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FARMERS MARKET

Farmers market season to kick off at new location

The West Broadway Farmers Market (WBFM) season will kick off on June 17 at a new location: 718 W Broadway Ave. Vendors will be selling local products including fresh produce, baked goods, handmade jewelry, ready-to-eat food, and other artisan wares on Fridays from 3-7p.m. through October 7. Since 2011, WBFM has seen steady growth in farmers market participation. “Last year there were 12,000 customers that visited the market, compared to 9,000 in 2014,” said market manager DeVon Nolen. Additionally, “For the 2015 season, 71.4% of the vendors were local Northside entrepreneurs,” she said.

Compiled by Elon Byers, Photo courtesy of WBFM

30th ANNUAL JUNITEENTH CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH

The largest African American cultural celebration in the region – Twin Cities Juneteenth – will showcase its 30th Annual celebration on Saturday, June 18 at North Mississippi Regional Park, 5114 North Mississippi Drive. Juneteenth is an artistic and cultural experience that celebrates African American history and culture, and welcomes people of all backgrounds and ages. It commemorates the historical events leading to the freedom and empowerment of African slaves in the United States. On the Friday before the festival an Underground Railroad Reenactment for youth will be held. The celebration will showcase many new events this year, including a Prince Commemoration and a First Responders showcase with the Minneapolis African American Firefighters Association. Park festivities take place from 10a.m. to 6p.m. with free bus shuttles provided during these hours from NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, 1313 Penn Ave. N., and Jenny Lind Elementary School, 5025 Bryant Ave. N. Family friendly activities include a clown, and face painting, interactive crafts workshops, and food vendors. Additionally, there will be informational booths highlighting community services, health, and wellness. More information: http://www.juneteenthminnesota.org.

Compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe, Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Juneteenth

INSIDE OUR “O”

Celebrating our FIRST Northside teacher to be named 2016 MN Teacher of the Year

Abdul Wright teaches eighth grade language arts at The Best Academy. See Page 3 for story.
Minnesota’s 2016 Teacher of the Year is a Northsider

Wright in his eighth-grade language arts classroom at The Best Academy, 2131 N 12th Ave.

MPCA says it has moved to shut down operations at Northern Metal

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is taking legal steps to stop operations at Northern Metal Recycling in North Minneapolis, it announced on May 19. They say the facility is believed to be a primary source of particulate air emissions that have repeatedly violated state air quality standards near the site since 2014, when the MPCA began operating air monitors near the facility.

“Moving to close a facility and revoke their permit is a very rare step for the MPCA,” said MPCA Assistant Commissioner David Thornton. The unusual legal steps are underway because MPCA officials say Northern Metals provided misleading information in the process of getting its air quality permit in 2012.

In another legal step, the MPCA filed a motion for temporary injunction in Ramsey County District Court to immediately stop the activities at the site that are believed to be contributing to the violations. If the court grants the injunction the company must cease shredding operations at the site, located at 2800 Pacific St. in Minneapolis.

“Based on our investigations and discussions with the company over the last year, we believe either the company did not truthfully disclose its emissions from this facility when it was last permitted, or that it has added or changed emission sources since the permit was issued without informing us, or both,” said MPCA Assistant Commissioner David Thornton in a statement made on May 19.

“Either of these conditions is a serious violation of state and federal air quality laws and cause for permit revocation,” Thornton said. “The revocation process takes some time to play out, so while that’s underway we are also asking the court to enjoin Northern Metals from further operations. The violations of air quality standards that have been occurring in this area must be stopped,” he added.

Local leaders have praised MPCA’s actions. Senator Bobby Joe Champion released a public statement by email soon after the MPCA announcement was made. “This facility has caused enough distress for the residents of North Minneapolis, so it’s about time its deceitful business practices are put to an end. ...North Minneapolis residents value our community, so if you’re a company that places profit over people’s lives, you’ve come to the wrong place,” he said.

Minneapolis City Council Member Blong Yang weighed in on Facebook the afternoon after the news broke. “There are many months of legal process ahead of us, but this is a serious first step in closing down Northern Metals. I appreciate the leadership the MPCA is showing with this action and I hope other Northsiders will join me in cheering this on,” he said.

Wright celebrates after finding out he was named 2016 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

One of the first people Abdul Wright called after being named Minnesota Teacher of the Year on May 15 was his Northside barber, Imani Vincent, from Changez Barbershop on W Broadway Ave.

“He told me he was proud of me. It’s been so humbling to see people be so proud of me. I want to be deserving of their support,” said Wright, an eighth-grade language arts teacher at The Best Academy (TBA), 2131 N 12th Ave.

That humility is core to who Wright is as a community member, father, and teacher. “People think I have an amazing story, but I work with young people who have even more amazing stories every day,” he said.

His teaching style is an extension of his personal style. “I’m all about giving people the sense that they are important. I try to empower my students to have an equal if not more of a voice in my classroom than me. The students teach me so much, just because I’m willing to listen,” he said.

Wright is the first charter school teacher, the first black man, and the first Northside teacher to receive the honor. He has deep roots on the Northside – he moved here from Chicago when he was in middle school and remains a steadfast believer in its vibrancy.

I’m all about giving people the sense that they are important

- Abdul Wright

“Growing up in North was one of the best things that could have ever happened in my life,” he said. “I think people don’t realize how great North Minneapolis is. There are so many amazing people who live here.”

Though he currently lives with his wife and three daughters in New Hope, he plans to move back to North and eventually buy a home here. “One thing I learned from Sondra Samuels over at the Northside Achievement Zone is the importance of being in the community. I try to do my shopping here and be a part of things here. I’m here just like my students are. When I can buy a house, I’ll buy here,” he said.

Wright has taught at TBA since 2011. He interviewed across the Twin Cities for teaching positions after graduating from Concordia University in Saint Paul, but chose TBA after meeting one of the school’s co-founders, Eric Mahmoud. “He was all about growing students’ mindsets and connecting with them.

Wright in his eighth-grade language arts classroom at The Best Academy, 2131 N 12th Ave.

May 26, 2016 • North News • 3
Caterers collaborate on cafe

Popular caterers, Wendy Puckett of “Wendy’s House of Soul” and Eddie Hutchins of “Eddie’s Smoker,” have joined forces to serve up soul food at a permanent location together.

Corner Stone Cafe, 1825 Glenwood Ave. N., had its soft opening on April 13 and plans for a grand-opening celebration are slated for late summer or early fall. The cafe’s name reflects the owners’ desire to maintain separate identities in the food world while nodding to the “meeting of the minds at the corner,” said Puckett.

Everything on the menu is made from scratch and every recipe is either their own or from a family member. “People come for the SOULROLLS, the caramel cake, and the Kool-Aid, and then they work their way down the menu,” said Puckett. She says the “Nanny” SOULROLL – filled with greens, fried chicken, and mac and cheese – is the most popular menu item. It’s also her favorite. She named it after her grandmother.

Both Puckett and Hutchins are family-oriented, and their cafe is the definition of a family business. Their siblings, partners, children and grandchildren can be found managing, cooking, cleaning, serving, and promoting for it. Everyone is working on a volunteer basis right now, helping Puckett and Hutchins get the cafe off the ground.

Puckett’s son Spencer Puckett does promotions for the cafe and was one of the inspirations for the SOULROLL. Wendy’s kids did not like eating vegetables when they were younger, but they loved egg rolls, so she hid their veggies inside them. Now an adult with a son of his own (who has a SOULROLL named after him – the “Cruz Control”), Spencer says he is proud of his mom. “It’s been fun to see my friends and family eating in here every day. They love the food. The Northside has been missing some good, consistent soul food. I want this to expand,” he said.

The cafe is open Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. SunnySide Cafe, run by Chef James Baker, operates inside the space on Saturday and Sunday. Puckett says that being closed on the weekends gives her and Hutchins time to source high quality ingredients at farmer’s markets to provide their customers with homemade recipes. It also gives them the opportunity to dedicate their time to their weekend catering events.

Though Puckett says that sharing the space is currently working well, she hopes to one day operate the cafe in a bigger space of its own. Though she isn’t sure where that will be, she says it will definitely be on the Northside. Both she and Hutchins were raised here and they want to keep it in the community.

Photos and compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe
For a long time, North Minneapolis’ commercial development seemed to remain stagnant. The empty lots on Plymouth, Lyndale, and West Broadway Avenues stood prominent as evidence of the area’s stalled economic fortunes.

That was then; this is now. Building permits have increased on the Northside, and new construction can be seen from Olson Memorial Highway to Webber Park. From temporary art installations to cosmetic facelifts; to brand new structures that extend entire blocks and projects whose price tags exceed $20,000,000, North has become the recipient of both municipal and private investor confidence. The latest building boom stands to provide the Northside with a new public library, a church, apartments, theater space, medical centers, an employment resources center, a supermarket and even an indoor farm, along with jobs and housing. This issue, North News explores some of the most impactful projects currently underway.

*Photos and compiled by Mark Peterson*
Development is on the rise on the Northside

Millions of dollars & hundreds of jobs

North Lyndale properties (East + West)
East: commercial buildings at 4400, 4404, 4420, 4430 Lyndale Ave. N; West: 4401 Lyndale Ave. N
The Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association is working with consultants and residents for a feasibility study on building re-use. Senator Bobby Joe Champion has introduced an amendment to the Capital Improvement bill for $900,000 for its pre-development. The City Council is voting on the recommendation of the Heritage Preservation Commission to preserve the building at 4400 Lyndale Ave N and the older part of the Mereen Johnson Building structure. Zimmerschied Inc. owns the East properties. Atomic Recycling LLC owns the West.

New Sanctuary Covenant Church
718 West Broadway Ave.
A new home for the Sanctuary Covenant Church, which is currently operating out of North High, is set to break ground at 718 W Broadway Ave. in September 2016. Pastor Dennis Edwards says that the church will have community space available and will not be just a “Sunday-only” building. The congregation is raising money through the national Sanctuary Covenant Church and seeking bank loans. Architects: Station 19. General Contractor: Watson-Forsberg. Note: the West Broadway Farmer’s Market will operate at the currently vacant site this summer.

West Broadway Business and Area Coalition Plaza
2034 West Broadway Ave.
Minneapolis CPED is leasing a 5,185 square foot lot to the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBBAC) for an arts-related plaza installation. The project is to be open by FLOW in late July. Two competing design proposals are currently being considered. Funding is through an ArtPlace America 250K grant to implement “placemaking” along the Broadway corridor; street amenities by WBBAC are estimated to cost $30,000 - $40,000.
New Webber Park Library
4401 Humboldt Ave N
A new $10,000,000 public library near the former library site will feature community rooms, natural material exteriors, an outdoor reading plaza, a water retention pond, and off-street parking. It is anticipated to provide 12-15 jobs. Ground was broken on April 4, 2016. Completion is planned for Spring 2017. Architects for the project: LSB. Engineers: Pierce Pini. General Contractor: Adolphson and Peterson Construction. The property is owned by Hennepin County Library.

North Market
Intersection of 44th and Humboldt Ave N
Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) is renovating the former Kowalski’s market into a new retail grocery store. The $6,300,300 project’s 15,000 square feet will include a North Memorial health clinic (2,800 square feet) and a community space (1,125 square feet). The project is seeking construction bids for a summer 2016 start with a 2017 completion. Funding includes a $500,000 Cargill grant. The owner and developer, PUC, estimates 15-25 jobs will be created by the market. Architects: LSE.

Upper Harbor Terminal
33rd to 39th Ave. East of Washington Ave. N
A former barge shipping terminal is the site of a 48-acre proposed joint riverfront project by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and City of Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Above the Falls Master Plan Update (approved by City Council in 2013) calls for the site to be redeveloped into a high quality, job-creating business park and mixed-use development with an attractive riverfront park.

Hawthorne EcoVillage Apartments
Intersection of Lyndale and Lowry Ave. N
A 71-unit apartment building and 2 two-unit townhouses are planned for the SW corner of Lyndale and Lowry Avenues. The 100,000 square foot project is slated for a June 2016 construction start. Total development cost is $17.64 million, with financing primarily through Low Income Housing Tax Credit Equity, HUD, Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and Housing Infrastructure bonds. Owner/developer: Project for Pride in Living, Inc. Design: UrbanWorks Architecture. General Contractor: Watson-Forsberg.

West Broadway Education and Career Center
800 West Broadway Ave.
This large-scale renovation of a former Mercury auto dealership is a collaborative project between the Minneapolis Public School district, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center. The 50,000 square foot building will provide 80-110 on-site jobs. The owner and developer, Sherman Associates, says that the $8,000,000 project is 85% complete at this time.

901 West Broadway Block
The 901 block, the site of a May 2015 multiple-unit fire, has 8 privately-owned parcels, plus one CPED property on Broadway. Developers would be subject to the West Broadway “Alive Area Plan.” No current plans for large-scale development are underway, but the property is available.

The Capri Block
101 West Broadway Ave., 2300-2306 Penn Ave.; 2110-2114 22nd Ave N.
Minneapolis CPED has granted Wellington Management, Inc. exclusive development rights for 18 months to go ahead with planned construction of three structures: a two-story office building, a medical building, a 4,000 square foot restaurant; and a parking deck between the site and the Capri Theater. The $10,000,000 project has hired Pope Architects and Thor Construction for design and construction.

Capi Theater renovation and addition
2027 West Broadway Ave.
This is the second phase of the “Capri Renaissance” that began in 2008. It includes theater rehab, rehearsal halls, classrooms, a tech center, a lobby expansion, and a new 18,000 square foot addition. A capital campaign for the project is one-third of the way to the $9 million goal. Theater Director James Scott estimates 19-24 months until groundbreaking. The project will provide five new full-time jobs. Architect: Baker and Associates. General Contractor: D.J. Kranz. Owner and developer: Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC).

Thor Construction Headquarters
Intersection of Penn and Plymouth Ave.
A planned 76,000 square foot, two-story building that will include sustainable design features, an underground parking garage, and the new headquarters of Thor Construction, is awaiting neighborhood, city and county approval. The $30,000,000 project does not yet have a start date. A Thor spokesperson said the company chose the site because of the historical significance of Plymouth Ave to the Northside. Thor Construction, which is currently headquartered in Fridley, is the owner, developer, and project general contractor.

Living Greens Farm
620 Olson Memorial Highway
A major renovation of an 80,000 square foot building in the Northside neighborhood will result in the world’s largest “aeroponics farm,” producing wholesale produce in an enclosed environment. The $20,000,000 project, which may produce as many as 100 jobs, is awaiting city approval. Owner and developer Living Greens Farms has retained Architects Tanek, Inc., Engineers Wenck Associates, and General Contractor Zeman Construction for the project, slated for a July 2016 start.

Broadway Flats
2505 West Broadway Ave.
A 103-unit residential apartment complex is being constructed on the NE corner of Broadway/Penn Ave. It is the largest apartment building under construction in North Minneapolis. The developer, Pinnacle Property Management, Inc., estimates a Fall 2016 completion for the $24 million project. Architects: ESG, Inc. General Contractor: Frana Companies, Inc.
The North Minneapolis Greenway Project

Amenity or unnecessary?

Compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe

Project at a glance

3 miles, North to South
Community bicycle advocates and the City of Minneapolis have been exploring the possibility of converting low-traffic, existing streets in North Minneapolis into a bicycle greenway since 2009. This month, the project will be brought to life permanently if a major permanent pilot route. Project officials maintain that the project will only be brought to life permanently if a majority of Northside residents want it.

Community Engagement
The project has been in a community engagement phase since 2012. In 2015, 17 community organizations received micro grants created exclusively for research and outreach. 13 received grants in 2014. So far, three community engagement reports (2012, 2013, 2014) have been released to the public on the City’s website. These reports indicate support for the Greenway amongst Northside residents. Preliminary data for engagement work done in 2015 will be available to the public by June 2016.

$621,915 has been spent so far
All but 3.2% has come from grant money, mostly from Blue Cross Blue Shield. $207,412 is being spent on the temporary demonstration route. The remaining has supported community engagement, feasibility studies, and route design proposals.

$15 Million is the cost to construct
No decisions have been made about permanent construction and funding has not been secured, but the City says that if the project were to move forward, it could be funded through the City’s Capital Improvement Process, through grant funds, or via the overall City budget.

How it compares
This project is unique in the context of the city and the country in that it converts existing streets into linear pathways with bike and pedestrian pathways. 18% of the City’s 221 bikeway miles are in North Minneapolis. This is roughly proportional to the four other sectors in Minneapolis, according to Matthew Dyrdahl, the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator.

What do your neighbors think about the Greenway?

The northwest part of the city has been sitting static and stagnant for far too long. The lack of investment has been devastating. South Minneapolis has already laid their [bike lane] paint on the ground. We’re still fighting for it. I think a full linear greenway would have the most beneficial impact in our neighborhoods. I need people who support the route to come to the meetings, to talk to their neighbors, to say, ‘I want this for my grandchildren.’

Alexis Pennie, Northside Greenway Council Chair

We already have a long, scenic bike space, less than a mile away from the proposed greenway, running parallel to it. There is simply no need for another one so close…especially as the goal seems to be for people outside of the area to use it for cycling. Why should the “convenience” of having a second bike feature for able-bodied people trump the convenience and need for people – especially the elderly and disabled – to have proper access to their own homes?

Marie Porter, lives along one of the previously proposed greenway routes

I think a greenway would make this a more attractive place to live. If it’s built, I’d like to see a program put in place that helps people who live along it to buy their homes. I’m hoping that having the greenway would make people more interested in buying their houses along it. You know those signs people have that say “We watch. We call.” That’s going to be all the more important when the greenway goes in. People are going to have to be more vigilant.

Deb Stearns, lives on the 3500 block of Irving Ave. N, on the currently proposed route

I’m an avid bike rider and having a designated place to ride your bike is nice. A little shoulder that you’re riding down the street on is not enough. It would be nice not to have to worry about being hit by a bus or car. I’m worried about crime. [People who live along the route will have to start] parking their cars on East/West Streets, and they won’t be visible in front of their houses. People are going to break in and steal stuff.

Michael Whitman, lives on the 3500 block of Irving Ave. N, on the currently proposed route

I’m 50/50 on the project. It’s nice to see new development here on the Northside – different stuff for different people to use. …I’m excited about having more green space to use, but I have the same concerns - parking and public safety - as people who live along the route.

Keela Hardge, a Camden resident who has been door-knocking for the greenway for the Jordan Area Community Council
The route

FULL PROPOSED ROUTE // 30 blocks

The North/South route has been developed based on resident engagement and feasibility studies. The northern section would go from Shingle Creek Trail to Plymouth Ave. N. It would primarily follow Humboldt and Irving Avenues N and connect Crystal Lake Cemetery, three schools, and four parks. The section south of Plymouth Ave. N will be determined after more community engagement and another feasibility study.

There are three pathway options; the current plan depicts a mixture of all three. Lara Pratt, Manager of the Minneapolis Healthy Living Initiative, says that no final decisions have been made. Alexis Pennie, Chair of the Northside Greenway Council, says that input from residents who live along the route will inform decision-making.

1. Lowest impact option
   Bike Boulevard Greenway: painted bike lanes on streets. Shared space between bikes and cars, but with traffic calming features.

2. Medium impact option
   Half & Half Greenway: bike trail runs separately alongside the street. Still accessible to cars, but on-street parking is restricted to one side.

3. Highest impact option
   Full Linear Park Greenway: bike path and green space only. No motorized traffic. Houses along route would lose front parking.

TEMPORARY PILOT ROUTE // 5 blocks

The pilot route will be constructed by June 10 and will have its grand opening on June 25. It will stretch for five blocks between Folwell and Jordan Parks on Irving Ave. N. It has been designed to assess how a Greenway would operate in this space and give residents a chance to feel the effects of it. It is planned to stay in place for a full year, to adequately understand year-round operational and maintenance needs, says Northside Greenway Council Chair, Alexis Pennie. He says the demonstration route area was selected because the majority of residents there have had a favorable opinion of the project. The City says that feedback will be collected during the demonstration and that real-time adjustments will be made. Though parking will be restricted in some spots, access for emergency and service vehicles will be maintained on every block.

BLOCK BY BLOCK:

3000-3100 Irving Ave N
Vehicle traffic will be reduced to one way towards Lowry. Half the street will be blocked off with cement barricades to create a separated southbound bike lane. Two parking bays will be created and will accommodate an existing disability parking space.

3200-3400 Irving Ave N
Will remain open to motor vehicles and parking, but traffic calming measures will be introduced. The 3200 block will dead end for motorized vehicles at Lowry.

3500 Irving Ave N
Will become closed to motorized traffic other than emergency vehicles. A bike lane will be painted down the street. Parking will not be allowed.

Get involved

Upcoming Greenway Events
June 7 | Assembly Party: Help assemble street furniture for the greenway. 5-8p.m. at Irving Ave. and Folwell Park. Dinner provided.
June 11 | Paint the Pavement: Paint the base layer of a series of street murals designed by Juxtaposition Arts. 10a.m.-12p.m. between 3000 and 3500 Irving Ave. N. Lunch provided.
June 25 | Grand Opening: Celebrate with family-friendly activities, music, paint the pavement, and food. Opportunities to give feedback will be available. 1-6p.m. between 3000 and 3500 Irving Ave. N.

Interested in volunteering? Contact vish.vasani@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3861.

Attend the monthly Northside Greenway Council Meeting. Typically the second Tuesday of the month at Folwell Park. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 14; 6-8p.m.

Apply to be a Neighborhood Connector: Individuals can apply on a monthly rolling basis to host community engagement activities and get reimbursed for them. Applications for July events are due June 10. Email ebony@metrostability.org or visit www.metrostability.org.

Follow associated groups on Facebook: North Minneapolis Greenway Project, Northside Greenway Council, Stop the North Minneapolis Greenway Project, Anti-North Minneapolis Greenway Project

Review project documents at the City’s website: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/northminneapolisgreenway

Criticism

There has been vocal opposition to the project. Concerns over parking inconveniences, public safety, project costs, and the effect of the project on home values along the route have been voiced in community meetings and online. Organizations have also been accused of not effectively engaging all potentially affected community members.

In 2015, John Yang, a University of Minnesota student, independently surveyed 20 Hmong families who live along the Irving Ave. route. His findings, featured in Camden News, showed that 75% of those families said they had never heard of the project, 64% said they wanted to keep their street “as-is.” These numbers contradicted those compiled by the City and the Greenway Council, which reported high levels of support for the project amongst residents who live along the route. A more recent study of Hmong and Lao community members, conducted by independent community organizations but funded by grant money for the project, has not yet been entirely analyzed. Early results, reported by Twin Cities Daily Planet, show that a majority of the Hmong and Lao respondents are in favor of a greenway.

City Council Member Blong Yang has been critical of the project’s community engagement work, particularly its engagement with Hmong community members. “We need to do a better job of talking to people directly. How hard is it to go to every house along the route and ask?” he said.

Lara Pratt, Manager of the Minneapolis Healthy Living Initiative, says that all of the houses on the temporary demonstration route have been door-knocked. All of the houses on the full route have not.

Northside Greenway Council Chair Alexis Pennie says that the community’s concerns are being taken into account, and that the route is being designed to mitigate potential negative effects from the project. Pratt says that the city acknowledges past shortcomings, specifically in regards to 2013 community outreach, which she said, “did not engage everyone.” Since then, she says the City has engaged a more representative sample of potentially affected community members.

Though the regular monthly community meeting about the project was canceled in May, Pratt says that it was done to dedicate more time to activities that would more effectively engage a larger population within the community. She says a mailing has gone out to all residents on the demonstration route and additional mailings are planned for the future. On May 14, representatives from the City, the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, and the Northside Greenway Council knocked on every door along the demonstration route and either spoke to residents or dropped off informational flyers.
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JUNE 17–OCT 7, 2016

We are celebrating our 6th season this summer! Thank you to our vendors and 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](http://westbroadwaymarket.org)

Thank you to our sponsors:

Appetite for Change, Center Point Energy, Hawthorne Neighborhood Council, Medica, NorthPoint, Hawthorne Neighborhood Council, Sanctuary Covenant Church

WBC | West Broadway Business and Area Coalition
**RESOURCES**

6/7 - Discover great ways to improve your health, stay safe, and help your loved ones do the same at this year’s Health and Safety Fair co-hosted by Hennepin County’s Workplace Safety and HealthWorks programs. 11am-1pm, Hennepin County Government Center, skyway level.

6/23 - Senior Surf Day from 1-4pm at Webber Park Library, 4203 Webber Parkway. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line®. Register online or call the Library at 612-543-6750.

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. Any existing businesses (with property owner’s approval) and/or commercial building owner whose building is 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 call 612-353-5178.

**ATLETIC**

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. T&Th, 6-7pm. Free childcare. Low-impact, high energy. More information: http://aerobicangela.weebly.com/

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, USA Football and the Minnesota Vikings are proud to announce the 16th annual Jeff Robinson/Minnesota Vikings Youth Skills Development Camp for youth ages 8-18. The four-day camp will run from 6/7-10 at Parade Stadium, 400 Kenwood Parkway. Admission is FREE. Registration is now open and closes 6/3 at 5pm. Space is limited. To register, call 612-230-6487 or visit https://www.minneapolisparks.org.

**EVENTS + ENTERTAINMENT**

5/28 & 5/29 - The Art of Dance Studio will host their 14th Annual Dance Recital at Park Center High School, 7300 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park, on 5/28 at 3pm and 5/29 at 5pm. Doors open one hour before show. Seating is reserved and tickets can be purchased at The Art of Dance Studio, 4024 Washington Ave. N. $18 for general seating and $20 for premium. Studio office hours are M-Th 5:30-9pm, and Sat. 9:15am-2pm. More information: 612-339-1128.

5/28 - The Capri Theater and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra present “Xplochoral” from 10am-12pm at the Capri, 207 W Broadway Ave. FREE. Sydney Forte will lead families and friends on a fast-paced and energetic musical journey geared toward kids ages 6-12.

6/1 - The Ethnic Dance Theatre will perform at Heritage Park Health and Wellness Center at 10:15am. These performances are specifically for residents of Feeny Manor and participants at Augustana Open Circle, which provides adult day services to the community.

6/2 - First Thursday Films @ the Capri presents 3 1/2 Minutes, Ten Bullets: The Jordan Davis Story. Discussion to follow documentary screening, 7-9pm. $5 tickets, 207 W Broadway Ave. More information: www.thecapritheater.com, 612-343-3390.

6/5 - The Catholic Community of St. Bridget in North Minneapolis will hold its annual summer Heart of the Northside Festival from 10:30am-4pm. Attractions include a $1,000 raffle, silent auction, brunch, snacks and treats, bingo, pull tabs, kids’ games, craft sale, and much more. Attend Mass at 9:30 and stay for the day. More information: www.stbridgetnorthside.org.

6/8 - The Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project is bringing the Javier Santiago Trio to Commons Park, 1801 James Avenue N. 3-6pm. Free and open to the public. More information: www.twincitiesmobilejazzproject.org.

6/10 - Turning Point Inc., 1500 Golden Valley Rd., a culturally specific, nonprofit agency that provides Chemical Health Services, Housing, and Culturally Specific Support Services and training, is celebrating its 40th anniversary of operations in June. They’ll host a public celebration at the Commons Hotel on the U of M Campus, 615 Washington Ave. SE on 6/10 at 5:30pm. It is a fundraiser to create a computer lab for the program participants to use for job and house searching, resume building and more.

6/14 - The first of three, free “Live on the Drive” public music performances, at 34th Ave. N and Victory Memorial Parkway. Live music and food vendors are followed by a movie at dusk. Jazz performer, Rio Nido, will perform from 6-8pm.

6/14 - Hennepin County Library Minneapolis Parks and Recreation, and Project for Pride in Living present Camden Summer Kickoff, an event for children, 1-4pm at Webber Park Community Building, 4400 Dupont Ave. N. Sign up for programs throughout the summer, and enjoy a magic show, a bounce house, tightrope walking, music, face painting, and more. Bring the whole family.

6/18 - The 30th annual Twin Cities Juneteenth Celebration takes place this weekend. The largest African American cultural celebration in the region, Juneteenth hosts a variety of events which highlight history and achievement. Music, family-friendly activities, and more will take place 6/18 at North Mississippi Regional Park, 514 North Mississippi Drive. More information: www.juneteenthminnesota.org, 612-238-3733.


6/28 - Act Out for Kids, a storytelling event, will be held at Webber Park Community Building, 4400 Dupont Ave. N. 2-3:30pm. Explore ways to create a story. Using fairy tales and simple acting games, participants will be led by an experienced Guthrie teaching artist to create their own tales. Register online or call the library at 612-543-6750. For children entering grades 1-2.

**CLASSIFIEDS & WORSHIP DIRECTORY**

**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
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 am.
Interim Pastor: Hollie Holt-Woelch
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
Pastor Dale Halme
www.stolaflutheran.org and on Facebook
We are LGBT affirming.
Diversity thrives here!

Join our worship directory!
Email: okeefek@puc-mn.org
Call: 651-245-2647

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**RATES**

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

Want to get North News on your doorstep each month?

Free home delivery for all Northside residents begins June 2016. Non-residents can subscribe for $30/year. Anyone can support the paper by donating at www.puc-mn.org/donate.

The University of Minnesota is looking for African American cigarette smokers who are interested in quitting smoking.

This study requires 12 visits. Participants will receive up to $390.

For more information, call 612-626-5981.
Saturdays in June - Family Storytime, Webber Park Library, 11 a.m. For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

EDUCATION
6/9 - The Turnquist Child Enrichment Center is pleased to host a graduation party for students who are enrolled in the Turnquist program and who are graduating from high school in June 2016. The party will be held from 2:15-3:30pm at A Chance to Grow, 1800 2nd Street NE. Students are asked to RSVP by 6/1. There will be food, refreshments, games, prizes and activities to entertain and delight the graduates and their families. Transportation to and from the party will be provided by the Turnquist Center. Graduating students' family members are welcome.

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, you can choose the day and time slot. Stop by the school at 5025 Bryant Ave. N. Sign-ups must take place in person. Training will take place in August.

Ed Graft has been named the new superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools, pending contract negotiations. The school board chose him in a 6-3 vote. Graft is the current Superintendent of the Anchorage School District in Anchorage, AK, where he's been for three years. He is expected to begin his new job in July. Brenda Cassellius, Ed.D., current MN State Commissioner of Education, was the other finalist in the search process, which took 16 months.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION
5/31 - Join Oak Park Center and The Autism Society of Minnesota for “All About Autism,” dinner and informational training from 5-7:30pm at Oak Park Center, 1701 Oak Park Ave. N. Discussion will include time for questions about children diagnosed with autism.

6/1 - In collaboration with FBI Community Engagement, Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave. N) presents “Social Media and Internet Safety for Parents and Families,” from 5-7:30pm. Discussion topics will include inappropriate content, online privacy, sexting, online sexual solicitation, and cyberbullying.

6/6 - The Lind-Bohanan Neighborhood Association will host a special meeting to present the ArtSpace Feasibility Report on the historic buildings at 4400 Lyndale Ave. N. 6-30pm at Webber Park Community Center, 4300 Webber Parkway. Open to the public.

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT
6/2 - 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 entrepreneurs and incubator members over wine and refreshments. For a full list of NEON events: www.neon-mn.org/events.

6/18 - Northside Economic Opportunity Network’s (NEON) Business Incubator, 1007 W Broadway Ave., will host a workshop for beginning entrepreneurs called “Thinking about Business” from 9am-12pm. It will touch on things to consider before going into business as well as assist attendees with building an Action Plan for being business owners. More information and RSVP: http://neon-mn.org/NEON-workshops-and-classes/4509032638.

ACTION
Historic items from the City Hall and Courthouse building are sought by the Municipal Building Commission. They’re looking for photos, documents, maps, drawings, furniture, architectural pieces and other items related to the City Hall and Courthouse building. The effort is part of the 125th anniversary of the ceremonial start of the building’s construction. Anyone who has items to donate can email a description and/or a photo to archives@minneapolismn.gov. Staff will determine whether or not the item can be accepted. On 6/23, staff will assess items in person 10am-2pm in the rotunda of the City Hall and Courthouse building, 350 S. Fifth St.

Asian Media Access is looking to host a series of Storybird Experimental Workshops to support the limited English proficiency communities, to utilize diverse ways of story-telling to share their perspectives. They will host workshops in Dakota, Hmong, Somali and Spanish languages. They are looking for partners who can support the recruiting process, as well as the LEP families. If interested, please contact Chou Xiong at chou.xiong@amaccess.org.

EMERGE Community Development is seeking landlords willing to give a second chance to their clients with criminal backgrounds. All are in some stage of being employed or gaining employment and are dedicated to turning their lives around. EMERGE will maintain a constant relationship with tenant and landlord while tenant is renting. EMERGE will also pay for client’s first month’s rent and security deposit. If interested, email or call Katie Stever at steverk@emerge-mn.org, 612-788-3775.

May was National Foster Care month, and Hennepin County is thanking the nearly 500 foster parents who care for children throughout the county. With the help of licenses and training, they are helping our children succeed.

The next regular foster care information session is 6/13, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Hennepin County Library – Ridgedale, 12901 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka.

The City wants to urge all Minneapolis property owners, residents, businesses, institutions and neighborhoods to protect the dwindling local bee population. That means avoiding pesticides that poison bees and butterflies, whether by applying pesticides or planting flowering plants that had been treated before purchase. It also means landscaping or gardening with the kinds of plants that nourish them. More information: www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees.

Boom Island Brewing Company is pleased to announce the return of its Belgian-style Homebrewing Competition as a part of the annual Boom Days festival in July. Participants must submit Belgian-style beer to qualify and a $7 entry fee applies per entry. All those participating must be Minnesota residents. Registration is currently open and will close on 7/10 at 5pm. Entries can be submitted to either Northern Brewer or Boom Island Brewing Company at 2014 Washington Ave. N. The Grand Prize for Best of Show will be the opportunity for the brewer to brew the winning beer on Boom Island Brewing’s 15 barrel Belgian-modeled system and have it featured in the Boom Island taproom.

PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
Preservation Award partners Preserve Minneapolis, AIA Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission announced the recipients of 2016 Annual Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Awards. Northside resident Will Lumpkins and Brian Finstad each received an award for Grassroots Advocacy and Education.

SPRING AHEAD TO SAVINGS!

GUNS IN THE HANDS OF ARTISTS EXHIBITION
Free & Open to the Public June 3, 2016 - June 19, 2016 Tue., Wed., Fri., and Sat. Public Functionary 1400 12th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 For more information visit: www.puc-mn.org/guns-hands-artists

Guns in the Hands of Artists is an art exhibit, whereby decommissioned guns were taken off the streets of New Orleans and distributed to artists to use as the raw materials in creating works of art. Art as the language for dialogue.

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) 360-0666 Offer Expires 6-30-16

15% OFF SENIOR DISCOUNT With coupon. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Not good on stump-only jobs. (763) 360-0666 Offer Expires 6-30-16

Cora McCorvey will retire after 25 years as Executive Director of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA).

The Minneapolis Board of Education congratulates Interim Superintendent Michael Goar on his selection as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities.

Lauren Martin, director of research for the Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center has received the 2016 University of Minnesota President’s Community-Engaged Scholar Award.

ACADEMIC
Graduations
University of Minnesota, Marikato
Ashley Cato (55430), BS, Anthropology
Shadrach McCauley (55412), BS, Construction Management
Stephen Shepherd (55411), SPEC, Educational Leadership
Paris Smith (55412), BS, Automotive Engineering Tech
Matthew Ward (55430), MA, Sport Management
Ryan Zenanko (55412), BS, Biol: Microbiology

Spring 2016 Dean’s Lists
St. Cloud State University
PaNa Yang (55430)
Larsa Yang (55430)
Vanessa Tu (55430)
Christina Zimmerman (55412)
Living with loss

Nicole Parker-Mack (right) and her sister, Nakeisha Parker lost their brother to gun violence on the Northside. Two years later, Nicole’s partner was murdered.

This issue, she talks to North News about losing the people she loves and her sense of safety in the place she calls home.

You’ve experienced incredible loss on the Northside. Will you tell us about some of the things that have happened to you? My brother, Kyle Parker, was murdered in 2009. He was 19 years old. He was shot in front of my mother’s home. I was there in the aftermath. Someone is in jail for it now. I have three kids, all boys - 15, 7 and eight-months old.

In 2011, my older two sons’ dad, Quincy Blue, went missing. He was discovered by a three-year-old kid in Saint Paul, burned and murdered. The case was inconclusive, and we still don’t have answers. Quincy was an amazing person. To know him was to love him. He was in college; he took care of his family. He had no enemies. His death taught me that no one is safe.

How have you coped with those losses? I don’t know how I dealt with those deaths, I just did. My kids and my family have gotten me through. I still struggle. Our community isn’t that big, and each time someone else gets murdered it either directly or indirectly affects me. If I don’t personally know the person, I know someone who loved them. We keep losing people, and every time someone dies, it takes me back to my own losses. The same people who consoled me are now coming to me to be consoled. When I hear about a death, my first thought is, ‘Please, God, don’t take no one else from me.’

How have you seen North and its violence change over the years? Coming up in North I took pride in this place. You used to have time to heal. Now you don’t have time for a funeral before some other mother or sister is crying. I know this pain, and I wouldn’t wish it on my worst enemies. I want the Northside back. I live outside North right now, but I love the Northside, and I want to move back. But I have boys, and I can’t raise them here.

How do you talk to your sons about violence? I don’t ever want to feel what my mom has felt, losing her son. It’s the one thing I don’t think I could come back from. When Quincy died, I felt like I stood alone. Now these deaths are like a norm. Every couple of months there’s another fatherless child. I have a niece who is seven years old like my son, and they can relate. They’ve both lost their dads to this. Two seven-year-olds should not have to have these conversations with each other. My older son is not naïve, but he knows he doesn’t want to be a part of that street life. He is in high school at DeLaSalle, and he lives at that school, playing basketball. He knows that there are better things than running the streets. I have worked hard to show him that.

How have you taught him that? I knew from the time that I had a son that the street life couldn’t be a part of him. Growing up in North, I have seen classmates and cousins and family that chose that life. I don’t want it for my kids, and their dad did not want it for them. You cannot let up. You have to stop it before it starts and not ignore the warning signs. I know a lot of kids who had great parents who just had to work - single mothers who have had to choose between providing for their kids and saving them from the streets. They should not have to make that choice. They’ve had to work so hard for their kids that they’ve lost sight of them.

Is there anything that city or community leaders could do to help solve this problem? There is no quick fix to this. You can’t keep a fire lit without gasoline. Our leaders are doing what is within their power to do. I know for sure that The Reverend Jerry MacAfee and MAD DADS have prevented a lot in these streets, but they can’t stop it all. We need more people like them. If you see your brother, or cousin, or whoever getting mixed up in this, you must breathe life into them. You let them know that there’s more out there for them than what they see in their tunnel vision. You tell them about people who get out of this life. You make them want that for themselves or at least their kids. It’s going to be hard work. It takes a village, and we have to change our village.

Is there hope for the Northside? Can the violence stop and can people heal? There’s always hope, but change will not happen overnight. We can march and talk all we want, but we are reaching the people who do not need to hear it. Those people that are hurting because their friend is going to be on the next t-shirt? They are not thinking about marching or giving speeches. They’re thinking about hurting people. Hurt people hurt people. They’re going to keep doing it until the opportunity for them to hurt is taken away. It feels like law enforcement is watching us kill ourselves. They know for a fact who is doing what, and they have the opportunity to pick people up, but then they let them back out. I have this big superwoman power in me. I feel like God has put me in this position to help in some way. I feel like I gotta solve this. If I’m not a part of the solution, I’m part of the problem. I have people coming to me with questions, and I don’t know the answers. I need to figure them out, but I’m not superwoman. I’m a girl who is lost.

May 26, 2016 • North News • 13

Photo and compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe
Congratulations, Northside graduates!

**North Community High School**

Abdullahi Abdi  
Saadiya Abdiqadir  
Promise Addy  
Danzile Alexander  
Nyreh Anderson  
Simone Arch  
Sergio Arredondo-Payan  
Kathryn Blesi  
Dominique Boyd  
Sierra Brenke  
Teagan Brodgon  
Je’nee Brown  
Markest Brown  
Candice Buckingham  
Maverik Cain  
Cyree Campbell  
Padra Chang  
Pajoua Chang  
DuVall Chargingwinds  
Andrew Clifton  
Rayshon Cole  
Grissell Cruz-Garcia  
Monet Datari  
Akayila Davis  
Alvris Davis  
Wilmarie De La Cruz Mejia  
Nicholas Diaz  
Tyler Dillard  
Cory Dixon  
Davonh Dixon  
Kenna Douglas  
Demetress Edwards-Brown  
Tyler Elavsky  
Sigfried Ellis  
David Ennest  
Nelson Espinoza  
Dallas Fields  
Gem Fields  
Darrius Franklin  
Terrance Frelix  
Danaja Gordon  
Andre Griffin  
Shoua Hag  
Pachi Hang  
Marquel Hardy  
Sequiona Harris  
Samira Hassan  
Daveed Her  
Eileen Her  
Mai Her  
Miakhang Her  
Haydia Hill  
Blake Hoffman  
Charlisha Hollis  
Jordan Holmes  
London Holmes  
Tyee Howze  
Grace Hubbard  
Acie Huggins  
Rico Huntley  
Agustin Iguanero-Hernandez  
Brittany Jackson  
Demajay Jackson  
Julian Jackson  
Randolph Jackson  
Sylvonna Jackson  
Christian James  
Jovanna Jefferson  
Nicolas Johnson  
Ja’shaya Jones  
Dominique Kennedy  
Nicholas Kester  
Niara Keyes  
Mai Der Khang  
Tong Khang  
Calvin Kue  
Sydney Langford  
Kong Lao  
Cindy Lee  
Hlee Lee  
Kelsey Lee  
Southam Lee  
Sylvia Lee  
Teng Lee  
Tirell Lee  
Yengsoua Lee  
Diamond Lloyd  
Ashton Lofton  
Kristy Lor  
Zong Dua Lor  
Edward Lucas  
Markel Mays  
Darielle Mccullough  
Pria McGee-Shinnick  
Devon McKinney  
Tamia McLaughlin  
Saria Morae  
Nyijaah Monn  
Austin Moore  
Destinee Moore  
Josue Morales  
Patrick Moomant  
Ethan Morris  
Antonio Morrow-Edgeworth  
Ken-G Moua  
Madonna Moua  
Pa Yang Moua  
Selena Moua  
Selena Moua  
Charles Newsom  
Reagan Nudell  
Talani Parrett  
Stephen Patton  
Anthony Perez  
Selena Philaphandeth  
Marlo Phillips  
Liliana Pozos  
King Raphaelmy  
Grace Rheamne  
Iyahasah Robinson  
Josslene Stefan Rochac  
Cabezas  
Elber Rodriguez  
Alexander Roelofs  
Christopher Roelofs  
Joseph Rouen  
Ayanna Sandars  
Justin Schaus  
Marissa Scott  
Christian Seriram  
Gabriel Simms  
Desire’ Skinner  
Isaiah Skinn  
Demorris Smith  
Myeesa Smith  
Arianna Smoik  
Lillian Strickler  
Peyton Strong  
Mary Sysomvong  
Devyn Taylor-Allen  
Kayla Tchida  
King Thao  
Mai Thao  
Melinda Thao  
Nkaijuai Thao  
Pahhuu Thao  
Peter Thao  
Shoua Thao  
Yeng Thao  
Yer Thao  
Tamara Thomas  
Xochiti Tlaacea  
Fransisco Trujillo Perez  
Akia Yang  
Christian Vang  
Christian Vang  
Christian Vang  
Douachee Vang  
Gauhsheng Vang  
Kao Vang  
Kevin Vang  
Kitana Vang  
Nha Tou Bee Vang  
Nuche Vang  
Richer Vang  
See Cha Vang  
Shanobi Vang  
Silver Vang  
Zoua Vang  
Samaris Verdi  
Sonnie Vongxay  
Aminah Vortice  
Austin Vune  
Khmong Vung  
Maria Chai Vung  
Padee Vung  
Peter Vune  
Va Vung  
Yang Mee Vung  
Teshauan Wade  
Andrew Walker  
Jonathan Wang  
Brianna Watson  
Braylon Wheat  
Anais Williams  
Savion Williams  
Brandy Windom  
Marka Wren  
Cheemeng Xiong  
Hnia Xiong  
Isaiah Xiong  
Mary Xiong  
Nou Xiong  
Pamee Xiong  
Tou Bee Xiong  
Wang Na Xiong  
Anisa Yang  
Arlan Yang  
Brian Yang  
Jeri Yang  
Mary Yang  
Peter Yang  
Phamixue Yang  
Samantha Yang  
Steven Yang  
Sunny Yang  
Tou Yang  
Tsua Yang  
Va Yang  
Yeng Poua Yang  
Christine Yee  
Devon Young  
Anthony Zuehlke  

**Patrick Henry High School**

Faith Barron  
Breanna Baylis  
Aliyah Boatman  
T’aire Bronson  
Deandre Clark  
Antwan Cobble  
Daviyana Davis  
Patrick Dembly  
Donyae Dillon  
Toni Dollerson  
Martease Dorsett  
Clara Dunwald  
Taissa Duperval  
Cely Estrada  
Daynesha Ewing  
Lanayahah Farkarlun  
Kelvin Gaskin  
Keyonna Green  
Tykaja Hall  
Naashar Hubbard  
Suhyah Ibrahim  
Maryam Ismael  
Daz/Shanay Jackson  
Nietta Jackson  
Shadesha Jackson  
LeQuent Jamison-Travis  
Domenic Johnson  
Randerika Johnson  
Tyler Johnson  
Jedidiah Jones  
Oshea Keys  
De’Aysha King  
Iyanna King-Miller  
Kamau Larry  
Jamaa Lewis  
Sakyyah Lewis  
Cherelle Lucas  
Charles Ly  
Ke’von Mathis  
Isaiah Matthews  
Shirley McDowell  
Aaron Mcclurin  
Abraham Mhlanga  
Bre’Anna Nelson  
Kamai Patterson  
Jasiah Puckett  
Kori Randle  
Mary Rodriguez Jimenez  
Kendle Taylor  
Mercedes Thomas  
Dawnia Townsend  
Angel Vang  
Za Vang  
Eko Walker  
Heaven Wesley  
Hanna Whitfield  
Ant’Nesha Williams  
Enrico Williams  
Ma’Taeah Williams  
AC Wilson  

**Plymouth Christian Youth Center Arts & Tech High School**

Talon Benavides  
Khaazmine Berry  
Ashley Brown  
Jamilla Burnett  
Tou Chang  
Jonathan Chue  
Martice Clark  
Deja Cole  
Cierra Collins  
Antoine Daniels, Jr.  
T’Nayia Davis  
Alvontae Dillard-Turner  
Kelly Do  
Cortez Duckett  
Carlos Espinoza  
Elizabeth Eubanks  
Leann Exum  
Eodos Gibson III  
Briian Guillen-Barrera  
De’Monta Harris  
Ilhan Hashi  
Darsherria Hatcher  
Pachi Her  
Lupita Hernandez-Hernandez  
Yesenia Johnson  
Cleotha Jones  
David Kensey  
Lanick Knight  
Ching Kue  
Dariel Lipscomb  
Andrew Sayek  
Christian Seriram  
Mary Xiong  
Hnia Xiong  
Tou Xiong  
Nou Xiong  

**Minnesota Internship Center**

Faith Curtis  
Tamarra-Queen Ervin  
Tierra Evans  
Essence Jasper  
Jasmine Pinedegayoshy  
Nikita Richardson  
Tracy Thomas  
Deon Walker  
Kiara Cochran  
Kynesthesia Johnson  
Shakaria McCauley  
Sadie Teipaul  
Brittany Hagan  
Ivy Braxton-Battle  
Tatum Cottrell  
MilKayshia Horton  
Shaquan Martin  
Kamila Milburn  
Nahauanta Smith  
Deandre Willis  
Lakia Winborn  
Ronicka Butler  
Kasha Pgae  

**Minneapolis College Prep**

Shamsu Hassan Adow  
Jennifer Alvarado-Gomez  
Ubah Abdullahi Bashir  
Andrew Jahvon Brooks  
Alam Campis-Maceda  
Kendra Tierra Carroll  
Sarah Chebli  
Fraz Cuveas-Pizano  
Taleia Ayanna Curry  
Alan Dominguez-Medina  
Victor Gadea-Solorzano  
Indra Gonzalez-Gomez  
Josh Patrick  
Hibaa Roa  
Lisbeth Petra Saldaña Sanchez  
Mario Alberto Saldaña Galazar  
Stacy Saldaña Medina  
Azaree McIay Smith  
Chi Yang  
Ka Youa Yang  

Only graduates from schools specifically located in North Minneapolis are included in this list, but North News congratulates all high school graduates with ties to the Northside.
The Valedictorians

North News spoke with the top performing students at North High and Patrick Henry about their drives to succeed.

Compiled by Kenzie O’Keefe

Za Vang // North High
Age: 18, GPA: 3.94

Tell us more about you. I was born in Thailand and my family moved to the US in 2008. Since then I have been living in North Minneapolis. I live really close to the school. I like to play tennis. I bike to school and pretty much everywhere I can go. I like to read a lot, especially manga. I like to fix computers and research things on them. I’d say math is my favorite subject in school.

Tell us about a high school accomplishment you are particularly proud of. The robotics team. We won the creative award at a big competition our first year with only a few students. We worked for countless hours and stayed at the school so late. Sharing that feeling and connection with other students was fun and meaningful.

What is your favorite thing about your school? The teachers. They’re all awesome and have a similar supportive style. When I wanted to go farther into my work and research, they were always willing to help and accommodate my needs. I could have gone to school at North or Patrick Henry. I picked North because all my friends are at Patrick Henry, and I wanted a new culture and new experiences. I’ve realized that the students at North really do care about me. They express their support. There’s a family bond here.

What are your plans after graduation? I’m either going to do a Step Up internship this summer or a summer program at St. Thomas that would let me sleep in the dorms and get four college credits in theology. In the fall I’ll be going to the University of St. Thomas. I’m deciding between a Mechanical Engineering, Actuarial Science, or Computer Science major. I chose St. Thomas because I got good financial aid. I got a scholarship that covers my whole tuition. I will start college with around 20 credits because I’ve been doing PSEO this year.

Plan to pursue a degree at St. Thomas University in St. Paul

Andrew Clifton // Patrick Henry
Age: 18, GPA: 3.996

Tell us more about you. I live in Jordan, and I have been in North all my life. I like running. I’ve been on the track, cross country, and Nordic ski teams at Patrick Henry. I like art, drawing especially. My dad actually went to art school, and he works in construction now. I have worked a lot with him, and that is one of the reasons I have an interest in art and architecture. Math and art are my favorite subjects. I recently won the “Tracy Award” through the Minneapolis Public School Art show for one of my artworks and earned the Minneapolis Public School’s Senior Leadership Award under the genre of “Arts and Innovation.”

Tell us about a high school accomplishment that you’re particularly proud of. I am a Boy Scout, and I achieved Eagle Scout last summer. I did my Eagle project here, building picnic tables and benches within the courtyard at Patrick Henry. Being an Eagle Scout means you have to have higher standards. People expect more out of you in terms of community involvement and leadership.

Plan to study architecture at Rice University in Texas

What keeps you motivated to excel? It goes back to my parents. Thailand was a really different place. I did not go to school after I finished grade school because my parents didn’t have enough money. In the US, I’ve gotten to go to school for free. It is a great opportunity. As my parents remind me, they have sacrificed a lot to make this possible for me. It would be wrong and disrespectful for me not to take this opportunity and make the most of it. Whenever I feel down or not wanting to do my homework, I think about that, and it motivates me.

What keeps you motivated to excel? That’s something I ask myself a lot too. I think I just enjoy school, the learning. There is no point to not doing your best.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I am pretty uncertain about where I will be. I will probably go for a Master’s Degree in Architecture if I still know for certain that it is what I want to do. I could see myself working in Minneapolis in residential or larger scale architecture. I’d like to do something impactful. You can use architecture as a tool to help communities grow. I’d like to improve communities like North Minneapolis.

Who or what has enabled you to be so successful as a high school student? My own work ethic – it feels mostly innate. My family too. My dad works in construction. He started his own business, a residential remodel company, shortly after I was born. I grew up with that company. My mom has been a key figure in my growth too. She was always there. My brother inspires me too. When he was 13 or 14, he decided he wanted to run a marathon. He would run around our block in the winter and was running 70 miles a week. He ran Grandma’s Marathon in Duluth and actually still holds the record for his age group in that race. That got my whole family into running marathons. I have run a half marathon.

What are your plans after graduation? This summer I’ll be working at Adventure Camp at Theodore Wirth Park, through [The] Loppet [Foundation]. It is a 6-week camp for younger kids for mountain biking, running, and canoeing. In the fall, I will go to Rice University in Texas to study architecture. Being far away will definitely be a good experience. I feel like I’m going to start a new life.

Do you have a favorite building in the Twin Cities? The new Viking’s Stadium is pretty cool, and I like Juxtaposition Arts here in North. Their art makes North more welcoming.

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