Juneteenth celebration brings community together

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Paid sick time passes for most in Minneapolis due to unprecedented unity

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Lucy Laney’s principal: her childhood demons connect her to her students

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INSIDE: Fun ways to spend your summer in North Minneapolis

Page 3
Serena Bady, Harun Abukar, Amaya Pettis, Daija
Delivered free to public places in Near North and
Story ideas and letters to the editor are always
• Positions starting in August
• Great skills for your resume
It will transform your life, too.

Northside 9th graders to begin U of M college readiness program
Thirty-two Northside students, all rising ninth graders, have been chosen to participate in the University of Minnesota’s CORE 2025 program. The CORE 2025 program seeks to increase the number of multicultural college graduates at the University of Minnesota by 2025. There are currently 170 students total enrolled in the program. The goal is to have 250 students enrolled this year.

The program seeks to prepare young students for college level work, admissions, and success. All students will be involved in peer mentoring, college visits, social activities, and program homework. They were selected after writing an essay and providing references.

Malik McCurtis-Lloyd, who lives in Near North and attends MTS Middle School in South Minneapolis, is one of the Northside students chosen for the program. Prior to being chosen, he wrote an essay about why he wanted to go to college and who he looks up to. “I wanted to be like my dad, because he has a good job, a nice house and he takes care of his kids,” McCurtis-Lloyd said.

His school director, Melvin Baker, said: “It’s one of those programs that will change your life and change your family’s life.”

The CORE 2025 program is still accepting applications, and encourages rising ninth graders from the Northside of Minneapolis to sign up soon. For more information on the CORE 2025 program and how to apply, please visit diversity.umn.edu/core2025.

Compiled by Amaya Pettis
Photo courtesy of MTS Charter Schools

Future envisioned for Lyndale Ave. commercial buildings
A meeting of the Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association (LBNA) and neighborhood residents was held at the Webber Park Community room on June 6 to discuss the future of two commercial buildings at 4400-4430 Lyndale Ave N. The buildings, a two-story office structure and an adjoining warehouse, are among the oldest in the city.

The properties are for sale, and the owners, Jeff and Nancy Stevenson, have expressed interest in aligning their transaction with broader neighborhood preservation goals.

The LBNA hired consultant Kris Brogan and the non-profit developer Artspace to conduct a feasibility study of the buildings’ possible re-use. Artspace vice-president Wendy Holmes presented their findings, but not before noting, “This is not an easy project to take on.”

She said five focus groups were held in recent months, and included artists, business and civic leaders, funders, and financial professionals. Most of the suggestions they received focused on flexibility of use and on occupants having a strong connection with the surrounding neighborhood.

Holmes also said the top five concepts suggested for further investigation were retail (a café or restaurant); co-working or office space; artist studios; taproom/brewery; and performance space. The office building would be the logical first phase because of its better condition and lower estimated restoration cost ($2.5 million). The warehouse, called the “Lumber Building,” has a $9.5 million estimate.

Holmes suggested that the LBNA draw up requests for qualifications/proposals, and seek letters of interest from potential tenants, which she said would be a catalyst for further development. Among those present were City Council President Barb Johnson, State Senator Bobby Joe Champion, State Rep. Frank Hornstein, LBNA president Ann Moe, and neighborhood activist Will Lumpkins. Senator Champion has introduced an amendment to the Capital Improvement bill in the state senate for $900,000.00 for pre-development.

Compiled by Mark Peterson
Photo by Kenzie O’Keefe

Beloved founder of Cookie Cart, Sister Jean Thuerauf, passes away
Sister Jean Thuerauf, founder of Cookie Cart, passed away on June 10. She was 85 years old. Thuerauf, who was described by those who knew her as filled with energy, compassion and joy, moved to the Northside in 1969, intending to work with neighborhood teens. She knew that crime, gangs and street violence put neighborhood youth at serious risk, and she set out to engage them in safe and productive activities.

In 1971, an illness stopped her from working, and she returned to Cedar Rapids, Iowa where she had worked previously. In 1976, after she recovered, she had a “vision” which told her to return to North Minneapolis.

She moved to 1701 Bryant Ave. N. in 1978 and resumed her outreach. She began inviting local children and teens into her home and set out to engage them in a combination of religious study, homework help and cookie-baking.

Using a small cart, the young bakers sold the cookies they made out on the Northside streets. By 1987, cookie production had overwhelmed the space of Sister Jean’s modest kitchen, and Cookie Cart was formed as a non-profit bakery. Its first space was on Emerson Ave. N., and later it moved to its present location on West Broadway. A new outlet will open in St. Paul this year. Cookie Cart’s non-profit bakery program expects that 200 teens will be engaged in 30,000 hours of job experience and classroom job readiness training in 2016.

Cookie Cart’s current executive director, Matt Halley, described the day he joined the company 13 years ago: “My first day was a long walk around the neighborhood with Sister Jean. We went to her house, and we looked through her many photo albums while she told stories about the children she had encountered.”

A long-time friend of Sister Jean’s, Beverly Mooney, said, “Sister Jean was a loving and caring missionary to the Northside. Her heart gave her strength, and she was never afraid.”

A visitation for Sister Jean was held at St. Anthony of Padua Chapel in Northeast Minneapolis in mid-June.

Compiled by Mark Peterson
Photo courtesy of Cookie Cart

Honoring Pride
Photo by Kenzie O’Keefe

Northside 9th graders to begin U of M college readiness program

Future envisioned for Lyndale Ave. commercial buildings

Beloved founder of Cookie Cart, Sister Jean Thuerauf, passes away

Compiled by Mark Peterson
Photo courtesy of Cookie Cart
30th Annual Juneteenth festival celebrates achievement

Six ways to enjoy summer 2016 in North Minneapolis

1. See an outdoor movie
   Up- Victory Memorial Drive, June 9: The Martian- Farview Park, June 30; 42- North Commons, July 11; Back to the Future- Victory Memorial Drive, July 14; Jurassic World- Victory Memorial Drive, August 11
   “Movies begin 15 minutes after sunset”
   - Elaine De La Mata, Victory Neighborhood

2. Do yoga on Victory Parkway
   Tuesdays at 6pm, $10
   60 minutes; 41st & Xerxes
   Vinyasa style class linking breath and movement. Focusing on asana (postures), breath, and balance. Beginners and all levels are welcome.
   - Rebecca Thompson, Victory Neighborhood

3. Swim at Webber Natural Pool
   Tuesday-Sunday, 1-7pm
   “The Webber pool is fantastic. It’s clean. There are no hordes of unattended children. The people at the front...are friendly and professional. I have seen the police patrolling on the deck this season - I like that. It’s a gem! I encourage giving it a try.”
   - Ann Rubin, Victory Neighborhood

4. Exercise with Camden Running Club
   Tuesdays, 6pm
   Meet at Victory Memorial Drive Flagpole
   “Camden Running Group is great. Really nice people. They usually break up into a faster 4-mile group and a slower 3-mile group, but always meet and finish together. And there are always some people in between. Tuesdays at 6 at the flagpole.”
   - Elaine De La Mata, Victory Neighborhood

5. Enjoy local music at Live on the Drive
   Victory Memorial Drive
   July 14: #MPLS
   August 11: Ashley DuBose
   6-8pm both days
   “Every summer I look forward to listening to good, local music and catching up with my neighbors. It is my favorite part of the summer!”
   - Rebecca Thompson, Victory Neighborhood

6. Cool off at North Commons Waterpark
   Monday-Friday 1-7pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am-7pm
   Fee: 42” and taller: $5, 42” and shorter: $3
   “We are offering swimming lessons at North Commons which has not been done for several years. We received scholarship funding to offer swimming lessons to families for $5.”
   - Mimi Kalb, Near North Neighborhood

Compiled by Najeedah Johnson

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to our fourth relaunched issue! This month we bring you coverage that runs the gamut of Northside life - from the Upper Harbor Terminal (page 6) to air pollution (page 5) to an interview with the new Executive Director of the West Broadway Coalition (page 14).

A unifying theme amongst these stories is human connectedness. “Hand in hand” Northsiders are working together to bring about innovative changes to complex realities.

These words - “hand in hand” - come from the title of one of Jayanthi Kyle’s (pictured on our cover) most famous songs. Kyle, a Minneapolis musician, performed at Juneteenth on June 18 (see photo essay to the left) and often sings about heavy topics in a positive, change-provoking style.

That style resonates with us here at North News, where we strive to support and showcase North Minneapolis’ vibrant resiliency. We’re humbled by its history; we believe its people and their voices matter. More than anything, our mission is to create space for nuanced stories that address our realities - positive, negative, and everything in-between - unflinchingly. In this style, we bring you an interview with Lucy Craft Laney Elementary School’s Principal Mauri Melander (page 15), who suffers and triumphs while supporting her students each day.

Our NorthNow story this issue is one of City workers, leaders, and business owners coming together to pass paid sick time (page 7). In late May, Minneapolis became the first midwestern city to pass such a law. Ron Harris, a leader in the process to pass the law, described it as one of the biggest disparity gap reducing policies in the City’s history. See the piece to read more about the law and what Northside business owners and workers think about it.

In other exciting news - North News’ professional development work with high school students has begun! In mid-June we welcomed five interns to our staff - Amaya Pettis, Harun Abukar, Efritea Feleke, Serena Bady, and Daija Triplett. All are deeply embedded in Northside life. They did the reporting with workers for the paid sick time story, and Pettis wrote the piece about Core 2025 (page 2). They are a talented bunch, and North News will undoubtedly be better for the perspective they are able to bring to it.

An update on home delivery: we are still committed to returning to free home delivery and have a plan to implement it via USPS as soon as funds allow. We’re close, but we need your support! Advertise with us (email okeefek@puc-mn.org for more information), make a donation (www.puc-mn.org/donate), or volunteer to deliver a stack of our papers to your block to help us get our word out even more than we already are. We’re honored to be your Northside news source, and we appreciate all the support we have already received.

Our next issue is out July 28. Until then, have a safe and fun-filled July!

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, North News
Artists and architects bring big changes to West Broadway

The West Broadway Coalition (WBC), headed by newly named Executive Director Rob Hanson, stands at the forefront of changes along one of the Northside’s central commercial districts.

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Last July, the WBC announced that it was among 38 recipients of a grant from ArtPlace America’s 2015 National Grants Program. Selected from a pool of 1300 applicants, WBC is managing the $250,000 grant that will be invested in North Minneapolis to integrate art and “creative placemaking” into the area’s ongoing community development.

The Coalition has hired local artists to make visual improvements along West Broadway. Currently, Northside artists Brandon Brown (Onyx Cycles), pictured above, Juxtaposition Arts, and Souliyahn Keobounpheng (silvercocoon design) are each working on designing and producing new features for the corridor. Brandon is creating trash and recycling bins, along with benches and information kiosks. Juxtaposition Arts is producing bike racks, and silvercocoon is building bench/planters.

RES. BUILDING PROPOSED

WBC is also reviewing a possible residential build on the North side of West Broadway, between Logan and Newton Avenues. The property developer, Sherman Associates, has proposed a two-phase housing project called West Broadway Curve. The company won the first development rights to the property, once the site of single-family homes, now city-owned and largely vacant.

Their plan calls for four-story apartment buildings and two-story townhomes, with a total of 69 units.

A meeting with Sherman Associates last year produced a letter of support from the WBC. On three occasions the developer has made design revisions in response to neighborhood input. Sherman is seeking additional financing, and has asked the WBC for an updated letter of support.

On June 6, Business Development Associate Brent Webb gave a presentation to the WBC Planning, Zoning, and Development Committee. A slide show of the current design and site plans was followed by questions from the committee and residents about site density, alley access, parking, and complaint responsiveness.

After the presentation, the committee met privately and an updated letter was approved. Three conditions were included: that access to the alley behind the proposed buildings be improved; that public spaces for outdoor activities be provided; and that on-site property management be established.

Compiled by Mark Peterson
Photos courtesy of WBC, Ten x Ten, Mobilize Design Architecture

READ MORE ABOUT WBC ON PAGE 14

North News interviews WBC Executive Director Rob Hanson about his vision for West Broadway’s future.
Air pollution blamed for high Northside asthma rates

The highest rate of asthma hospitalization in Minnesota occurs in North Minneapolis, and according to a study conducted by Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC) in 2016, 83% of North Minneapolis residents say that either they or someone they know has asthma or trouble breathing.

Airborne pollution is one suspected source of these high rates of sickness, which keep kids out of school, employees out of work, and severely impacts quality of life on the Northside. At this time, a comprehensive study about the North Minneapolis asthma situation does not appear to have been done.

“There is a proliferation of inhalers around here,” said Rep. Keith Ellison, at the beginning of his June 20 forum on equitable air at Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School. Another forum on the topic was held at NOC’s West Broadway office on June 8.

Representatives from the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) attended both Ellison and NOC’s meetings and say that the sources and the solutions to pollution are many.

There are 31 industry polluters in North Minneapolis, according to MPCA commissioner John Stine. Perhaps the most high-profile polluter is Northern Metals Recycling (NMR), which is currently fighting MPCA efforts to revoke its permit due to alleged non-compliance. NMR is suspected to be the cause of the exceedances measured at the two air testing monitors and the sources and the solutions to pollution are many.

And in a place where living wage jobs are often hard to come by, dealing with big industry polluters, that often provide well-paying jobs, is more complicated than just asking them to leave. “Some polluters provide living wage jobs in this community. How do we balance that?” said Ellison.

Once the pollution is in the air, one of the most effective ways to remove it is trees. But that presents challenges that typically don’t have decision making power over their residences where lead often runs rampant. Wealth disparities exacerbate these air pollution problems. “Our income level [in North Minneapolis] is low enough that the average person cannot afford to protect themselves,” said Ellison at his forum. People keep old engines – which typically emit more pollution – because they cannot afford new ones. Renters typically don’t have decision making power over their residences where lead often runs rampant.

Another effective way to combat pollution is public transit. Less traffic on the road means less pollution in the air.

Diet can also help. Diets high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C can reduce lead absorption and the likelihood of harm in those most at risk of lead poisoning, particularly young children.

Photos and compiled by Kerzie O’Keefe

Community members voiced their concern about air quality at Rep. Keith Ellison’s June 20 forum on equitable air at Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School. Channy Leaneagh (left) worries about her children’s safety. Nine year old Henry (top) shared his science fair project and told the crowd he has asthma.

800 million for Minneapolis parks

A large, ambitious, and long-term plan to revitalize Minneapolis parks and streets is on its way to reality.

The 20-year Neighborhood Parks and Streets Plan, a joint venture by the city and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), is an $800 million dollar expression of faith in the future of the famed park system. This comes during the same month that the city was ranked first in Trust for Public Lands’ 2016 Park Score Index, a measure of the nation’s best parks systems.

For parks themselves, the board will evaluate each park asset’s lifespan, its condition, and the “proportionality of investment” (the amount invested in the past 15 years versus the cost to replace all of the park’s assets). 106 parks were measured against those criteria and given numerical weights.

Northside parks Bassett Creek, Sumner Field, Lovell Square, Farwell, Hall, Jordan, Perkins Hill, Folwell, North Commons, and Willard are ten of the top 20 on the list. 5th Ward Council Member Blong Yang pointed out that current neighborhood demographics will have to play a part in park redesigns. While a lot of baseball diamonds sit empty, areas for playing soccer are in high demand. He said, “If there’s a regulation-size soccer field on the Northside, please show it to me.”

Compiled by Mark Peterson
Dozens of acres of North Minneapolis riverfront to be redeveloped

A mile-long stretch of land on the Mississippi River’s west bank in North Minneapolis is about to add a new, more publicly accessible chapter to its long history.

The northern half of the 48.5-acre city-owned property, known as the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) will be redeveloped by The City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).

Ann Calvert, a Principal Project Coordinator for Minneapolis CPED, and her MPRB counterpart, Project Manager Kate Lamers, held the first of two public meetings about the project on May 24 at the Minneapolis Urban League. Fifty interested residents attended.

On view were displays of the history of the site and a chronology of the project studies. One of the studies had concluded that the site’s two best assets were its riverfront location and its access to I-94. Boards were also available for written comments, as part of the City and MPRB’s commitment to seeking public input.

Calvert stressed that the goal of the public meetings was not to present designs for the site, but to hear from city residents and to include their thinking in the planning. One audience member commented, “We need a restaurant in the park area, like they have at Lake Harriet, Lake Calhoun, and Minnehaha Falls.”

MPRB president Liz Wielinski noted that the amount of “foot traffic” would determine the feasibility of a restaurant. But she also said, “Surveys have shown that the number one thing that people want in a park is pathways along water.”

HISTORY

UHT has been a site of commerce since the 19th century.

Between 1850 and 1930, the river above St. Anthony Falls was an essential part of the industrial growth of the city. Sawmills and foundries along the banks were part of a hub for boat and rail traffic from the North. When the lumber industry declined, the area was used for storage and transportation of scrap metal, coal, grain and chemicals.

In 1963, locks were opened at St. Anthony Falls, the only waterfall on the nation’s longest river. The locks made the above-the-falls river navigable for barge and other water traffic, and the Upper Harbor terminal became the Port of Minneapolis.

In 2014, Congress passed the Water Resources and Development Act, an $8 billion program for the improvement of water-related infrastructure. A provision in the bill, authored by Senator Amy Klobuchar and sponsored by Rep. Keith Ellison in the House, called for shutting down the locks, to prevent the spread of Asian carp above St. Anthony Falls. In June, 2015, the St. Anthony locks were permanently closed.

Calvert said that planning for the UHT had anticipated the end of the city’s operations at the site at some point in the future. She noted that the locks closing “helped clarify our thinking” about the site’s development.

Portions of the site are still leased by the city for GAF roofing manufacturing and the existing domes are used for fertilizer storage.

Right photo and story compiled by Mark Peterson
Left photo by Bordner Aerials, courtesy of the City of Minneapolis.
Sick?

Minneapolis wants you to stay home.

Beginning in July 2017, Minneapolis businesses with six or more employees must offer their workers the ability to earn paid sick and safe time.

Compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe

When Ron Harris was four months old and contracted life-threatening pneumonia, his mother lost her job because she stayed home from work to care for him. More than two decades later, Harris stands at the forefront of the successful fight to bring paid sick and safe time benefits to most Minneapolis workers.

On May 27, Minneapolis became the first Midwestern city and 27th city nationwide to extend this workforce protection to most workers in the city. The new law means that most of the 42% of Minneapolis workers who previously did not have access to paid sick and safe time, now will.

The ordinance, which passed unanimously at the Minneapolis City Council, came as a result of efforts led by Minneapolis workers of color. Workers organized primarily through two groups – Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC), based in North Minneapolis, and Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL), based in South Minneapolis.

Harris, who has worked as an economic policy leader at NOC, says that this is the largest disparity gap-closing policy that the city has ever undertaken. “It is largely black and brown folks concentrated in certain parts of the city, like North Minneapolis, that do not have access to paid sick time,” he explained.

The paid sick time ordinance closely followed the recommendations of the city’s Workplace Partnership Group, appointed by the mayor and City Council in November to develop recommendations for a sick time ordinance. It was sponsored by City Council President Barb Johnson who represents the 4th Ward. “Having the ability to take some time off when you are sick seems reasonable,” she said.

5th Ward Council Member Blong Yang voted in favor of the ordinance but expressed his worry about it in a Facebook post on May 27. “I am voting in favor of this proposal today despite some deep concerns about the impact that this regulation will have on the businesses in the ward I represent,” he wrote. Though he said there was “undeniable proof of the public health benefits of the change,” he believes that “increased payroll and compliance costs on top of already very high security costs could be a burden that some of the small businesses in Ward 5 will not be able to bear.”

Johnson shares some of Yang’s concerns about Northside businesses, particularly restaurants. “They have just been hit with a minimum wage increase, and there’s concern that they could get hit by people calling in sick when they already have a very slim staff.”
Minneapolis mandates paid sick time

**THE IMPACT**

Harris believes that the burden placed on businesses is minimal and that they’ll see one major positive benefit of the legislation - decreased turnover. “A lot of people don’t want to work these jobs because benefits don’t exist for them,” he said. “People will be happier, and certainly healthier,” he added.

The year between now and when the ordinance goes into effect will be used to get the word out. Businesses will have time to become compliant, and the city and organizers will have time to educate workers about their rights and protocols for reporting violations.

Studies have shown findings in line with Harris’ view that the burdens on businesses in places that have implemented paid sick time are minimal and the benefits to businesses, workers, and society as a whole are measurably positive.

In 2006, San Francisco became the first city in the country to implement a paid sick leave law (PSLO). The most recent study of it has shown that 6-7 employers report no negative effect on profitability. Additionally, despite the availability of 5-9 sick days under the PSLO, the typical worker with access used only three sick days per year. A different study showed that in the three years since the law had been passed, job growth in San Francisco was consistently higher than in neighboring counties without such a law.

Connecticut passed a paid sick time law in 2013, and a 2014 study of it concluded that, “Most employers reported a modest impact or no impact of the law on their costs or business operations, and they typically found that the administrative burden was minimal.”

In Jersey City, NJ, which passed a paid sick leave law in 2014, employers reported “an increase in productivity, the quality of new hires, and a reduction in turnover,” according to a 2015 study.

According to a 2015 study on paid sick time in Minneapolis by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, “the economic and public health benefits of paid sick time coverage are substantial, including creating stronger, safer work environments; improved child and family health and well-being, and reduced health care costs.”

**WHAT’S NEXT**

Paid sick time is part of a new frontier of Minneapolis worker’s rights that organizers have pushed for in the last couple of years. Predictive scheduling, an end to wage theft, and a fifteen dollar per hour minimum wage are the most pressing agenda items. Harris says that paid sick time has set a precedent for moving policy forward on a municipal level, and that he expects a big push for a fifteen dollar per hour minimum wage to be up next. “We have set a model for how change-making happens in the city,” he said. The minimum wage goal will likely be on the ballot this fall.

St. Paul and Duluth are also currently considering paid sick time. St. Paul is expected to pass an ordinance by the end of the summer.

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*Data is from The Institute for Women’s Policy Research’s 2015 Briefing Paper: “Access to Paid Sick Time in Minneapolis, Minnesota.”

**Data is from “Our Time Counts” – A Fair Workweek North Minneapolis Community Survey Project study led by Neighborhoods Organizing for Change, The Center for Popular Democracy, and The Fair Workweek Initiative. It was conducted in June of 2015. Canvassers knocked on over 3000 doors in North Minneapolis and surveyed 549 workers. Data reflects responses from surveyed workers.*
What do Northside workers think about the new law?

Honesty, I have never had any problems getting time off of work before hearing about this law. I just ask for time off, and I get it. I think the law will have a positive impact on me because it allows me to get time off without it being a struggle in the future. I think it will help people that work part-time in big businesses because they have a harder time getting the time they need off. Plus, people in our community have struggles all of the time and crises that require time off.

Aiyama Grayes, Villa Shoes

I feel that it was a good idea. Some people struggle and have a lot of other responsibilities, so the paid sick time would be a lot of help. The paid sick time would help me and my family because I could take care of my younger siblings for my mom if they were sick.

Yasmine Burns, Cub Foods

I've heard about the paid sick time, but I didn't really dig into it. I don't believe it would affect me personally because I'm on salary pay, but it would affect some of my staff members because some of them don't have paid sick time. I believe it's great because it could help people with children. I believe it should be effective by Jan 1, 2017 instead of July 1, 2017; then people wouldn't have to wait as long.

Jerrica Howe, KMOJ

I have heard about the law on paid sick leave, and I feel pretty strongly about it. I feel that it's something important and would give me a sense of security knowing that if I get sick I'll still have income coming in. It would let me take care of myself and not worry about lost wages. It also lets me afford to stay home if someone in my family, like my children, gets sick.

Kenneth Bady, Stub & Herb's

I have not heard about the paid sick leave law, but this law makes me feel relieved. I think it's a benefit that we all deserve. We can't control when we get sick and this law will help people feel more secure. Like for people with health issues, it gives more of a mental ease.

April Palacios, Macy's

I did not hear about the paid sick time law before you introduced me to it. I believe it might make people in my family sick less often. Often times my mom feels like she has to go to work when she is sick. In my opinion, people will stay at their jobs longer knowing they have this cushion. It would definitely take away some stress. I don't see any negatives to the new law. I believe as a nonprofit Juxta would have to put more effort into it, but it would probably be worth the trial.

Cameron Downey, Juxtaosition Arts

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Raul Gonzalez, MetroPCS

I think that this new law can be financially challenging for a new business where money tends to be tight for the first couple years. But, the law represents a step toward more equitable workers’ rights, and ultimately human rights. It’s an awkward solution to the fact that we don’t have universal healthcare.

Asale Sol, Sankofa Underground North (SUN) Academy

Underground North (SUN) Academy

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Honestly, I have never had any problems getting time off of work before hearing about this law. I just ask for time off, and I get it. I think the law will have a positive impact on me because it allows me to get time off without it being a struggle in the future. I think it will help people that work part-time in big businesses because they have a harder time getting the time they need off. Plus, people in our community have struggles all of the time and crises that require time off.

Aiyama Grayes, Villa Shoes

I've heard about the paid sick time, but I didn't really dig into it. I don't believe it would affect me personally because I'm on salary pay, but it would affect some of my staff members because some of them don't have paid sick time. I believe it's great because it could help people with children. I believe it should be effective by Jan 1, 2017 instead of July 1, 2017; then people wouldn't have to wait as long.

Jerrica Howe, KMOJ

I have heard about the law on paid sick leave, and I feel pretty strongly about it. I feel that it's something important and would give me a sense of security knowing that if I get sick I'll still have income coming in. It would let me take care of myself and not worry about lost wages. It also lets me afford to stay home if someone in my family, like my children, gets sick.

Kenneth Bady, Stub & Herb’s

I have not heard about the paid sick leave law, but this law makes me feel relieved. I think it's a benefit that we all deserve. We can't control when we get sick and this law will help people feel more secure. Like for people with health issues, it gives more of a mental ease.

April Palacios, Macy's

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What do Northside business owners think about the new law?

We already offer our employees vacation time – a week after a year of employment and two weeks after two years. They can use that time as sick time. When the new law goes into effect, we’ll change a week of paid vacation into the week of paid sick time. They can use it as vacation, but we’ll be calling it something different. One question I have is: if an employee gets fired or leaves, do I owe them pay for their accrued sick time?

Darryl Weivoda, owner of North End Hardware & Rental

We have seven employees and were actually already doing this before it was a law. Taking care of my staff is one of my top priorities. I believe it’s necessary to take care of yourself when you’re sick without the stress of worrying about your job folding in on you while you’re out!

Sammy McDowell, owner of Sammy’s Avenue Eatery

We at McDonald’s are staunch advocates for taking care of our valued employees. We have a Paid Time Off policy in place as does all company McDonald’s restaurants in the City. I am on the Board of the Minnesota Restaurant Association and it is the position of the association that the City’s current proposal is an overreach and will make business more difficult/ if not detrimental for some smaller business owners. …I do not see it being a big problem for my business at this juncture. The implementation gets to be difficult when a company has multiple locations in different cities...all with different PTO ordinances. This type of mandate should really be at the state level and/or more in alignment with the Minnesota Restaurant Association approach.

Tim Baylor, owner of the Broadway McDonald’s

I have 6.25 employees between my Chiropractic office and my gym. I’ve offered paid sick time and vacation time for a while, but the new law requires me to add 10 hours of additional sick time per year. I’ll probably remove a day or two of vacation from my current policy to make up for the added sick time, and it’ll be a wash. I don’t have a lot of emotion in it. The government has decided how they think it should be done, and I simply look around and make the most practical decision I can make.

Greg Olson, owner of Northside Chiropractic Clinic

I used to live in Germany where businesses have paid sick time, but not a lot of businesses have it here in Minnesota, which I believe needs to change. I think paid sick time is very important for all workers. I’m the manager and owner here and it can be hard for a family business.

Sanjay Kumar, Chicago Grill

Breaking Bread Cafe is a program of Appetite for Change (AFC). Currently AFC has about 35 employees. Right now our full time employees accrue paid time off (PTO) but our part-time hourly employees do not accrue PTO. We will obviously be changing that given the new ordinances. It will not be too disruptive. We are in favor of the ordinance, and spoke out in favor of it during the process before it passed. We believe in the safety and health of our employees; we don’t want them to burn out, and we want them to be able to take care of themselves and their families when needed. We obviously don’t want them infecting their co-workers or the food we serve. It’s a liability and health hazard as a cafe.

Michelle Horovitz, Co-Founder & Director, Appetite for Change

Before I was involved with the Lowry Café, I was a chef. About 90% of kitchen workers don’t get benefits. When someone is sick, they come to work. They have families to feed, multiple jobs. They don’t have opportunities to take care of themselves. I’m super happy that paid sick time went through, and I can’t wait for people to feel worthwhile. We’re changing how we treat people. We want to take care of our people. We don’t think it’ll negatively affect our business. People will come to work as they come to work and if they need to take time off, I can cover them.

Taya Kaufenberg, operator of the Lowry Café

We hadn’t heard about paid sick time passing until you told us. We wish they would send us information like that in the mail. …The minimum wage is supposed to go up to $9.50 this summer. If everybody were to take their new sick time, that would cost us roughly $500 per person per year. We’d have to find a way to offset that extra expense. That’s where it gets tricky. We’re a grocery store; we have a low profit margin. Will we have to raise prices? Would that make us not competitive? For the first 6 months or a year, we’ll see how this affects us and then decide how to react. I’m pretty sure our employees will use these hours. If you get free money, why would you leave it on the table? I think it would help if employees got half pay when they were sick. Otherwise, if you’re getting paid the same whether you stay home or work, why go to work?

Christopher & Shoua Yang, owners of Banana Blossom Cafe and Good Deal Market
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**PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES**

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bwhi.org
RESOURCES
7/11, 8, 15, 22, 29 - The West Broadway Farmers Market (718 West Broadway Ave. N) is open from 3-7pm every Friday. More information: www.westbroadway.org. To find other Farmers Markets in Minneapolis, use the City’s interactive locating tool: www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets. Most of the 40 markets in Minneapolis accept EBT.

7/11 & 7/25 – Pillsbury United Communities is pairing North Minneapolis job seekers for the North Minneapolis Job Fair (8/18). The industry focus will be: Food Service/Hospitality, Healthcare, Construction Trades, and Information Technology. Pre-registration events will take place 7/11 & 7/25. Pre-registered job seekers will have exclusive access to meet and interview with employers before the event opens to the general public! Sessions begin promptly at 10am. Please confirm your seat - space is limited! Contact Alan Stovall: (612) 787-3719, stovalla@puc-minn.org

7/12 – A Chance To Grow (1800 2nd Ave. NE) presents: Easy Holistic and Drug-Free Self-Regulation, a free seminar, 6-7:30pm. Do you or a family member struggle with poor memory and focus, academics, hyperactivity, mood swings and/or sleep? Do you want to improve your sports performance? Learn how Audio Visual Entrainment (AVE) strengthens the brain’s ability to self-regulate and perform. You’ll also learn how easy it is to induce a meditative state. Call 612-789-1236 or email neuor@ACTG.org to reserve your seat.

Free meals for children – Minneapolis Public Schools is participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Breakfast, lunch, snack and/or suppers: Food Service/Hospitality, Healthcare, Construction Trades, and Information Technology. Pre-registration events will take place 7/11 & 7/25. Pre-registered job seekers will have exclusive access to meet and interview with employers before the event opens to the general public! Sessions begin promptly at 10am. Please confirm your seat - space is limited! Contact Alan Stovall: (612) 787-3719, stovalla@puc-minn.org

7/12 – Learn how to induce a meditative state. Call 612-626-5981.

For more information, call 612-294-4040.

NORTHSIDE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC
Chiropractic is about more than re-aligning the spine and neck. Talk to us about work injuries, car accidents, headaches, tingling in limbs, and range-of-motion limitations - we can help. Loosen up and enjoy your summer!

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(612) 522-0440

BE AWARE
If you’re planning to have an outdoor fire this summer, follow these Minneapolis laws. Fires are permitted 9am-10pm. Fires must be kept less than 5ft in diameter and 2ft high. Postpone a fire when Minneapolis is under an air pollution advisory. Sign up for air quality alerts at http://mn.enviroflash.info. Burn only untreated, unpainted, dry wood. Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris, because the smoke can be toxic. Fire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible material and in a fire ring or pit with edges more than six inches high. Have a hose or fire extinguisher present. Postpone the fire when the wind exceeds 10 mph. Fire must be constantly attended by someone 18 years or older and completely out before being abandoned. Any illegal burning can result in a $200 fine.

As temperatures climb this summer, Minneapolis City officials want to remind everyone how to handle the heat. **Tips for preventing heat-related illness during extreme heat**: drink more fluids, never leave any person or animals in a closed, parked vehicle, wear lightweight, loose-fitted clothing, check on your neighbors who may be at risk, and stay indoors if you can. For a list of public, air-conditioned buildings go to: www.minneapolismn.gov/heat. Don’t rely on an electric fan. Protect your pets! If you see an animal outside or in a car exhibiting signs of heat stress, call Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC) immediately – in Minneapolis, call 311. If you believe the situation to be life-threatening, call 911.

CenterPoint Energy would like to remind the public of important natural gas safety tips when there is severe weather. Following a severe storm, be alert for leaking gas. If you smell, hear or see a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately on foot and tell others to do the same. Do not drive into or near a gas leak or vapor cloud. Once safely away from the area, call the CenterPoint Energy emergency gas leak hot line at 1-800-296-9815 and 911. If the pipeline operator is not known, call 911. If natural gas is leaking, do not operate anything that might cause a spark including a flashlight or generator.

Beginning 5/26, 26th Ave. N, from Broadway Ave. to Irving Ave. N will close to traffic so crews can reconstruct the roadway. That section of the street will reopen after this season’s paving project is completed in November. Access to churches, residences, and businesses on 26th Avenue from West Broadway Avenue to Humboldt Avenue will be maintained for a majority of the project. However, there will be periods where construction will require no access. All through traffic will be detoured onto Lowry Avenue North.

**EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**
7/7 – First Thursday Films @ the Capri presents 12 Years a Slave. Discussion to follow documentary screening. 7-9pm. $5 tickets. 2027 W Broadway Ave. More information: www.lhecapitheater.com, 612-343-3390.
7/9 – Learn Together: Story Stroll. Webber Park, 12-2 pm Stroll and “step” into the pages of a story! Complete the trail and complete the story! Afterwards, stop in the Webber Park Library (4203 Webber Pkwy) for related activities. All ages.
7/12 – Meet Your Neighborhood Firefighter. Webber Park Community Building (4400 Dupont Ave. N), 2-4pm. Learn about fire safety, fire prevention, burn prevention and more with Minneapolis firefighters.

Also, get hands-on experience with the Minneapolis Fire Department’s “safe escape house” and enjoy a visit from a fire truck! All ages.

NORTHPOINT Audit & Wellness Centers
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9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
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For more information call 612-767-9168

NORTHSIDE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC
Jenny Lind Elementary School needs adults who want to listen to children read. If you have two or more hours a week during the fall of 2016 to volunteer, join other girls to talk about a great book. July selection is The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. Register and pick up the book at the Library. Girls entering grades 7-12.

7/26 – Makin’ Beats. Webber Park Community Building (4400 Dupont Ave. N), 2-4pm. Learn about hip-hop songwriting and production: storytelling, sampling and multi-track recording, from prominent local hip-hop music producers. Participants will take away a CD of the completed song. Materials provided. Register online or call the Library at 612-543-KNOW. Entering grades 6-12.

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Logan & Glenwood 612-374-4139

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Prayer & Praise 10-10:30 am Sunday
Worship 10:30 am Sunday
After School Program Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm
Pastor Kelly Chairman

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

RATES

All issues beginning June 2016

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New leadership on Broadway

Rob Hanson was named the new Executive Director of the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC) on June 1.

He has been with the WBC for two years and since then has raised over $150,000 towards West Broadway improvement programs.

Congrats on the new role! How are you feeling about it? I am excited to continue working on West Broadway in an expanded capacity. This is my first experience as an Executive Director of an organization. It is definitely going to be a challenge and a learning opportunity for me, but I have a really good team around me.

What do you see yourself uniquely bringing to this community? Why you are best suited for this role? I think it’s a benefit having an outside perspective on the community. Much of what we hear about North Minneapolis in the media is negative, and I feel that runs the risk of clouding one’s judgment when first getting to know a community. I was lucky to have an opportunity to come into this community, and have my perspective shaped by listening to the stories and experiences of the community itself.

We understand that the WBC has been without an Executive Director (ED) for a while. What made you step up? We have not had a permanent ED since last December. I had been thinking about going for it for a while but did not make a decision until the last minute. I stepped up because I wanted to make sure that the WBC could continue the good work we have been doing. It was the next logical career step for me.

Do you live in North? What drives you to work here? No; I live in Loring Park. I moved up to Minneapolis two years ago from Milwaukee, where I worked for a similar organization in a similar neighborhood. It is challenging but rewarding to work for communities that have historically suffered from disinvestment. There are so many great people in North; my job is interesting and easier because of them.

You are now a key leader in North Minneapolis. Is there another leader here who inspires you? I draw a lot of inspiration from the individual business owners on West Broadway. A lot of people do not know that we have quite a few minority-owned businesses on the corridor. They face their own set of challenges, but they continue to persevere, and I am continually inspired by them.

Describe your leadership style. I am very team-oriented, and I plan to continue that. There are three of us who work full time for the organization. We are a tight knit group and we really depend on each other. While going through our leadership transition, we have especially had to work closely with each other. I told them before I accepted the position, “I can’t do this without you.”

For such a small team, you seem to have a big impact in North. I am amazed by what we’re able to take on as a three-person team right now. We put on FLOW Northside Arts Crawl every year. We manage the West Broadway Farmers Market. For the first time this year we will host Open Streets. We manage the West Broadway Improvement District and the Façade Improvement Program. We have several committees and are working on a number of place-making activities. We work with businesses here every day. We have a hand in so many things.

How do you avoid burning out? It’s tough. Every once in a while, our staff does what we call “Monday Cub Chicken Days.” Cub definitely has the best fried chicken in all of Minneapolis, and we go get a bucket for our staff meetings. Also, we have had opportunities to attend conferences out of state and even out of the country. I was able to go to the Bay Area a year ago for a business district conference. Staff development things like that are energizing and help reaffirm the work we are doing.

What do you feel like you need from the community in order to be successful? I am still relatively new to North Minneapolis, and I definitely don’t have all the answers. One of my main priorities is to continue listening to the community, and learning from the stories and experiences I have heard. I value educational opportunities, and I am always happy grab a cup of coffee at Sammy’s or jump on the phone with anyone. The WBC wants to be as accessible as we can be as an organization. Come visit us at the West Broadway Farmers Market, or pop into our office and say hello!

You know Broadway very well. Tell us something about it that you think most people do not know.

I don’t think people know enough about Boom Island Brewery. It is a hidden gem. They make no secret of being located in North Minneapolis and embrace the fact that they are here. I want to make sure that people know that they have excellent beer and that they really aspire to be part of the community. I also want to give a shout out to Dimensions in Hair Salon. They just had an incident over there that was really tragic. [Editor’s Note: A woman was injured by a stray bullet while sitting in the shop.] They have been in business for over 25 years, have invested a lot into their property, and run a great business. I do not want to see the recent negative press ruin any of that. We need to support them.

How do public safety concerns play into the work you do? There are negative perceptions and real challenges that exist within this community. At the WBC, we do a good job of publicizing great things that are happening here in the community. Our business improvement district works hard to beautify and keep the corridor clean which helps with the perception issues. We host public safety meetings, and we activate vacant and underutilized spaces through the Farmer’s Market and our pop ups. We have numerical data that shows that when the Farmer’s Market is in session, there is a 42% decrease in crime in the radius round the area versus other times during the week. The police tell us that they love when we have FLOW and other activities like that. They really do see a drop in calls.

What are your hopes and dreams for West Broadway long term? I would love to see one of the major transit projects happen on West Broadway – the BRT or Streetcar. The community absolutely needs new transit investment. It’s a real tragedy that the light rail line is just missing North Minneapolis as a whole. We also really need to diversity retail offerings on the corridor to make West Broadway a destination. We want to serve the community already here and get people coming in from outside to spend their money and grow wealth internally. We need to increase local business ownership. We need to provide opportunities for community members with great ideas to start businesses if they would like to. Getting a few big name anchor institutions on the corridor would lend a lot of credibility to the ongoing revitalization of the corridor that’s already occurring. If we could get a Target back here or a Chipotle, I believe that would be something the community would support. I’d love to see more sit down restaurants. I’d love to see an actual hardware store, a dry cleaning, and a venue for live music, like a jazz club. All that said, I think it’s important that West Broadway retains its identity that it has. It has become a cultural hub for the Northside. We want the community to recognize that this is always their space.

Photo and compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe
NORTHneighbors

This issue she talks to North News about her students’ resiliency, facing her own childhood demons, and finding love with an unexpected person—a Fourth Precinct Inspector.

You have a long history on the Northside. Tell us about it. I grew up at 33rd and Morgan. I went to Northside schools—Jenny Lind, Jordan, Lincoln. My childhood in North Minneapolis had some pretty painful pockets, and I feel that fate and destiny brought me here, just a few blocks from where I grew up, to stare back into the eyes of my childhood.

Describe your student body to us. I have about 500 students here at Laney. They’re Pre-K through fifth grade. They’re as young as four and as old as twelve. All are from North Minneapolis. We pull from Plymouth Ave. N to Dowling Ave. N, and Penn Ave. N to I-94. About 90% of our students are African American. 94% live at or below the poverty line. 87 of our students were homeless or highly mobile during the last week of school this year.

Your students experience many barriers and challenges. How do you create an effective school environment for them? It’s difficult for me to wrap my head around how you could get a school with such great concentrations of poverty and race in times that are not technically segregated. The question we have to ask ourselves here is: how do we be strong and soft with our students at the same time? If a child in a classroom is having an outburst, how do you hold that child to high standards and expectations while also having compassion for the trauma that they are trying to overcome in that moment? At Laney, we’ve cut our suspension rates in half every year for the past four years. We ended this last school year with 57 suspensions. In 2013, we ended with 427. Yet, I demand the right to suspend children. I feel strongly that there are times when you break the sanctity of your classroom so strongly that you need to be removed.

Your school’s theme this past year was “Worth the cost.” Explain that to us. As human beings we’re constantly doing cost benefit analysis. The biggest one we do is in our relationships with others. We decide whether people’s benefits are worth their costs in order to determine whether they are worth our investment. I want to create a community where we see everyone as worth the cost.

Do you have an example of that you could share with us? We have lost a lot of parents this year. The death has been shocking. We had a mom who was run over by a car on New Year’s Eve and killed in front of her children. We had a dad who died in gun violence. We had another dad who experienced kidney failure and then died. Incident after incident, our Laney family knows that investing in the children from those families is worth the cost. When that mom was hit by a car, we received confirmation from the Fourth Precinct Inspector that she was the mother of three of our Laney children. The next day we had seven Laney staff people in that house, bringing groceries, holding hands, praying, and hugging. We stayed the whole week and filled many pews at the funeral.

How are those kids now? They are amazingly resilient. We check in, but we keep it moving and keep it going. That’s the type of educational service we provide. We are aware of signs of trauma, and we catch kids and get them back on their feet when we need to. We push, and we stop. It’s a dance. We have to be instinctive, sensitive, and constantly aware.

You mentioned the Fourth Precinct Inspector earlier. I understand you’re in a romantic relationship with Michael Friestleben, who is currently on leave from the position. Yes! I am head over heels in love in a way that I never would have expected. I met him after he called the school to let us know of a potential threat happening near the school. He stopped by the building after the threat was resolved. That made me pause—no Inspector had ever shown that care about the school like that before. A lot of time passed between that initial meeting and us getting together. We developed a very strong professional and then personal rapport. We had a lot of mutual respect for each other, and we both have a heart for the Northside. I realized that we have a lot in common. Every day he amazes me with his intelligence, his courage, his honesty, and his love for the Northside, for people, and for children.

You’ve said that your kids are experiencing more than an achievement gap—a “life” gap. What do you mean by that? If you look at the state of Minnesota, the Native and African American communities experience the achievement gap and many other gaps most obviously. We have housing gaps, employment gaps, nutrition gaps, health gaps; there is a plethora of areas we could point to. The gap doesn’t begin when you’re five—we don’t have white and black children walking into kindergarten at the same starting point. To look at the doorstep of a school and isolate out an achievement gap as though there aren’t other gaps is a disservice. We have deep rooted issues happening here in our society, and they are evident in all of these gaps. We are facing a life gap, and it is going to take much more than a certain type of reading curriculum to fix it.

How could the larger community better support you and your students? If I had a magic wand, I’d change how we define academic success for children. I’d open our eyes and ears to everything that children bring beyond standardized test scores. Children who that tool was created for perform well. Children who it was not created for don’t. Nationally and locally there seems to be an awareness that the tools that the standards are measured by are not in the favor of African and Native American children in particular. Yet we continue to use them.

Is there hope? What has to happen? I believe that good can outweigh bad. I believe that people with pure hearts can overcome. I choose to focus. I keep my urgency high, and I choose to believe that change is possible.

Talk to us about self care. How do you stay emotionally afloat amidst the trauma and ongoing violence? Right now I feel like I could sleep for about a week straight. Sometimes I need to cry it out. I’ve had people tell me that I’m too close for my own emotional well being. Coming back to the Northside in the first place was a risky thing for me to do emotionally. There were times in my life that I couldn’t drive down Lowry or couldn’t be off Penn Ave. N and Dowling Ave. N. Memories would hit me so strongly that I would be paralyzed. I knew when I found out that I was assigned to Lucy Laney that this was my time to face my demons and pain from my childhood experiences. I knew I couldn’t come in here with a “you poor babies” attitude. I knew my message to my students had to be that I made it. It was gritty and hard at times, but I made it, and they will too. Someday they’ll be sophomores in college, and we’ll meet at Starbucks and share stories of overcoming. We will be empowered, victorious overcomers together.

Photo and compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe
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JORDAN WEEK OF KINDNESS

Jordan Area Community Council, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, and community organizations are partnering with residents for neighborhood revitalization.

July 9–16
Knox Avenue N, Minneapolis
between 29th and Lowry

Join neighbors to repair homes, plant boulevards, clean-up, and celebrate our community!

In partnership with

Contact Sarah Harris at sarah.harris@tchabitat.org to get involved by July 1

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