

NORTH NEWS

November 25, 2016

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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Semaj Rankin
wants his
school's name
changed.

Page 6

ALSO INSIDE

The new face of District 59A

Fue Lee is young, Hmong, and ready to represent the Northside. *Page 14*

Shop local this holiday season

A guide to gift-buying in your neighborhood. *Page 8*

Should police be in schools?

Tayven Smith interviews his North High SRO. *Page 12*



Letter from the Editor

It has been a difficult November in North Minneapolis.

The results of the presidential election have left so many raw and reeling. November 15 marked a year since Jamar Clark was killed by police on Plymouth Avenue. On November 17, Larry Flowers was murdered in broad daylight in the heart of West Broadway, reminding us that the local challenges we experience are encroaching on the quality of life here more than ever.

Our community leaders have continued to call for peace and support in quelling the

local violence we face, and we appreciate those who have also spoken out to decry the threats posed to communities like ours by the bigoted rhetoric of our President elect.

In a public letter to Mayor Hodges on November 18, the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC) Board of Directors demanded that she do more than send more armed officers to the Northside. They called for the Mayor to “address the ease of access to firearms, treat violence as a public health issue, focus on building trust between the police and residents, and support community programs that have a proven record in mitigating violence. Most importantly, listen to the community itself.”

North News supports the WBC in this call and hopes that the Mayor makes this an immediate priority, especially given that she made a public announcement this month that she had allocated \$500,000 in the 2017 proposed City Budget to be split between the Little Earth community in South Minneapolis and the West Broadway Corridor to fund community-driven public safety strategies. *North News* has so far been unable to determine exactly how

and to whom these funds will be distributed, but we will keep watching.

We also support statements made by Ward 5 Council Member Blong Yang in a Facebook post on November 18. In his informal, monthly City Council meeting update, Yang articulated the unconstitutionality of a national Muslim registry and said he was “proud” of the City’s *Resolution on Standing with All Members of Our One Minneapolis*.

North News shares Yang and the City’s professed devotion to rejecting, “the politics of division, bigotry, hate, and fear.” We take seriously our role in this rejection as an information source in the community. We believe that our current political and social climate requires journalistic vigilance, and we intend to continue to deepen our coverage of North Minneapolis and our efforts to educate a next generation of passionate, experienced journalists through our North High classroom partnership.

Our cover story this issue explores whether or not the name of Patrick Henry High School should be changed due to his role as a slaveholder in American history. We are proud to give voice to the communi-

ty members in this piece who examine the status quo and take steps to make change when change is needed. It is difficult to stand for racial justice while also sending the community’s children – most of whom are students of color – into a building named after a slaveholder each day. Patrick Henry did not believe in the humanity and potential of so many of these children. We believe it is worth questioning why we have them wearing, speaking, and learning in his name.

Both our cover story and Mark Peterson’s story about Broadway Liquor’s new location (Page 9) came at your suggestions. Please continue submitting these requests.

Also inside this issue are more stories from our North High journalists. Find them throughout this paper, labeled with a North High logo.

Last but not least – thanks to all of you who donated to our program on Give to the Max Day. Without your support we could not do this important work. Until next time,

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, *North News*
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NORTH NEWS

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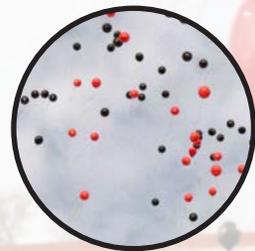
Story ideas and letters to the editor are always welcome. Unsigned letters will not be run.

We will be returning to free home delivery across the entire Northside as soon as funds allow. If you want *North News* on your doorstep NOW, subscribe for \$30 per year. Email kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org or call (651) 245-2647 to sign up.

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Inside our “O”



Remembering Jamar Clark 11/15/2015

On the one year anniversary of Jamar Clark’s death, community members, along with Clark’s family, gathered on Plymouth Avenue to release red and black balloons in his honor.

Three North High School students reflect on the year since his death on Page 5.



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“I definitely had my share of stress, but everyone here was so understanding. MCTC is community-based, and I graduated because of all the support I received. My experience here was simply amazing.”

—Vickie Smith
Business Management Alum

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NORTHnews



Teaching girls to code

By Dalvin Crockett | Freshman

A new program at North High aims to change the computer science field forever.

Girls Who Code is a non-profit organization which aims to support and increase the number of young women in computer science jobs. Women hold just about 24 percent of computer science jobs in the U.S and represent just 18 percent of all computer science graduates.

Thomas Waltower, Program Manager of Girls Who Code – North High School is also the Gear Up site coordinator at the school. He learned about Girls Who Code in a Gear Up convention in Washington D.C. this past summer.

He believed that it would be beneficial at an urban school where young women typically don't have the same opportunities in computer science. The program at North started in August of 2016. 14 girls are currently involved. He expects that number to continue to grow.

Thomas Waltower is very passionate about what he does. When asked how Girls Who Code makes him feel, Waltower said, "priceless." He explained that the girls have already developed a sisterhood with each other. Recently, they were asked to visit the Educational Partners Luncheon to meet CEO Reshma Saujani at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Waltower says that continuous participation and attendance in Girls Who Code will allow the opportunity for the girls to obtain employment by knowing how to code. If you want to get involved with the program, now is your chance. It might just change your life.

Contact Waltower for more information at Thomas.Waltower@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-1724.



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As country goes to the GOP, Dems sweep North

From the top of the ticket on down, Democrats landed the majority of North Minneapolis votes. Though voter turnout was low nationally, turnout in Hennepin County remained the same as it was in the 2012 presidential election – 74.3%.



US HOUSE

Incumbent Congressman Keith Ellison won his US House race with 69.07% of the vote. He also announced his bid to be the next chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). He has picked up endorsements from notable politicians, including Vermont Senator and 2016 presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders.

CNN reported, “The Vermont senator said Ellison is uniquely qualified to take on ‘the political establishment and billionaire class,’ and that ‘his experience and perspective is key to leading the fight against Trump.”



MN SENATE

Incumbent Senator Bobby Joe Champion won his race easily with 77.56% of the votes on November 8. He has held his senate since 2012.

JUDICIAL OFFICES

Incumbent State Supreme Court Justice Natalie Hudson easily defeated Michelle McDonald by 392,333 votes. In the 4th District, the Court 37 seat was kept by Carolina Llamas and the Court 45 seat was kept by Paul Scoggin.



MN HOUSE: 59A

In 59A (the Northern part of North Minneapolis), newcomer Fue Lee won with 80.62% of the vote. Lee’s victory is notable for many reasons; in the primaries, he unseated longtime Northside representative Joe Mullery; he’s Hmong, and he spent part of his childhood in a Thai refugee camp.

“I’m really excited and hopeful,” Lee told *North News*. “I want to bring a different perspective to the state legislature to really advocate on behalf of our neighbors up here.”

Read more about Lee in our “Neighbors” interview on Page 14.



MN HOUSE: 59B

In 59B (the Southern part of North Minneapolis), incumbent Representative Raymond Dehn coasted to victory with 76.56% of the votes. Dehn, an architect, has held his position since 2012.

He says he is committed to combatting injustice in the justice system, restoring the Mississippi riverfront downtown and in North, attracting jobs to North Minneapolis, continuing intentional, green, smart growth downtown, and combatting educational disparities by rethinking the state’s educational funding.



Felder narrowly takes District 2 School Board seat by 201 votes

By Navia Grimes | Sophomore

After a long fierce race for the District 2 Minneapolis Public School Board seat, Kerry Jo Felder won over Kimberly Caprini by just a couple hundred votes.

The race finally came to an end on November 8, 2016. I interviewed both of the strong and unique candidates more than once, but only one could win the seat. Kerry Jo Felder won the race with 201 votes; 21,348 were cast. “It wasn’t easy, but we did it. Every vote counts,” Felder said in a Facebook post the next morning.

At the Animate the Race Board Candidate Forum at the Children’s Theatre on November 3, six of the eight candidates run-

ning for school board seats in Minneapolis were asked questions sourced from the community. Central to Felder’s campaign was her pride for the Northside. “I understand, and for you guys on the Northside, I got you!” she said in one of her answers.

After the election results were announced, Felder shared her plans for her new role. “The first thing I will accomplish is making sure that our board is on goal with our students, schools, and student safety. As the District 2 board member, our needs, at all levels, as North Minneapolisans, must be met in order for the students to make it.” She described the race as “hard work,” and had kind words for her opponent who

she said ran a “good race.” She said, “I knew every day that it was 50/50, and in the end – it was that close. 201 votes. We’re both fighters.” She hopes that everyone can come back together now that the election is over. “...The big fight and the big win is keeping our kids from the horrible politics that are about to rain down on our kids...all 50,000 of them,” she said in my last interview with her November 16.

I interviewed a freshmen at North High, Javonni Grimes, to see what students are looking forward to. “I think we need better food, bigger sizes, and Avid.” We’re looking forward to new changes, and a new representative for our community.





JAMAR CLARK – one year later

Student journalists taking our *North News* class at North High School react to the issues that are most important to them. The opinions they express are their own and do not represent editorial stances being taken by *North News*.



Problems with policing persist

By Passion Osborne | Junior

One year after Jamar Clark's death, officers seem more aggressive and treat youth worse than ever – disrespectfully and like we are all guilty. There have been countless times where I'm walking home or scrolling down my Facebook newsfeed, and I witness officers over-aggressively slamming black kids on the ground, putting them in handcuffs and taking them to jail. The kids are out the next day because they were not charged with anything.

I remember one day I went up to Folwell Park and a lot of stuff was going on at the time with gang/click banging, so a lot of officers were there trying to subdue the situation. I was not responsible for anything that took place, but still I feel like I was targeted. I was holding my friend's hand while an officer tried to arrest her and was hit in the face by the officer instead of telling me to let her go. Everything happened so fast that I didn't have time to think things through. I hit him back which led to a fight with the officer. The officer was on top of me and at the time I was maced I was not resisting. I repeatedly said I was done after being placed in handcuffs. I was sprayed again with mace in my eyes, ears and mouth. I was dragged to a police car and was told, "You just hit a police officer you're going to jail, stupid bitch," by the officer who hit me first.

I was charged and pleaded to a misdemeanor due to my age. Before having the experience I had thought most officers were good, but now after this and Jamar Clark and so many others' stories and their similarities I don't. It seems like it's getting worse in my opinion.



The devastating death of Jamar Clark

By Ashley Powell | Junior

Visions still come to my mind of the burning fires, the loud microphone just starting the chant off with "Justice for whom?" and the crowd yelling Jamar's name. The desire to get justice for him led to some sleeping outside in the cold for 18 days. Tension rose as the police yelled through the loudspeaker, "If you do not leave or move around you will be arrested." The fidgeting movements of bravery. Taking smoke bombs to the face.

A year later today, my people are still trying to survive every day after Jamar Clark's death. Police brutality still happens to black people in my neighborhood. When my people are in danger, the first thing we do is dial 911, and who will we dial if they are causing our problems? How do we know if police purposely pull the trigger? Mistakes happen sometimes, but this has been consistent to our community. We the people feel our protection is now our enemy.

Every day I walk past the 1600 block of Plymouth and see the wind blowing on the balloons that remain on Jamar's tree. The power of his candles' fire is so strong it still remains lit out in 40 degree weather and heavy wind. The weather has never stopped the movement of Black Lives Matter because they would do anything to get justice for our people.



The importance of protest

By Taya Bumphurs | Senior

I still remember the burning of mace in my nostrils, chanting for justice in the air, and the cold shivering down my spine. It's hard to imagine that a year has passed since we protested outside the 4th precinct.

Police brutality is not new for North Minneapolis. It's hard to say if it's gotten better or worse since the incident with Clark. Northside resident Dana Kuehn, who works at Elizabeth Hall Elementary School says, "Just because a big incident hasn't happened, doesn't mean people haven't been harassed. I think people are more cautious of the police now and less likely to call the police when they need help."

I feel like the protests brought needed attention to this incident and other incidents like that one. Being quiet about these things will do nothing, only cover up what needs to be known. The more people are part of this fight for justice, the more likely we are to reach our goal of equality.

Our new president elect, Donald Trump, plans to militarize police even more. Giving police even more power over the public will not only increase police brutality but reduce consequences for police. This could most likely lead to more innocent people, like Clark, being wrongfully murdered by the police.

Protest at the precinct brought the community together for something they wanted to see changed. Now, a year after Clark's death we are having protests against Trump being in office. Though tragedies happen, it doesn't mean that our community can't overcome them. Maybe one day these peaceful protests will bring the change that we wish to see.

NAMED AFTER A SLAVEHOLDER:

Patrick Henry's **problematic** legacy

EST. 1937



At the beginning of the school year, Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) gave Semaj Rankin, 17, a water bottle with the school's logo emblazoned on it. He promptly scratched it off.

The PHHS junior says that the school's namesake, one of America's Founding Fathers, makes him "uneasy." Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was a Virginia politician and plantation owner who owned many slaves in his lifetime. "It's disrespectful to my race. That's why I think it should be changed," said Rankin, who described himself as an activist.

He is not the only one who wants a change.

By Kenzie O'Keefe



SUPPORT FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING

A few years ago, a PHHS student named Dino ('14) wrote an opinion piece on the topic, explaining Henry's legacy and calling for the name to be changed. The article was printed in the local newspaper, the *Camden News*, and can still be found on the PHHS website.

"Nowadays we don't have to deal with slavery, but sometimes I feel like I'm still in slavery when my people get pulled over for no apparent reason. Right outside this school, Patrick Henry, my friend and I got searched by the police for no apparent reason," Dino wrote at the time.

Tom Murray, former Parent and Community liaison at PHHS, helped Dino with his piece and is disappointed the name has not already been changed. He hopes that recent renewed efforts will finally lead to action.

"It's time to let go of the legacy of slavery at the largest school on the Northside."

TOM MURRAY

"It's time to let go of the legacy of slavery at the largest school on the Northside" he said.

Murray finds Henry's involvement in slavery particularly unforgiveable. He described Virginia as "ground zero for the most vile aspects of slavery," and he says Henry, along with Thomas Jefferson and other leaders there, were

determined to maintain the slave industry.

"The bottom line is that the Quakers were working Virginia landholders like Henry to free their slaves upon death. If Henry had done so perhaps I would be a little more forgiving of him. Instead he bequeathed his slavery and this evil practice to his children and the South," said Murray.

African American history expert and Macalester College professor Mahmoud El-Kati agrees. He called Patrick Henry "an enemy of human rights." He

"No slaveholder should be saluted by American people who claim to hold freedom, justice, and equality as sacred values. That's just simple."

MAHMOUD EL-KATI

believes the name should be repudiated at PHHS as other names associated with slavery have been throughout the country. "All I can say to that is that no slaveholder should be saluted by American people who claim to hold freedom, justice, and equality as sacred values. That's just simple," he said.

Though PHHS leadership opted not to comment on the name of their school, Rankin says that he has spoken to both his principal and his counselor about the issue recently and that they've encouraged him to pursue the change.

THE PROCESS TO CHANGE THE NAME

Nan Miller, Director of Policy Development at MPS says that changing the name of a school is "rarely done." It is a costly process, requiring not only signage changes but also time consuming changes to records.

Miller explained that Regulation 7960 C says that school name changes are specifically delegated to the school's site council. The site council is required to obtain "appropriate input" from parents, students, staff, the community, and the district's Facilities Department, and then they can forward a recommendation to the Superintendent, along with a plan to pay for necessary changes to "signage and designations."

The Superintendent then decides whether or not to approve the request. If he agrees, the name goes forward to the board for consideration. At least three members of the Minneapolis School Board have expressed a desire to see the school's name changed by 2018.

At a School Board candidate forum sponsored by Animate the Race that took place at the Children's Theatre on November 3, candidates were asked by moderator Anthony Reynolds-Harris if they were willing to implement a renaming process for PHHS to be concluded by June of 2018 due to Patrick Henry's role as a slaveowner. Every candidate in attendance said yes. Three of those candidates were elected on November 8 - Kerry Jo Felder of District 2 (where PHHS is located), Bob Walser of District 4, and Kim Ellison who landed the at-large seat.

"When we have children of color graduating from that school, what does that say? That we're supposed to accept it? ...Change the name!" Felder said.

Though she was not elected to the board, District 2 candidate Kimberly Caprini, who has a daughter who attends PHHS and is on the site council there, said that she's known about the issue for the past four years. "I'm aware of it, and I want them to change just like I said I would be committed to doing."

CHOOSING A NEW NAME

Though Rankin isn't sure exactly what he thinks the school should be renamed, he believes it should be named

"The school should be renamed after someone of color or a civil rights activist - someone that has helped build something in this country."

SEMAJ RANKIN

after "someone of color or a civil rights activist - someone that has helped build something in this country."

Felder suggested the school be named after former Los Angeles Laker Devean George, who was raised in North Minneapolis and is now a housing developer here. "[He] is a real time person who is right here and helped build affordable housing when Minneapolis can't do it. I think that that's real, and it would be a beautiful thing, and I think it would also be great for the students to have interactions with him," she said.

El-Kati thinks James C. Fremont (who Fremont Ave. is named after) would make a better namesake for the school. "He was an abolitionist. He was a general in the Union army. He was opposed to slavery in the most revolutionary way."

Murray proposes a small but deeply impactful tweak to the name: calling the school "Henry High School" and changing the namesake to a more deserving candidate: Warren E. Henry - one of the most "eminent African American scientists in American history," according to the African American registry.

Your guide to shopping local this holiday season



People travel as far away as Mall of America because they don't know that there are great places to shop for presents in North Minneapolis.

As a community, it's important to use our resources to invest in our local businesses and also save our friends time and money. With the holidays coming up, why not buy gifts for the people that we love that will also give a gift back to the community – our dollars?

Save on gas and support your neighbors by supporting Northside businesses this December.

By Rochelle Tanna, freshman 



Northside Holiday Boutique
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For the second year in a row, the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC) is exposing greater Minneapolis to Northside goods through a pop-up boutique downtown. Rob Hanson, Executive Director of the WBC, says the goal is to have goods from 30 vendors in the space. "We definitely give preference to Northside residents and those who can demonstrate a connection to the Northside," he said. The project is funded by the Pohlad Foundation.

For locally created clothing and accessories, Juxtaposition Arts Textile Lab retail space is the place to go. Black Lives Matter apparel, bags, and stocking caps for winter can all be purchased for reasonable prices. Ancestry Books' – which seeks to recenter the narratives of Indigenous authors and authors of color – pop up shop is also housed in the space. Store hours are MWF 4:30-7:30pm. Saturday 12-6pm and Sunday 10am-5pm. Beginning December 17, hours will be Saturday 1-6pm and Sunday 10am-5pm.

This eclectic gift shop offering handmade gifts from more than 100 local artisans and custom picture framing is nestled in the heart of Victory Neighborhood. Owner Connie Beckers, said, "We get in a lot of new work for the holidays and fill our garage space with "Holiday Magic," offering 6-8 new artisan vendors." The shop offers gift certificates in any denomination, which can be spent on goods from the store or the art classes taught throughout the year inside. Don't miss the shop's "old-fashioned Christmas sing-a-long" on Friday, December 9.

Over 50 small businesses are participating in this three-day shopping event centered around West Broadway Ave. You will find fashion, art, beauty products and items for all types of people. Great deals, giveaways, and entertainment will be offered to liven up the experience while you browse.

Sip a drink from the full coffee bar and listen to some soothing tunes while you shop for Black Excellence gear. Don't miss their Black Excellence Holiday Market from 1-6pm on December 11. Afrocentric vendors, soulful music, food, and "petit photo sessions" for purchase will be available.

Broadway Liquor moves to prominent new spot

By Mark Peterson | Contributor

A long-time West Broadway business – Broadway Liquor – has moved into its new home across the street.

In 1987, the two-story building on the South side of Broadway and Penn Avenues housing Knight's Pharmacy was sold, and the first floor became the home of Broadway Liquors. In 2011, the building was heavily damaged by a tornado and was eventually demolished. The liquor store itself was closed for 13 months. A temporary building was installed on the site and the business reopened. In 2012, store owner Dean Rose proposed a plan to develop land he owned on the North side of Broadway, hoping to relocate the liquor outlet there.

His partnership with Lupe Development Properties resulted in Broadway Flats, a 103-unit mixed-use (residential and commercial) building which opened this last August. The project includes an underground garage, community space, fitness center, and 19,000 square feet of first-floor retail space.

The anchor retail tenant is the new 9,000 square ft. Broadway Liquor Outlet. The owners are seeking five to six more retail tenants. The residential portion is nearly 90% full.

Although the old store had been in the same spot for 28 years, recent Facebook comments questioned whether a new liquor store was an appropriate choice for the area. Complaints were also made about the aesthetics of the temporary structure. There have been no significant crime issues associated with the

address. Currently, Minneapolis' 5th Ward has three retail liquor stores, including Broadway Liquors. By contrast, the 3rd Ward, even when the downtown portion is excluded, has six.

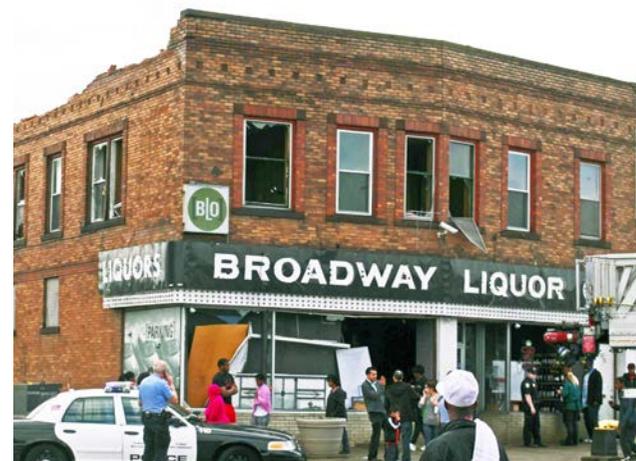
Rose said that when it became clear the store had to relocate, he went to the state legislature for help. In a letter to legislators, then-mayor R.T. Rybak and Council Member Don Samuels argued that the business needed a special state-granted liquor license to save the city a lengthy rezoning process for the new location. Samuels, now CEO of MicroGrants, said, "Managing a business in that area is very challenging. I've been impressed by the Rose family's dedication to the Northside; and by their capacity to adapt their expectations and embrace a new vision. Not only did they not leave the area, they stayed and re-invested."

Current 5th Ward Council Member Blong Yang said that occasionally there are residents who have religious or other objections to liquor stores and bars, but there was little, if any, opposition to the new retail outlet.

Rose, a member of the third generation of his family in the business, said, "We've gotten overwhelming support for the new housing and for the store. We work very hard to hire within the community, and we have 40% more employees now." Asked about plans for the property where his old store had been, he said, "We'll see what the market is like after we are completely full at Broadway Flats."



Broadway Liquor first opened in the old Knight's Pharmacy Building in 1987.



In 2011, the building was heavily damaged by a tornado.



Broadway Liquor owner, Dean Rose, co-developed the Broadway Flats, a 103-unit mixed use building across the street from his previous location. Broadway Liquor is the anchor tenant in the first floor retail space.



13 months after the tornado, Broadway Liquor reopened in a temporary building on its original site.

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RESOURCES

Clothes Closet at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 2901 Emerson Ave. N. Hours: Saturdays, 10am-12pm, Sundays, 11:30am-1:30pm, and Wednesdays 12pm-2pm. During the Wednesday hours, there is also a Loaves and Fishes food distribution. Donations of clean, reusable clothing welcome, M-F 9am-1pm. 612-529-7726.

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@nrrc.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 are located on West Broadway between 26th Avenue to the west and the River to the east and the one block contiguous (East and West) to West Broadway are eligible to apply. More information: <http://westbroadway.org/facade/> or email carla@westbroadway.org or call 612-353-5178.

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 insulation or air sealing, income-qualified residents also have special access to zero percent financing to complete that work. Call 612-335-5874 or visit mncee.org/hes-mpls.

Hennepin County's drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington **accept needles and sharps**, at no charge to residential consumers. 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

11/7 - Serendipity Spot is looking for acoustic singer/songwriter and spoken

word performers to anchor inaugural event. 3300 Lyndale Ave N. Call 612-564-3478 or stop by for details.

11/25-11/28 - **Black Friday on Broadway**. Come shop with local small businesses on West Broadway! You will find the latest fashion, art, beauty products and items for men and children. It's a 3 day event with not only lots of amazing small businesses, but also entertainment and giveaways! We are bringing over 50 small businesses together for you to come shop with! There will be all kind of items, including great deals and gifts. This will be one shopping event you don't want to miss! NEON, 1007 W. Broadway Ave N.

12/2 - **Holiday on 44th**. Now in its 19th year, this winter community-building celebration in the Camden neighborhood brings neighbors together over food, entertainment, and friendly contests all down 44th Avenue. The event promotes a positive image of our neighborhoods, fosters understanding between people of different cultures, and supports local artists.

Bare Trees by Jack Mader runs December 1-30. Opening reception, December 9th, 5-9pm, gallery talk, December 13th, 7pm. Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Avenue N.

Tai Chi classes, every Saturday from 9-10:30 am at Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave N.

Capri Glee! Choirs. Sing under the direction of Dennis Spears (youth) and J.D. Steele (adults). No experience necessary. Youth (K-5) Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30, 9/26 - 11/14. Free. Adults (18+) Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30, 9/27 - 11/8. Free or pay as you can. Capri Theater, 2027 W. Broadway, Minneapolis, 55411.

11/27 - **Advent Procession: A Service of Lessons & Carols**, Mount Olive Cantorei, David Cherwien, Director & Organist. Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent, and enter this season of hope in the darkest time of the year. Candles, incense and beautiful music all invite the listener to engage in this profound liturgical season. 4 pm, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Avenue S.

12/1 - **First Thursday Films @ the Capri**, Daughters of the Dust, directed by Julie Dash 7 p.m., Capri Theater, 2027 West Broadway. Tickets \$5 at mspfilm.org or at the door, night of show.

12/3 - SPCO's Start the Music: Percussion

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lead-safe
home!

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

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Party, For children age 3-6 and families. (All ages enjoy!). 10am, Capri Theater, 2027 West Broadway, Register for FREE tickets at www.thecapritheater.org

Hockey and figure skating for boys and girls ages 6-14 are offered at North Commons Park and Northeast Arena during the months of November through February. All equipment is provided and the cost is minimal. Transportation is available for those who need it. Register and get more information at North Commons Park, 612-370-4921.

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

Carbon monoxide (CO) exposure incidents increase during the winter months. CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that when inhaled, enters the bloodstream preventing proper absorption of oxygen, leading to illness and even death. If you suspect CO exposure, leave the area immediately taking your pets with you and tell others to do the same. Once you are safely away from the area, call 911 to report the suspected CO incident. Make sure you take proper steps to avoid exposure to CO and for more information about natural gas safety, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/BeSafe or call 612-372-4727 or 1-800-245-2377.

CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about certain rights and their responsibilities as it relates to the **Cold Weather Rule (CWR)**, which protects residential customers experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between Oct. 15 and April 15, 2017. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, customers who anticipate having trouble paying their entire natural gas bill, have received a Notice of Proposed Disconnection, or need gas service reconnected are all urged to call CenterPoint Energy to establish a payment plan. Call CenterPoint Energy to set up a payment plan at 1-612-372-4680 or 1-800-729-6164. For additional information, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com/ReadyForWinter.

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.

Even though no snow is in sight yet, snow season is coming and Minneapolis residents should go to www.minneapolis.gov/snow to find out whether a Snow Emergency has been declared. Or contact 612-348-SNOW for resources about snow emergencies in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong.

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

The City of Minneapolis is seeking redevelopment proposals for **one, two or three parcels located near Van White Memorial Boulevard and 2nd Ave N in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis.** The parcels range in size from 31,859 and 61,350 sq. ft. The development goals for the sites include commercial, office and creative “maker” uses; creating living wage jobs and options for career pathway and jobs for youth; development that is transit oriented and provides a high intensity of jobs and/or housing on the site. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Thursday, January 12, 2017. The RFP information is available at this link: http://www.minneapolis.gov/cped/rfp/cped_rfp

The City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County are seeking proposals for the redevelopment of a vacant, 0.8 acre site located at the northeast corner of the intersection of **Penn and Lowry Avenues North.** The Request for Proposal (RFP) document can be downloaded here. Additional background information and exhibits are available on the City’s RFP website, here (under the “Development” dropdown button). The City and County’s development goals for the site were developed with input from the Folwell, Cleveland and Jordan Neighborhoods. Goals include mixed-use or commercial development with innovative and sustainable design elements included in the building design. New development should incorporate pedestrian oriented and transit oriented design elements and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Questions regarding the RFP must be submit-

ted via email to Casey Dziejewczynski at Casey.Dziejewczynski@minneapolismn.gov, no later than Thursday, December 1 by 4:00 p.m.

ACTION

12/5 - McKinley Community hosts a discussion about neighborhood events, safety, and other issues. 7pm, Serendipity Spot, 3300 Lyndale Ave N. Parking in back.



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North High's SRO builds trust with students



School Resource Officer Charles Adams III poses with student journalist Tayven Smith (top) and is interviewed by him for this piece (below).

By Tayven Smith | Sophomore

This past spring at Central High School in St. Paul there was a School Resource Officer (SRO) who slammed a teenage boy to the ground. This was caught on video and was spread all throughout the Twin Cities, starting conversations on whether or not SROs should be in schools.

Some people think having SROs in schools intimidates students but others think it makes students feel safer during school. Minneapolis currently pays 1.2 million dollars annually for 16 SROs. In April 2016, Minneapolis secondary principals requested full time SROs in all middle and high schools. They were told the district could not afford it.

Here at North High School our students are very comfortable around our SRO, Officer Charles Adams III. This might be because we don't always see him as an officer. I talked to Officer Adams about his relationship with students in the school and how he builds trust with students. His answers are below.

What is your relationship like with the students in our school?

Me being in the SRO program and being at the school isn't about me being a police officer in the school. My connection is that I'm a graduate of North High – class of 1999. My mother, my father, and my uncles all graduated from North High. We have a long list of people in our family who have went to this school, grew up in this community, and graduated from here. Being an SRO is about connection and making connections with students. As you know, I'm a football coach. I've been coaching football in this community almost 20 years.

How do you build trust with students who only see you as a police officer?

It's no different if you're on the football field or the basketball court. So, one of the biggest things about being a police officer here in this school is letting staff and students know that I'm here for their safety – to protect them, and I'm a resource. If they have questions about any type of situation, if I don't know the answer, I can help them with finding a solution.

What do you like most about working at the school as a resource officer?

The staff and the students. The family atmosphere. It's a wonderful thing to work for Dr. Berry. She is a great principal. I love the kids, man.

I love giving kids opportunities to better themselves as young men and women.

Do you think all schools should have SROs?

I absolutely feel that every school should have an SRO. We are a resource. Sometimes it's important with the things that are going on in this world, it's important to have somebody that looks out for the safety of the entire school. But also somebody who can bridge the gap if there's some unfamiliar things that people have questions about. You have a liaison who can actually provide those types of answers when staff, students, anybody has questions about what's going on in this world. I would want my kids to feel safe in going to somebody when they need them.

Do you think that North High students trust you?

I think that a lot of the kids here do trust me, and they respect me. But, you know, let's just be honest, a lot of kids have been raised in households that don't really trust authority or police figures period. I understand that. I still have family members who feel the same way. It's not my job to make them like or love cops. It's just my job to be here as a safety peace form and to help them understand I'm here for them.

How do you think having a relationship with you affects students outside of school when they approach other officers?

Positive interactions with officers helps out young kids, but also, a negative interaction kind of skews and taints how they view other people. A lot of the kids at this school don't think I'm a cop. Then they're shocked when they see me in a full cop uniform. The good thing about that is that really doesn't change their perspective of me because I'm still the same person with or without a uniform. I tend not to wear a uniform every day because it's my choice. I think it's just a comfortable setting, not to have the full armor on with all the police gear. It can be intimidating to some kids. I have a more relaxed casual fit just because that's kinda the culture we brought into this school. Other SROs feel differently. That's just how I do my thing. For the most part, the kids that have a good relationship with me, they have that regardless of what I do. They know that regardless of if I'm a cop or whatever, my heart and my passion is the school. It just makes it even more better that I'm a SRO working in the school that I came from.

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Student Parent Center brings needed benefit to MCTC students

The Student Parent Center on the campus of Minneapolis Community and Technical College first opened in late spring 2016. The center is conveniently located adjacent to the Food Service area on the first floor of the T Building. It is a place



SSC Director Maya Sullivan (far left), guests and staff enjoy themselves at a recent open house at the Student Parent Center.

for students who are parents or guardians of minor children to study, use computers, and relax. The Center provides child-friendly activities and toys, as well as reading materials, snacks, and resources for parents. Student parents may choose to visit the center with or without their children. Visitors are encouraged to utilize the center and to keep in mind that they must be present while their children are at the center.

MCTC Student Parent support groups also meet in the Student Parent Center every other Tuesday, to provide additional support and networking among those who utilize the center.

The Center's services are provided through the College's Student Support Center (SSC). The hope is that this inviting, friendly environment enhances the student parent experience at MCTC.

Award recipient for excellence

In October, the organization that created the Student Parent Center, MCTC's Student Support Center, was recognized with an Innovative Student Affairs Program Award by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The award recognized SSC for providing a comprehensive menu of services to meet the needs of students when they are facing challenges. "We have an extremely dedicated team that assists our most vulnerable students – who are often in crisis – on a daily basis," says Maya Sullivan, MCTC's director of Student Support & Compliance and Title IX Coordinator, who directs SSC. Sullivan indicated that the students she and her staff work with are facing what seems like insurmountable odds. "The SSC team do this work because they sincerely care about the students and their success."

SSC prides itself on having a comprehensive array of partners to extend the reach of its services including: Aeon Housing, Assurance Wireless, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County, First Unitarian Society, Hennepin County Health and Human Services, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, The Family Partnership and Think Small and Urban Ventures.



"Happy and healthy students are successful students," said Hennepin County Human Service's Ann White who endorsed SSC for the award. "SSC is setting students up for both personal and academic success by dealing directly with challenges students are facing that effect their ability to function properly and succeed in school."

SSC was also recently awarded a sub-grant in the amount of \$75,000 through Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County. The grant enables the Center to remain strong as it continues its important work.

The new face of
District 59A
FUE LEE



Fue Lee's path to political office has been filled with remarkable victories.

In August, the Lind-Bohanon resident defeated longtime Northside politician Joe Mullery in the DFL primary for the District 59A (Northside) Minnesota House of Representatives seat. He officially landed the position on November 8, securing just over 80% of the vote in the general election.

The details of Lee's win are unusual and inspirational. Born in Thailand, Lee spent part of his childhood in a refugee camp before moving to the US in 1992 and growing up in North Minneapolis. Now, at just 25 years old, he is only the second Hmong person to serve in the Minnesota House.

This issue he spoke to North News about his devotion to organizing, his goals for his first term, and how his tenth grade English teacher at Patrick Henry High School predicted his political future.

By Kenzie O'Keefe

NORTHneighbors

First of all – congratulations! How are you feeling?

I'm really excited and hopeful. I really want to get going right now, but swearing in day is January 3. I want to bring a different perspective to the state legislature to really advocate on behalf of our neighbors up here.

Why did you want to represent the Northside?

I'm a lifelong Northsider. I grew up here. I feel like a lot of the issues we're seeing today – education disparities, income disparities, and access to healthcare – are issues I saw growing up too. I feel like our former member has done a lot for the district too, but after 20 years of some of the same issues, I think that it is time for a change.

How would you describe your leadership style?

I'm more of a listener – hearing about the different issues and concerns and seeing how we can really find common ground and work to make [life] better for everyone.

You are younger than most people in your position, and you're about to represent 40,000 people. Is there anyone you look to for advice?

Definitely my dad – Waleng Lee. Even though he doesn't have any formal education, he's a community leader in the Hmong community. Somebody else that I go to for advice is my current boss, Secretary of State Steve Simon, who was previously a member of the state legislature. He knows what's going on over there at the capital and how to navigate that process. Also, my close advisers including my campaign manager Sieng Lee and those who were instrumental in our movement. And more importantly, our Northsider community.

You are the second Hmong person to hold a Minnesota House seat. Do you think of your win as a victory for Hmong folks in Minnesota?

Yes. I would definitely say so. At the end of the day, we've been here for over 30 years, and candidates have not reached out to our community members. I think going forward it will be great to get more candidates of color to run or just candidates who reflect our communities. However, the bigger picture is that our movement wasn't just about the Hmong community; it was and is about Northsiders who've been for too long underrepresented.

What began your interest in politics?

I went to school for political science with a focus

in international relations because I felt like electoral politics was not my thing. But after graduating from Carleton College in 2013, I came back to organize on the local level for a City Council campaign. Being an organizer really made me more interested in electoral politics. Furthermore, after living here all my life and continuing to see the dismal work of some of our legislative leaders, I felt my life experience and neighbors deserved better – sparking my interest in politics.

How did you bring that organizing spirit to your campaign process this year?

I took an official leave from my job to campaign full time. Every day from 4pm until 9pm, we'd be out their door knocking or on the phones, hearing the concerns that people have. During the weekend it would be from 10am to 7 or 8pm in the evening. I also had many young millennials who came on board and really jumpstarted our movement from the beginning. We ran a very robust grassroots campaign to reach to every corner of the district talking and listening to Northsiders.

What are some big themes you heard over and over again from people?

I think the top issue or concern would be public safety – how do we make it safer for everyone? I think that we need to have more community policing. We do not have authority over local law enforcement at the state level, but I think we play a role in really bridging that gap between law enforcement and community. Another issue would be education. How do we support our students once they're outside the classroom so that they will be more engaged and more productive once they return to the classroom?

You're a Progressive Democrat in a state and country that are increasingly dominated by Republican power. How do you think of your role in that context?

One of the things that I'm most nervous about is being in the minority [as Democrats]. I don't know if we're going to be able to pass any of the legislation we really care about – paid sick time, equal pay for equal work, or raising the minimum wage even more. I think that the most important thing is trying to hear people who may disagree with me – politically or anything like that. At the end of the day, I think that anybody in elected office is put in the situation to really advocate for people who live in their area.

So really seeing how we could find common ground and work together to make it better for all of Minnesota.

What are you most looking forward to in this new role?

As an elected official, you have the power to convene. That's the most exciting thing for me going forward – seeing how we could convene different meetings or town halls or different events here in the district to really allow people to get out there and make their voices heard on the issues that they care about and learn about the resources that we have available for them to tap into.

You've said you want to help marginalized communities engage in democracy. How will you do that?

On Monday before election day, I had the opportunity to visit two classrooms at Olson Middle School. A lot of our young people are really engaged right now even though they cannot vote. If we just engage with people regardless of their age or anything like that too and really hear about the issues they care about, I think we'll be able to have a more engaged society. Our government structure is pretty hard and confusing even for folks like myself. How we make it easier for people to understand that process is really key.

Who do you admire in the North Minneapolis community?

Some of our educators and Congressman Keith Ellison. I remember when he got elected in 2004 as the first Muslim American to Congress. I was in my tenth grade English class at Patrick Henry High School, and my teacher Ms. Wright was like "Fue, one day I can see you doing this too."

What do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first term?

Success for me is how much engagement we could have with our neighbors here on the Northside. A lot of our neighbors don't know who our elected officials are. If we're able to get out there to hear some of the issues and concerns they have and really see how we can connect them to our government resources, that would be key for me in the next two years.



December

03 Apple Valley @Hopkins, 8:30pm
 06 Edina @Edina, 7pm
 08 Centennial @Home, 7pm
 10 Minnehaha @Hopkins, 12:45pm
 13 South @South, 7pm
 17 Hopkins @Hopkins, 1pm
 21 Fair @Anwatin, 7pm
 28 Brooklyn Center @Home, 7pm
 29 Red Lake @Home, 7pm
 31 Sioux Falls O'Gorman @SF, 7:30pm

January

03 Washburn @Washburn, 7pm
 06 Henry @Home, 7pm
 10 Roosevelt @Roosevelt, 7pm
 12 Southwest @Home, 7pm
 16 Minnetonka @Henry, MLK
 18 Edison @Edison, 7pm
 25 South @Home, 7pm
 28 Caledonia @Home, 4pm

February

02 Washburn @Home, 7pm
 04 Central Christian @CC, 3pm
 07 Henry @Henry, 7pm
 10 Roosevelt @Home, 7pm
 14 Southwest @Southwest, 7pm
 16 Fair @Home, 7pm
 18 Rushford Peterson @Home, 3pm
 21 Edison @Home, 7pm

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