-94 between 1956 and 1968.

Officials from the Met Council and Hennepin County have hosted numerous community meetings in driveways, churches and theaters. They say they are making every effort to incorporate citizen input into the planning and use the 21st Avenue route as an example of considering feedback for other routes.

"We are working in more ways than ever to center community voices in planning and decision-making, including through the Anti-Displacement Working Group, the Community Advisory Committee, the Business Advisory Committee, the community engagement cohort, as well as expansive direct outreach and communications efforts," Met Council said in an unattributed written statement. "Strong community partnerships are essential to the success of this project, and we are committed to working with all our partners to deliver the best project possible to carry our region and state forward."

Kristel Porter, WBC's executive director, said few West Broadway business owners received notice of meetings. Nor were they ever visited by project leaders, Porter said.

Even with an anti-displacement work group, which is made up of a wide range of community leaders, no one from this group ever approached Spicer on what her business would need to survive a major

transportation project. "Yes, there are a lot of meetings, that's great," Porter said. "But the reality is you're not really meeting people where they're at. None of these business owners are going to make it to any of those meetings because they're trying to run a business.

"You're the one who gets paid the big bucks. Go and have a conversation with them. Sit down next to them, pull up a chair and have a deep conversation with them about how this is going to impact them. No one is telling them what impact means. Lisa Spicer was crying (at a meeting). "My building is impacted and you won't tell me what that means?"

One official privately said the lack of specific talks with business owners is intentional because of how details will change "many times" during the process. For now, there are 18-page packets available at meetings that list rights, benefits and explain relocation assistance. It is dated January 2015.

### Marked in pink

The demolition of Dimensions in Hair is not imminent. Impact depends on the eventual route and whether a station is located at the corner currently occupied by the building Spicer owns.

To get a partial glimpse on impact, two 3D models of each proposed route designate the buildings identified for possible tear down with the color pink. Spicer's building is pink on the West Broadway map to make way for a station, but appears unscathed by the 21st Avenue route.

There are unique markings on the polystyrene block that represents her two-story building. Stripes are carved in, meaning it may not get demolished if officials locate the station elsewhere on the route.

Even so, like most West Broadway businesses, a slim sidewalk separates the road from the front door. Will construction take out part of the building? Does the heavy machinery shaking the ground present damage risks to her building's foundation? Cracks emerged at one condominium complex on the incomplete Southwest light rail line.

Running light rail down West Broadway is a tight squeeze, opponents say. They wonder if some of the older buildings could survive the rumble of heavy construction.

An even bigger question in Spicer's mind is whether vulnerable people can survive the changes that come with a large transportation project. With light



Mike and Doris Spicer bought the building 32 years ago. "When you own the building, nobody can move you," she said.

rail, transportation officials say, comes increased access to jobs, schooling and other services not found in North Minneapolis. It can also spur additional investment in housing, local businesses and amenities.

It can also price out residents living on the margins, leaders like Porter say.

The challenges residents continue to live with come from a lack of investment. Porter and Spicer both wonder if the intention of light rail really is designed to lift a community or allow others to more easily pass through it?

"We can already see change happening, but why did it take light rail to suddenly help people create spaces that can help them enjoy living here?" Spicer said. "Drug use has exploded, guns, shootings and all this craziness and they're not doing anything about it. You're running light rail through communities, not helping them stay alive while these changes are coming."

### 'Nobody can make you move'

Mike, the son and grandson of stylists, opened Dimensions with his wife, Doris, in 1991. In a 2017 interview with North News on the 25th anniversary of their shop, Doris Spicer said when customers walked in, they were "treated like kings and queens."

They were not content with renting. "When you own the building, nobody can move you," she said.

Lisa Spicer learned the business by spending summers in Indiana, working in a salon owned by her grandmother and great grandmother. As an adult, she decided hair would be her career. After beautician school, she accepted an invitation to work with her father and step-mother.

Son Jaedyn Spicer and daughter Seione Kimbrough were babies when they came to the salon with their mother, occupying a playpen set up next to her chair. Lisa Spicer said working with family has been a blessing.

"We feel like we mean so much to the people who come here and use us as a resource. Yes, it's like therapy and like family," Seione Kimbrough said. "So, you feel like you're minimized down to just something on a map. I watched my mom and my grandpa put so much of their lives into something and have someone else, a higher-up or whatever, say, 'make it go there.' It's heartbreaking."

Spicer is in her shop every Monday morning for a few hours of cleaning.



On a recent Saturday, salon chairs were full. Seione Kimbrough, Spicer's daughter, has clients driving from other states for mani-pedis.



# Richard Robinson was 'more than just a football coach'

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

Richard Robinson, a football coach and athletic director in the 1980s and 90s at North High School, died in April from congestive heart failure. He was 87.

Robinson was a highly regarded coach and mentor. Former players say he left an indelible mark on them. His dedication, leadership and coaching acumen were unparalleled. He produced winners on and off the field, admirers said.

In 1972, Robinson began coaching football at Minneapolis Central High School. He led Central to an unbeaten season in 1980-81. The defense gave up just 12 points the entire season.

When Minneapolis Central closed in

1982, Robinson was hired to coach at North. He coached the Polars for eight years before taking over as athletic director. He led the Polars to the city conference championship in 1989 but lost to Edison. He retired as athletic director in 1998.

"He was a great mentor and role model," Brett Buckner, a former quarterback for North under Robinson, told the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. "Being part of that team (in 1989) and being coached by him had a big impact on my life."

Robinson has been praised throughout his coaching career for prioritizing character development, sportsmanship, and academic performance, as well as ensuring that his athletes flourish players and people.

Buckner went on to get a bachelor's and master's degree from Metropolitan State University. He is now executive director of Friends of the Children-Twin Cities.

In 2021, Robinson was inducted into the Minnesota Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, becoming only the second Black football coach to do so.

Patrick Adams, former player of Robinson's 1980-81 Central team, said Robinson changed his life.

Adams said he knew one day he would put on that red and blue uniform and play

for coach Robinson. He had relatives who played for him when he was little, and would sit in on his practices.

"Man, he was more than just our football coach, he was our life coach," Adams said. A big lesson left behind by Robinson, was one of community and holding each other accountable.

Adams remembered routinely receiving the 'look' from Robinson. It would always start out with one arm across his waist, resting his other elbow on the wrist of that arm and a couple of fingers touching the side of his cheek, and Adams knew it was time to straighten up.

"Coach Robinson never gave me a pass and it wasn't just me that he held accountable for my actions, it was permitted to everybody," Adams said. "By the time I got to my senior year, I understood the example that you needed to set for your teammates."



Richard Robinson. Photo by the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery/Facebook

# This non-profit's commitment to seniors is in the name – Age Well at Home

By David Pierini, Editor

Tommy Nollie's stories meander like the roads he has traveled in his 84 years. Once inside his tidy bungalow on Sheridan Avenue North, a visitor can expect animated tales about his Alabama youth, the lessons he learned from a strong-willed mother, the frost-bitten ears of his first Minnesota winter and a hitch-hiking odyssey to California too good to have been made up.

"I couldn't have bought a trip like that with a million dollars," Nollie says with a laugh.

Unifying each story is a thread of kindness shown to him, many by strangers and a single encounter. This includes a non-profit organization that made otherwise expensive home modifications for free so that he could stay where he has lived since 1966.

Experienced contractors with Age Well at Home made the light repairs after he was referred to the agency after a bad fall in November.

An older American falls and needs emergency care every 11 seconds, according to the Center for Disease Control. Falls top the list of causes that force seniors to permanently leave their home.

Age Well at Home started under Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity in 2018 and then launched its own non-profit last year. They have aided 178 homeowners since its launch last year.

"We do this work as a way to say thank you to our elders who have already dedicated their time, commitment and gifts to their community over the course of their lifetimes," said Pam Johnson, director of family services for Age Well at Home. "(It's an) opportunity to support their goals to live in their homes for as long as they can safely do so."

Services include grab bars, poles, hand-held shower heads, raised toilet seats, shower chairs, lift chairs, railings, improved lighting, stair lifts, lever handles for doors and faucets, door locks, smart



Tommy Nollie is grateful for the work from Age Well at Home, including the installation of a working kitchen sink. Photo by David Pierini

doorbells and accessible ramps.

There are income and other eligibility requirements, including a referral from a partner agency. In Nollie's case, he was being treated for a shoulder injury at NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center late last year when a social worker connected him to Age Well.

For Nollie, life at home improved when Age Well's partnering contractors replaced a deteriorating kitchen sink, installed grab bars in his bathroom, installed a new lock and handle on a door, repaired a light switch and swapped out non-functional shower doors for a rod and shower curtain.

He also received smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and a lift chair. Nollie loves the chair, but is not patient with its slow rise function. It is quicker for him to push up on his cane to get upright.

Nollie retired after 30 years at Honeywell, but now lives on a fixed income after his pension took a hit during an early 2000s stock market crash.

His dining room table is covered in paintings and mosaics he has created and on his couch is a blanket that is adorned with an image of his father, Napoleon, who was 104 when he passed recently.

"Hey my life has been much easier," Nollie said of Age Well's services. "I'm so thankful. I don't want to be a burden on nobody. I'm being very careful not to fall."

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Keiona Cook's students work the runway themed 'Futuristic Candyland' sporting their own creations during an event she produced during MN Fashion Week.

## Northside fashion designer teaches youth life skills a stitch at a time

Story and photos by Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

The Lovely's Sewing Arts Collective, a growing creative non-profit is establishing a name for itself with its objective to inspire artistic expression and life skills in youth through the power of sewing.

The collective was founded in 2010 by Keiona Cook, a fashion designer from North Minneapolis, to provide a nurturing environment where people from all walks may come together to learn, teach, create and share a passion for sewing and fashion.

In addition to sewing, Cook teaches sustainable fashion, financial literacy,

yoga, leadership, and accountability.

Cook has been sewing since she was six; her mother taught her to hand sew, and her godmother, Thelma Buckner, the late and beloved owner of the Piece by Piece quilt shop in Saint Paul, taught her how to use a sewing machine.

Cook not only learned to sew, but she also realized how significant something as simple as being able to physically repair your mistakes empowers a child, and she was further empowered to create her own identity and express herself.

"I will never forget fixing my first tear,"

Cook said. Soon after, she designed her first pair of bell bottoms.

Years later, she earned a fashion degree from a college in Savannah, Ga., where she created her signature dress, the 'Lovely Dress,' which was made from fabric cut in the shape of neck ties.

Cook, in addition to being the executive director of Lovley's Sewing Arts Collective, is a motivational speaker, author, and fashion designer herself.

Cook's own fashion label, Qe'Bella Couture, has been making appearances in the Minnesota fashion industry for

years. Her designs range from luxurious and intricate gowns to ready-to-wear ensembles, all of which feature her unique style of west African wax print fabrics.

The non-profit has found a home in the downtown North Loop area and instructs children ages 6 to 16. She runs her weekly Sunday classes with what she calls a loving iron fist, and a set curriculum.

"My energy sets the standard, that they are all leaders capable of leading themselves in a positive way," Cook said. "And each of them is capable of greatness. Because if you tell a kid all the time, 'you're

amazing', or 'you are a future strong leader', they believe you."

Some of the youngest participants have been taught to use a sewing machine before they even learned to read. Coveyah Caldwell joined the program when he was just 5. He wants to be an artist just like his grandfather, Northside muralist Charles Caldwell.

Ayahna Amaanii, 8, and Isla Lifford, 7, designed skirts and matching jackets. Isla wants to carry on the legacy of her mother and grandmother who "makes really pretty skirts and shirts."

Ayahna began sewing because she wanted to help her mother around the house.

"My little brother was standing on the couch and it ripped and that wasn't cool so I wanted to learn so I could help her fix it," she said.

'Flowery-calm' is how the two would describe their fashion.

"The goal of fashion in our class is also to tell a story," said Cook. "Ayahna and Isla's story is 'flowery-calm'. Keiona's is about identity.

"I am creating the African American story because I had to create my own identity, so much has been taken away from us as far as our identity is concerned. So rather than complain about it, it is better to just create an identity that I'm content with. And that's what I do everyday."

During Minnesota Fashion Week in May, Cook produced a runway show themed 'Futuristic Candyland' that featured local designers, including designs from Qe'Bella Couture and Lovely's Sewing Arts Collective. Mary Klauk, a teacher from North Minneapolis, volunteered with the collective on Sundays to prepare youth for the MN fashion week event.

"I met Keiona and we love her to death," Klauk said. "This experience has shown them that they can create anything they want along with the right life skills. They learn about sustainable fashion, we make sandwiches, we clean up after ourselves, we do yoga, and we stick to a routine."

"At first I didn't know how to do anything but now I know how to sew and use an ironing board," said Isla.

"The biggest thing for us volunteers is letting kids do all the work and everything that they can possibly be capable of," said Anne Swarts, another volunteer. "They do all the work, we're here to be able to guide while they create. The power is in their hands."

During the show, Ayahna's mother,

Continued on page 23



Keiona and volunteers are adamant to making sure that the youth are creating everything on their own. They often provide light guidance and supervision to make sure the kids are retaining muscle memory and real life skill sets.



Keiona Cook shows a skirt made of her signature 'Lovely Pattern', fabric cut into neck tie shapes and then sewn together.

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# Ascension Academy's 'Ms. Jean' retires: 'This is my home'

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

Jean Cerisier, affectionately known as 'Ms. Jean,' will bid farewell to Ascension Academy, concluding an illustrious teaching and coaching career spanning more than three decades.

When Cerisier first started at the North Minneapolis school, she was quite familiar with its halls. She was a student of Ascension herself when she was in grade school, and a parishioner of the school's Catholic church.

She recalled going through old photos and found a class photo of her in kindergarten. She looked at the image and saw the familiar uniforms that still dawn the halls.

"I thought, oh my God, I've been here all of my life," she said.

Her final day is June 10.

When she first stepped into the school's gym as the physical education teacher three decades ago, she inherited the job from her mother. She was the school's gym teacher.

Cerisier's mother was remembered for bringing the fun in physical fitness. She introduced the school to donkey basketball, made students personal fitness plans, and taught her daughter that everyone had to be successful in some way.

The torch was passed from mother to daughter.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for her," Cerisier said. "Because I learned so much from her."

Since then, Cerisier accumulated many titles at the school, serving as a coach, athletic director, dean of students, and assistant principal for the past two years.

Cerisier coordinated the church's hot Thanksgiving dinner delivery and personally dropped off meals to countless households in North Minneapolis.

She also broke barriers as the first female referee in a boys' high school basketball game in Minnesota. Cerisier also holds the distinction of officiating in the inaugural Minnesota State High School League girls' state basketball tournament.



Jean Cerisier, Ms. Jean to the students of Ascension Academy, prepares a class for the end of the year carnival. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

"Ms. Jean, without question, has been the most effective person in this role as assistant principal in these short two years, than anyone that has been in that role for the last several decades. Myself included," Principal Benito Matias said. "She just has such a presence and is so well known, is so well liked within the community, that she's able to engage with staff, with parents, with scholars in ways that really only someone who has 40 plus years of history here can and is just no substitute for time."

Instead of dress shoes, she walks the halls sporting her reliable tennis shoes. She's always on the move, and typically, with a kid in hand. Cerisier takes kids on walks around the school when they're having a bad day, when she wants students to get more familiar with their surroundings, or for fun, letting the kindergarteners take a ride on the elevator.

Throughout the years, her dedication and acts of kindness became synonymous with her name.



Cerisier always keeps an eye on her students. She waits by the window to make sure students are getting on the right bus. Moments later, she hurried outside to tell a student they got on the wrong bus. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

Continued on page 23

# North Commons champions shun modest renovation, direct leaders to think big

By David Pierini, Editor

An overdue refresh with a historic amount of investment will soon transform the facilities of North Commons Park.

But the park everyone hopes for may not be the park everyone gets.

Local lawmakers failed to get North Commons earmarked for infrastructure spending voted on during the legislative session that closed on May 22.

Anticipating this, project planners gathered North Minneapolis residents April 25 to share an update on funding

and pitch a scaled-back park renovation with money already raised.

With concepts estimated to cost \$35 million and \$49 million, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board staff presented a third option for around \$22 million, the amount currently secured through a mix of public and private funding sources.

That amount of money is sure to spiff up the place and represent the most money ever spent on a Minneapolis public park. It is enough to build a new water park and modify the current recreation center with a second basketball court.

The cheaper option was not well received.

The most vocal residents said they were tired of having less than other communities and expressed outrage over what they saw as continued disinvestment in a community of color. The community meeting was so heated, the Northside representative on the parks board said she was "threatened" by a longtime park volunteer.

Whether passions crossed a line, one message to project planners was clear – continue to be bold in the ask.

Park project managers wanted

to apprise community members and the board of potential funding gaps. At a board meeting later that week, commissioners did not vote on any of the three options but guided staff to keep the modest plan on the table and urged them and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation to continue to raise funds, with hopes one of the more resplendent options could be built.

Kareem Murphy, who lives a half-block from the park, was eloquent in addressing commissioners about the frustrations of a pared down dream.

"We're fighting over crumbs because staff is fearful that there's only enough money to fund the low-cost option," Murphy said. "Don't go small. Be big and represent the boldest, best park that we can possibly have."

"We deserve better than crumbs. We deserve cakes and streets paved with gold."

The original expansion plans, which include a new water park, four basketball courts, possibly a refrigerated outdoor ice rink and a renovated or brand new recreation center, was on track to secure state funding, federal grants and

foundation and private donations. In January, project planners had presented two designs, one costing \$49 million and the other \$35 million. The Parks Board and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation say they have about \$22 million secured, including \$5.1 million that was part of a bonding bill two years ago.

But a funding conundrum, as described by MPRB Director of Strategic Planning Adam Arvidson, led to a third, less expensive concept. Inflation and supply chain issues led to a 22 percent cost increase since a park vision plan was adopted in 2019, Arvidson said. Also, parks board staff had little hope for another round of state bond funding, which jeopardizes a couple of grants set to expire at the end of next year.

So project planners brought forward a contingency with a modest renovation of the existing recreation center with two basketball courts and a small water park.

Park staff and volunteers had hoped for a building with expanded programming space and four basketball courts, would allow the park to host tournaments. The

Continued on page 23

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## Attend a Free Medicare 101 Presentation

By **Amanda Bigus**,  
for *Trellis and the Senior LinkAge Line*

If you're 65 or older, you are eligible to receive Medicare benefits. And if you haven't enrolled in Medicare, the Senior LinkAge Line can help. We can help you compare plan options and equip you with information to make the right decision for you.

Medicare can be complicated, and one size doesn't fit all. The Senior LinkAge Line and Trellis are here to simplify things and provide factual, unbiased Medicare information and support to you. The Senior LinkAge Line is a service of the Minnesota Board on Aging and is offered by Trellis in the Twin Cities metro area.

Trellis offers a Medicare 101 presentation in libraries, churches, community centers, businesses, corporations and other locations across the seven-county metro area.

"I'm on Medicare and was happy to have an opportunity to learn more about it," said Marietta B, a Trellis outreach volunteer and presenter. "And my own experiences continue to give me a better understanding of the material." Marietta has presented in many places, including a virtual presentation to Land-O-Lakes employees nationwide. "I find this work to be rewarding. It can be hard to make Medicare decisions, and people are grateful to learn things they need to know."

### Welcoming BIPOC communities

All Medicare eligible adults deserve to get the information they need to make good decisions about their healthcare. Language is not a barrier to our 90-minute Medicare 101 presentation. With a commitment to serving BIPOC communities, our outreach staff speaks six different languages, and we can provide interpretation services if necessary. We can present the information in-person or virtually,

and if we don't speak your language, we can provide an interpreter. We also offer a presentation in American Sign Language (ASL), for the hearing impaired. Presenters like Marietta have gone to many locations in the

Twin Cities, such as the Brian Coyle Center, Hamline/Midway Elders, Longfellow Seward Neighborhood, Red Lake Nation and the Hindu Society of Minnesota.

You can invite us into your



Community members in November learned about Medicare during a presentation at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in North Minneapolis.

**\*SPONSORED CONTENT\***

community to do a presentation, so your friends and family can learn about Medicare and Medicare health plan options. Your healthcare needs and prescription medications are unique to you, so it's important to choose a Medicare plan that suits you. The Senior LinkAge Line isn't affiliated with any Medicare insurance providers, so we will give you free, unbiased information on all the plans, so you can make your best decision

### About our Medicare presenters

Our Medicare 101 presenters are well-trained through the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. They complete three days of Medicare training, including presenting to each other, so they are prepared to share information with you. You can ask questions during and after the presentation, and you can always call the Senior LinkAge Line for additional help and resources.

To request a Medicare 101 presentation, visit [trellisconnects.org/request-a-senior-linkage-line-presentation](https://trellisconnects.org/request-a-senior-linkage-line-presentation) or call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 and ask them to assist you. We accommodate most dates and times and are available to present in the evenings and on weekends. Videos of our presentation are also available on our website at [trellisconnects.org/outreach-videos](https://trellisconnects.org/outreach-videos).

Trellis welcomes the opportunity to meet you in your community or online for a Medicare 101 presentation.

*Amanda Bigus is a community outreach specialist and Medicare 101 presenter with the Senior LinkAge Line, a free service of the Minnesota Board on Aging, other Area Agencies on Aging.*

## UN Panel hears testimony in North Minneapolis

By **Azhae'la Hanson**, Reporter

Representatives from the United Nations Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equity in the context of Law Enforcement (EMLER) visited the Twin Cities Urban League in North Minneapolis as a stop on their testimony gathering tour across the United States.

The panel of testifiers were organized by the various community groups including Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence and Atlas of Blackness.

Panelists included Marvina Haynes, Myon Burell, Elizer Darris, and the mothers and relatives of victims of police brutality such as Amir Locke, George Floyd, Philando Castile, Kobe Heisler and several others.

Some called for an end to solitary confinement in youth, others demanded accountability and reform of police institutions.

Marvina Haynes spoke on behalf of her brother Marvin Haynes, who was convicted of murder in 2004 for a shooting in North Minneapolis when he was 16. There was no evidence he pulled the trigger and is currently serving a life sentence, his sister said. When Haynes was arrested, he wasn't allowed representation or even a phone call from his mom and his entire trial period was spent in solitary confinement. A part of his written testimony read:

"Solitary confinement should be restricted to anyone under the age of 18 years old," wrote Marvin. "It is extremely important for us to act now because we could be saving a juvenile's life and helping to rehabilitate the youth."

He said he has seen juveniles attempt suicide because they could not handle the long periods of isolation in solitary confinement.

Along with Marvin's written testimony, Marvina pleaded with the UN to advocate for the end of solitary confinement for minors.

"Children are supposed to make mistakes. There's no reason why they should be put into a cell where they have no love," she said.

Toshira Garraway, founder of Families supporting families against police violence created the support group to support family members and friends who have survived police brutality or have lost someone at the hands of police violence.

"We figured out that we were fighting up against a system that has been strategically designed and created and critiqued against people that look like me. It's designed this way, it's designed to work exactly how it's working," she said.

Following the conclusion of their tour, EMLER will create a report of

their findings and recommended solutions to the issues discussed that are affecting people of African descent worldwide.

"In the process of finishing our mission and writing a report that will be discussed eventually at the Human Rights Council in Geneva and will be widely distributed, we hope to gather as much information and analysis from you as we can," said EMLER representative Juan Mendez.



The panelists of families impacted by police violence stand united as the UN concludes their visit to North Minneapolis. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

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## Minneapolis Documenters

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Pillsbury United Communities' Minneapolis Documenters program pays community members like you to take notes at public meetings. Below is a monthly recap of city, county and school board actions impacting North Minneapolis.

### Public Health & Safety Committee – May 3

Received a quarterly presentation from the Office of Community Safety, which discussed staffing for the office and an update regarding the work of the city's community safety departments.

Council members Payne, Wonsley and Ellison voiced concerns over the organization chart's apparent emphasis on media relations and whether the public would approve.

City Commissioner Alexander responded that while there is a focus on communication, it isn't meant to detract from other aspects of building the new system. Additionally, he mentioned that the four media relation specialist roles already existed, but now the new org chart centralizes them under a shared leader. Police Chief Brian O'Hara reported on ongoing staffing challenges with the Police Department, with 583 sworn personnel compared to an authorized staffing of 888 sworn personnel.

Chief O'Hara also noted the ongoing challenges with stolen cars, primarily Kias and Hyundais, due to manufacturing defects making them easier to steal. Thefts of both cars have jumped from 107 in 2022 to 1,899 so far this year, according to MPD data.

### Hennepin County Board – May 2

- Received presentation on the county's anti-displacement initiative for the Blue Line expansion in North Minneapolis
- The plan is now available for public review and comment. Visit [https://yourblueline.org/anti-displacement?mc\\_cid=5f39835333&mc\\_eid=db1f929934](https://yourblueline.org/anti-displacement?mc_cid=5f39835333&mc_eid=db1f929934)
- Recommended next steps include creating an anti-displacement fund

### Minneapolis Board of Education – May 9

The Minneapolis school board learned that graduation rates in the school district, just released by the state, took a healthy increase in 2022. The increases included a three percent overall increase, and increases of four percent for African American students and Somali students.

The board was told that the district will have a 7.1 percent increase in revenue for the coming year. It will be the last year that districts receive COVID emergency funding, and the district is facing a "financial cliff" following the 2023-24 school year.

School closings came up several times during the night, especially in the public comment portion of the meeting, but no specifics on what schools are being considered were discussed.

### City Council – May 11

Approved a resolution on Olson Memorial Highway, asking MnDOT to "Bring Back 6th" and transform Olson into a walkable corridor This is a preliminary step in a project that would take years to actualize and complete.

### Election News

The Ward 4 convention was at Folwell Rec Center at 2 PM. Incumbent LaTrisha Vetaw faced challenger Marvinna Haynes. After one round, LaTrisha Vetaw was endorsed with 85 percent of the vote.

The Minneapolis DFL announced that the Ward 5 convention was canceled, based upon a mutual request from the campaigns. Victor Martinez is mounting his second challenge against incumbent Jeremiah Ellison. The cancellation follows a tense online delegate count in April, when the DFL Minneapolis chair tossed out several of Martinez's delegates because they were registered to a single IP address. Martinez denied wrongdoing but was slapped with a protective order after the DFL official, Brianna Lee Rose, accused him of instigating supporters to flood her social media channels with comments, some of which were threatening.

Jackie Renzetti is the program manager for Minneapolis Documenters. Visit [minneapolis.documenters.org](https://minneapolis.documenters.org) to learn more.

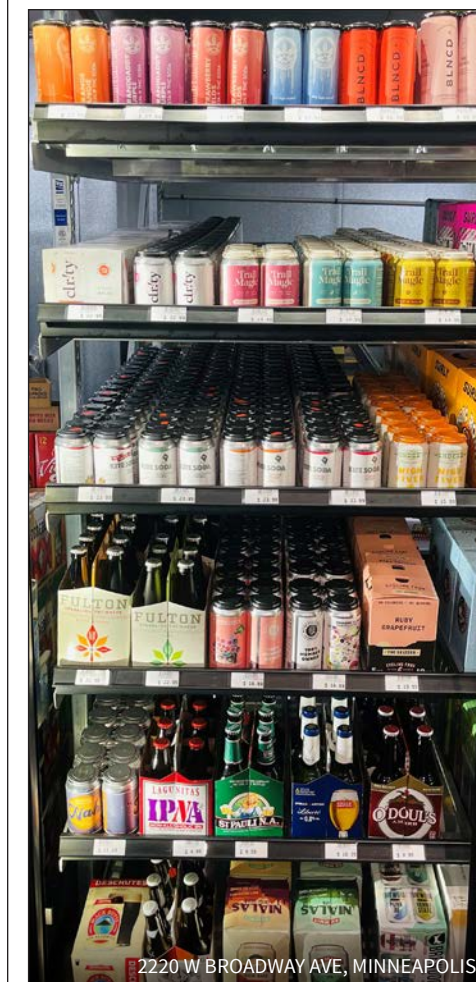
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## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Six weeks of tennis fun:** Innercity Tennis Minneapolis offers free tennis lessons June 19 through Aug. 4 for youth ages 6-17 at 21 locations across Minneapolis. No experience necessary. Lessons cost \$300 for six weeks and scholarships are available. Groups are divided by age for one-hour lessons Monday through Friday at the following Northside parks: Bohanon, 8 a.m. (6-10) and 9 a.m. (11-17); Folwell 10:30 a.m. (6-10) and 11:30 (11-17) and Webber, 9 a.m. (6-7), 10 a.m. (8-10), 11 a.m. (11-13) and Noon (14-17). Visit [parks@innercitytennis.org](https://parks@innercitytennis.org)

**Safe Station:** Struggling with substance abuse? Start your recovery journey at Minneapolis Fire Station 14, 2002 Lowry Ave. N., where a firefighter or recovery coach can help get you a variety of services. Open 24 hours. No judgment or shame. Safe Station is a partnership with the Twin Cities Recovery Project and the Minneapolis Fire Department.

**Free legal advice:** Legal Aid takes on civil cases, such as housing, family, consumer tax, immigration and public benefits. The non-profit organization now has a clinic

in the office of the Harrison Neighborhood Association, 1501 Glenwood Ave. Services are free for those who qualify. Must be 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines or age 60-plus. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Walk-ins welcome, but appointments are preferred. Call 612-746-3611 to make an appointment.

**The Healing Place:** The Healing Place is back at Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 621 Elwood Ave. N. It is committed to healing trauma in the Black community by helping to break the cycle of oppression. It is a safe space if you need a prayer, a conversation or just a place to sit. Every Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m.

**Spring/Summer Happenings at Hopewell Music:** Registration is now open for Hopewell summer camps. The camps include: handbell camp June 2-16; Northside United Summer Band Camp, July 10-21; Steel drums, July 31-Aug 5; drop-in choir champ at Webber Library starting in June and drop-in bucket drum camp, Webber Library, starting in June. Visit <https://hopewellmusic.com/2023-summer-camps> to register

**Food Distribution:** Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 3355 4th Street N., will

distribute free fresh food on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 10 a.m.-noon. There are no pre-qualifications. Everyone is welcome.

**Free Dinners:** The Camden Collective and the Sanneh Foundation sponsor a weekly free food pickup at Salem Lutheran Church, 4150 Dupont Ave. N., each Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Call 612-521-3644 for more information. Walkups are welcome.

**Pet supplies:** Are you in need of pet supplies or pet resources? The North Minneapolis Pet Resource Center, 1401 44th Ave. N., is open for curbside pickup Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 764-273-0710 to place an order and leave a voicemail.

**Radio updates in your language:** Tune into Minneapolis's cultural radio programs for COVID-19 updates. The city is broadcasting updates on KMOJ 89.9 FM (English), La Raza 95.7 FM (Spanish), KALY 101.7 FM (Somali) and WIXK AM 1590 (Hmong).

**Minneapolis Ward 4 contact info:** If you live in Ward 4 and want to reach City Councilwoman LaTrisha Vetaw, contact Maggie Kohl via email: [maggie.kohl@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:maggie.kohl@minneapolismn.gov) or cell: 612-258-3982. Contact Betsy Brock with other needs

via email: [betsy.brock@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:betsy.brock@minneapolismn.gov) or cell: 612-257-5242. You can also reach Vetaw via email: [latrisha.vetaw@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:latrisha.vetaw@minneapolismn.gov) or cell: 612-322-1143.

**Minneapolis Ward 5 contact info:** If you live in Ward 5 and want to reach City Councilman Jeremiah Ellison, call his office at 612-673-2205 or email him at [ward5@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ward5@minneapolismn.gov). You can also contact his policy associate Bethny Turnwall at [bethany.turnwall@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:bethany.turnwall@minneapolismn.gov)

**Hennepin County District 2 contact info:** To reach Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando, call 612-348-7882 or email her at [irene.fernando@hennepin.us](mailto:irene.fernando@hennepin.us). For constituent services contact policy aide Bill Emory at 612-348-3526 or at [bill.emory@hennepin.us](mailto:bill.emory@hennepin.us)

**Minneapolis Public Schools, District 2:** Sharon El-Amin is the Board of Education director representing North Minneapolis. She can be reached at 612-986-3281 or [Sharon.El-Amin@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Sharon.El-Amin@mpls.k12.mn.us)

Do you have an ongoing program, meeting or event you would like to see published in North News? Please send the details to [DavidP@pillsburyunited.org](mailto:DavidP@pillsburyunited.org)

## NOTICES

## NEWS

### Fashion Show Continued from page 13

Kenisha Amaanii, proudly watched her daughter sport her jacket down the runway.

"After that couch incident, she [Ayahna] told me to teach her how to sew so I wouldn't have to fix anything again."

Charless Caldwell was in attendance to see his grandson walk as well. "It's super exciting to be here to support them," said Caldwell. "And it's just super exciting to see them get started at an early age like I did."



8-year-old Ayahna Amaanii proudly shows off the pocket on her skirt, which she'd sewn all on her own. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

### North Commons Update Continued from page 17

longtime hockey program, which exposed kids to the sport with little or not costs, wants a refrigerated outdoor rink so that practices and games would not be at the mercy of climate change-related shifts in Minnesota winters.

Project planners knew it would be less than what community members had hoped for, but they encouraged them to influence the process with calls to parks board commissioners and lawmakers.

"I agree with everything you've said. We have to build a building that serves these kids," Arvidson said. "To be frank, it's hard to have this conversation with community and with the board because I would love to move forward with something that is bigger, that meets that original vision. For as much money that has come in, there are still funding gaps and it's hard to know exactly what to do about that. That's why we're here."

The legislative session ended on May

22. Parks Commissioner Becka Thompson, whose district includes North Commons Park, told the board she was advised by state Sen. Bobby Joe Champion to proceed as if no additional funds from the state would be available this year.

When North News reached out to Champion's office, a staff member indicated the senator was "waiting to see" if there was room for North Commons in a capital investment bill. State Rep. Esther Agbaje was less specific but said, "I'll continue to advocate for our community's priorities to be included in a bonding bill that's equitable, addresses needs in areas that have been traditionally left behind, and makes a big impact on the lives of people in our district."

Their hands may have been tied by, according to reports, costly squabbling over what a capital spending bill would include. The Democratic majority in both the House and Senate plowed through a huge list of landmark bills. With some of those ambitions largely settled, there is always next session for a bonding or spending bill to include North Commons.

## continue catching up with our Council Members

### Ward 4: LaTrisha Vetaw Continued from page 6

Shannon McDonough is the crime prevention specialist for the following neighborhoods: Near North, Sumner Glenwood, Camden Industrial, Humboldt Industrial, Lind-Bohanon, Shingle Creek, Webber-Camden and Victory

Bill Magnuson is the crime prevention specialist for the following neighborhoods: Bryn Mawr, Harrison, Willard Hay, Cleveland, Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley

The crime maps and dashboards have information about arrests, shots fired, stops and crime. A PDF about how to use the dashboard can be found at [minneapolismn.gov/media/-www-content-assets/documents/CrimeDashboardInfo.pdf](https://www.minneapolismn.gov/media/-www-content-assets/documents/CrimeDashboardInfo.pdf)

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### Ms. Jean Retires Continued from page 16

Student Olivia Carter has known Cerisier since she was in kindergarten. She is completing eighth grade and will move on to high school next year.


"I'm glad that she's doing what she wants to do, but it's still sad," Olivia said. "She's been here for so long and she's helped a lot of people. She's helped me and she's done a lot for the school. If I need a break, or if I'm struggling with all my anxiety, my panic attacks, she helps me."

Cerisier plans to retire to California with her family where she'll "sleep in" until 7 a.m. instead of the usual 5 a.m. She will golf as much as she can.


"I'll miss the people that I've worked with, a few of them I've worked with forever," she said. "I'll miss the kids and wonder where they'll end up. I'll miss just working with all these guys. I'm here Monday through Friday, and when I coached sports, I was here Monday through Sunday. I live here, you know?"

"This is my home, and I'm going to really miss it."

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