WHO’S BEST FOR STUDENTS?

Felder and Caprini vie for the District 2 School Board seat. North High journalists interview both as part of our guide to your November 8 ballot.

INSIDE:

Local playwrights explore secret family life Page 16

Before, During, and After: Homewood Studios residents’ show Page 18
Letter from the Editor

Hello! Fall is here, which means elections are near. In this issue, *North News* has you covered for November 8 – with candidate overviews and explanations of the proposed constitutional amendment and school board referendum. Flip to Page 9 for our guide to your North Minneapolis ballots. *North News* has not and will not endorse any candidates this time around, but in the future, when our community advisory board is in place, we may consider doing so.

Thanks in part to a generous grant from the John and Denise Graves Foundation, we were able to explore the race for the District 2 School Board seat in more depth. Our student journalists at North High (pictured to the right) interviewed Kerry Jo Felder and Kimberly Caprini (on the cover) and shared their reactions (Page 12).

We have one more issue out before election day, so if there is more in-depth, elections-related coverage you would like to see before then, let us know.

In other news, we bring you three North Neighbors interviews this issue - with the folks at Homewood Studios, the owner of the newly remodeled commercial building on Lowry Avenue, and a North High graduate who is now a successful playwright. Mark Peterson tells you all about the nearly 60 million dollar NorthPoint expansion on Page 5, and we bring you the latest on the contentious North Minneapolis Greenway demonstration project.

Enjoy this issue, and as always, do not hesitate to reach out if you have comments, criticism, or other contributions.

Until next time,

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, *North News*
okeefek@puc-mn.org

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Letter to the editor

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The opinion below belongs to the letter writer. It is not indicative of a *North News* endorsement of Kimberly Caprini.]

I am supporting Kimberly Caprini for District 2 Minneapolis Public Schools Board Member because she is family. I taught with her mother, a fellow Minneapolis Public Schools teacher over thirty years ago and later worked for decades with her sister, a social worker, and still another sister who coached basketball—all Minneapolis Public Schools staff. Kimberly was born and raised in a large, loving, North Side family.

I first met Kimberly several years ago in her role as a member for the Camden Business Association. At the time I was working to develop and extend relationships of Henry High School into the business community. Kimberly was especially helpful in that outreach effort. When she enrolled her oldest child at Henry, Kimberly immediately became involved in school activities including Site Council. As a new parent to Henry, Kimberly founded a dynamic parent involvement organization. Kimberly was a consistent spectator at her daughter’s school activities and soon attended nearly all Henry activities, even those that her daughter was not a member. Kimberly sees all Henry students, and all North Side students as her children and is a tireless supporter of their accomplishments.

Though I am not a blood relative of Kimberly, I do feel that I am related to her by a common love of the children and the Minneapolis Public Schools that they attend on the North Side. Kimberly has a passion for making those schools great, like the children and families that they serve, and deserve. After all these years of service, Kimberly is the rare public servant who can harness righteous anger with humility, and lifelong relationships to get the job done for families on the North Side. As a small businesswoman Kimberly can bring the Minneapolis Public Schools a much needed customer service philosophy along with the moxie to help the Board of Education work with a bottom line budget that makes the best of financial resources.

On Tuesday, November 8, please vote Kimberly Caprini for District 2 of the Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Education. Thank you for your time and support.

Tom Murray, Retired Minneapolis Public Schools Teacher and Current Volunteer at Patrick Henry High School

*North News* welcomes letters to the editor as long as they are relevant to life in North Minneapolis. Unsigned letters will not be run. Send to okeefek@puc-mn.org.
A powerful “no” to the Greenway

On Monday September 19, the Folwell Neighborhood Association (FNA) passed a resolution requesting “the immediate removal of the demonstration greenway from the Folwell Neighborhood.”

Four of the five blocks that make up the demonstration are in Folwell – from 32nd Ave North to 36th Avenue North on Irving Avenue. Though the resolution has not resulted in any immediate changes to the Greenway, FNA Executive Director Roberta Englund says that it has been passed along to the City Council and the Health Department. “It will find its way to others who can affect resolution and response,” Englund said in a Facebook post on September 20.

Neighborhood response to FNA’s resolution has been polarized. Those who support the Greenway have criticized FNA for neglecting their opinions in the decision. Those opposed to the Greenway are celebrating the official request as a victory.

Read more on Page 7.

Story & photo by Kenzie O’Keefe

Absentee Voting

Early voting (absentee voting) began September 23. Any voter may choose to vote early. Standard hours throughout the absentee voting period are 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday. During the final two weeks before the election, these hours will be extended and include weekend times. All early voting hours are posted on the website (vote.minneapolismn.gov). Sample ballots available at: vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/ballot. Contact Minneapolis 311 weekdays 7am-7pm for election and other city information. Find North News’ guide to local elections on Page 9.

Shots near schools cause concern

Two recent incidents of gunfire near schools led local leaders to call a press conference outside Sojourner Truth Academy on September 8. The day before a stray bullet entered a window at the school. Two weeks prior, a shooting occurred outside of Lucy Craft Laney Community School during an open house event. The fact that no one was injured in either incident brought little relief to community members.

At the press conference, several speakers, including Larry A. McKenzie, Julie Guy (Executive Director of Sojourner Truth), Lisa Clemons, Larry Tucker, Eric Mahmoud, Linda Koelman, Spike Moss, a student at Sojourner Truth, and other community leaders, implored audience members to do their part in keeping the community’s children safe.

“We say that the safest place for our kids is schools. Well, we can no longer say that, and that is totally unacceptable. ...Right now we are a community in crisis. ...We’re losing babies, we’re losing elders, and we must come together around finding some solutions,” said McKenzie. Story & photo by Kenzie O’Keefe

DV Awareness Month

October marks National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you or someone you know has suffered from domestic violence, local resources can help. The OASIS of Love Crisis Intervention Program offers many activities, information and support for victims (agapeoasis.com or call 612-529-6055). Additionally, a batterer intervention and abuse accountability 15-week group, IN HIM, is accepting referrals through October 3rd. Those interested can call Dr. Wilma McKinnies 612-529-6055.

New Rules on Lowry Avenue

New life is being breathed into a commercial building at 2015 Lowry Ave. N. For the past year, Christopher Webley, a textile engineer from North Carolina, has been quietly turning the building into a creative co-working and event space. He’ll be offering housing for resident artists on site, and eventually he hopes to open a restaurant inside.

“This is it. I’m setting up shop on the Northside, and I’m going to see what happens,” said Webley.

The business, called “New Rules” will officially open on October 15. Community members are invited to an open house on that day from 1-4pm.

New Rules is Webley’s third commercial development project. Prior to his development, the building at 2015 Lowry Ave. N sat vacant for several years. He hired an archivist to look into the history of the space and says that it was originally a grocery store and has housed a pub, a radio station, a hair and wig spot, and a laundromat.

Read more about Webley and his plans for the space on Page 17.

Story & photo by Kenzie O’Keefe

Inside our “O”

Kris Treuting’s Art of Healing art piece

Treuting, a gourd and book artist, is one of the eight resident artists at Homewood Studios at 2400 Plymouth Ave. N. This piece and more are on display at the fifth annual Homewood Studios residents’ show.

The theme of the show is Before, During, and After, and it highlights the whole process of art-making, not just the finished products. Treuting’s gourd, for example, was not intentionally cracked. She completed what she thought was a finished work until the unexpected crack led her down a path of reconsideration and reworking.

Read more about Treuting and the residents’ show at Homewood Studios on Page 18.
First Open Streets West Broadway is a success

7,000 people attended the first Open Streets event on West Broadway Avenue on September 10. The avenue was closed to motorized traffic, and vendors and representatives from local organizations and community members gathered for food, music, art, and other entertainment. The North Minneapolis Open Streets event was previously held on Lowry Avenue. “It felt like a celebration of the Northside; it felt like owning our neighborhood,” said Farrington Llewellyn, co-coordinator of this year’s event.

Photos by Nikki McComb, Mark Peterson, and Kenzie O’Keefe.

Let’s Talk!

What?
Please come join us for a series of conversations as we engage with elected officials regarding our housing concerns and aspirations in North Minneapolis.

Where?
Minneapolis Urban League
2100 Plymouth Ave N Minneapolis

When?
5:30PM-7:30PM

October 20th, November 17th, 2016

*Food and Childcare will be provided

Please Contact Ethrophic Burnett @ (651) 352-9030 or ethrophicb@urbanhomeworks.org with your RSVP and any questions regarding our event.
$67 million dollar expansion for NorthPoint campus

By Mark Peterson | Contributor

Hennepin County is taking its NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center to a new level in both size and services. North Minneapolis’ largest medical facility will be getting even larger with a planned $67 million expansion of its current facility at Penn and Plymouth Avenues.

Before that happens, the intersection, with its two long-dormant empty corners, will get the new headquarters for Thor Construction, part of a $30 million retail and office development on the Southeast quadrant.

NorthPoint will add a 100,000 square feet of space with its additions while expanding the campus south to Plymouth Ave. Part of the current complex will be demolished to make room for the new construction. A land exchange with Estes Funeral Chapel and purchase of its current building will give Hennepin County the northwest corner. Estes will move its business operations to a new building to be built on the southwest corner.

Because of the need for patient parking close to NorthPoint, County Senior Facility Planner Rebekah Padilla said construction won’t start until Thor completes building its own parking ramp, which will have 420 dedicated spaces for the center.

Bill Hickey, Collaborative Design Group’s principal architect for the project, said the project is in the predesign phase, and noted “It will all be one complex when complete, but the new construction may take place in multiple phases to allow the existing facility to stay in operation during the work.”

NorthPoint CEO Stella Whitney-West said “As we move our model for care to a multi-disciplinary, team-based approach, we will need larger consultation and conference rooms. Experience tells us to prepare for continued growth. We have seen a 67% increase in patient encounters and a 30% increase in patients treated. The Affordable Care Act has contributed to the greater demand for services – when people are insured, they make more health care visits.”

The project is expected to be completed in late 2019 or early 2020. The expansion should provide 120 construction jobs and 100 additional staff.

Save the Dates!
October 4th, 5th, and 6th 2016

FREE Cervical and Breast Cancer Screenings for women ages 40 to 64 who are uninsured or underinsured*

What: FREE Cancer Screenings and Community Health Education

When: Oct. 4th, 5th, 6th
  Tuesday Oct. 4th English Speakers
  Wednesday Oct 5th Spanish Speakers
  Thursday Oct. 6th Hmong Speakers
  Registration Check-in: 8:00 AM
  Screening: 8:00 AM–2:30 PM
  Health Education: 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

Where: NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center
  1313 Penn Ave. North
  To register call 612-767-9197 or visit www.northpointhealth.org

Above: the Plymouth Avenue and Penn Avenue intersection is set to be transformed by both the NorthPoint Expansion and the development of a new Thor Construction headquarters. Below: the Estes Funeral Chapel will relocate to the southwest corner.

Rendering courtesy of Hennepin County; Photo by Mark Peterson.

Interested in advertising in NORTH NEWS?
Email: okeefek@puc-mn.org
Call: 651-245-2647

Martial Arts Classes, Personal Training, & More!

Adults – Youth – Children
3115 PENN AVE. N. (612) 521-5836

Want to be a champion? We train junior Olympic and Paralympic athletes like Benjamin Goodrich, pictured here, and a Pan-American champion in Judo & Jujitsu.

Docs Gym

NORTH news
Webber Mart convenience store opens in Camden neighborhood

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

There’s a new convenience store on the Northside, owned and operated by a familiar face. On September 1, Kevin Aldwaik’s Webber Mart opened at 1701 N 44th Ave.

Aldwaik has been on the Northside for the past 20 years. His first job here was in 1996, as a stockboy at the Fremont Market, 3556 Fremont Ave. N.

After that he says he worked for several different companies before setting out to start his own – the gas station at 4499 Lyndale Ave. N. Then, he and a business partner opened the Camden Mart at 4151 Fremont Ave. N.

Aldwaik says he opened the Webber Mart because the area needed a store and “finally the stars aligned, and I had the resources to do it.” He says business has been great so far, and that the store’s neighbors seem to love it.

He recommends the store’s coffee (particularly the organic Guatemala blend), and says he will be offering great deals on bread and milk for the next few months.

“Stop by and check out the place. …If we can help people with anything, we are more than willing to do it,” he said.

Webber Mart can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WebberMarket.

KerryJo Felder has been working for you!
Vote for DFL Endorsed KerryJo on November 8th!

“As a long-time public education activist on the Northside, Kerry Jo Felder understands the needs of Minneapolis teachers, parents, and most importantly, students. From fighting for a high-quality STEM program at North High, to working with the North High Community Coalition, Kerry Jo has been a tireless advocate for Northside families and has proven time and time again that she is not afraid to have the hard conversations that lead to real results for North Minneapolis.”

— Congressman Keith Ellison

KerryJo is endorsed by the DFL, Stonewall DFL, Congressman Keith Ellison, Senator Bobbye Champion, Rep. Raymond Dehn, MFT 59, womenwinning, Teamsters 120, IBEW 292, SEIU State Council, and the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

Strong Voice for Northside Schools, Change Maker, Community Coalition Builder
Making a Genuine Space for Students, Parents, Teachers & Community

KerryJo has helped keep a school open, open a school, initiated an IB and STEM program, been involved in principal and superintendent hiring, and called for $2,000,000 for Full Service Community Schools.

KerryJo has been working on the Full Service Community School model since 2011 and advocates for systemic change where all voices are heard at the school level... close to home.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect KerryJo4SchoolBoard

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

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

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

All kids deserve a lead-safe home!

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

A free inspection for lead-based paint hazards

Grant funding to replace windows

Find out if your home qualifies: www.hennepin.us/leadcontrol
612-348-2114
healthyhomes@hennepin.us
By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

On Monday September 19, the Folwell Neighborhood Association passed a resolution requesting “the immediate removal of the demonstration Greenway from the Folwell Neighborhood.” Four of the five blocks that make up the demonstration route are in Folwell – from 32nd Avenue North to 36th Avenue North on Irving Avenue.

The FNA resolution explained six reasons for the request:
1) The neighborhood has been divided physically and ideologically by the project. “It has created a hostile environment among residents, owners and tenants, who live on the greenway, and who in some cases, no longer speak to their immediate neighbors.”
2) The data, collected prior to the temporary installation, which the FNA says was “misrepresented...as indicating resident approval.” They say that opposing opinions on a variety of platforms have been repeatedly not taken into consideration up until May of 2016.
3) “Hardship” caused by limited and eliminated parking to residents who live along the route and other parking-related problems.
4) “Limited access” to houses along the route for “delivery trucks and emergency services vehicles.”
5) More difficult MPD patrols, which exacerbate “issues surrounding the greenway and far outweigh any contribution that the greenway might have provided.”
6) Concern about “the problems that will come with the impending arrival of winter including snow removal and alley plowing that is not a regular or reliable city service.”

FNA Executive Director Roberta says that the resolution came as “a result of the concern that the board had for the residents and general conditions existing in Folwell.”

Though the resolution has not resulted in any immediate changes to the Greenway, Englund says she has passed it along to Health Department commissioner Gretchen Musicant and City Council president Barb Johnson. “It falls to the will of the City to come to a conclusion with respect to residents,” she said.

John Johnson, whose ward contains the four blocks in question, says that she is meeting with the Health Department staff to discuss the resolution and some of the challenges that have come with the temporary Greenway. She says that she and Blong Yang, Minneapolis Ward 5 Council Member, have ultimate decision making power over what happens to the Greenway demonstration.

Residents opposed to the greenway are celebrating the FNA resolution as a victory. Marie Porter, who does not live on the route but runs the website www.stopthegreenway.com, wrote on the site on September 20, “It is SO empowering to see that our neighborhood association is joining us in pointing out the reality of this situation.”

The only block of the demonstration route not in Folwell is in Jordan. Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) Executive Director Cathy Spann had no comment as of press time other than to say that JACC is aware of the FNA’s formal ask and that the JACC board will discuss the situation at their next meeting on September 29.

Sarah Stewart, a senior public health specialist with the Health Department and manager of the project, says, “One of the ways we are evaluating the project is by collecting feedback from all residents, including from the Folwell Neighborhood Association. We welcome and appreciate all of the feedback we have received so far, and we know that there are mixed opinions about the greenway.”

Stewart says the Health Department is sharing feedback it has gathered with the City Council members “so that we can work with them to make decisions about the project going forward based on the feedback we’ve received from all stakeholders, including whether there will be significant changes to the project.”

She also explained that observational research for the demonstration route is currently underway and that data will be ready to share in early 2017.

Letters to the editor

I live in the Folwell Neighborhood, and I have to say that the recent motion taken by the Folwell Neighborhood Association does not represent me. I live directly on the demonstration route for the Northside Greenway, and my family has found the experience to be mostly positive. Since the demonstration project went in, our block has been quieter and more peaceful, and we have appreciated the change. I have seen more children safely playing, more people walking their dogs, and more bike riding on my block than I have in the past 16 years I have lived here. There have been difficulties and inconveniences throughout the demonstration, but the city has done their best to address them in a timely manner (ex. Moving the planters to allow ample room for the ladder truck to safely traverse down the block). I also recognize that winter poses additional challenges, but before a final decision is made, I would like to see how the demonstration works in all seasons. I believe removing the demonstration installation now would be a mistake. I respectfully urge the Folwell Neighborhood Association to consider the opinions of residents like me before taking any further positions on the Greenway.

Staci Owens
3400 block of Irving
September 21

I was quite disappointed and angered by the resolution of the Folwell Neighborhood Association cancellation of the Greenway.

The Greenway gives Irving a “second chance” to become a more desirable place to live, or at least an opportunity to “morph” into a quieter, cleaner, greener version of itself. Irving Greenway is a great place to walk and meet your neighbors. It’s a place for a 3 year old “Evil Knievel” to get ready for a future jump. Irving has suffered much and survived; a tornado, foreclosures, and the invasion of the “House Flippers.”

The Irving Greenway school bus stops have kids from 5 continents …..Many can speak the language and wear the traditional garb of their parent’s mother country…….it’s great watching kids being kids at the school bus stops. (100% of these kids, are 100% FOR the Greenway).

There are some people who do not like the idea of a Greenway. (They probably aren’t kids who live on the Greenway.)

We need to figure out a way to give the kids on Irving a chance to be kids and make sure that folks get a parking space for their moving vans.

S. Joseph Bell
3400 block of Irving
September 22

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.
PROTESTORS DEMAND CLEAN AIR: Concerned citizens from both sides of the Mississippi River gathered at Lowry Ave. N and N 2nd St. on September 7 to call for “clean air equity” in both North and Northeast Minneapolis. After a peaceful procession across the Lowry Ave. bridge, protesters gathered at a private residence at 2204 Marshall St. NE to connect and organize efforts moving forward. Local band Poliça, fronted by Northside resident Channy Lenneagh performed. Photo by Kenzie O’Keefe

THIRD GRADER WINS ESSAY CONTEST: Cavarria Robinson, a third grader at Elizabeth Hall Elementary School, was one of four winners of the Rotary Club of North Minneapolis’ (RCNM) peace and conflict essay contest, an initiative done in conjunction with North Regional Library. The RCNM meets weekly at Emerge Technology and Career Center. At their meeting on August 30, Robinson read her essay aloud and was presented with praise and a gift card from the group in acknowledgement of her thoughts. Robinson’s mother, father, and sister attended in support. Photo by Kenzie O’Keefe

Free performance for all ages!
Learn about social activist, pioneer, and abolitionist Emily O. Goodridge Grey

Thursday, Sept. 29, 7 – 8 p.m. at Ridgedale Library
Saturday, Oct. 8, 2 – 3 p.m. at North Regional Library

History Comes Alive is a series of interactive dramatic reenactments with the Minnesota African American Museum and Cultural Center.

ARAMARK GIVES BIG TO CAMDEN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER: On September 20, Aramark volunteers took part the company’s Building Community Day by working on one of the organization’s six signature projects nationwide. Volunteers revitalized Pillsbury United Communities’ Camden Neighborhood Center, painting murals and updating the community garden and outdoor patio space with handbuilt picnic tables and other amenities. Aramark, which specializes in food and uniform services, gives back to neighborhoods all over the world, working to inspire families and communities to make healthy food, nutrition, and lifestyle choices. Photo by Kenzie O’Keefe
VOTE

Election day is fast approaching. North News has your guide to the ballot.

Compiled by Kenzie O'Keefe

Think your vote doesn’t matter?
Your vote matters a lot, says Black Votes Matter, a non-partisan voter engagement campaign designed to increase civic participation, policy and leadership development in the Black Community of Minnesota, which has historically low turnout statewide. “You truly feel the impact of your vote on a local level. City Councils, School and Park boards determine how money is spent, where it is spent, what neighborhoods get funding and support, police accountability, jobs, access to housing, and more, are all affected by those who show up to vote on those policy issues.”

Wondering where and when to vote?
Register to vote and find your polling place at http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/. Polls will be open 7am to 8pm on November 8. Early (absentee) voting began Sept. 23 and ends November 7. To request an absentee ballot application or for additional information, please contact the City of Minneapolis at 311 or visit the City’s website.
**FEDERAL OFFICES**

**US Representative**  
District 5

- **Keith Ellison**  
  Endorsed DFL incumbent; held his position since 2007.  
  Key issues: 1) peace, 2) prosperity for working families, 3) environmental sustainability, 4) support for civil and human rights.

- **Frank Drake**  
  Endorsed GOP candidate; first run for political office.  
  Lifetime Minneapolis resident. Real estate agent for 30+ years. Fiscally conservative but open to all perspectives on social issues. Says the lack of nongovernment money going into businesses on the Northside is a problem.

- **Dennis Schuller**  
  Legal Marijuana Now party; small business owner; lives in Richfield; has not previously run for office.  
  Primary platform appears to be the legalization of marijuana. Says just being on the ballot is a win and that "by running strong, we further the discussion."

**STATE OFFICES**

- **State Senate**  
  District 59

  - **Bobby Joe Champion**  
    Endorsed DFL incumbent. An attorney who has held his senate seat since 2012. Lifelong Northside resident. Has focused on job creation, ending the home foreclosure crisis in North, protecting and restoring civil rights, promoting successful public schools, and advocating for universal healthcare.

  - **Fue Lee**  
    Endorsed DFL candidate; currently serves as a senior administrator for the Office of the MN Secretary of State. Born in a refugee camp in Thailand; immigrated to US in 1992; currently lives in Lind-Bohanon. Key issues: 1) safer, stronger neighborhoods, 2) educational equality, 3) a real democracy for all, 4) economic justice for working families

- **State Representatives**  
  District 59A

  - **Jessica Newville**  
    Endorsed GOP candidate; stay at home mom for the past 12 years. Path to politics began this year when she attended a Republican caucus due to concern over presidential options. Key issues: 1) valuing and protecting human life, 2) safe community, 3) quality public education, and 4) economic development.

- **District 59B**

  - **Raymond Dehn**  
    Endorsed DFL incumbent; an architect who was elected to the state house in 2012. Lives in Willard-Hay. Key issues: 1) combatting injustice in our justice system (greater police accountability, restoration of voting rights, combating prison overcrowding), 2) restoring the Mississippi riverfront 3) attracting jobs to North 4) continuing intentional, green, smart growth downtown, 5) combating educational disparities

- **Margaret Martin**  

**Constitutional Amendment**

**Remove Lawmakers’ Power to Set Their Own Pay**

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to remove state lawmakers’ power to set their own salaries, and instead establish an independent, citizens-only council to prescribe salaries of lawmakers? YES or NO  
If this passes, a salary council will form to review legislator pay every two years. It will likely make pay raises easier to obtain. The current base salary of $51,140 has not been changed since 1999.
Kim Ellison
Currently holds the District 2 seat. Board member since 2012. DFL endorsed. Passionate about addressing the achievement gap and sees relationships with students as key to their success. She advocates for a multi-dimensional approach to educating students and believes that nutrition, healthcare, after school programs and enrichment opportunities go hand in hand with academic achievement. Served as a teacher for 12 years and is the parent of four MPS students.

Doug Mann
Has been a school board candidate in every election since 1999 but never won. Green Party endorsed. Racial justice advocate who believes we need to shrink the pool of new (and “inexperienced”) teachers by retaining more and firing fewer of them. Says he wants to eliminate “watered down” curriculum tracks and mainstream special-ed students. Anti-charter and anti “narrow, test prep curriculum” imposed by the Common Core and high stakes testing. Is the parent of one MPS student (graduated).

Kerry Jo Felder
Kimberly Caprini
The Board of Special School District No. 1 (Minneapolis Public Schools) has proposed to renew the school district’s existing referendum revenue authorization of $1,604.31 per pupil, which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2016. The revenue will be used to manage class sizes and provide supportive services and activities for students. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for nine years, beginning with taxes payable in 2017, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

All are running uncontested except those listed here

Natalie Hudson
Incumbent

MN Supreme Court
Associate Justice 6
They have already faced each other in the primaries. Hudson led with 65% of the vote whereas McDonald received 20%. Hudson joined the court in 2015 and has a lengthy, diverse legal resume. The Star Tribune called her the “clear choice” for the position in an August 2016 editorial. McDonald won the Republican Party of Minnesota’s endorsement in her 2014 run but was notably not endorsed this year following allegations of drunken driving against her. She is a private attorney with an independent family law practice.

Michelle L. MacDonald

Judge 37

Carolina Lamas
Incumbent, appointed by Gov. Dayton in 2014. Supporters include Congressman Keith Ellison. Prior to her appointment, she served as the Executive Director and Chief Attorney for the Neighborhood Justice Center, Inc. and as a Public Defender in Minnesota’s Second Judicial District.

Luke Kyper Bellville
Grew up in Minneapolis; law degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Says he has “little tolerance for violent crimes, and feel they are the number one thing in the modern era that needs addressing.”

MN Court of Appeals

Judge 45

Paul R Scoggin
Incumbent, appointed by Gov. Dayton in 2015. Supporters include Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman and former VP Walter Mondale. He is a Senior Attorney at the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, currently assigned to felony criminal cases.

Chris Ritts
Private attorney and certified Arbitrator who has been in practice for over 30 years. Began his career in the Ramsey County Attorney’s office. Has been endorsed by former Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice A.M. Keith.
Northside women vie for school board seat

On November 8, North Minneapolis voters have a choice between Kerry Jo Felder and Kimberly Caprini for the District 2 School Board seat. High school journalists from North High interviewed both candidates and shared their thoughts.

This story was made possible in part by a grant from the John and Denise Graves Foundation

Kerry Jo Felder currently lives in the Victory neighborhood of North Minneapolis with her husband. Two of their children are MPS students in South Minneapolis. She grew up in both North and South Minneapolis and attended North High, graduating from the Summatech program. She protested to keep North High open and was a member of the North High Advisory Group. This experience inspired her career in organizing. Currently she is a Community and Education Organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation and a union member (Teamster 120). She is endorsed by the DFL, Stonewall DFL, and African American DFL.

Key Issues:

- Better community engagement. Wants to create “full-service community schools” where community adults are more involved in programming for students.
- More after school programming.
- More organizing. Wants to see parents and students coming together to identify and ask for the programs and dollars they need.
- Retaining teachers who are committed to the Northside.

Why she decided to run:

“Frankly, it was because I got pissed off. Time and time again, the district was not listening to what the community was saying...At some point, after six years of going to school board meetings and seeing this happening, something just cracked in me, where I was like...I’m going to be a person up there making decisions. If people want to come in and say ‘these little books are racist,’ we’re not going to get up and leave the room. We’re going to sit right here and listen to them...Things have to change at the district...I want to make sure that...the adult world of politics doesn’t come in and play [students] wrong.”

Why she says voters should choose her:

- Her life experience – says her childhood experiences living in poverty help her “get the connections” for Northside students.
- Her fighting spirit – “I’ve fought, and I’ve won...there are just so many little wins I’ve had along the way, that it just lets you know that if you keep working at it, it will come.”

Kimberly Caprini currently lives in the Cleveland neighborhood of North Minneapolis with her husband and two daughters, who attend Olson Middle School and Patrick Henry High School, both MPS schools. She grew up in North Minneapolis and attended Ascension School and Benilde-Saint Margaret’s High School in Edina. Her mother was a teacher at North High. Caprini has volunteered at many Northside schools and currently sits on the board of several site councils – Olson, Northeast, Patrick Henry, Jenny Lind, and Harrison Education Center. She currently works at Aeon, a nonprofit affordable housing developer.

Key Issues:

- Better community engagement with parents – “I feel like there’s an amazing amount of knowledge that isn’t tapped from parents. One of the really big goals I have is to support parents in empowering their own voices to advocate for their kids.”
- More fair allocation of funding – says that funding isn’t currently distributed to schools equitably.
- Vocational education for students during the school day.

Why she decided to run:

“I have watched over the last 11 school years, our schools being ignored. I’ve watched how programs have come and gone. How we’ve struggled to get the kind of attention or our needs met in a lot of our schools. ...I just never understood why there were so many things that other schools had that we didn’t have.”

Why she says voters should choose her:

- She has children in the system – “I have actually seen how my kids’ education has affected who they are and how they feel about themselves.”
- Her boots have been on the ground, volunteering in “pretty much almost all” 16 Northside MPS schools.
- Her unique passion for education – she compensated for undiagnosed dyslexia until she went to college. Wants to fight to keep her kids from experiencing the same thing.
North High journalists react to their interviews with the candidates

Kerry Jo knows what we want and where the student is coming from, and she wants to see change. She knows we need things like textbooks, safety, and a better relationship with our teachers. When we asked Kerry Jo why we should vote for her, she replied, "I am hardcore, and I love the kids." That's when I thought to myself "yep she's who I want."

Dalvin Crockett, freshman

Kim Caprini is running for District 2 to change how our schools get ignored. She wants to support parents to speak up on how they feel and let them know they will be heard. She has kids in the system and has a great passion for education.

Rochelle Tanna, freshman

If I could vote, I would vote for Kerry Jo. She is smart, and she can be really real with us. I feel like she would fight for us and help us get what we need. She is outspoken, and she is passionate about the Northside.

Tremohn Smith, freshman

North High would not be here if it wasn't for Kerry Jo and her group that protested. She really impressed me with her words, and I believe she would better my education soon. Our community can build off of her words. She told me and my peers that she is right for the position because she is hardcore. The Northside needs a hardcore woman with the type of community we live in.

Ashley Powell, junior

Kim seemed connected to more schools. Kerry Jo was more focused on just North, but she was most forthcoming with her ideas. She wants to make students' school experience better with more activities, more sports and better lunches. She believes in teachers' intuitions to make students have better connections. Having teachers committed to staying in schools longer to build a connection to show that they're here for students' education and not their next paycheck will help my little brother for his remaining years of school tremendously.

Tipassion Osborne, junior

Kim seemed nervous when she was talking to us, but I liked that she was about safety. She didn't want us leaving the building during the school day. You never know what could happen outside. I liked the way Kerry Jo seemed prepared and the way she really related to us as students. She wants to see change in our schools and she also wants to see better in the community around our schools. For example she told us that our schools get as much money as others, but it does not seem like it because of the way the money is spent. She would like to help fix that if elected.

Tayven Smith, sophomore

Understanding the school board referendum

By Kenzie O’Keele | Editor

The decision to renew an existing property tax referendum of $1,604.31 per Minneapolis student will be put to voters on November 8. The current property tax referendum, which generates 13 percent of Minneapolis Public Schools’ (MPS) 2016-17 budget, will expire this year. If approved by voters, the renewal will extend the funding for nine years.

Property taxes for most Minneapolis homeowners are actually predicted to decrease slightly if the referendum passes. For example, a property valued at $205,000 paid $259 in annual property taxes for the current referendum in 2016. In 2017, with the new referendum in place, they are projected to pay $239.

There is a slight chance these numbers could change “if MPS experienced a significant change in the number of pupils who enroll in our schools or if the value of the overall tax base changes for Minneapolis,” said Dirk Tedmon, Media Relations Specialist at MPS.

Nearly all school districts in Minnesota use referendum funding to generate revenue. MPS says that the district uses referendum dollars to “manage class sizes and provide supportive services and activities for students.” They say that the current referendum has funded more than 750 positions, including 591 classroom teachers, 82 academic and behavioral specialists and 81 teachers and support staff for English learners this academic year. MPS says they are “committed to using referendum funding to impact student achievement” and that if it fails, they will “have to make difficult decisions about how to operate the district without a substantial portion of the budget.”

More information about the referendum can be found at http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/referendum2016 or by calling the referendum hotline at 612-668-5480.
RESOURCES

9/30, 10/7 – 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.minneapolis.gov/farmersmarkets. Most of the 40 markets in Minneapolis accept EBT.

Tai Chi class offered every Saturday at Homewood Studios (2400 Plymouth Ave. N). 9am-10:30am.

Do you live in Near North or Willard/Hay? Then your block could be eligible for a mini block club grant through the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, NRRRC. Funds are available for a project or event you want to create. Call 612-335-5924 or email contactus@nrrrc.org.

Interested in upgrading your storefront? The West Broadway Business and Area Coalition has two matching grant programs that can provide up to $22,500 in matching grants per storefront. Any existing business (with property owner’s approval) and/or commercial building owner whose building 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 email carla@westbroadway.org or call 612-353-5178.

The City of Minneapolis is offering free home visits from energy-saving experts to qualified households with an income less than $48,100 for one person, $54,950 for two people, $61,850 for three people, or up to $90,650 for eight people. If the Home Energy Squad recommends up to $22,500 in matching grants per storefront. Any existing business (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 email carla@westbroadway.org or call 612-353-5178.

Hennepin County’s drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington accept needles and sharps, at no charge to residential consumers. It is important to manage and dispose of needles, lancets and syringes safely to prevent injury and disease transmission. This program is available to residential customers only. Unused medicines contained in sharps, such as EpiPens, should not be brought to the county drop-off facilities. More information: call Hennepin County Environment and Energy department, 612-348-3777 or email environment@hennepin.us.

EVENTS + ENTERTAINMENT

9/29-10/2 – Shoma: A Storytelling Dance-Theater Journey to the Desert presented by Jawaahir Dance Company. The Lab Theater, 700 First Street North, Minneapolis $30, or pay as you can Saturday matinee. For more information and times check out www.thelabtheater.org

10/1 – Boom Room Jazz: Enjoy high quality jazz, with Brad Bellows and Friends the first Saturday of each month at Boom Island Brewing, 2014 N Washington Ave #300, 7pm, free.

10/1 – St. Charles Borromeo’s annual Parish Fall Festival. Come enjoy amazing food by Jake’s City Grille, and live music for dancing and listening by “The Holy Rocks Rollaz.” Fun for the whole family with lawn games including a football toss, bean bag toss, pumpkin bowling and more. $10 Raffle with your chance to win awesome prizes. 2739 Stinson Blvd. N.E., St. Anthony, MN, 4-9 pm.

10/2 – Organ Recital: Reprise of the Dedicator Recital, featuring John Schwandt, Organ. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mount Olive’s mighty Schlicker Organ, a concert and reception will be offered in the church’s Chapel Lounge, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Avenue S, 4:00 pm, free.

10/8 – Clean the Green: Making the Neighborhood a Better Place. Join Irving Ave residents and friends on Sat., Oct. 8 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM for a trail walk and clean up along the Northside Greenway pilot. Additionally, we will be writing letters of support for the greenway as part of our letter writing campaign. More information at https://www.facebook.com/NomiBAC/.

10/15 – Come shape North Minneapolis bike, walk, and transitways! We will meet Saturday, Oct. 15, from 12:00 - 2:00 PM at Venture North, located at 1830 Glenwood Ave N. More information at https://www.facebook.com/NomiBAC/.

10/15 – All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Bid on classroom baskets and enjoy performances from students of Hopewell Music Cooperative North. $8 per individual or $20 per family, with gluten-free and dairy-free options available. Bright Water Montessori School’s Gymnasium, 9-11 am, 5140 Fremont Ave N.

10/16 – Free classical music concert with Emma Piehal (bassoon) and friends. 2pm. Homewood Studios (2400 Plymouth Ave. N). Open to the public.

10/18 – First Pages: Let your Imagination Soar for Kids. Do you like to write stories about magical, mythical beings? Invent your own creature and create a story about its mythology! Register online or call the library at 612-543-KNOW. Webber Park Community Building, 4400 Dupont Ave N, 4-5:30 pm. (Grades 1-3)

10/21 - 11/9 - The Habit of Voting, photography by Rosa Maria and Chip Peterson will be on display at Homewood Studios (2400 Plymouth Ave. N). Opening reception is 10/21 from 6-9pm. Gallery conversation is 11/1 at 7pm.

10/28 – Memorial Vespers and Hymn Festival. A memorial vespers commemorating the life and ministry of Dr. Paul O Manz will begin at 5:30pm. A second event, a hymn festival featuring the National Lutheran Choir will begin at 8pm. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Avenue S, 4:00 pm, free.

10/28 – The Northside Writers Group will have their fall reading at Homewood Studios (2400 Plymouth Ave. N). 2pm.

Saturdays – Family Storytime. Webber Park Library, 11am. 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

Join the Northside Singers. Rehearsals are held at Patrick Henry High School in conjunction with the Minneapolis Community Education Program and the group performs for community organizations during the Winter holiday season. Music this term ranges from jazz to seasonal. Whether you read music or learn by listening all are welcome! Contact us for more information: singenforfun@gmail.com

BE AWARE

CenterPoint Energy and Rhino Infrastructure and Minnesota Common Ground Alliance remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to call 811 before digging to eliminate the risk of striking underground utility lines.

Hammocks are welcome in Minneapolis Parks. There are a few limitations and guidelines. Hammocks may only be used during regular park hours; they must be temporary and not damage property, vegetation, or trees. They cannot restrict the free use of the parks or create hazards.

If you’re planning to have an outdoor fire, follow these Minneapolis laws. Fires are permitted 9am-10pm. Fires must be kept less than 3ft 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 or yard waste.

ADVERTISING IN NORTH NEWS

RATES

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

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

Want to get North News on your doorstep each month?

Home delivery will return soon. If you want the paper at your door NOW, subscribe for $30/year by emailing okeefek@puc-mn.org. Anyone can support the paper by donating at www.puc-mn.org/donate. Funds support newspaper operation and youth training program.

NORTHnotices

Homewood Studios and Minneapolis Community Education partner to present Native American Art class with Tom Kanthak. Class begins October 10 (6:30-8:30pm) and continues for eight weeks. Info and registration: https://tlce.umn.edu/g4L9Cv

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
After School Program Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm.
Pastor Kelly Chatman

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

CONCRETE & MASONRY
REPAIR, REBUILD: Resurface, Steps, Sidewalks & Foundations. No job too small. Call Mark 612-432-0396

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH
2901 Emerson Ave. N.
612-529-7726
Sunday School/Adult Class 9:30 am Worship 11 am Nursery provided. Wednesday Evening Youth Group 6:30 pm
Pastor Dale Hulme
www.stolaflutheran.org and on Facebook
We are LGBT affirming.
Diversity thrives here!

RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN
22nd & Fremont Ave. N., 612-521-7655
We are an empowered multicultural people of God serving and sharing God’s love in the North community.
Worship 10 am. Sunday Hospitality and Welcome to all.

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

You can now watch Minneapolis government meetings and other city programming in high definition. City programming has moved to new channels as of September 9th and can be viewed on Comcast channels 14, 799 and 859, and CenturyLink channel 14.

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 hotline 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.

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

9/29-10/2 – Arab Film Festival. Independent Arab cinema brought to the Twin Cities, Saint Anthony Main Theater, 115 SE Main St, Minneapolis. www.miznablog.org

10/6 – 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.


The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development is requesting applications for the Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneur Program. The program provides funding to local nonprofit corporations that will use these funds to make loans to Minnesota businesses majority-owned and operated by minorities, low-income persons, women, veterans, and/or persons with disabilities. Proposals must be received by DEED no later than 4pm on 9/30. More information: https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/open-rfp.jsp

The City of Minneapolis (City) and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) are seeking a qualified and creative real estate developer to be a part of the rebirth of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) site. UHT is a 48-acre, former multi-modal shipping terminal property located on the west bank of the river between 33rd Avenue N. and about 40th Avenue North in Minneapolis, MN just a few miles from the city’s thriving downtown. UHT is the largest City-owned redevelopment site in Minneapolis. The property includes almost a mile of riverfront along the mighty Mississippi River, offers excellent freeway access, and does not appear to present significant environmental challenges. Interested developers must submit a summary of their qualifications and an initial development program. The request for qualifications and accompanying information about the site and redevelopment goals may be found at the City’s and MPRB’s newly launched shared web site at www.upperharbormpls.com. The deadline for submission is 10/14, at 4pm.

PeopleForBikes in conjunction with the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) has given a $10,000 community grant to the Loppet Foundation for use at Theodore Wirth Park Mountain Biking Events. It will be used to add 3.5 miles of trail, a dual slalom course, a skills training area and a pump track to the existing facilities. This project will support existing youth programs and provide a more accessible venue for the local high school mountain bike league.

ACTION

Early voting opened September 23, any voter can vote early by mail or in person at one of four locations around the city. In North Minneapolis, absentee votes can be cast at 2100 Plymouth Ave. N., in the Minneapolis Urban League building. Any voter can cast an absentee ballot, learn more at vote.minneapolismn.gov

10/25 – Northside Residents Redevelopment Council invites you to come join us for board elections. If you are interested in running to represent your district or to learn who is running in your district, call (612) 335-5924 or email contactus@nrrc.org. Voting runs from 8:30am to 8:00pm in room 125 at the U of M Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center, 2001 Plymouth Ave N.

11/8 – The Minneapolis Board of Education has approved a resolution asking voters to renew an existing property tax referendum of $1,604.31 per student, which if approved will extend the funding for nine years. Property taxes for most Minneapolis home owners are not projected to increase if the referendum passes. The renewal decision will be voted on November 8th. Resources and more information about the referendum is available at www.mpls.k12.mn.us/refendum2016

The City of Minneapolis has launched a distracted driving policy prohibiting employees from using cell phones or other electronic devices while driving city vehicles. The city will also add “HOW AM I DRIVING” stickers to city vehicles. If you witness unsafe driving or have feedback contact the city by dialing 311.

Join Hennepin County’s new Zero Waste Challenge to learn how to reduce waste and get hands-on help. Hennepin County Environment and Energy is looking for 50 households to take a year-long look at the goods they buy and the waste they create to uncover opportunities and challenges that increase recycling and reduce waste. With the assistance of staff and trained volunteers, participating households will identify low-waste lifestyle changes they would like to make and track and report the amount of recycling and trash generated in their homes weekly. The results and lessons learned will be used to develop future waste reduction programs. The program starts 9/15/2016 and ends 9/15/2017. For their efforts, participating households will receive a $350 stipend. Complete the online application by 9/26 at www.hennepin.us zerowastechallenge. More information: email carolyn.collop@hennepin.us or call 612-596-0993.

The City of Minneapolis has developed an action plan (www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmapp183899.pdf) to comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone from the public can weigh in on the plan through Aug. 27 at 612-673-3737 or ncr@minneapolismn.gov.

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.

Kimberly Caprini for MPS District 2 School Board

“As a long-time parent activist, Caprini knows what it will mean to do the work of being a school board member. Of all candidates, Caprini has attended committee meetings of the board; I first met her at a Teaching and Learning district committee over 5 years ago”

Carla Bates, Board Director, MPS

“She advocates for the voices of students and parents to be heard. She understands the process that drives the schools and the system. She is very informed about District 2 schools, their resources and needs. She doesn’t claim to know how to fix everything, but being solution oriented, is willing to learn. If you’re looking for a warrior that will stand up and fight for District 2, I highly recommend Kimberly Caprini. She is passionate and driven. She has no hidden agenda and is here to promote interests that serve our students.”

Laney, North

Kimberly Caprini

Experience

- Longtime Community Council (LCC) 2006-2013
- Camden Business Association 2010-2012
- Family & Community Council (Loring School) 2012-2014
- Equity Task Force Loring School 2014-15
- NE Middle School Family Involvement Group 2010-2012
- Interviewing Committee for Principal NE Middle School 2013
- Interviewing Committee for Principal Henry High 2014
- CoFounder of Northside Schools Collective 2013-present
- Site Council/Shared Leadership Team or PTO/PTA
- Jenny Lind Elementary 2013-2014 Present
- Olson and Northeast Middle 2012-2014
- Harrison Educational Center 2015-2016
- Patrick Henry School 2013-Present
- District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) 2013-Present
- Area A Co-Chair 2013-2015
- Teaching & Learning Parent Advisory Committee 2011-2012
- High School Action Team MPS 2013-2014
- Cleveland Neighborhood Board Director 2nd Term
- Safe Schools MPS event 2016 Parent Panelist
- Coalition for Increasing Teachers of Color in MN Event Parent Panelist 2015
- Interviewing Committee for Principal at Harrison Education Center 2016

This ad paid for by Kimberly Caprini for District 2 School Board
Northside playwrights explore secret family life

Tell us a bit about the two of you. How are you connected to North Minneapolis? I’m connected to North through family. My grandmother lives Northside. I went to high school at North High. I’m a Polar, so is Demi. We bleed blue. I’ve done theater as long as it’s let me do it. Tina grew up in Robbinsdale and went to Cooper, but she has always been a part of the Northside community.

Tell me more about your relationship. We have known each other for a very long time. In 2012 we just sat down and wrote a play – *Mind Games*. We put that on at the Capri; North High took the play to Indiana, and we won an Urban Playwright Festival award for it. We’re full of stories. The stories we write are close to our hearts, and they are testimony for people in our community. We want to heal people through what we do.

Who or what was the inspiration for *Steel Storm*, your latest production? We’re intuitive writers. We call each other, and we’re like “I had a dream.” We talk about it and things start coming. Our characters speak to us. They come to us. We pray and seek God through the whole process, from the first words on a page until the lights go up on the stage. We believe this work is a form of ministry.

Who is this play for? It’s for everyone. It’s for our community. It’s for people to understand what African American families are really like. It’s not classic theater. I call it urban theater, but it’s not a minstrel show. I say urban because it’s raw.

Who is this play about? It’s about an urban inner-city family. We let you peer through a window into a short time in the family’s life. They cook, eat, and laugh on Sundays; they feel real feelings together. Generational curses are revealed. Secrets are found out. Storm is the main character’s name. All the individual characters in her life are different storms and vortexes she goes through. Different people that you let in and out of your life, they can be purposeful or they can cause a storm. Storms build. In this particular story, Storm is molested, which changes the whole dynamic and structure of her family. Her father loses his job. Then he loses himself in a bottle. Storm loses her mother and she’s in a bottle. Storm loses her mother from dramatic changes that take place in her family.

The piece explores generational cycles and free will to choose. Can you talk a bit about that? This story isn’t Tina or my personal story. I was a teenage mom. My mother was on drugs. I remember there being times when the Arts was the only form of escape for me. Things could have turned out different for all of us. You always have an option to choose a different direction. There’s always a pivot point. Every day we’re faced with choices. It’s not easy when you don’t have a launching pad, but you can still choose. In the play, Storm ends up repeating a generational cycle which forces her into a time of reflection. Sometimes when you’re in the middle of a Storm, it is hard to see outside of the clouds.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. What do you hope the audience learns about domestic violence through your play, which depicts and explores it? At the top of the play, Storm’s father verbally abuses her. As an adult she then gets into an verbal and physical abusive relationship. A lot of times people choose what they’re used to. For me, domestic abuse comes from outside oppression causing oppression and depression inside the home. An offender offends because they’ve been offended. Without other outlets people hurt the ones closest to them.

After your performances at the Southern Theater, what’s next for this play? We’re working to get into the Congo Theater in Chicago after this show. We’ve also been in talks to do a college tour. It’s our goal to reach all different communities.

Playwrights and directors Ghaffara (Gigi) Tillis, Tina Turner, and Demi Callendar want to heal people through their work. *Steel Storm*, their latest production, explores the secret life of a Chicago family. It will show at the Southern Theater in two performances on Sunday, October 9. This issue, *North News* spoke with Tillis about the show and the inspiration for their work. By Kenzie O’Keefe

Tillis and Turner have been rehearsing with their cast at the Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON). “We’re a growing business in North Minneapolis... We don’t have brick and mortar yet. This is where people come when they don’t.”

**STEEL STORM**

At The Southern Theater
Sunday Oct. 9, 2pm & 7pm

1420 Washington Ave. S
For tickets, call Gigi 612-636-1784
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/steel-storm-tickets-26217169259

For tickets, call Gigi 612-636-1784
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/steel-storm-tickets-26217169259

1420 Washington Ave. S
For tickets, call Gigi 612-636-1784
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/steel-storm-tickets-26217169259
Christopher Webley, a textile engineer from North Carolina, has given everything he has to North Minneapolis. For the past year he has been creating “New Rules” at 2015 Lowry Ave. N – a 4,000 creative co-working and event space.

On October 15, construction will be finished, and Webley will host an open house in the space from 1-4pm for the community to come see what he has created.

How did you end up here? Last year I stumbled across this building and fell in love with it right away. The tin ceilings and the layout of it spoke to me. All I’ve been doing since I bought it is construction. I’m doing all the work myself. Sometimes I think I bit off more than I can chew. But seeing it almost finished, I’m happy with the way it turned out.

How will you use the space? New Rules is a 4,000 square foot communal marketplace, combining co-working, retail, event space, and artist in resident housing. I want to focus on removing barriers for people by providing space and tools – the start-up costs for a creative entrepreneur can start to add up. We really wanted to be a holistic solution in the creative space – we want to be able to invite people into the space, provide them with the tools and equipment to prototype and produce product in the space, and then once they’ve made it, monetize it and get it out to the public. The co-working space and design lab will have a small retail component – a maker’s market.

How did you come up with the idea? Last year we did a design thinking workshop in the space with community members to get feedback on how they would like to see the space utilized. Health, wellness, and education disparities were the three key takeaways. People wanted meet-up space, and a computer lab with resources. It was funny. It was exactly what I wanted to do with the space anyway. My background is in innovation, design thinking, technology, and being able to merge those three together and intersect them in this building is a dream come true.

How will you support the artists that will use your space? Part of what we offer is artists in residency housing – we have artists’ lofts upstairs and we’re about to close on a duplex nearby. I see the housing being an attraction point to the Northside. Also – we’re looking at innovative ways of training people with different skillsets so we can either employ them or align them with different opportunities in the community or refer relationships that they can monetize. I see us all being interdisciplinary so we can support each other in the ecosystem. We’ve talked to NEON about different technical assistance for business development.

How is the space funded? I’ve spent my own life savings – over $150,000. I worked in the corporate industry previously, and I saved up and invested, and then got the building and was like “this is it. I’m setting up shop.” I feel responsible for doing this type of work if this is the type of work I want to see happening in this community. Now that we’re finished, I’m hoping to find funds for the programming side of things. I’m hoping the co-working space, the event space, and rent from the artists in residency will keep the doors open.

You’re a transplant. Why put all your savings into putting down roots in North Minneapolis? I’m from North Carolina. I’ve lived all around the country. This is the first place that’s really struck a nerve, like it could be home. It reminds me where I’m from. I like seeing folks who look like me. There’s a lot of work to be done helping retain people here. A lot of the things I’ve done in Minneapolis have come out of my own need – what do I need to stay here? I need a place I can work out of. I want to work around people who look like me who care about the same things I care about. I’ve been in the Twin Cities for almost four years. I sit on the board of the North Community YMCA. People on the Northside deserve to drive down the street and see a building that looks aesthetically pleasing to the eye. People deserve to have access.
Homewood Studios (HS) has been nestled on the corner of Plymouth Ave. N and Russell Ave. N since 1999. From the outside, it is elegant but unassuming. Inside, the peaceful and inviting Northside art gallery hosts 12-15 shows of an unmatched professional quality each year. Owner and proprietor George Roberts (a retired North High teacher) aims to bring nurture and fulfillment to the surrounding community through the space, which frequently highlights local artists.

In addition to being a gallery, HS is home to eight resident artists whose mediums range from Japanese calligraphy to oil painting to bookmaking, photography, and more. This year, for the fifth year in a row, the residents have come together for a gallery showing of their recent work.

The theme of the show is Before, During, and After, and it highlights the whole process of art-making, not just the finished products. Much of the work on display reflects the theme and so will the gallery experience – artist studios will be open, and some works in progress will remain on easels and drawing tables.

Last year’s residents show was titled Hello! and aimed to reach out to the surrounding community and invite them into the gallery space. Though this year’s invitation to the community is less explicit, it is no less deeply felt by the residents. “The community is still our main goal,” said Roberts. “They’re most welcome.”

The show opened on September 23 and runs through Saturday, October 15. A gallery talk will take place October 1 at 2pm. The closing party is October 15 from 2-5pm. Gallery hours are: Tuesday 5-9pm, Wednesday and Friday 1-6pm, Saturday 1-4pm, and Sundays 12-4pm. More information: http://www.homewoodstudios.com.
A conversation with the artists

Who do you hope attends this year’s residents’ show and what experiences do you hope to give them?

George: My target audience is always every neighbor within five blocks in each direction of the gallery. That’s a difficult audience. For a lot of people in this neighborhood, art does not rise to the top when decisions are made about how to spend time or resources. I see the same people walking by the gallery day after day, not even looking in the windows. Every time I meet someone new, I tell them that this is their neighborhood art gallery.

Kris: We live in Bryn Mawr, and we like when we can get people from our neighborhood to come. They can be a bit nervous about the Northside.

Mieko: This is the 5th annual show, and I’ve invited people who have come to previous shows. People expect us to do new art, and they want to see us. They also expect high standards. It gives me good encouragement.

Why make your art in North Minneapolis? What keeps you creating here?

Jack: We used to have a studio in Northeast, but this is more convenient because it is closer to our house. I feel like I’ve become a part of the community around here. People see me coming and going and know who I am. I like that.

Mieko: I live near the Walker, and the drive here is just enough time for my mind to transform to become an artist’s mind. So much busy stuff is behind me, and I arrive ready to paint. It’s a nice space for me. George is such a great owner who takes care of this space. I’m very comfortable with the other artists here. They’re like family.

Many of you have been in this space for several years.

What keeps you creating at Homewood?

Kris: For me, it’s the other artists.

George: Not only do we like one another, we hold a great respect for each other as artists. The level of art is fairly consistently high for all of us. We have all found a comfortable level of art we make. We don’t have to pull anyone along, and no one is a superstar.

Jack: This is an art temple. I came here for a show before I had a studio here, and I saw that there was an open studio for rent. George gave me a tour. Kris and I had sworn off studios, but I came home that night and was so animated. I had trouble sleeping because I was afraid someone was going to take it out from under us. I had never been there before that night. One of my students was having a show.

Julie: Seven out of the eight of us are teachers.

Why should people come to this show?

George: We need art in our lives. When we don’t know that, it’s easier to become confused. None of us [who are residents here] does postcard art or sofa art. Our art begins with questions, and we set out to answer them. People have to work to respond to our art. There are so many levels to our work. In entering that I think people are enriched, and I think people see that they can see their worlds in the same way.

Mieko: One time when we had this show, a stranger came to me and said “did you do this?” I said yes, and she hugged me. Another time, a lady came, and she wandered around my studio and she started to cry and said “I didn’t know art could be this beautiful.” Then there was a small girl. Four or five years old. She was jumping up around my paintings, so excited. If my art could give that kind of a response to viewers, it is worth living for.

Who or what in the community inspires your work?

George: I am inspired by students I have taught who have grown up, gotten an education, and come back to this community to live and work and be invested here. Chandna Smith Baker (President of Pillsbury United Communities) is an example. So is Marcus Owens (President of the Northside Economic Opportunity Network). They’re here for the long haul. I think I can honor their choice by having this place and making my art be the best it can be in it. If they drop in to see it, I think they’ll approve.

Julie: I’m inspired by people in the community who keep things going here. Melodee Strong, teacher at Franklin Middle School is an example of that. So is Chris Fischer from North High. The Tai Chi master here, Bob Colbert, is inspiring too.

George: We have a Tai Chi class in the gallery every Saturday. It’s open to the public.

Julie Landsman, a painter, has had a studio at HS for 5-6 years.

George Roberts, a poet and printer, founded HS in 1999.

Jack Mader, a photographer, and his wife Kris Treuting, a gourd artist and bookmaker, have shared a studio at HS for six years.

Mieko Yamazaki, an abstract oil painter and Japanese calligrapher, has had a studio at HS for 8 years.
What future do you want for your child?

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