

6th grader Nyree Ramzy holds a photo of trash bins gathered to collect water from a leaking classroom roof. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

> WE DESERVE & DEMAND MORE!

ALSO INSIDE

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JJ Legacy School searches for new home after dispute with church.

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When it came to the work, these interns 'left no crumbs'

Being a reporter can feel a little like being blindfolded and thrown into a van that speeds off. Only after it arrives at the destination can you remove the blindfold and begin to figure out where you're at.

Many stories start out that way. You

NORTH NEWS 2023 Issue #7

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name, a short summary and a topic that registers a blank with your brain. Now go.

We went to school for this. We took classes that cultivate our reporting instincts, make us swear allegiance to the inverted pyramid rule for writing and scare you into double and triple checking your information (if your mother says she as the saying goes. This month our interns loves you, get confirmation from another source)

This summer, six interns, including five still in high school, got a crash course readers are coping with poor air quality. in being reporters for North News. Their edition of the paper and we are proud to her pitch and the idea fell flat with the publish their first offerings in the field of iournalism.

real estate to youth reporters, but this group feels extra special. From the city's StepUP program, we have Kiya Darden, and eventually returned. Ayanna Melander, Charlie Quick, Aketzally Cincinnati, Alanee Wright.

They are guided by Azhae'la Hanson, a former North News youth writer and photographer who joined us full-time after she graduated college. She splits

AD

Please ing

get assignments that often have a single her work between reporting and running youth programs. She is equal parts gentle and firm. She gives her young charges undivided attention even when deadlines also wrote this month's cover story).

You can find a story on virtually any topic in this newspaper, from soup to nuts present a blended diet with stories on economic development, urban farming, an essay on Northside murals and how our

following a woman for an organization that sets traps for feral cats to be neutered

AK ended up in the backyard of Rita Murillo Alvarado and Elan Goldwater and Dominguez, who would not let her leave saying, "This story eats!" So that's good, a rising senior from Xavier University in without taking a loaf of her homemade right? banana bread. It was delicious and so is AK's story and photos.

> She passed an important test: Don't let a doubtful editor talk you out of what you know is a good story.

That brings me to Alanee Wright, who sidesteps an editor's skepticism with unrestrained exuberance. They were hired to work across various programs for her own bylined work are looming (she for our parent company, Pillsbury United Communities, and no matter the department, met every task and colleague with pure sunshine.

Each program was encouraged to have a project ready for Alanee. Our website needs a refresh. But Alanee had other ideas. They wanted to write stories.

By the time you get your hands on Aketzally (or AK) wanted to do a story this paper, Alanee will have already stories and photos fill this and the next on a cat lady. There was nothing more to returned to Ohio to finish school. I really needed help on the website but I'm sure group. But her kernel of an idea led to a glad they talked me into writing. Alanee compelling story on the Northside's stray wrote last month's cover story, profiled We routinely turn over some of our cat population. She spent an afternoon Danielle Mkali of the Open Road Fund for this edition and should have two bylines in the August paper.

> Progress reports or editing sessions with Alanee usually began with them

"Yes! I ate this story up, left no crumbs."

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The more you talk, play, read and sing with a child from birth, the better their brain develops. Check out Little Moments Count for tips and tools.



NEWS

Breaking Bread Cafe will close its doors Aug. 25

beginning Aug. 21.

Wellness Center.

North Minneapolis at a glance



Breaking Bread Cafe has been a communal hub since 2015. Photo by David Pierini

Appetite for Change will close its restaurant, Breaking Bread Cafe, but will continue serving made-from-scratch meals from a food truck.

Opened at 1210 West Broadway Ave. N. in 2015, Breaking Bread provided a community gathering space where folks met over coffee and enjoyed healthy soul food meals at what is one of the only sitdown restaurants in North Minneapolis.

Breaking Bread will close its doors on Aug. 25 with farewell celebrations planned

A spokesperson for Appetite for Change said the organization wasn't given the option to renew the lease with building owner, Kenya McKnight-Ahad, who has plans to expand her ZaRah

"We take our role in the Northside this past legislative season to support neighborhood seriously, and it's very a permanent home to house all of its bittersweet to announce the closing," Tasha Powell, co-founder and president of Appetite For Change, said in a statement made public July 18. "At the same time, we are excited to announce our new Breaking Bread food truck to continue to serve cafe favorites. We will increase our focus on catering operations, so people can support our mission while enjoying the delicious food we are known for. We will continue our aarden sites, vouth and family-based programming, Station 81, and West Broadway Farmers Market."

Appetite for Change, which also has a catering business, may re-open a restaurant at some point. The nonprofit organization received \$1.5 million

operations, including classrooms, offices and a restaurant. A timeline for a larger operation is still to be determined.

"Breaking Bread Cafe has been a critical part of AFC's role in the neighborhood, but our work has never been about just a physical brick-andmortar cafe, but about building a movement to celebrate the beautiful North Minneapolis community and turn our vision where access to wholesome food is no longer controlled by zip code and financial means into a reality," Powell said. "As a native Northsider, this has deep meaning for me."

Take a bow, **Dance City**

North Minneapolis dance troupe Dance City recently won a national title in Las Vegas, its third title in four trips to Nationals.

Featured on the cover of the April 28 North News, Dance City competed with more than 100 teams from across the country and did not disappoint fans, many of whom donated to a GoFundMe page to finance the trip.

The young dancers felt nervous as they walked into the competition. Instructor Cierra Burnaugh told them to dance like it was their last time dancing and to show the audience who they were authentically: "Beautiful and talented Black girls from the Midwest."

Register for annual **Northside** Ramble

The Northside Ramble. sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Minneapolis, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5.

Rotary has partnered with two local breweries and food vendors to help residents meet their neighbors, learn more about the history of North Minneapolis, and enjoy our community. This year our focus will be on North Minneapolis's parks and their fascinating history as a part of our community.

To register visit www.northsideramble.com

Medicaid re-enrollment crisis could impact thousands of Northsiders

By David Pierini, Editor

North Minneapolis nonprofits and health care providers are scrambling to help clients and patients re-enroll in Medicaid after pandemic-era protections ended on July 1, putting thousands of residents in the Northside's two zip codes at risk of losing coverage.

The state is trying to hire navigators with 49 percent in at lightning speed to assist enrollees. The Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services identified 55411 and 55412 and eight other at-risk counties to get the first wave of navigators.

But the effort, officials say, won't be enough to prevent everyone from temporarily losing coverage.

Americans last enrolled in 2019. Eligibility reviews began going out by mail in July. State public health officials estimate as many as 30 percent live at a new address and won't know they have to renew coverage.

"Most of our clients are highly mobile and do not live at the same address (as 2019)", said Sandy Klein-Mirviss, director of developmental therapies at The Family by updating the information on their Partnership. The Family Partnership currently has 167 open therapy cases right now and every single one is vulnerable under the current re-enrollment drive, she said

"So what's going to happen? People aren't going to know about this and they're not going to find out that they don't have insurance until they are at the pharmacy to get their meds," Klein-Mirviss said. "So, there's going to be this big gap in care."

Medicaid and MinnesotaCare clients could count on getting a request by mail to re-apply for their health insurance. COVID arrived on America's shores in early 2020 and the rules were suspended during the height of the pandemic.

When an individual's re-enrollment notice goes out depends on the month they resubmitted their eligibility paperwork in 2019.

In Minnesota, 1.5 million people will need to re-enroll at some point during the next 12 months. In 55411, 12,374 residents are eligible for public coverage

6,076, according to the State Health Access Data Assistance Center.

The data also shows 58 percent of the residents living in 55411 are on public insurance 55412.

Health care centers and nonprofits from North Point Health and Wellness and the Washburn Center for Children, to the Northside Achievement Zone and The Family Partnership have been working to inform families and individuals and to be as proactive as possible

accounts.

"So what's going to happen? People aren't going to know about this and they're not going to find out that they don't have insurance until they are at the pharmacy to get their meds. So, there's going to be this big gap in care."

Sandy Klein-Mirviss, director of developmental therapies at The Family Partnership

NorthPoint is coming at the crisis from all angles, said Marissa Elliott, NorthPoint's manager of outreach and health initiatives. The clinic's check-in system includes alerts for patients who losing coverage temporarily could mean may be up for renewal of coverage. The for her daughter Maple, 7, and son hospital sends out text message reminders Rowan, 2, both of whom are on the autism because they live 138 percent below the for people to update information in spectrum. poverty level. In 55412, the number is their account and outreach workers are Maple and Rowan receive speech.

community events with flyers on the urgency to renew.

to re-enroll in Medicaid. Photo by David Pierini

But accessing the account online can be daunting especially if it has been no longer needs speech therapy. three or four years since the last renewal. In many cases, people forget passwords and easily get frustrated with the online experience, Elliott said.

"It has been really hard on our staff," they're working upstream, that even when they're catching people, they know that it's just gonna be an ongoing challenge.

"We're still seeing people fall through the cracks and being proactive on that has been something we've been trying to be really strategic about. But it's just really difficult to reach people when we don't have updated information. People are transient. A lot of information we have is not up to date. So just aetting a hold of people is a huge barrier.

Charlotte LaVaictoire worries what

going to churches, parks, libraries and physical and occupation therapy at The Family Partnership. Both of LaVaictoire's children are late speakers, though Maple has recently progressed to the point she

Getting these services at an early age were critical and given the household income would not have been possible without Medicaid and MinnesotaCare, she said. She also brings her children to She said. "Part of it is that they feel like a pediatrician that specializes in autism and the family attends therapy to help navigate transitions.

"I know other families are going to experience this and knowing that hurts my heart," LaVaictoire said. "Both of our kids are late to talk and so speech therapy has been an enormous help and so not having that for a couple of months..."

Routines are critical and consistency must be maintained to keep children from rearessina. Klein-Mirviss said.

"To have an interruption can really throw them into just a bia state of dysregulation," she said. "All of a sudden, everything is changing. Everything is just out of whack and there's all this anxiety."

NEWS

reopening.

and was loved by all.

appreciate nature.

changing

the stew for herself.

in nature."



Charlotte LaVaictoire, with her daughter Maple, 7, and son Rowan, 2, worries her family will miss the window

Community center gathers oral histories amidst plans to restore beloved camp

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

Camp Katharine Parsons was in operation from the 1960's to the early 2000's and was Minnesota's only Blackowned summer camp. It operated in Watertown, north of the Twin Cities, and was run by Phyllis Wheatley Community Center in North Minneapolis.

Former camp goers and counselors of Camp Parsons gathered at Sumner Library in July to reminisce over how the camp forever impacted their lives and to drum up support for the camp's planned

Former camp goer Autumn Frazier Cotton said she grew up at the camp. Her arandmother. Carrie Hoffman Wallace. was the program director in the 1960's

Every summer, Frazier Cotton traveled with her grandmother, who drove the iconic "big bus" that she pilotted around the city picking up kids.

It was an opportunity to take a break from city life and learn fishing, fire starting, hiking, swimming and how to

"I know I'm a better person just from my experience of growing up at camp," Frazier Cotton said. "It is really my heart." She still goes camping on her own with the skills she learned from Camp Parsons and has life-long friends from the camp to go along with her to this day. Former campers also say it was life

Kimberly Caprini said in a previous meeting that when she attended the camp in her childhood and saw stars for the first time. She said she passed on her appreciation for nature to her children thanks to her camp experiences.

"There were moments like that as a kid where you just feel so incredibly free,' Caprini said tearfully. "I wanted them to experience things that I was always afraid of, to be outside and to be dirty, to not be afraid of bugs, to to be able to fish." Former camp counselor Colnese M. Hendon remembered the "Bug Bus." sloppy loes and stews Hoffman Wallace made for campers. Hendon now makes

'I think it's important that Camp Parsons comes back because there's a lot more going on in the city now," said Hendon. "Back then you could feel the tension come off when you got out there

Anthony Taylor, promotes outdoor recreation, says nature, the outdoors and adventure-based programs

are the best place for kids and communities to grow. "It is about people who love the land," Taylor said. "We are trying to figure out how we are going to organize our young people and families in

the midst of climate change." Lawmakers recently set aside \$550,000 to go towards the \$9 million dollar the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center needs to raise. Organizers hope to reopen the refurbished site by 2025.



Photos of when the camp was active were on display at Sumner Library



catch up with our **Council Members**

WARD 4: LaTrisha Vetaw

Hello, Ward 4!

Safety Committee to present the modernizing 911 Communities Report" - an action plan for the future of community safety in Minneapolis.

out how to "achieve an entirely new level of value, legitimacy, and trust in how Minneapolis fosters and sustains safe and thriving of community safety challenges. communities." The report focuses on three key strategies to design and implement a new model of analytics. and services that enable community This means becoming "a safety.

the capacity for safety and and innovate based off realwellness." This means designing time outcomes. This requires community partners, stakeholders, an array of services that work advancing data and analytics to and community members "to prevent social challenges better understand what services from manifesting as crime and and solutions are most effective, agenda for executive and disorder," "to respond to acute how services impact advancing legislative changes that enable law, order, and safety incidents", equity, transparency, community the plan and "to help heal trauma and engagement, and learning. build resilience for communities."

came to the Public Health & coordination and collaboration, and "Minneapolis Safe and Thriving communication systems, and deploy services in ways that holistically help individuals and families. Creating an ecosystem The goal of the report is to lay of organizations, services, and programs allows collaboration and coproduction of new solutions to solve the root causes

learnina." learning organization" that The first strategy is to "build would continuously improve Advisory Board composed

The report then lays out in six **2. Develop a Multi-Year** The second strategy is sections how Minneapolis can Implementation and Financial to "transform services into utilize the three key strategies to Plan

an ecosystem." This means "restore the social contract, trust, between the City of Minneapolis and its communities."

Minneapolis City Council members LaTrisha Vetaw (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward

them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.

5) were inaugurated in January 2022 and January 2018, respectively. We have invited

provides a Launch List of five and philanthropic funding items for the city to take in the first twelve months:

1. Establish an Executive Leadership Team and Community Advisory Board

a. Establish an Executive The third strategy is Leadership Team composed to "advance operations, of city executives who span the policy areas and agencies implementing the plan

> Establish a Community b. of government executives,

c. Create a law and policy

a. Determine the degree Last week Dr. Antonio Oftelie integrating services to ensure and legitimacy of public safety of adoption and pace of implementation

NEWS

b. Identify and allocate To get the ball rolling, the report sources of federal, state, local, c. Commit to development goals and completed pilots within

3. Design a Governance and **Operations Plan**

the first year

a. Build a plan for crossagency collaboration

b. Develop a law and policy framework for information sharing and privacy parameters c. Plan for cross-initiative work between innovation and core

4. Initiate Policy and Practice

a. Establish executive sponsors for each section of the plan and require progress reports b. Implement committees

Continued on page 23

WARD 5: Jeremiah Ellison

annual Black Business Week Act is providing up to \$1.5 billion It was launched in 2019. It is a quidelines can be found on the City during the last week of July. It for Urban and Community forgivable, long-term, no-interest website. For questions or to learn has continued to be an honor Forestry through the USDA Forest loan program covering funding more about how to apply, email to participate in this great week Service. The Minneapolis Health gaps for commercial development BusDevLoans@minneapolismn. uplifting the creative and vibrant Department and the Minneapolis projects. Helps small businesses gov. Black businesses throughout our Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) buy their own buildings and gain As always, join me from 12:00 city. We were able to host a job submitted a joint application access to capital. This program PM - 1:00 PM every Monday for fair on July 25 at the Northside for \$29,966,300.00 for private will prioritize support in greas that Open Coffee Hours! These are Careerforce where many local property tree work in the City. The have historically been impacted informal and a chance for me to businesses came and offered proposal will include funding for by economic exclusion and to hear directly from you while we resources to our neighbors. As ash trees infested with emerald properties affected by the 2020 share coffee or a meal (virtually). we enter August, I encourage you ash borer (EAB), stump grinding, civil unrest following the death Office hours is on a first come first all to continue shopping local and planting 1-2 replacement trees of Mr. George Floyd. Funding is served basis. Please try not to call Black to support Black Business after removals, education on tree awarded to community-based in past 12:50 p.m. as we want to Month. If you would like to learn maintenance, treatment for pest/ development or redevelopment leave enough time to chat about more about the job opportunities disease, community engagement, proposals to advance the work of that were available at the job fair, workforce development in urban commercial property development feel free to reach out to my office. and community forestry, and a in economically underserved

to submit a grant application approved fall of 2023. for a five-year grant for emerald ash borer related treatment, Development Fund (CPDF) is an activated. If you are interested

prevention and replacement economic development financing to learn more about the CPDF,

The city celebrated their third work. The Inflation Reduction tool of the City of Minneapolis. complete details and eligibility The Commercial Property I am excited to see this space get

reform Committees and Workgroups

what you'd like to discuss. Please RSVP at www.minneapolismn.gov/ ward5, and my staff will follow-up City Council this past cycle private property tree inventory. communities. This council cycle we with the call-in details. If you have authorized the Health Department We hope to hear if the grant was granted \$425,000 CPDF loan for any questions or concerns, reach the 901 West Broadway project. out to Dieu Do, Policy Associate, at dieu.do@minneapolismn.gov.

NEWS

said.

providers

Dr. Kevin Gilliam, health director of Northpoint Health and Wellness Center said wildfire smoke in particular has been difficult on people with respiratory are all descriptors of North Minneapolis ailments. As of July, there are more than residents.



Burdened by bad air, Northsiders face a summer of new pollutants

By Ayanna Melander, North News Intern

Marc Latz. 66. doesn't let his oxvaen tank stop him from enjoying his typical summer of outdoor fun. However, this summer he has been stuck inside more days than usual because of poor air quality. "I'm not as active as I would like to be but I'd say the excessive heat and the wildfire smoke has limited my ability to get out and about," the longtime Northsider

North Minneapolis already is plagued by some of the worst air pollution in the state. But this summer ushered in wildfire smoke blowing in from Canada and recordbreaking ozone levels to create conditions for residents that concern local healthcare

4,000 active fires in Canada with smoke blowing into North America.

"We're seeing an uptick in people reporting some difficulty with breathing generally," Gilliam said. "And they're relating to the onset of the first round of wildfire smoke that was fairly noticeable."

Since May, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has issued 23 air quality alerts across the state with this being the most air quality alerts ever in Minnesota's history.

"Pay attention to the forecast when the air quality may worsen, so that you can try to make plans when air quality gets really bad."

Dr. Kevin Gilliam

And MPCA predicts more to come before summer's end.

Minnesota is also in its seventh ozone alert of the summer which, according to the MPCA, is the most ever calculated recorded in Minnesota.

Gilliam said asthma is more prevalent in North Minneapolis, especially in neighborhoods in close proximity to factories. Communities of color in general can be more at risk to the smog. These

already exist in North Minneapolis such as a county trash incinerator and vehicle emissions from I-94, a perfect storm has live with asthma or, chronic obstructive been created for respiratory ailments.

"The shifting of the winds has kind of blanketed the Twin Cities in Minnesota this summer a bit harsher."

Gilliam said poor air quality causes itchy, watery eyes, a new cough, and scratchy throat. In those with more severe

In combination with pollutants that respiratory issues, the impact of low air auality may take a areater toll.

"In those who have to deal with or pulmonary disease (COPD) or other severe respiratory complications, they may find themselves using or feeling more short of with this wildfire smoke on repeated breath, or often or getting winded more occasions," Glliam said. "It kind of is making easily, to relieve or improve their feeling of difficulty breathing," Gilliam said.

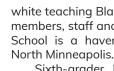
Continued on page 23



A hazy skyline was photographed on Olson Memorial Highway showing wildfire smoke enveloping the city in June. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

Marc Latz, 66, has spent more time indoors than normal because of the air quality this summer. Photo by David Pierini

NEWS



in school.

In the parking lot, teachers, students, and parents spoke of the maintenance issues that have accumulated over their residency. Irene Robinson, a former cleaning staff member, marched in solidarity with the school. She remembered constantly changing buckets of water from leaky roofs. She saw photos of the damages during the march and was shocked to see that the same leaky roof was worse and amongst even more damages.

been crazy.

"Since the school has not made payment of past due rent, the parish is left no other choice than to take possession of the building and seek a new tenant for the upcoming school year," Reverend Michael Tix told KARE 11 News. "Absent the payment of the past due rent, and without the income from a tenant in the school, the parish will not be able to continue operations."

JJ Legacy School board member Crown Shepherd chanted "Black Students Matter," at a children's march hosted in the parking lot of Our Lady of Victory Church. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

JJ Legacy School looks for new home after dispute By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

Montessori school say they are close to securing a new home after a long, bitter impasse with its landlord, a Catholic church that evicted the predominantly Black roof, unusable classrooms, broken kitchen has failed to consistently respond to school.

JJ Legacy Montessori School was evicted from a building owned by Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church at 5140 Fremont Ave. N. after the last school year for not paying rent. The school, named after civil rights leader Josie Johnson, held rent payments in escarole because the church to learn. It is unacceptable to be okay with move out an entire school.

with an accumulation of maintenance our children.' issues since 2019 that include a leaky classroom

Leaders of a North Minneapolis refused to fix a slew of maintenance issues. the conditions that this parish has allowed

The school says that the church gender for the entire building, a 10 week attempt to garner attention, the school in escrow contingent upon the church's our children deserve the best." "It's been a gradual decline," head of response. In return, the school received a school Tonicia Abdur Salaam said. "We notice on June 30th that they had until July need clean spaces for our children to be able 6th, a week to vacate the premises and

A peaceful children's march was held School leaders say they have dealt in the building without consideration for on July 9 outside of the church to extend their date to vacate to August so they have time to move and find a new location.

"We don't want to be here anymore equipment, only one working bathroom per maintenance requests since 2019. In a final either," Abdur Salaam said. "What we want is the space and the time and the delay in trash removal, and asbestos in a withheld their rent payment and left it resources to find a clean building because

More than 80 percent of JJ Legacy School's staff is Black, a stark difference from the composition of most schools in North Minneapolis who's staff is primarily

white teaching Black students. Community members, staff and students say JJ Legacy School is a haven for Black children in

Sixth-grader Nyree Ramzy, led the crowd to chant "Black students matter." "We deserve better, my teachers deserve better," said Ramzy. She said JJ Legacy School is important. They taught her that she is welcome and deserves to be

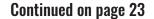
"It was horrible," said Robinson. "The way that they've been treated here has

To mitigate the risks posed by the deteriorating building conditions, || Legacy School had to block off portions of the school building that they pay for, including classrooms, offices, and bathrooms, for extended periods, sometimes indefinitely. "We have been charged full rent, although we have not been able to use

every single classroom that we are renting because of conditions," said Abdur Salaam. She also says thousands of dollars of the school's property has been lost to unresolved maintenance requests.

Our Lady of Victory Church hasn't responded to North News with a statement concerning the eviction. A spokesman spoke to other news outlets and said operations of the church is owed more than \$175,000 of rent from JJ Legacy School, which hasn't been paid since May of 2022. The church said it will not be able to continue operations without the money. The church is insolvent and service may be delayed until September 1st.

JJ Legacy board member Crown Shepherd says the school wasn't able to receive rental assistance because the church failed to complete required building





Educators, parents, and current students marched around their school and Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church during Service on July 9 to raise awareness of their sudden eviction. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson



School administrators says the parish replaced the roof on the church (right), but the school (left) remained untouched, despite the Continued on page 23 reports of leakage. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

NEWS

SPONSORED CONTENT

NorthPoint's Community Food Shelf Brings Healthy Food to North Minneapolis





the summer.

they are eligible.

allergies.

Nutritionists and

SNAP Navigators: assistance

for individuals and families to

determine if they are eligible for

SNAP, and to help them sign up if

assistance for individuals and

families to learn how to eat right for

diabetes, heart disease, pregnancy,

high blood pressure, or food

Future plans at NorthPoint include

a Teaching Kitchen, where NorthPoint's

Dieticians will be able to offer fun,

interactive instructions on how to put

located in the same main campus

facility, just down the hall. The facility

Dieticians:

Big changes continue at NorthPoint milk, and more Health & Wellness Center as the Community Food Shelf moves to its facility at 2220 Plymouth Ave N starting lulv 31. 2023.

The move comes after the Food Shelf's stint in a temporary location at 1835 Penn Ave N, at the corner same visit. of Golden Valley Rd. The temporary location served as a bridge between the previous NorthPoint Human Services Community Food Shelf will include: building, which was demolished in 2018, and the new 135,000 square foot facility, which will be home to all • medical, dental, behavioral health and human services

Stuart Iseminger, Food Programs Manager at NorthPoint, says the move is a huge step forward for our community. "Our goal is to make the Food Shelf experience look like a grocery store experience. We want to remove the stigma associated with visiting a Food Shelf, and it helps to have a bright, attractive space."

NorthPoint's Community Food Shelf provides supplemental, culturally specific food items to individuals and families, who can access the resource once per month. The Food Shelf also increasing access to healthy food. provides cleaning supplies, hygiene items, pet food, pasteurized human Dietician at NorthPoint, says that

The new location means the Community Food Shelf is now physically permanent home in the main campus connected to all of NorthPoint's services. Guests who need to see the dentist, visit their primary care doctor, or see their therapist can now stop by the Community Food Shelf during the

Some key features of the new

- Spacious area designed for easy quest flow
- Large windows and abundance of natural light
- Ample waiting area with comfortable seating
- Convenient parking directly adjacent to the Food Shelf space
- Dedicated space for staff and volunteers to take breaks
- Additional storage space for surplus food

This development is part of NorthPoint's approach to whole-person, integrated care. NorthPoint's missionpartnering to create a healthier community—calls for a commitment to

Karen Blanchard, Registered

grocery access can create a barrier for people in making healthy food choices. "It's about access. affordability. understanding that something may be good for me, yet I can't get it. There are obstacles in my way." She says the Food Shelf's new location will be one less barrier her patients will have to worry about.

Access to healthy food is an important issue, particularly in the North Minneapolis community, which has seen the closure of several major grocery sources in the last year. NorthPoint's Food Shelf currently welcomes an average of 3,200 individuals each month, an increase from 2,300 individuals per month in healthy groceries to use. This will be 2022.

NorthPoint offers an array of services will be complete in early 2024. to partner with the community to make healthy food choices, including:

Learn more:

NorthPoint Community Food Shelf: northpointhealth.org/food Volunteer at NorthPoint: northpointhealth.org/volunteer Donate to NorthPoint: northpointhealth.org/donate

kitchen

Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) is raising funds to build a \$20 million project for food entrepreneurs that leaders hope to be done by 2025. The organization has already raised \$11.5 million dollars with about \$8.5 million to go. The center is designed to support small and recent food entrepreneurs, featuring a 22,000 square foot community kitchen, space for private kitchens, food storage, packaging, and retail space to fully operate a food vendor business.

Stephen Obayuwana, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at NEON, saw a great need from North Minneapolis entrepreneurs, specifically food entrepreneurs, as more than 40 percent of NEON's clients are in the food industry.

The land we intend to acquire from the city [has] been vacant for 10 years and we think it will bring some livability to the community. It belongs to the community.

"You cannot prepare for public [food operations] from home. You have to have a place which is a certified commercial kitchen." Obayuwana said. "And lo and behold, we don't have anything on the Northside. So, if [NEON is] going to help people be successful in entrepreneurship. you've got to give them the tools they need.' Obavuwana said NEON is raisina funds not through a mortgage, but through equity in fundraising from philanthropic foundations, individuals, corporations, and the government which are willing to give NEON money.

• Free Fresh Food Fridays: free produce distributions open to the community twice per month during

NEON planning to build \$20 million community

By Elan Coldwater, North News Intern

Stephen Obayuwana, NEON

NEON is a nonprofit dedicated to helping entrepreneurs and small business owners create wealth. Staff provide support through loans, coaching, workshops, and meetings that help first time business owners get their businesses running successfully. In 2022, NEON assisted 1,308



Rendering of the NEON food incubation center. Construction is set to begin in the spring of 2024 and amongst a kitchen, will feature sitting areas for patrons to enjoy. Photo provided by NEON.

businesses.

Bernadette Hunter, owner of Highly Favored Delicacies, got training from NEON to apply for a Mall of America program for BIPOC entrepreneurs in 2021. She gave written testimony to lawmakers in support of funding the commercial kitchen.

"NEON stepped right in, they knew exactly what I needed and how to accomplish the task," Hunter said.

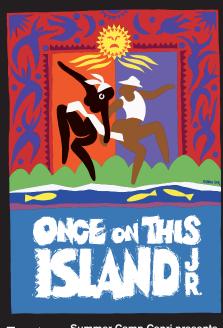
NEON gave her a grant to purchase a commercial freezer and guidance to get a vendor's license to operate in the Mall of America where she held a temporary residency for six months in 2021-2022.

"Yes, I'm an entrepreneur and like many others we have great ideas," Hunter said. " But NEON was the key. NEON knows what it takes to get you where you need to be legally and in a professional manner."

Obayuwana said NEON hopes to create a hub that will help revitalize the West Broadway business corridor and help eliminate the food desert that plagues the community

"The land we intend to acquire from the city [has] been vacant for 10 years and we think it will bring some livability to the community. It belongs to the community," Obavuwana said.

The incubation space will be located on 2110 West Broadway Ave. N, right next to the Capri Theater. He predicts NEON will break ground in the spring of 2024.





Summer Camp Capri presents Once On This Island Jr. 5pm Wednesday, August 9 5pm Thursday, August 10

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NEWS

multiply the problem.

kittens out."

lean on volunteers.

interested.

just so amazing."

Rescue groups find purrfect balance with growing cat colonies

By Aketzally Murillo Alvarado, North News Intern

Rita Dominguez fed one cat out in her backyard and before long she had a colony of strays living behind her North Minneapolis home.

"I feed em, and they get along," Dominguez said.

North Minneapolis, more than any other part of the city, has continuing colonies of stray cats. TNR and rescue organization Pet Project Rescue spend 95 percent of their time trapping, neutering and releasing cats.

Founding Director Maia Rumpho said result of unchecked breeding amongst strays and feral colonies.

Pet rescue organizations say there has been an uptick in cats on the street since the Covid-19 pandemic and cat wards in animal shelters are overwhelmed.

"Right now we only have one empty kennel left," said Madison Weissenborn, volunteer and community engagement coordinator for Minneapolis Animal Control Center (MACC).

Both Rumpho and Weissenborn noticed more cats were surrendered and the pandemic exacerbated an issue that was already prevalent for current and former pet owners.

"COVID is kind of like a catalyst." Weissenborn said. "There's so many problems regarding pet ownership, and there's so many barriers for so many people."

Some pet owners face economic instability, housing hardship, homelessness that make pet expenses, including neutering and spaying, near impossible. Many make the heartbreaking decision to surrender their cat to a shelter or leave it on the street. The result is an abundance of unneutered and unspayed cats that create colonies on the street, and overflow in animal control centers.

Minnesota Spay and Neuter



streets are overwhelmed with cats as a Madison Weissenborn holds a newborn kitten that had been napping with his two siblings and momma. Photo by Aketzally Murillo Alvarado.



Assistance Program (MN SNAP) was A new addition to the shelter, James, is lonely and ready for adoption! Photo by Aketzally Murillo Alvarado

built in North Minneapolis in 2021 to support residents for this exact issue In a statement to North News in 2021 Executive Director Anna Kucera said they chose North Minneapolis because their client base mainly comes from this community. The Northside Pet Resource Center on 44th avenue hosts clinics that are sold out almost immediately.

She fed one cat

Between three of the cats that Dominguez initially fed, 15 more were born and turned into a colony. Pet Project Rescue intervened when they were patrolling North Minneapolis for other cat colonies and found Dominguez.

Dominguez let Rumpho teach her about trap and release (TNR), a method of animal population control that prevents animals from overwhelming communities. The two now work together to make sure the cats that come to her yard are spayed and neutered so they don't breed and

"There were about 25 cats here when we started in the area," Rumpho said. "And we took about three or four litters of

"If you're feeding a feral cat colony, then look into those resources to get that cat colony spayed and neutered, so we're not adding to the problem."

Torie Costa, animal fosterer

The organization has trapped and released 6,000 cats since 2008.

In the midst of being overwhelmed with cats, veterinary clinics, shelters, and organizations like Pet Project Rescue are severely understaffed, forcing them to

A solution to make space for cats in the shelter at MACC is fostering, an alternative to adoption which they've made more sustainable for those

Toria Costa spends her days fostering one cat at a time with MACC and has always felt a need to care for pets.

"Seeing pets want to come up to you and be a pet knowing all that they've been through," Costa said in awe. "Also, just seeing them just recover from crazy injuries/conditions and seeing them bounce back, their resilience and trust is



Rita Dominguez carries Boom Boom away from the traps so he doesn't steal the food meant for the strays. Boom Boom was the original, the first cat that Rita Dominguez started feeding in her backyard. Photo by Aketzally Murillo Alvarado



Maia Rumpho sets up a trap for stray cats in Rita Dominguez's backyard. The cats will be caught, neutered, and then released back onto the street. Photo by Aketzally Murillo Alvarado

YOUTH

Landmarks of my childhood

By Kiya Darden, North News Intern

Murals are a beautiful way to make landmarks more recognizable. They also have sentimental value and evoke emotion, as art does. But even though the murals are amazing by themselves, it's the memories I have linked to them that makes them special.

Murals are more than just paint on a wall, they are our voice, our history and our mark on time. Most importantly for me, we use art to make our communities ours, to make our places homes.

After a long day of running errands, or being outside, crossing the bridge and seeing 'Welcome to North Minneapolis' mural through the backseat car window let me know that we were close to home and the day is closing out.

There are murals all over North Minneapolis that give me the same sense of home.

When I was younger, my grandpa would come and visit from Chicago every summer. And one of the things we'd do was bike to Wally's Corner Store for snacks. We'd ride past the then blank wall of the store and enjoy our snacks. Now I'm not able to ride bikes with him anymore, but when I see the 'Northside' mural on the side of the store I get to relive those moments again.

A more recent mural that I've coined with a memory is the bunny on Hot Comics and Collectibles on Osseo Road. My dad is one of the biggest nerds I know, and one of our favorite things to do together is finding book stores to check out. This specific one was one of the first comic book stores he took me to. The bunny is small, and pretty insignificant compared to the rest of the store. But before I knew that it was a comic book store, or even paid any attention to it when driving by, it was the "bunny building" to me because that's what I noticed about it every time I passed by. Now it makes me think of comic books and spending time with my dad.

Art can resonate differently for everyone, but the shared sense of home that it gives is what keeps us bonded as a community.





Top to bottom:

'Welcome to North Minneapolis' by Charles Caldwell. 328 West Broadway Ave., completed in 2011. Photo by Kiya Darden

Wally's 'NORTHSIDE' by Peyton Scott Russell. 1840 North Penn Ave., completed in 2019. Photo by Kiya Darden

Hot Comics and Collectibles 'Bunny Mural' by Duane Atter with high schoolers from Partick Henry. 4400 Osseo Rd, completed in 2011. Represents the city with paths, rivers, and nature. Photo by Kiya Darden

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NEWS

Urban gardening helps the Northside go green

By Charlie Quick, North News Intern

A renaissance of urban gardening has emerged in North Minneapolis as city folk are pushing back against industrialization and fighting for a more ecologically sound future.

Among the ranks of numerous organizations breaking ground in North Minneapolis, Michael Chaney is a driving force.

Chaney is rising to the challenge of climate change and global warming by transforming vacant lots in North Minneapolis to lush, green, and fertile land for farming. Chaney founded Project Sweetie Pie (PSP) in 2010 to combat food deserts and food insecurity, and make North Minneapolis a more ecologically friendly place to live.

"North Minneapolis is going green" is the first line of a powerful poem written by Chaney.

Carol Fleming, Project Sweetie Pie's CFO, said urban gardening is becoming a necessity in their initiative to focus on becoming producers instead of consumers. "Urban agriculture is definitely getting a renaissance and it's from a need, [climate change]" Fleming said.

Through Project Sweetie Pie, Chaney oversees several urban gardens in North Minneapolis that were former vacant lots destroyed by the tornado that hit the Northside in 2011. The primary gardens located on 36th and 38th Fremont Avenue North produce vegetables for North Market, Oak park center, and the general community. The Oasis Garden located on Fremont, is taken care of entirely by its neighbors, who can harvest some of the crops when they are available.

"I want to reverse the hands, and really give young people real life skills, something that they could use throughout the rest of their life, and that's urban farming."

Michael Chaney

To Chaney and Flemming, the need is also to pass on generational knowledge from elders to youth so they have the power to forge their future is essential. Project Sweetie Pie employs youth from high school to work several gardens in North Minneapolis

Demetria 'Dee Dee' Fuller, a protege of Project Sweetie Pie, leapt to the occasion, when she was just 14.

"They were like an open door and then



Micheal Chaney directs volunteers at the Urban Oasis Garden, on Fremont Avenue North. Photo by Charlie Quick

when I could get paid to do what I love, I just ran with it," Fuller said.

Through working with PSP, she has gotten to know the process of the crops, and thus the food itself. Currently, she's the head chef at the Oak Park Community Center in North Minneapolis, serving free community meals every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Some of the vegetables planted in Oak Parks Community garden make it to her kitchen, and who's there to hand them to her? Chaney.

"There's no greater experience than growing your own food all summer and then harvesting and having a big shindig and everyone enjoying the fruits of our labor," Fuller said.

That's what it's all about for Project Sweetie Pie.

"We [the elders] are leaving. We're sticking you guys [youth] with the ticket," Chaney said. "You guys are gonna have to pay for it. We should be driving this conversation not only for this country, but for the globe."

fiscal gap

By David Pierini, Editor

sighs of relief.

The board had just approved a balanced budget of \$755 million in June for the coming school year with no teacher layoffs. The steady bleed of students from the district had slowed to a trickle. MPS's Fitch rating, which determines the viability of investments relative to the likelihood of default, improved from stable to positive. The pandemic and a costly teacher's strike in 2022 grows smaller in the board's

rearview mirror.





The grandchild of Diana Knobel helps by digging in the dirt. Photo by Charlie Quick



Cameron Smith and Natasha Villanueva help guide a new generation of activists. Photo by Charlie Quick

MPS adopts new budget approach for looming

Administrators and directors of the Minneapolis Board of Education exhaled

"I have to tell you I feel very hopeful

about the future of MPS for several reasons," interim Supt. Rochelle Cox said at the school board's June13 meeting. "I'm hopeful because graduation rates have increased. I'm hopeful because we're taking action to eliminate the learning loss that resulted from the pandemic. And I'm hopeful we have the right pieces in place to figure out a way to get the MPS budget sustainably managed over the next couple of years."

Her hope, though, is tempered by a budget for 2024-25 that has an unresolved gap projected between \$50 million and \$60 million.

The federal COVID relief dollars given to districts over the last couple of years ends after the coming school year. There is new money from the state thanks to Democratic control of both legislative chambers and the governor's office, but it is not enough to completely eliminate impending fiscal challenges.

Administrators are shy to discuss whether teacher layoffs and closing some of the most under-enrolled schools will be needed to shrink the gap with Cox saying, "That's not where we're starting."

But the work on the looming financial crisis has already begun. The district

organized a news conference on June 27 has faced. to address some news reports that painted a picture of a school district so bleak, the state was set to step in.

"This is a district that has been characterized by chronic underfunding for decades. If you're facing a tough time coming you have two choices: you can

do something or sit on your hands. We chose to go to work to address both sides (revenues and expenditures) of the budget. We see our revenue side is getting to

where it should be and we will be moving forward and working to reduce our expenditures."

MPS senior finance officer Ibrahima Diop

"The state has not and will not be taken over," said Ibrahima Diop, senior officer for Finance and Budget. "We've been seeing this crisis coming for a while because this is something every district in the country

"This is a district that has been characterized by chronic underfunding for decades. If you're facing a tough time coming, you have two choices: you can do something or sit on your hands. We chose to go to work to address both sides (revenues and expenditures) of the budget. We see our revenue side is getting to where it should be and we will be moving forward and working to reduce our expenditures."

What sounds like an insurmountable gap, Diop describes as "manageable" given the amount of the overall budget. The current projected gap is roughly 8 percent of the district's total budget.

The district, he said, has changed how it creates a budget. Rather than adjust the previous years total for inflation, MPS has switched to what it calls priority-based budgeting. Leaders of departments and schools will prioritize programs they see critical to achievement.

This approach, Diop said, has allowed administrators to identify program gaps and eliminate redundancies before having to make more painful cuts.

Continued on page 23

"The Blue Line Extension can build a **STRONGER** and more capable community."

Brett B. Lifelong Northside Resident

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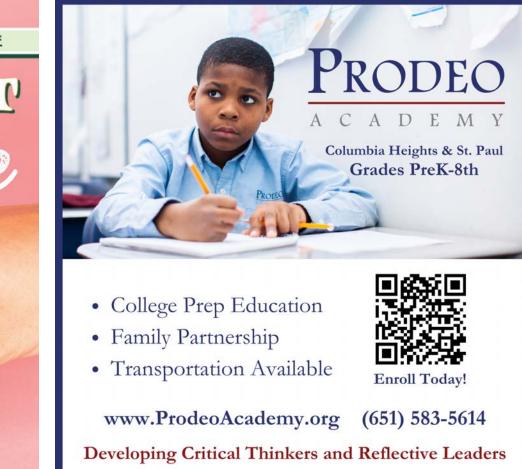




Here is MPLS aims to share the perspectives and stories of people effecting change in our city. All of us contain our own multitudes, our own truths, lived experiences and values. Here is MPLS can help unpack the wide and diverse ways of seeing Minneapolis for what it is, and what it could be-shedding light on better ways forward.

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NEIGHBORS

Open **Streets** Glenwood

Glenwood Avenue North was closed on the afternoon of lulv 16 for this Northside road's firstever Open Streets event. After a brief morning rain shower, gray skies cleared and the sun shined as visitors cycled or walked their dogs past scores of vendors with products, information and food. Photos by David Pierini



Above:

As gusty winds swirled along Glenwood Avenue. Benet Ramirez, right, did some quick thinking to place a hand on the head of Angelina Zerna so that her hat would not blow away.

Below:

It was a pleasant afternoon to be on bike or foot and move a little slower than the usual traffic.



building

future.

"It bridges us in a number of ways," Mali said. "It allows us to think from one generation to the next and even in this moment, embracing our children, our elders, and the leaders on the front line. The Open Road Fund is not just an innovation for the future, but a transformational force



Danielle Mkali guides others on an 'Open Road' to wealth

By Alanee Wright, North News intern

The Open Road Fund is a groundbreaking \$50 million wealth building grant for the Black community led by Northsider Danielle Mkali. It is not just a financial endeavor but a bridge between generations and a gateway to a brighter

that links us to the past, present, and family's own attempt to buy future."

In pursuit of economic justice and empowerment, Mkali stands at the help after meeting her and her forefront, spearheading initiatives that dismantle systemic barriers and empower Black communities. As the senior director Mkali helps clear a path of Community Wealth Building at Nexus for others as Nexus aims Community Partners in Saint Paul, Mkali has dedicated her career to fostering and communities to build positive change and creating opportunities wealth and achieve financial for financial progress.

Raised in Stillwater, Mkali's journey Fund, established by the Bush led her to North Minneapolis, where her Foundation, allocates \$50 connection with the community deepened. "We moved to North Minneapolis in 2014... We love living over here."

This connection coupled perfectly with these grants to be wealthher strong desire to make a difference.

"I have known her for 10 years with this organization and prior to coming to resource going into the this organization, holding positions in community to match people's the community and establishing deep relationships with the folks who live here," said Repa Mehka, president and CEO of folks to take a nice-sized bite Nexus Community Partners. "She has on wealth building or into helped to establish a great deal of trust and sense of accountability to the community." Mkali's passion for change was fueled in part by encounters with racism. In her

a home, she remembers how some realtors were reluctant to husband

As director of the fund, to empower individuals independence. The Open Road million specifically for Black communities in the region. Mkali explains, "They wanted building for people directly."

"It is a significant enough sense of aspirations and hopes," Mehka said. "It allows wealth building."

Continued on page 23



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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Youth Club: St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 2901 Emerson Ave. N. grades 6-12, Wednesdays aat 6:30 p.m. Transportation available. To enroll, call 612-529-7726

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.. Walkins 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.

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 or cell: 612-258-3982. Contact Betsy Brock with other needs via email: betsy.brock@minneapolismn. gov or cell: 612-257-5242. You can also reach Vetaw via email: 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. You can also contact his policy associate Bethny Turnwall at 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. For constituent services contact policy aide Bill

Emory at 612-348-3526 or at bill.emory@ hennepin.us

NOTICES

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

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NEWS

Air Ouality Continued from page 7

with his breathing.

"Pay attention to your body and how it is responding to the environment. Don't ignore the symptoms if you do experience some kind of increased challenges with breathing," Gilliam said.

JJ Legacy School Continued from page 9

inspections. vacate to July 21st.

September 5th.

MPS Budget

Budget officers and the board's budget and finance committee will continue to meet regularly with hopes to bring a proposed 2024-25 budget to the full board to begin discussions by the end of the year. "I truly hope that with this new budget, MPS will focus on educator recruitment and retention at this extremely important time," said Greta Callahan, president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, the union representing MPS educators. "We need full-teaching teams, including hourly school workers, to meet student needs. Addressing essential working conditions and pay issues for education will do more to support student outcomes than any other spending line-item."

The district saved money by not filling positions that were vacated following

Outside of spending time outdoors, Latz's favorite place is his porch, which he thought would take less of a toll than spending time at the lake with his friends. But even there, on days when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is low he struggles

After the children's march, Our Lady of Victory Church extended the date to

Abdur Salaam says since then the school has secured a new building but is unable to release the location because they are in the final processes of negotiation. They are raising funds to help with the upcoming school year. The school will remain on the Northside.

School leaders still hope to meet with the archdiocese to resolve lingering bitterness over the years-long dispute.

Although uncertain about a resolution with the church, Abdur Salaam is certain of one thing, class will be in session

Continued from page 17

the worst of the pandemic. Critics say frustrated teachers left for districts with better teacher pay.

For the coming year, the district is investing \$29 million for intervention teams in every school to address the learning lost during COVID. There is also \$2.9 million from the state the district will use on student safety, mental health and bolstered cybersecurity and data protection. Special education also gets a big bump, thanks to new state money.

Danielle Mkali **Continued from page 21**

The fund aims to empower individuals in various domains, including homeownership, entrepreneurship, education, and health. Through the fund, Mkali envisions a future where individuals have the power to invest in themselves and their dreams.

"I think it empowers folks (because they understand) that they can use that resource to reach a goal that they've set for themselves," she said. "It's an incredibly powerful opportunity.

"The ability to turn over \$50 million from a foundation to a community-based organization without unnecessary barriers and obstacles demonstrates that it is possible. It challenges the philanthropic community to examine their philosophy, practice, and response to calls for change. It shows that with the right mindset, it can be done.'

Mkali cautions others to avoid seeing the fund as a form of reparations. "While this is a wonderful funding program... It is not reparations... Reparations would need to be able to impact all the Black descendants of enslaved African people in our region. It would mean that there was a profound apology given from our state and federal governments, and there would be a sizable financial investment into all of us that have shared that lineaae."

Mkali celebrates the rise of economic justice initiatives such as Build Wealth Minnesota, Urban League Land Trust, and Independence Bank, Recognizing the need for collaboration and solidarity, she said, "Keep the momentum going... I hope that there is more of it to come."

When asked about her personal motivation, Mkali's passion shines through. "I feel incredibly honored and feel a lot of responsibility to be in service of this fund to our black communities," she said."I want us to get more free and so I hope that this fund can help us to get more free to have some more space to be able to do that."

continue catching up with our **Council Members**

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

Responsive, and Restorative Services design and 911 and Dispatch

focused on the ecosystem approach and co-creation of supporting structures, systems, and processes

5. Implement a Community Communications Plan and Progress Dashboard

a. Develop a community steps as soon as possible. engagement plan which supports cocreation of ecosystem services with communities most affected

b. Hire community ambassadors 673-2204. tasked with engaging community to

on the core areas Preventive, gain insight on service delivery and

c. Produce an online dashboard c. Implement a cross-functional team to track progress on the development and implementation of key services

> I am exploring ways to get started on the Launch List. As a first step, I am working on identifying staffing leads and the necessary budget. This is going to be a years-long initiative, but I think it is imperative to take the first

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to my office by email at ward4@ minneapolismn.gov or phone at 612-





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- Case management & Child Support Services
- Employment & Referral Services
- Parent Support Groups & Family Activities

LOCATIONS

Minneapolis:

St. Paul:

Sabathani Community Center 310 E. 38th Street, Suite 204

Goodwill Easter Seals Minnesota 553 Fairview Ave. N.

CONTACT US

612-724-3539 | gesmn.org/FatherProject

