

NORTH NEWS



April 28, 2016

• Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

• [facebook.com/mynorthnews](https://www.facebook.com/mynorthnews)



A FIGHTING CHANCE

Firehouse offers free boxing to local youth
Page 3

LEAD IN OUR AIR

Exploring airborne lead risks in North Minneapolis *Page 5*

REFLECTIONS AFTER JAMAR

African American men envision paths forward *Page 6*



Rep. Ellison at North High to address financial education

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison was at North Community High School's Media Center on Monday, April 25 to host a roundtable discussion on financial education with students. He was also there to recognize the first graduating class at North High to complete the TCF Financial Scholars Program. In partnership with technology company, EverFi, TCF brought the web-based interactive course to MPS high schools this academic year. The program is designed to empower young people with essential skills needed to make sound financial decisions. The event concluded with a press conference where remarks were made by Ellison and Principal Shawn Harris-Berry, and TCF's CEO Craig Dahl announced a \$5,000 technology grant given to the school. The money is intended to support digital curricula including the TCF Financial Scholars Program. "Sure as the day follows night, you will be leaders in this community, and we need to maximize your skills," said Ellison.

Photo and compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe



Webber Park Public Library breaks ground

Ground was ceremoniously broken on Tuesday, April 12 at the site of the new Webber Park Public Library, currently set to open in spring of 2017. Hennepin County, city, and state officials and their staff joined over 150 people at the construction site at 4440 Humboldt Ave. N. to hear a short history of the project. The speakers, led by Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins, praised the Webber-Camden Neighborhood Association and residents, Hennepin County staff, and LSE Architects, Inc., for their work. Minneapolis City Council President Barb Johnson said, "The library wouldn't have happened without the vision and leadership of the people right here." Lead architect for the project Mohammed Lawal said, "this community and the county library staff always challenged us to be better." The site will eventually include Pillsbury United Community's new food market at the library's southwest corner and a four-story residential building on 44th Ave N.

Photo and compiled by Mark Peterson



Support grows for plan to transform Lincoln Park Playground

A \$20,000 Active Places Demonstration Grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield has breathed new life into a project meant to transform Lincoln Park School's playground and surrounding yard into an oasis for neighborhood children and families. The Lincoln Playground Working Group has spent the last several years quietly exploring ideas for future use of the property located at 2131 12th Ave. N. The group includes George and Beverly Roberts of Homewood Studios, local arts activist Sarah Sampedro, the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, and a representative from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, which provided initial funding for the project. "With this project we want to tell our children, 'you are worth the very best we can give you,'" said George Roberts. The group plans to use the new grant money for their community outreach efforts. Up next is a series of pop-up events meant to encourage community excitement and involvement in envisioning the project.

Photo and compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe



In memorium: Kirk Washington

Kirk Washington Jr., a pillar of the North Minneapolis community, passed away suddenly in a car accident on April 4. Though Washington was not affiliated with North News directly, he volunteered with Pillsbury United Communities out of the Oak Park Community Center. Nikki McComb, community relations and resources coordinator at Oak Park, worked closely with Washington. "He was an artist, poet, friend, husband, father to his own children and father-figure to many other young people who benefited from his love, leadership, and counsel on a daily basis," she said. Ed Irwin, youth manager at Oak Park, who also worked closely with Washington said, "Kirk was a man who allowed youth into his space to grow and be themselves without judgment." Individuals and organizations across the Northside have mourned his loss deeply. Lifelong Northside resident J. DeVon Nolen, who was a friend of Washington's said, "My Brother Kirk was a truth teller! Unapologetically! He brought a divine balance to any space through a vast array of mediums. He often challenged me to be my most powerful self no matter what!"

Photo by Nikki McComb, compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe

NORTH NEWS

Circulation: 10,000 in North Minneapolis. Delivered free to public places in Near North and Camden beginning in March 2016 and all homes beginning in summer 2016.

125 West Broadway Ave. Suite 130,
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Phone: 651.245.2647
Email: okeefek@puc-mn.org
Website: coming soon!

Kenzie O'Keefe
Editor/Publisher/Advertising

Vanar Murugesan
Manager, PUC New Ventures

Emily Ronning
Graphic Designer

Jessica Monette
Copy Editor

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

Next issue delivered: May 26

North News is owned and operated by:



Inside our "O"



Prince, Nothing Compares 2 U 1958 - 2016

Lowry Avenue Bridge photo by Phillip Murphy. Painting by Kenneth Caldwell. Paint your own Prince symbol with Caldwell and receive an exclusive print of Prince at Caldtoart Paint Time at the end of May. Email Caldwell at kenneth.caldwell@gmail.com or call 612-483-3343 for more information on date/time.



Former firehouse offers local youth food and a Fighting Chance



Left: Youth participate in an after-school boxing lesson. Top right: Moses Bell, 13, has been coming to the club since its second week of operation. Bottom right: Club co-founder Victor Mills.

Northside youth are flocking to the firehouse building at 1704 33rd Ave. N for a Fighting Chance and free dinner.

Fighting Chance Boxing Club (FC), which officially opened for business on March 28, fills up with 40-45 local youth each afternoon. Word has gotten out fast through schools, Facebook, and, in some cases, probation programs, said co-founder Victor Mills, a 23-year veteran of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD).

Mills cooked up the idea for the gym with Ryan Burnet, the businessman behind Twin Cities restaurants like Bar La Grassa and Barrio. They offer youth ages 9-17 free training and a healthy dinner every weeknight.

Moses Bell, 13, started coming to the club in its second week of operation. "I heard about it at school. It gets me out of the house. You get to take your anger out on stuff," he said.

Though FC offers donation-based training, yoga classes, and gym space for adults, its mission is youth-focused. According to their Facebook page, boxing is used as a tool to help inner city youth learn discipline, compassion, physical fitness, and self confidence. The goal is to empower each person to make positive change in their life.

Mills, who began boxing in his early teens, says that the sport changed his life. It has taught him how to overcome adversity. "I've made a lot of mistakes and experienced a lot of hurt. I've dish it out and taken it in. I tell these kids, 'I'm going to show you a way, give you the tools to get yourself out of the situation you're in,'" he said.

Mills is surrounded by dedicated adults who share his belief in the benefits of boxing for youth. FC trainer Ray Nelson also teaches boxing at Edison High School in Northeast and the FAIR School downtown. "Kids come in all hot-headed, and then I get them in the ring, sparring. It humbles them up real fast," he said.

Tyler Edwards, who works for MPD as a school resource officer at Patrick Henry High School, tries to put in an hour or two at the gym after work. "I see this being really beneficial for neighborhood kids ...being healthy is good for the mind and body. You work out, and you release endorphins that keep you happy," he said. Edwards is currently working with one of the behavior deans at Patrick Henry to explore the possibility of connecting some of his students with FC.

In addition to being a community gym with weights and cardio machines, and having a yoga studio on the second floor, the FC team also has plans to create a community garden, nutrition center, and dining room on site.

Funding for the non-profit has come from community donors, including Northside residents and the Pohlad Foundation.

Photos and compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe

FIGHTING CHANCE BOXING CLUB

1704 33rd Ave. N, 55412 Minneapolis
<http://fightingchancemn.com>

Free for kids 9-17 (includes dinner M-F)

Donation-based Radiant Life Yoga classes offered M-F & Sunday

"Largest aeroponic farm in the world" coming to North Minneapolis

What's being advertised as "the world's largest aeroponics farm" is on track to begin construction in Near North.

A long-vacant 85,000-sq-ft. building at 620 Olson Memorial Highway will be the site of a project by Living Greens Farm, a Faribault company specializing in advanced produce-growing techniques.

Living Greens Farm CEO Dana Anderson is a Minneapolis investor and one of the founders of the agricultural firm in 2011. He says he expects to close on the property in the next two months. He will also raise the remainder of an estimated \$20 million needed for the conversion of the 70-year-old building, the former home of Velocity Trucking, Inc. The property is a "brownfield" site, and will need environmental remediation before the project can proceed.

The company develops "vertical farms" using aeroponics, a type of hydroponic plant-growing system that uses far less space and water to grow vegetables. Plants grow with their roots exposed and receive nutrients and water through mists, which can be varied depending on the produce type. This method allows any species of plant to grow because the environment can be precisely controlled, and the process requires no chemicals.

Former Minneapolis City Council president and business consultant Jackie Cherryhomes is working with Living Greens Farm to help guide the Minneapolis project through the applications, permit, and inspection processes. She does not see any issues with zoning or traffic, but said the project would need a site plan review and approval by the

City Council, and a grant application approval by the Metropolitan Council. She said Living Greens Farm will relocate its headquarters to the renovated building and noted that this project could create as many as 100 full-time jobs.

When asked about produce output once the operation is running, Cherryhomes said the company expects to grow, "enough to give every person in Minnesota a salad for a year!" The company expects to supply Minneapolis public schools, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, and local food co-ops.

Anderson said "The site will employ the highest food safety standards and will undergo certification through Primus Labs. Primus Labs is a global leader in food safety and has been servicing the fresh produce industry for more than two decades." It will also seek certification from Certified Greenhouse Farmers, a trade organization that sets standards for indoor vegetable growers. Because of the age of the existing structure, the project is not going for LEED certification, but the owners are working with Xcel Energy to get rebates for energy-efficient improvements.

Fifth Ward City Council member Blong Yang said he felt, "positive" about the project, while noting it's still in a, "preliminary" stage.

Living Greens Farm has retained Tanek, Inc. (architects), Wenck Associates (engineering), and Zeman Construction. Work is scheduled to begin July 2016.

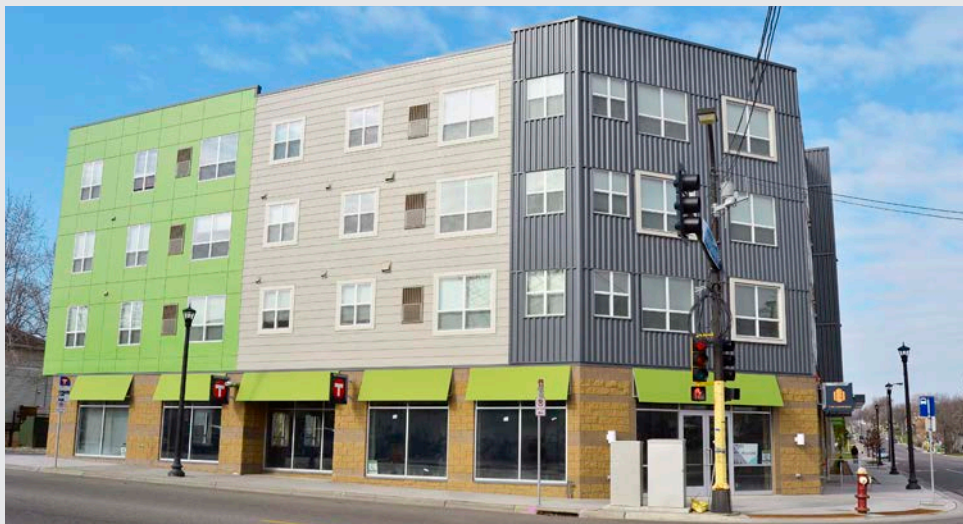
*Photo and compiled by Mark Peterson
 Renderings courtesy of Tanek, Inc.*



Living Greens Farm will call the currently vacant building at 620 Olson Memorial Highway home.



The building will be transformed by the farm, which specializes in advanced produce-growing techniques.



The Commons at Penn Avenue, a project of Building Blocks Inc., will house Wirth Co-op Grocery (WCG) on its commercial first floor. WCG must secure funding for the store by midsummer if they want to retain the space. Building Blocks Inc., has its sights set on a new project on the Northwest corner of the same intersection.

Transformative plans for Golden Valley Road and Penn Avenue

More from Devean George

Devean George has big plans for the corner of Golden Valley Road and Penn Ave. N.

His nonprofit, Building Blocks Inc., (BB), has already built a 45-unit housing building on the corner, The Commons at Penn Avenue, which is set to house Wirth Co-op on its commercial first floor. BB is now proposing to develop the Northwest corner of the same intersection as a second phase in their larger vision to redevelop the entire corner.

Community members were invited to review and provide feedback on this proposal at the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council's (NRRC) monthly Residential and Commercial Task Force (RCTF) meeting, on Monday, April 11 at North Commons Park.

At the meeting, George and his business partners explained the proposed plan to build a 38-unit affordable housing building with an all commercial first floor. Many of the housing units will have 3-4 bedrooms, in order to be more family friendly, said George. Plans for the first floor include a sit-down restaurant, currently envisioned to be a larger, full service location of Sammy's Avenue Eatery.

At the end of the meeting, community members showed their support for the plan with an informal vote. Despite concern expressed earlier in the meeting about quality of materials and plans for building management, almost all attendees appeared to vote in favor of the project. No one spoke up against it.

"I want to commend Devean George for coming back and doing something for the community," said community member Al Flowers.

Though the project appears to have community support among those who attended the meeting, the building is a long way from breaking ground. This is the first proposal for development of the site, and the city plans to issue an RFP inviting others to submit plans. If no one else is interested, BB will have the opportunity to move forward. If there are other proposals, community members will be involved in the decision making process, said Martine Smaller, NRRC's Executive Director.

"We want to stress the importance of staying involved with the process. Northside residents should be determining what happens in our community. NRRC wants to facilitate and amplify that process," said Smaller.

Compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe

When will Wirth Co-op open?

One big question loomed over the Wirth Co-op Grocery's (WCG) 9th Annual meeting on Tuesday, April 19: when will the retail store open?

At the empty space slated for the future grocery, a hundred members and neighborhood residents listened to WCG board members address the reasons that no date is currently set.

The question of funding has never been far from the minds of board president Ana Woodruff and vice president Jenny Warner. While the WCG has received a \$500,000 grant from the Federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative and a \$20,000 McKnight Foundation grant, board members acknowledged a \$700,000 funding gap that will have to be made up before construction can begin.

Woodruff noted that, "We either go forward toward our goal or we may have to regroup for an alternative." The biggest roadblock to bank financing is WCGs lack of collateral, which the board hoped to address by forming a member's investment campaign. \$500 preferred shares are offered, with a goal of \$150,000. \$18,000 has been raised so far.

WCG must close on financing by midsummer to retain the space in the Commons on Penn building and to keep the federal grant. Once funding is secured, Woodruff estimates a three-month construction phase before the store opens.

Photo & compiled by Mark Peterson



Want to see Wirth open this summer?

Become a founding member of the co-op:

<http://wirth.coop/becoming-an-owner/>

612-743-7221 | 1835 Penn Avenue N | info@wirth.coop

Northside plays an active role on Home Tour

Six North Minneapolis homes will open their doors to the public on April 30 – May 1 for this year's Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour. Audiences can expect to see green construction and solar features, historic preservation, and great views.

"North Minneapolis residents enjoy the tour because it's fun to get out and see and support neighbors, plus find ideas for one's own home," said coordinator Margo Ashmore, who is also the previous publisher of North News. "I've noticed that a lot of people visit North Minneapolis from Dayton's Bluff in Saint Paul, and vice-versa. The housing stock and the neighborhoods' spirits have a lot in common."

In addition to being open for the tour, 3519 Dupont Ave. N, which produces as much energy as it uses, will host a talk about "The Building Envelope." It will cover how to look at walls, windows, doors and other infiltration points to gain the biggest benefit for your energy-saving dollar.

The talk will be held April 29 at 6 pm. Spots can be reserved by emailing kitrinas99@aol.com.

The home, which Gary Schollmeier and Kitty Stratton share, was born out of Schollmeier's desire to manage costs in retirement. Stratton sees this type of home as a potential resource for low-income families.

One of the most recently built homes on the tour is 2014 Upton Ave. N, which belongs to Jonishea McCall and her family. It was built through Project for Pride in Living and is a Green Home North.

Other homes on the tour in North include: 3942 Xerxes Ave. N, 2806 Girard Ave. N, 1621 Girard Ave. N, and 1401 Fremont Ave. N.

Tour hours are Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, 1-5 p.m. The Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is free and self-guided, with printed guides for the 51 locations at libraries or online at MSPHomeTour.com.

Compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe & Margo Ashmore
Photo by Scott Amundson, for the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour



Craig and Romelle Pier of 1401 Fremont Ave. N found their house through a Home Tour and then put it on the tour 20 years ago. "There's others active in Old Highland who also came from the Home Tour, it's a great marketing tool for a neighborhood," said Craig.

All kids
deserve a
lead-safe
home!

Lead is dangerous for babies and young children – especially in the paint on windows. It is common in homes and apartments built before 1978.

Whether you own or rent, your home may be eligible for:

A free inspection for lead-based paint hazards

Grant funding to replace windows

Find out if your home qualifies:

www.hennepin.us/leadcontrol
612-348-2114
healthyhomes@hennepin.us



The air we BREATHE

Airborne lead levels are significantly higher in parts of North Minneapolis than elsewhere in Minnesota, suggests new data. *Compiled by Rachel Dorn & Kenzie O'Keefe*



Spring is in the air, and, according to new data, so is lead.

Last month, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) announced that findings from two air monitors in North Minneapolis showed airborne lead levels exceeding the state standard. The two monitors, located at Lowry Ave. N and Pacific Street monitoring sites near the west bank of the Mississippi River, have detected levels of lead significantly higher than those detected at other monitoring locations throughout Minnesota. The report issued by MPCA states that the levels detected violate both daily and annual Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) standards, based on data collected over the past two years.

"While the results in this report do not indicate a short-term health risk," Environmental Health Manager James Kelly said in a statement, "we are concerned about the overall impact on air quality in this area and the potential for harm over the long term, particularly for those who work in the immediate area."

Kelly explained that there is little risk of airborne lead particles from industrial emissions drifting to nearby residential areas, and those who are passing through the area for short periods of time should not be concerned, as acute health effects are unlikely. Yet he urged people in Hawthorne, Jordan, and Near North to be especially aware of the risks. "The older housing stock in this area, which often has lead paint, is the major source of exposure to lead. However any additional sources of lead exposure should be taken seriously," he said.

With concerns over lead pollution growing nationwide and reaching a breaking point recently in Flint, Michigan, where severe widespread lead contamination was found in drinking water, the new data has many community members wondering about what risks they may face.

Jasmine Ricigliano, who owns a home in the Old Highland neighborhood, is fearful of the risks lead exposure pose to her community. "I constantly worry about lead exposure, in my home, in water, in the environment and in the air now," Ricigliano said, adding that she hopes officials will crack down on businesses violating emission standards. "I think that the testing period is too long when people's health is concerned. Poor air quality does worry me, right now. I don't know what to do about it."

MPCA representatives say they are taking immediate

steps to address the problem. They are currently working with the City of Minneapolis and area facilities to pinpoint sources of the pollution. Northern Metals, a metal recycling company that operates a facility near the monitors, has been accused as a likely source, but other potential sources are also being investigated. MPCA is evaluating facilities to determine overall emissions while also looking into possible air emission permit violations. They plan to make facilities in the area sign agreements outlining changes to operational and maintenance procedures in order to reduce emissions. Air monitoring will continue at both locations until pollutant emissions are reduced to appropriate levels.

I constantly worry about lead exposure, in my home, in water, in the environment and in the air now.

- Jasmine Ricigliano, Old Highland resident

Still, state Senator Bobby Joe Champion believes that more aggressive action may need to be taken to combat the problem. In a recent statement, Champion noted that Northern Metals has been adversarial in complying with MPCA standards, even going so far as requesting a court order to end air monitor testing. "To me, it's growing increasingly obvious that the power of profit is being placed over people's lives," Champion stated. "The people of North Minneapolis do not deserve this – and Northern Metal must once and for all get it right or find another place of operation."

Members of Hawthorne Neighborhood Council are also taking steps to address the issue at a local level. Second Vice Chair Dee Phillipps says that the organization has spoken up against Northern Metals and remains in contact with monitoring agencies. Though they do not currently have a renter's rights action in relation to this specific issue, their housing committee is working on developing a renter's rights program and may address the issue in response to the recent data.

North Minneapolis residents are no strangers to lead exposure. In addition to airborne lead, residents

are at risk of being exposed to lead via lead-based paint commonly used in homes and buildings built before 1978, when it was banned. This can be particularly dangerous when the paint chips or peels, something that happens frequently in rental units that are not being well-maintained.

Lisa Smestad, who oversees the City of Minneapolis' Lead and Healthy Homes initiative, estimates that 75 percent of homes with exposed lead are rental properties, and notes that the Hawthorne, Jordan, and Near North neighborhoods have seen higher rates of lead poisonings. Not coincidentally, these neighborhoods are rental hotspots.

North Minneapolis resident Brian Finstad, who is a house painter by trade and has been certified in lead-safe practices, says that he is also concerned that safety measures are not being enforced during building demolitions. As a result, dust from lead paint can infiltrate the air. This is especially concerning given the number of building demolitions occurring in the Hawthorne neighborhood. "I can't tell you how many times I have seen the air so full of particulate that you can taste it and it literally creates a haze in the air and settles all over the neighborhood."

While too much exposure to lead can be dangerous for anyone, children under age two are especially susceptible to lead poisoning, which in some cases can lead to serious developmental problems or brain damage, says a representative from Sustainable Resource Center, a Minneapolis nonprofit dedicated to advancing the cause of Healthy Homes.

They say all children should have their blood tested for lead levels at the ages of 12 and 24 months. Children who are at any increased risk of lead exposure should have their blood lead levels tested every six months up to age six.

Smestad and her Healthy Homes colleagues are spearheading an effort to reach out to community members who live along the blocks between Lowry and Broadway adjacent to the air monitor sites. In late April and early May, they will be knocking on doors, providing information, and offering on-site lead screening tests for any children under age six who reside in or frequently visit these homes. For those living in areas not immediately bordering the air testing sites, who are worried about lead exposure, there are many free resources in the community for blood lead testing and in-home assessments.



The two air testing monitor sites that have violated TSP standards are at Lowry Ave. and Pacific St. The nearest residential area is 1/4 mile from the sites. **You can track monthly results from the monitors at www.pca.state.mn.us/air/north-minneapolis-air-monitoring-project.**

RESOURCES

Upcoming FREE blood lead testing

For kids under 6 years old and pregnant mothers

Friday, May 20 from 9am - 12pm at 1315 Penn Ave. N, Minneapolis, 55411

Saturday, June 4 from 11am - 3pm at Cub Foods Parking lot, 701 West Broadway Ave., Minneapolis, 55411

Friday, June 17 from 9am - 12pm at 1315 Penn Ave. N, Minneapolis, 55411

Have your home assessed for lead

The city contracts with two local organizations to provide free in-home visual lead assessments.

ClearCorpsUSA (English, Spanish, Somali), 651-603-8000, www.clearcorps.com

Sustainable Resources Center (English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong), 612-870-4937, www.src-mn.org

REFLECTIONS

Northside African American men speak out on who they are and how they envision justice moving forward.

Photos and compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe



My experience of being an African American male is a proud experience regardless of the struggles that come from it.

- Marlon Moore

MARLON MOORE // *a lifetime resident*

Marlon Moore is a lifelong Northsider who spent time on Plymouth Ave. during the 4th Precinct occupation and after Mike Freeman's non-indictment announcement. He's a therapist and operates One Down, One to Go, a youth program, with Northside resident Thomas Dixon.

On Freeman's announcement:

The hurt people were experiencing that night is an ongoing hurt, a post-traumatic response to what's been going on. It re-instilled this hopelessness of being unable to get justice or be treated fairly as African American males in North Minneapolis and the country. I was out there [on Plymouth] trying to maintain stability among African American males. I wanted to make sure nobody was being manipulated into giving that violent depiction of what they expected of us that night.

On the Jamar Clark case:

All cops are not good cops, and I'm guessing that [Schwarze and Ringgenberg] were not. I don't understand how all these people are killed by cops and nobody ever gets convicted. I'm definitely in favor of the police having body cameras. I would also like to see an independent team of people put together to do surveillance on the cops – a third party who could be requested and called if a young man was pulled over, and he didn't feel comfortable in the situation. They would show up to the scene of the incident and would be that third set of eyes. We need people to police our police. We also have to hold ourselves accountable. There were three murders around the same time as Jamar Clark's. Candy Lynch's son [Christopher] was shot on 39th and Dupont [by two young, black male gang members]. He had just graduated. 19 years old. He was not a bad kid; he wasn't gang-affiliated. It's not just the cops jumping on our kids, hurting black folks. Black folks are hurting each other.

On healing and justice moving forward:

My experience of being an African American male is a proud experience regardless of the struggles that come from it. We have to restructure and heal holistically - physically, mentally, and spiritually. As black men, we have to support ourselves first and address our internal issues. No more excuses. There are issues in the system that attack us, but we cannot let those be the stronghold. We have to implement the church which has been a powerful foundational structure in our community for years. The African American church has been our counselor, our therapy. It's where we've taken our kids when we have issues with them. We will start to build those resources inside our churches again. We have to take home that 'it takes a village to raise a child' mentality in order to get our kids to the places we want to get them to. We are going to push the federal investigation and continue that civil lawsuits. We will hold ourselves accountable first, and then we will begin to mobilize and do the things we need to do to support a stronger African American community. We will have discussions with our dysfunctional African American men to make them functional. We need to rebuild from our dysfunction. That's what we have to do. That's what we will do.



KAMAU LARRY // *a student*

Kamau Larry, 17, is a senior at North High School. He plans to attend a four-year college in the fall and pursue a marketing degree. As an active part of the North High film crew, he's made several short films that explore issues experienced by young black males.

On Jamar Clark:

I just naturally expect things like that to happen. It didn't shock me. I'm just so accustomed. I'm used to waking up to helicopters and sirens at night and news in the morning that another young black male has been killed. I'm accustomed to police officers getting away with pretty much whatever they want. I'm not going to sit here and say that my people are perfect. We all have issues. But as soon as a police officer fears you, they can kill you. It's scary. We just cannot defend ourselves. Whenever the police do come around, I'm real quiet. There's no attitude. Constant respect. 'No sir, yes sir.' I don't want to strike any anger in that man holding a gun. I woke up the day Trayvon Martin was killed in the street. Nobody is ever going to be able to say what happened, but sometimes you just know. I've learned from those experiences.

AFTER JAMAR

Editor's Note

On March 30, Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman announced that he would not bring charges against the two Minneapolis Police Department officers who fatally shot unarmed, African American, Northside resident Jamar Clark, 24, on November 15, 2015.

In the atmosphere of fear, anger, and uncertainty that this announcement has magnified, North News plans to explore healing and justice for our community moving forward with many other segments of the population, including women.

This issue we sought to start by creating space for some of our African American male community members to share their thoughts and tell their stories. We recognize that there are many people who deserve the platform our pages provide, and that there is so much more of this story yet to tell.

We feel privileged that those who took part were willing to share their thoughts with us, and we welcome your feedback.

My wife and I explain racism to our five-year-old son as an illness.

- Alex Leonard



ALEX LEONARD // *an educator*

Alex Leonard is a student dean and football coach at Patrick Henry High School. He lives a mile from the school with his wife and two kids. He's also a part of the Ujima Collective, a small group of men working to support black male achievement on the Northside.

On the new PREP class he teaches for 9th grade black boys at Patrick Henry:

The lowest performing group in our school has been black boys, and it's become an explicit goal to be intentional in our work with them. Our PREP class curriculum is structured around identity. If our young men don't define themselves, society will put them in a clearly defined box that is not positive. They need the skills to figure out who they are and the skills to fight off people trying to do it for them.

On talking to black boys about racially motivated violence:

With my students, at a minimum, I want them to think more. What they do with the information is up to them, but I want them to be aware of what's going on. I think it's really important that we have these conversations in school because it affirms for our students that we value them enough to give them a space to talk, regardless of what they choose to say. At our house, my wife and I explain racism to our five-year-old son as an illness – that people are sick, and that they have a problem with their minds. It leaves room for empathy while also making clear that racism is not healthy.

On the Jamar Clark case:

To me, the Jamar Clark case is largely about fear and stereotypes. These are all the things that we discuss in our class. We talk about the myth of race – it being a non-biological, social construct; we talk about the myths of white superiority and black inferiority leading to stereotypes. Stereotypes lead to prejudice. Prejudice leads to discrimination. Discrimination leads to racism. Jamar Clark was a victim of institutionalized racism. The 911 call wasn't even for Jamar Clark. I'm still stuck on that. How do police show up and in 61 seconds, he's been killed. How? Why? Any jury would have to ask themselves those questions.

On police reform:

Are the police reformable? Police deal with the worst elements of society every day, but that's the line of work they chose. I can't come to Patrick Henry and complain about dealing with unwanted student behavior. I have to figure out how to do my job professionally, or I have to get out of the work. That's the standard we're trying to hold police to – use professional discretion and judgment. Would I ever invite a police officer to speak in my classroom? What value is there in a police officer speaking in my classroom? Are they going to treat them differently at 1 a.m.?

On healing and justice moving forward:

How do you ask someone to heal in the middle of trauma? We live in one of the most exploited communities in the state. You can't expect people to heal if they're in survival mode. Can we do things to mitigate? Sure, but we're largely putting band aids on bullet wounds. You can't expect people to self-actualize when their basic needs aren't being met. That said, my wife and I are big on restorative justice. We do mediations within the community. Largely what we're doing is listening and helping people take ownership in the restorative process. You give people dignity and the room to take responsibility.

I can't wait to sit back and say 'look where I came from.'

- Kamau Larry

On healing and justice moving forward:

We can change laws and protocol and put body cameras on everyone, but until the hearts in the uniform change, I don't expect change anytime soon. People are going to have to step out of their comfort zones and, either by force or want, understand diversity. The only way they'll change is if they understand us and where we're coming from. I want my own kids to be comfortable. Right now I'm not very comfortable in my life. Me and my mom are hurting. We live with my aunt. We can barely keep food in the house. My mom can't always have a job and take care of me, and she's nowhere near capable of helping me get through college. I am so in need of a big scholarship, but I'm still profiled as another knucklehead running up and down the street. I want to live in a world where education is really for everyone and not just for people who can afford it. I fill out scholarship applications every day after school, and I've gotten on the A honor roll the last eight quarters of my high school career. I constantly bust my behind to keep moving forward, but I may not be able to afford college.

On what keeps him motivated:

The easy way out – being lazy, relying on the government, falling into selling drugs to make quick money – isn't going to do anything for me. I'm taking the hard way because it'll get me to a place where I won't have to depend on anyone. I want to be self-sufficient. I can't wait to sit back and say 'look where I came from'. I broke the stereotype that all we want to do is be ball players and rap stars. I went and got my education, and now I can fend for myself. I'm not going to fit the mold of what they perceive.

REFLECTIONS AFTER JAMAR CON'T.



TONY ADAMS // *an officer*

Officer Tony Adams was born and raised on the Northside and has been a police officer for 25 years. For the last two years, he's worked for the Police Activities League program (PAL), a non-profit organization "dedicated to reducing juvenile crime and violence by giving kids a safe place to play, positive role models, and creative activities to engage in."

On becoming a police officer:

My brother got me involved. He is a police officer and works in internal affairs now. He's been on about 30 years. I've worked everywhere – the streets, gang unit, narcotics, school liaison officer at North High, homicide, the serial killer task force here on the Northside, Drug Enforcement Administration. Now I'm back doing community outreach stuff in PAL. This job is more tiring than the rest of them! We're going seven days a week. I'm with kids every day.

On resolving tension between Northside law enforcement and the community:

Tensions are high on the Northside right now. That's not going to change overnight. But programs like PAL can hopefully make changes over time and help the community build trust in the police. Many of us officers work tirelessly for this community, feel passionately about it and want it and its residents to thrive. We want to build the community as much as the residents, and if we all work together towards that common goal, it will benefit everyone.

On supporting at-risk Northside youth through his work:

Here's the thing - somebody gave me an opportunity when I was a kid. I grew up playing rec sports at Phyllis Wheatley and Hospitality House. I've always had mentors and coaches that donated their time to us. It allowed me to become a decent high school basketball player who played in two state championship games. It also allowed me to get a four-year college scholarship for basketball. Sports was always an avenue out for us. I've had many friends that I've seen go the wrong way and end up incarcerated. If [PAL] can touch some kids around here, then we have a good chance of having a good outcome. [These kids] are the backbone of our community. We have to give them something positive to do.

On encouraging positive perceptions of police among youth:

I am 100% certain that these kids will get a positive view of law enforcement because of who their coaches are. That's not to say that all law enforcement is the same. But we are around, and we put a lot of time and investment into these kids and the community. [Many of our coaches are] community service officers. Those individuals are trying to become police officers. We think it's very important for them to get to know the kids that they're going to be serving in the community. This PAL program has been going on since 1996 and what we have now is former kids from the PAL program coming back to be police officers.



KEVIN MURRAY // *an advocate*

Kevin Murray is the Program Officer for Workforce Development at the Northside Funders Group. He is specifically focused on North@Work, which aims to reduce unemployment among African American men on the Northside through a 360-degree support system.

On Freeman's non-indictment announcement:

Sadly, I wasn't surprised by the verdict, yet I'm disappointed. The decision seemed to perpetuate what seems like an alarming trend that has spread across America. After watching the videos, there remained several questions that had me thinking very differently regarding their decision. To me, there were enough questions to warrant 'reasonable doubt', prompting charges against the officers, thus resulting in a trial.

On the struggles he sees African American men experiencing in North:

The struggles I see on a regular basis while driving through North Minneapolis include unemployment, homelessness, and chronic impact of long-term trauma. Currently, unemployment in North Minneapolis is 22.3%. For African American men, that number reaches 52%. I know first-hand what it's like to be both under and unemployed, and the significant challenges that come along with it. North@Work aims to reduce this number dramatically through collaborative partnerships with reputable Northside community service providers, such as Minneapolis Urban League, EMERGE, Twin Cities Rise, and CommonSense Consulting@Work. It means a lot to be creating opportunities for African American men. It's time for a shift in the way we're perceived not only in the media, but also in the community. I'm excited to be 'doing my part' in creating pathways to opportunities that will have a sustainable positive affect on our African American communities.

On healing and justice moving forward:

For me, healing and justice looks like fair and unbiased employer hiring practices for African American men not only in North Minneapolis, but also across the country. Another example of healing and justice would be police officers that treat everyone fairly and without prejudice. It also looks like nondiscriminatory sentencing guidelines for African American men that would mirror those for white men who have committed the same crimes. I [also] see an opportunity for more men to reach out to the young men in the community and to serve as mentors and sponsors, helping guide young men to organizations that can help get them on track, and serving as resources and references for job referrals. We need to focus on bringing about solutions rather than casting a wide net of assumptions that the majority of African American men don't actually want to change their situations for the better.

RESOURCES

4/29 - The **Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour** presents "Building Envelope" – a talk on looking at walls, windows, doors, and other infiltration points to gain the biggest benefit for your energy saving dollar. 3519 Dupont Ave. N. Free and open to the public. Reserve your space by emailing kitrin99@aol.com.

4/30 - The **2016 Minneapolis Teen Job and Opportunity Fair** will be held from 11am-3pm at Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central (300 Nicollet Mall). It's an opportunity for teens ages 14 to 19 to connect with businesses and organizations for information about jobs, employment training, internships, and volunteer opportunities. Free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. More information: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp/MinneapolisTeenJobFair>

5/7 - The **Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board** (MPRB) will hold its first **Open House Program and Resource Fair** from 10am-12pm at MPRB HQ (2117 W River Road). MPRB staff will share information and answer questions about programs, resources, job opportunities, and other Park Board offerings. Attendees can register for activities and sports leagues, and buy parking permits. Kids activities, including a bounce house, will be offered. More information: 612-230-6400.

5/8-12 & 5/13-14 - **GospelNet** presents "There is Hope for Total Health – Body, Mind, & Soul," its 2016 Minneapolis Community Summit. Complimentary workshops will be offered,

including health screenings, social service resources, prayer and anointing service, and more. 5/8-12 from 6-8pm at the Minneapolis Urban League (2100 Plymouth Ave. N) and 5/13-14 beginning at 9am at Kenyan Community Church (6625 Humboldt Ave. N).

5/18 - Northside Economic Opportunity Network's (**NEON**) Business Incubator (1007 W Broadway Ave) is hosting a **legal series** with layers from international law firm Fredrikson and Byron on the third Wednesday of each month. May's topic is **Intellectual Property** and will cover the differences between intellectual property protections, and the costs and benefits of each. 6-7:30pm. For a full list of NEON events: www.neon-mn.org/events.

Interested in upgrading your storefront? The West Broadway Business and Area Coalition has two matching grant programs that can provide up to \$22,500 in matching grants per storefront. Any existing business (with property owner's approval) and/or commercial building owner whose building are located on West Broadway between 26th Avenue to the west and the River to the east and the one block contiguous (East and West) to West Broadway are eligible to apply. More information: <http://westbroadway.org/facade/> or email carla@westbroadway.org or call 612-353-5178.

Angela Spearman, a Minneapolis Public School employee offers a **free aerobics class for ladies** 18+ at Nellie Stone Johnson Community School (807 27th Avenue N) Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-7pm. Free childcare. More information: <http://aerobicangela.weebly.com/>

Farmers markets will soon open, and the City of Minneapolis has an online interactive map that makes it easy to locate them - www.minneapolis.gov/farmersmarkets. Most of the 40 markets accept EBT.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

4/30 - Find the perfect gifts for the special women in your life at the **West Broadway Coalition's Mother's Day Pop-Up Boutique**. 11am-6pm, 1007 W Broadway Ave. Items available will include jewelry, body care products, clothing and accessories, cards, arts and crafts, home accessories, and more. Activities will include a painting/card-making workshop led by local Northside artist, Kenneth Caldwell.

4/30 - The second installment of **Boom Room Jazz at Boom Island Brewery**. Brad Bellows & Company will be making a return and will begin playing at 7pm. The newest Rotator beer, a spring saison, will be available for guests during the performance. Free.

4/30 - **NoMi Community Garage Sale Crawl** 9am-4pm. This one day event will feature clusters of garage sales across the entire Northside. Several multi-family sales featuring: housewares, furniture, baby clothes/furniture, maternity, designer and name brand clothing for every size. Must stop clusters are: 27th and Logan Ave N, 3414 Oliver Ave N, 2722 Sheridan Ave N. Goddess of Glass at 44th and Penn Ave. N. will feature 10 local artists. Check out our facebook page for more information and an online map: NOMI Garage Sale Crawl, or contact Ann Yin at gyfyfmgirl@yahoo.com.

5/4 - Author Frank M. White will talk about his new book, "**They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota**," at Heritage Park Health and Wellness Center (1015 4th Ave. N) at 10:30am. He'll present historical pictures and share stories. Copies of his book will be available for purchase. Light refreshments will be served. More information: 612-342-1400.

5/5 - **First Thursday Films @ the Capri** presents **The World Has No Eyedea**. Discussion to follow documentary screening. 7-9pm. \$5 tickets. 2027 W Broadway Ave. Details: www.thecapritheater.org, 612-343-3390.

5/6 - Augustana Care is bringing the **Black Storytellers' Alliance** with Director Nothando Zulu to perform at the Heritage Park Health and Wellness Center (1015 4th Ave. N) at 2pm.

5/6 - **Homewood Studios** (2400 Plymouth Ave. N) presents "**Remembering Bill Slack**" in their main gallery from 5/1-31. Opening reception is 5/6, 6-8pm. Free and open to the public. The show celebrates Slack, who was a Northside artist, collaborator, teacher and visionary who passed away three years ago. Show curated by George Roberts, Bill Jeter, and Tom Kanthak.

5/6 & 5/7 - **Christ English Lutheran Church Rummage Sale**. 3210 Oliver Ave. N. 9am-5pm on 5/6. 9am-12pm on 5/7 (dollar bag day). Donations welcomed until 5/4. Call 612-521-3493 to arrange drop-off.

5/14 - **Boom Island Brewing Company** (2014 Washington Ave. N) will host their 2nd annual **Pints & Pups** event. Seven local rescue organizations and dog-related vendors will be on site from 1-6pm, and a portion of proceeds from the day will be donated to the rescue organizations. Pints & Pups is a dog-friendly event - all well-behaved and leashed dogs are welcome to attend. More information: www.boomislandbrewing.com/events/2016/pints-pups.

5/19 - Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave. N) will screen **documentary The Souls of Black Girls** from 5:30-7:30pm. It's an award-winning documentary that raises the question of whether or not women of color may be suffering from a self-image disorder as a result of trying to attain the standards of beauty that are celebrated in media images. Dinner provided. More information: 612-377-7000.

5/20 - **Legacy Slam** at the Capri Theater (2027 W Broadway Ave) from 6:30-10pm. \$5, 16+. Details: www.thecapritheater.org, 612-343-3390.

5/26 - Join the **Northside Achievement Zone** for food and family friendly fun as they celebrate some of their amazing families. 5/26, 6-8pm at Patrick Henry High School Auditorium (4320 Newton Ave. N). Details: www.northsideachievement.org.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

5/12 - **Hawthorne Neighborhood Council's Health and Well-being conversation** will be held from 5-8pm at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave. N. Dinner is included. Child-care is not. RSVP to ksnoddy@hncmpls.org.

Contribute your notice.

Email: okeyfek@puc-mn.org, call: 651-245-2647

SPRING AHEAD TO SAVINGS!

The Original

ARBOR TREE SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES
(763) **560-0666**

LICENSED • INSURED • BONDED
Certified Arborist

Tree-mendous
Spring Savings!

10% OFF
ARBOR TREE SERVICES

With coupon. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Not good on stump-only jobs.

(763) 560-0666 Offer Expires 5-27-16

15% OFF
SENIOR DISCOUNT

With coupon. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Not good on stump-only jobs.

(763) 560-0666 Offer Expires 5-27-16



Follow us on Facebook!

NORTH NEWS

facebook.com/mynorthnews



Open House/Science Exhibit
May 19, 5-7pm

MTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MEET OUR TEACHERS
TOUR OUR SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE
EXPANDED TRANSPORTATION AREA
SMALL CLASSES
UNIFORMS
TUITION FREE- CHARTER SCHOOL

VISIT MTSELEMENTARY.ORG CALL 612-729-9140
1800 2ND AVE. NE, MPLS

Welcome back North News!



Martial Arts Classes, Personal Training, & More!
Adults – Youth – Children
3115 PENN AVE. N. (612) 521-5836

EDUCATION

5/7 - The **Witness Writing Project** will host its next creative writing workshop at UROC (2001 Plymouth Ave. N) from 8:30am-1pm. Workshops are led by teaching artists, who provide prompts, samples, and craft guidance. Time is built in for writing, voluntary sharing, and connecting the literary arts to other arts, such as painting, music, or textiles. Workshops are free and are designed for creative writers of all experience levels, from absolute beginners to advanced writers. Healthy snacks and refreshments are provided. More information: contact Nancy at witnesswriting@gmail.com

5/7 - Free parent education nights will be offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). **Children's Challenging Behaviors** will be held at Sumner Library, 611 Van White Memorial Blvd, 9am-3pm. Register online or call 651-645-2948x109. Class listings: www.namihelps.org/classes/other-classes.html.

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

5/5 - Northside Economic Opportunity Network's (NEON) Business Incubator (1007 W Broadway Ave) hosts "**Connect and Unwind**" **business networking** events every first Thursday of the month. 4:30-6pm. Get to know other members over wine and refreshments. For a full list of NEON events: www.neon-mn.org/events.

5/12 & 5/26 - The city of Minneapolis is hosting a **Small Developers 101 Training** from 8:30am-1:30pm to promote the development of women and minority owned small developers. Training is limited to 25 participants, who will be selected on a first-come, first serve basis. Free. Lunch and refreshments included. Applications must be completed by 5/1: www.minneapolis.gov/business/B-TAP/

ACTION

5/4 - **National Bike to School Day**. Minneapolis Public Schools is celebrating with bike and walking events across the district. For a list of participating schools and more information: http://emss.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/list_of_school_for_web_2016.pdf

Hennepin County is seeking **volunteer Customer Service Assistants** for its North Minneapolis human service center (1001 Plymouth Avenue N). More information: 612-348-9900, <http://www.Hennepin.us/HumanServiceVolunteer>.

Community members have refined a vision statement for what's been called the "**Great Northern Greenway**," an East/West bike project set to stretch across Northeast and North Minneapolis. Review the vision statement and learn how to get involved at: <http://www.minneapolisriverfront.org/riverfront-initiatives/great-northern-greenway/>.

BE AWARE

The City of Minneapolis is raising awareness of **how to use 911**. With more residents moving away from landline telephones, 911 dispatchers say to find a central location at home to keep their cellphones. Teach children where to find the phone. When you call 911, be prepared to give the address of the emergency and an account of exactly what happened. Say "language line" if you need a translator. For issues that do not need police, fire or ambulance response, use 311 instead. If you accidentally call 911, do not hang up.

CenterPoint Energy Customers with past due natural gas bills should take steps to avoid having their gas service disconnected. The Cold Weather Rule (CWR), which protects

residential customers who are having problems paying their natural gas bills from having their services disconnected during the coldest months of the year, ended 4/15. To learn more about assistance, call 1-800-729-6164.

Street sweeping began 4/13. Drivers should watch for "No Parking" signs to avoid a ticket and tow. Details: www.minneapolis.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping

PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ariah Fine, Executive Director for the Cleveland Neighborhood Association, is leaving his position on May 16 to be a Neighborhood Support Specialist with the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department.

Shaina Brassard, Marketing and Communications Manager for the West Broadway Coalition (1011 W Broadway Ave. #202), has left her position for a new job at Seward Redesign.

Wokie Freeman, Assistance Executive Director and Director of Operations and Programs of UROC (2001 Plymouth Ave N), has left her position for a new job as Assistant City Manager for the City of Brooklyn Park.

Asian Media Access (2418 Plymouth Ave. N) welcomes two new staff members: Coordinator for Multimedia Projects **Victoria Champion** and **Xianping He**, Coordinator for Community Development.

Banaadir Academy (1130 N 7th St) English Language Learner teacher **Brady Fossenbell** received a Presidents' Community Partner Award from the Minnesota Campus Compact. He set up a college volunteer program that has netted more than 3,400 hours of service.



SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY MAY 12TH

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ON

HEALTH & WELLBEING

5-8pm

North Regional Library
1315 Lowry Ave North Minneapolis

Dinner will be served & childcare is not available

RSVP

BY MAY 6 TO:

HAWTHORNE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

2944 Emerson Ave N
612-529-6033

ksnoddy@hncmpls.org



CLASSIFIEDS & WORSHIP DIRECTORY

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Lg Studio, 1&2 BR, 650-850, Quiet Bldg Lots o closets, Ht Pd, Lndry room, off-st. prkg, on busline 952-203-0926

LAWN, YARD, & SNOW

Lawn cleanups, gutters, snow removal, garden tilling & hauling. No Contracts. Dandy Services 612-250-1533

SAMPLE CLASSIFIED AD

This is a sample of a classified line ad at \$6/line. 3 line (\$18) minimum. Add \$2 line for **bold**, *italic*, or ALL CAPS type.

Display Classified

This bordered box is a sample of a display classified ad, a \$48 spot. Larger sizes available. Please call 651.245.2647 to discuss options.

Place your classified ad.

Email: okeefek@puc-mn.org
Call: 651-245-2647

REDEEMER LUTHERAN (ELCA)

Logan & Glenwood 612 374-4139

Adult Bible Study 9 am Sunday
Prayer & Praise 10-10:30 am Sunday
Worship 10:30 am Sunday

After School Program Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm.

Pastor Kelly Chatman

RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

22nd & Fremont Ave. N.
612-521-7655

www.riveroflifelutheran.org

We are an empowered multicultural people of God serving and sharing God's love in the North community.

Worship 10 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Hollie Holt-Woehl

Hospitality and Welcome to all.

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

2901 Emerson Ave. N.
612-529-7726

Sunday School/ Adult Class 9:30 am
Worship 11 am Nursery provided.
Wednesday Evening Youth Group 6:30 pm

Pastor Dale Hulme

www.stolaf Lutheran.org
and on Facebook

We are LGBT affirming.

Diversity thrives here!

Join our worship directory!

Email: okeefek@puc-mn.org

Call: 651-245-2647

ADVERTISING IN NORTH NEWS

RATES

Next Issue

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

Discounted rates apply until home delivery begins this summer.

RATES

All issues beginning June 2016

SIZE	B&W	COLOR
Full Page	\$1660	\$2000
1/2	\$830	\$1050
1/4	\$415	\$550
1/8	\$210	\$300
1/16	\$125	\$175

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

To book an ad, email: okeefek@puc-mn.org or call 651-245-2647

Reflecting on our roots



Will Lumpkins, a lifelong Northsider and creator of the “Old North Minneapolis” Facebook page, tells North News about his passion for historical preservation - online and out in the streets.

Where did your passion for North’s history start? My activism started back in 2012 when I got involved with the Lind Bohanon board over the Mereen Johnson building. There were plans to tear it down, and I didn’t want to see it go. I grew up kiddie corner from it. More recently, I’ve helped preserve buildings like the IOOF building at 410 West Broadway Ave.

There are so many things you could be passionate about here in North. Why history? History is something we can all connect on. It’s an overarching glue. We’ve all lived in these houses.

Where have you lived in North? I grew up mostly in Camden. Now I live in Willard-Hay just a couple blocks away from the house I was born in. I rent now, but am interested in buying, particularly in Old Highland, one of my favorite historical neighborhoods.

We understand you started and still moderate the Old North Minneapolis Facebook page, a group where people post old photos and discuss historic experiences in North Minneapolis. How did the page come about? As part of the historic preservation work we were doing in Lind Bohanon, we were looking for old pictures for some of the buildings we were trying to save. That led to finding other great historic pictures too. I wanted to do something with them. The idea for the Old North Minneapolis Facebook Page came from the Old Minneapolis Facebook page. I wanted to see more of North’s history represented, so I started a separate page for it. One of the low points of my whole experience with this was getting blocked by the guy who ran the Old Minneapolis page. He didn’t like that I made the page. I created it in late 2012 or early 2013, I can’t remember. Nothing really happened for a year. I’m not sure what made it take off, but we went from like 100 members, to 200, to 900, and then it jumped from like 1000, to 2000, to 4000 pretty quickly. We now have close to 7000. We’ve been mentioned in City Pages a couple times – that probably explains our spurts of growth. I take pride in the fact that our membership numbers are sometimes higher than North Vent’s [another Northside Facebook page].

Who is in the group? Most of the membership is older I think. Actually, to tell you the truth, I think there are some older people who have been hooking up from the site. I’ll see people talking to each other like “I knew you in 1963!” I don’t think the people are nearly as local as it might seem. There’s an opportunity to get more people within the community involved.

Who would you like to see in the group? More people of color, specifically our older and middle aged African Americans. I would love to hear more stories from African Americans about how things were pre-1980.

Does it take a lot of work to maintain the page? I don’t do as much posting anymore – the page has become pretty self sustaining at this point. I just sit back and let that conver-

sation flow. It takes a lot of work to go through member requests. You can’t just click accept all. Half of them are spammers. I take really seriously the responsibility to guard the page as a safe space. I have ground rules, like no negativity. When people are negative about current stuff, I delete comments and block them. When they’re negative about old stuff, I feel a responsibility to give them a broader perspective. People sometimes have a hard time thinking outside their own eras. Like things might be bad today, but at least we’re not bombing each other like we were in 1935 or throwing dynamite sticks through windows.

History is something we can all connect on. It’s an overarching glue. We’ve all lived in these houses.

It seems like you feel a personal responsibility to set the record straight. Where does that sense of responsibility come from? I believe that silence is violence. It’s irresponsible not to say something when someone says something wrong. Like, I call people out on microaggressive racial things. I’m interracial – my mom is white and my dad is black. If hear somebody say that black people are the problem, I speak up. I want to set that example for my son. I don’t want him or anybody else to think that’s okay. I’m less filtered than maybe people think I should be.

What’s next for you? In addition to historical preservation, I’m passionate about community health, specifically biking. I’m a type one diabetic, and I got into biking to manage that. I started by just walking in to Venture North, our only bike shop over here. I want to get more African Americans into biking, especially the young people. I want to change the perception that bike lanes are white lanes. I’ve started with my daughter, who is in high school at North High. Also, I’m the 4th Ward Bicycle Advisory Committee Representative. It’s an appointed position by council members. We get together to talk about bicycle infrastructure. I also really believe in the Northside Greenway. I was on the Northside Greenway Steering Committee and the Northside Greenway Council. I engage in a lot of health equity advocacy and transit improvements through my job at Northside Resident Redevelopment Council. We aim to improve health disparities such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma and obesity by encouraging healthy eating and lifestyles.

What’s kept you here in North for all these years? It’s home. It’s what I know and what I’m used to. People complain about North, but I grew up during the “Murderapolis” days. To me, North has gotten better. I want to put my money where my mouth is. I want to own my neighborhood.

Photo and compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe

Spring has sprung!

If you feel
bent up, we'll
straighten
you out!



We're working to serve you better at
NORTHSIDE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC



Chiropractic is about more than re-aligning the spine and neck. Talk to us about work injury, car accident, headaches, tingling in limbs, and range-of-motion limitations, we can help. Loosen up and enjoy spring!

3107 PENN AVE. N. (Across from ALDI)
(612) 522-0440



FULL CYCLE

- Refurbished Bicycles
- New and Used Accessories
- Full Service Repair Shop
 - Free Estimates
 - Walk-ins Welcome!
- Accepting Donations!

Young person on your own?

- Paid internships
- Free Bike
- Connections to resources

3515 Chicago Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 824-7581
www.fullcyclebikeshop.org



You're invited to...

NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center's Clinic Open House



Tour our Clinic Facility
Meet the staff and learn about our Integrated Services
Health and Dental Screenings
Art Reveal - meet the artist Brant Kingman

May 19, 2016
11am - 1:30pm

Heritage Park Health & Wellness Center
Second Level above the lobby
1015 4th Ave. N
Minneapolis, MN 55405
For More Info Call 612-543-2500



FRIDAYS, 3PM-7PM
JUNE 17-OCT 7, 2016

We are celebrating our
6th season this summer!
Thank you to the 12,000
customers that visited
us last year. We are
still accepting Vendor
Applications & Community
Table applications.
To apply, visit our website:
westbroadwaymarket.org

New location
this year!
Stay connected
for updates:



West Broadway
Farmers Market



WBFM

BREAKING BREAD



real food for real people

Fresh, flavorful, healthy global comfort foods
at a casual, sit-down restaurant on West Broadway



1210 West Broadway Ave. Minneapolis

(612) 529-9346, www.breakingbreadfoods.com

Open M-F, 8am-3pm | Weekend hours coming soon! | Catering available



@BreakingBreadMN

[breakingbreadcafeandcatering](https://www.facebook.com/breakingbreadcafeandcatering)

