CUTTING HAIR for a quarter century

Dimensions in Hair celebrates its 25th year on West Broadway. Read our interview with the owners, the Spicers, on Page 18

ALSO INSIDE
After decades of fighting, Northern Metals may leave by 2019
Page 8

Banana Blossom dishes up delicious SE Asian meals on Lowry Avenue
Page 6
Welcome to our first issue of the new year. This is the last month our current class of North High journalism students will be contributing stories to the paper. Their semester ends the day this paper comes out. Beginning in February, a whole new set of students will bring you their Minneapolis stories. If you know a North High student whose words you think the community should see in print, give them a nudge to sign up for our English elective. We also have an opportunity for all local high school students to get involved with the paper over the summer. We will take five Step-Up Achieve interns for paid, part-time summer roles. Interested students must apply via Step-Up’s website by February 10.

One of our final activities of the current semester was to take a field trip to the Star Tribune office (see photo to the right). We spent a morning downtown, attending a news meeting and connecting with people who work in many different positions at the paper. It was an experience that allowed our students to envision what a possible future career in journalism could look like for them. Thanks again to the Star Tribune!

We’re looking to cultivate new youth voices and new adult voices on our pages. As you’ll see from our advertisement on Page 16, we are looking to add more freelance writers to our team. If you’re interested in covering local issues or writing a regular Northside-related column, let us know.

Our coverage this issue spans the gamut of North Minneapolis life. Our North Now story dives deep into the latest news surrounding Northern Metal Recycling – they may be gone by 2019. Our North Neighbors interview is with Michael and Doris Spicer, owners of Dimensions in Hair, who are celebrating 25 years of successfully running their business on West Broadway this month. We bring you two empowering photo essays – THOR’s groundbreaking (Page 11) and Patrick Henry High School’s 100 Black Men Strong event (Page 4). We remind you about the dangers of winter fires on Page 6. As always, send us your comments, concerns and requests for our coverage.

Thank you,
Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher,
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Our North High journalism class poses during our January 23 field trip to the Star Tribune offices. Photo by Dave Denney (Star Tribune).
San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick donated $25,000 to Appetite for Change (AFC), the North Minneapolis nonprofit that “uses food as a tool, building health, wealth, and social change in North Minneapolis,” and operates Breaking Bread Cafe and Kindred Kitchen. Kaepernick is known nationally for taking a knee during the national anthem in protest of police shootings involving unarmed black men. His foundation’s mission is to fight oppression through education and social activism. His gift to AFC is part of his pledge to donate one million dollars and the proceeds of his jersey sales during the 2016 season to organizations working in oppressed communities.

**Kaepernick gives $25K to Northside nonprofit Appetite for Change**

Folwell and McKinley landed the top two spots on a Zillow Inc. study published in early January, which predicts which Twin Cities neighborhoods will see the greatest increase in home values for the year. Experts say that recent infrastructure and amenity investments, along with affordable home values, give Folwell and McKinley their predicted potential for growth – 7.8% and 7.6% respectively.

**McKinley and Folwell are among the “hottest” housing markets for 2017**

City Council and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) committees advanced plans to work with United Properties to redevelop the 48-acre Upper Harbor Terminal site during the first week in January, according to the *Star Tribune*. United Properties (in partnership with Thor Construction and First Avenue) has pitched an amphitheater, parkland, public river access, housing units, and manufacturing, office, and retail space for the area. “Although we have unanswered questions about sound, people are excited about an entertainment venue on the river in North Minneapolis,” City Council President Barb Johnson said at a committee meeting on January 3. The MPRB is hosting a public forum at their headquarters (2117 W River Road N) on January 31 to collect public input on how the property should be redeveloped. The forum will discuss equitable development and how to conduct effective community engagement during the planning and design process which will stretch on for several years.

**Plans for proposed amphitheater at Upper Harbor Terminal move forward**

Thor Construction broke ground for its new North Minneapolis headquarters on January 17 at 1256 Penn Ave. N, the southeast corner of the Penn and Plymouth Ave. N intersection. Governor Mark Dayton and Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith were among the crowd of more than 100 who gathered inside a heated tent at the site for the groundbreaking ceremonies. THOR will relocate from Fridley, Minn. to the Plymouth and Penn building upon its scheduled completion in Spring 2018. Turn to Page 11 for more.

**$36 million for Plymouth & Penn**

The community center’s executive director will leave her position after 13 years. “Her service and dedication to our community and the mission of the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center have been nothing short of outstanding,” said Byron Jackson, Chairman of the Board.

**Barbara Milon leaves Phyllis Wheatley Community Center**

Minneapolis Council Member Abdi Warsame has pledged to build “a new, cooperatively owned mall for East African businesses ...maybe in North Minneapolis,” reported the *Star Tribune*.

**Somali mall may come to North**

All of us would wish that Northern Metals could be gone tomorrow, but that’s just not a reality that is within the realm of possibilities.

Blong Yang, City Council Member, Ward 5

Read the full story on Page 8

I feel it is important to learn about our history and where we came from and to also think about the future too and where we’re headed towards.

Isiah Smith, Patrick Henry High School student

Read the full story on Page 4

**Auto thefts are “skyrocketing”**

While other crimes tend to drop as weather gets colder, auto thefts tend to pick up, said Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) Lieutenant Aaron Biard at the Hawthorne Huddle neighborhood meeting on January 5. Biard urged people to use “common sense” when warming up their cars in the morning. After responding to 14 stolen vehicle reports in 48 hours “where the vehicle was left running with the keys in the ignition,” MPD reminded the community via their Facebook page on January 6, that “leaving a vehicle running, unoccupied with the keys in the ignition is illegal in the City of Minneapolis under ordinance 478.160.”

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Isiah Smith, Patrick Henry High School student

Read the full story on Page 4
**100 black men provide a positive narrative to PHHS youth**

For the fourth year in a row, 100 black male professionals visited Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) for a day of inspiring talk about “college, career, and life readiness goals” with over 300 black male students. The theme of this event this year was “How to survive as a black man in America.”

For the first time this year, PHHS leaders decided to have 15 students plan the event with help from Christopher Fleming, the school’s black male achievement coordinator. Those students worked for a month and a half with Fleming, Parent Relations Coordinator Quinton Bonds, Principal Yusuf Abdullah, and Donzell Dixson to plan, promote, and lead the event.

Fleming sees this event as a way for students to see examples of successful people like them. “100 Black Men Strong, just in the name is powerful. ...it provides to our scholars another narrative than the one they [are] constantly fed,” he said. “This event is important to our scholars and professional men, because of the Black space it creates; a space not always obtainable in a corrupt system,” he added.

*By Tayven Smith | Sophomore*
Jakari Hunnecook (freshman) said that the event was important to students because it shows that, “black people aren’t always about failing. We are not failures. We’re succeeders and can succeed at anything in life.”

100 black male professionals told their own stories, listened to students sharing their experiences, and gave advice throughout the event.

Michael Alexander, from Target, spoke to a small group of students at lunchtime.

Army recruiters First Sergeant Paul Bula (left) and Staff Sergeant Kiefer Davis (right) enjoyed the event. “To see us in their neighborhoods, whether it’s the army or other professionals, in the neighborhood, to be able to come and sit with them and eat lunch like they are right now. It’s good to have those kind of influencers in your life,” said Davis.

Thomas Evans (freshman, left) and Isiah Smith (freshman, right) enjoyed their lunch.

Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

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QUALIFICATIONS & INCENTIVES:
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Southeast Asian flavors are blossoming on Lowry Avenue

By Navii Grimes | Junior

Banana Blossom Cafe sounds like it would serve muffins or coffee, but it is actually a really nice Southeast Asian food restaurant at 1724 Lowry Ave N, near North Regional Library.

"Most people don’t know that banana blossom is actually an Asian vegetable that grows on banana trees that is used in a lot of authentic Southeast Asian dishes," said Maia Yang, the daughter of the restaurant's owners Christopher and Shoua Yang, who also own and manage Good Deal Oriental market next door.

The cafe is open for lunch and dinner every day but Monday. They do not sell breakfast. Their hours are from 11am-7pm Sunday and 11am-7:30pm Tuesday-Saturday.

They have soups, rice entrees, noodle entrees, stir fries, bahn mi (sandwiches), a variety of appetizers, beverages that include bubble tea, and even an actual coconut for just $5.00. The cafe also offer specials on certain days of the week.

Their prices are reasonable for the type and amount of food they serve. Most of their meals cost between eight and ten dollars. Almost everything on the menu is under 12 dollars per meal. Options are both healthy (they include lots of vegetables) and tasty. Unfortunately, the cafe does not deliver.

I had dinner at the cafe after school on Wednesday, January 11. I read reviews before going there that the service was slow. I didn’t find that to be accurate – I got my food in under 15 minutes.

I ordered shrimp spring rolls, chicken pad thai, and a strawberry banana bubble tea. The pad thai portion was huge and the chicken was delicious and extremely flavorful. I didn’t love the texture of the spring rolls (they were difficult to eat) but the taste, especially the shrimp mixed with noodles and carrots, was decent. The bubble tea was my favorite – it made a great dessert! Next time I would order it without the bubbles though. The taste and the soft, slimy texture was weird.

My waiter, Jeson Erickson, told me that the most popular items on the menu are beef pho, crispy wings, and pad thai. He and Maia Yang also told me that a famous Hmong actor, Yengtha Her, occasionally dines there. Overall, the space is large, the atmosphere was calm and welcoming, and the service was very kind and friendly. Erickson even helped me decide what to order.
Artists look for balance in Homewood Studios’ latest show

By Ashley Powell | Junior

The latest show at Homewood Studios is “Looking for Balance.” This is the fourth collaborative show between artists Marion Angelica and Sandy Baines. Angelica is a sculptor and potter. Baines is a photographer, and she draws. Angelica’s sculptures explore the personal and public spheres, and she wants to help people with them. “I’m going to spend the next however many years it takes making sculpture that helps the community,” she said. She has a piece called “River of Hunger, River of Sustenance” in this show. You donate $20 and in return you may take one of the ceramic spoons from a cloth river that flows through the gallery. The money raised from this piece will go to local nonprofit Appetite for Change. At a recent show in Wisconsin, Angelica collected $1200 from this same sculpture piece.

Baines is very good at drawings and photography. Baines begun to take photos not knowing they would go out publicly. She got invited to be in the show and realized she already had the work she needed. A series of her drawings in the hallway is about finding balance too. She was with a drawing group at the Como Conservatory in Saint Paul and didn’t feel like drawing that day. She looked down at her feet and decided she would draw them. She kept wanting to redraw them. Her drawing teacher told her that her drawings were, “self portraits of the way [I] was feeling that day.” Angelica and Baines are friends, and their work fits nicely together in the gallery. Though their work styles are different, Angelica described their relationship as providing “artistic support to each other.” She added, “We keep each other going.”

The show runs from January 8-28. The closing celebration is in the gallery from 5-8pm on January 28.

Many feel a lack of food delivery options on the Northside

By Taya Bumphurs | Senior

Finding a restaurant that delivers on the Northside of Minneapolis can be a difficult task. There is only a small handful of places that actually deliver, and a majority of the options are pizza.

When you do finally find one they might not deliver to your address or there might be a minimum purchase. After all of that is taken care of you have to wait and see if they even show up. Why is this the case? Is there a fear of delivering on the Northside? Do businesses like Bite Squad and GrubHub do a majority of their delivering?

A couple places that do offer delivery over North are Yuan Yuan, Pizza Hut, Domino’s, Olympic Cafe, and Mr. BBQ. Even though these places deliver doesn’t mean people don’t run into problems when placing their order. “$15 is the lowest delivery minimum I’ve seen so you can’t just order something for yourself; you gotta feed the whole family now,” said Janessa Harms, who lives on Queen and Olson Memorial Highway. Tylecia Chandler who lives on 36th and Queen says “You can go to the [Domino’s] website, place your order, and go through the whole process, and then when you type in your address at the end they say you’re not in the delivery zone.”

Some people believe the reason restaurants don’t deliver as much on the Northside is fear. Back in July 2016 delivery man Andrew Gryskiewicz from Dulono’s Pizza was shot when being robbed while out delivering in South Minneapolis.

Even though this incident happened on the Southside, there’s a stereotype that the Northside is dangerous and unsafe, so this might be why restaurants are more reluctant to deliver here.

GrubHub, Bite Squad, and UberEATS are food delivery services that bring you food from restaurants near you that don’t already have delivery options. According to the National Restaurant Association, 74% of young adults and 56% of adults would order from a table-service restaurant if they were able to. Many people in the North community don’t bother to use these services because of the thought of a large extra delivery fee. “It’s like I don’t even like tipping a regular delivery man, then there’s a whole other fee besides what I’m paying for my food,” said Harms, who has never used any of them.

In reality, these services are not as expensive as people anticipate. Though there’s still a minimum of $10-$20, the delivery fee is anywhere from free-$10 depending on where you’re ordering food from.

If you’re ever on the Northside, looking for something good to eat and you want it delivered, here are some reliable options:

- GrubHub - www.grubhub.com
- Bite Squad - www.bitesquad.com
- UberEATS - www.ubereats.com
- Yuan Yuan - (612)302-8889
- Olympic Cafe - (612) 552-2300
- Mr. BBQ - (612) 588-4227
- Wings N’ Things - (612) 529-5555
MPCA hopes to remove Northern Metals from Minneapolis by 2019; some say that’s not soon enough.

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

In August of 2016, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) halted half of Northern Metals Recycling’s (NMR) controversial operations in North Minneapolis – the metals recycling plant. By the summer of 2019, they aim to have the other half – the shredder – moved out of North Minneapolis to a non-metro location.

Not being able to conduct those pollution-producing operations will reduce emissions in the area and may motivate the entire company to relocate, says Sarah Kilgriff, manager of the MPCA’s land and air compliance section. NMR currently leases their land, which is owned by a private family.

Zip code 55411, the closest to NMR, has the highest rate of asthma hospitalizations in Minnesota and highest rate of lead poisoning in children in Minneapolis. Many in the area believe these rates to be at least partially caused by poor air quality.

Kilgriff believes the area has the highest emissions signature in the state. She says NMR is certainly a “contributor to those emissions,” but that they’re not the only industrial polluter in the area. “If Northern Metals were to leave tomorrow, there would still be work to be done,” she said.

THE SETTLEMENT

The relocation of the shredder is one part of an anticipated settlement currently in the works between NMR, the MPCA, and the City of Minneapolis. The MPCA sued NMR in May of 2016 for submitting false and misleading information during their permitting process.

Though it initially appeared as though NMR was going to fight the MPCA, they have since expressed an interest in coming to a settlement, which could be finalized by the end of this month, said Kilgriff. The City of Minneapolis became party to the settlement in December.

Jeff Smith, the MPCA’s industrial director, said that the proposed settlement will require NMR to: 1) pay a civil penalty and give back any economic benefits received during the time that they were not in compliance with their permit, 2) pay the State of Minnesota’s legal fees for the case, 3) pay for the last two and a half years of air monitoring and for three more years of air monitoring in the area, and 4) set aside dollars to be spent on “community benefit” – remedying the effects of the excess air pollution on the community.

In mid-January, two community input sessions were held – in North and Northeast Minneapolis – to gather input on how those “community benefit” dollars would be spent. No specifics were given as to how much money is potentially on the table.

At the meetings, Kilgriff said the settlement would require NMR to relocate their shredder by the summer of 2019, and that they would not be allowed to seek public funding for that relocation. Community members have asked for disclosure of the location where the shredder may be relocated. None has been released yet.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Though the listening sessions were held to gather community feedback on how the “community benefit” dollars could be spent, a significant chunk of both meetings, especially the first, held at Farview Park on January 11, was spent discussing many community members’ opinions that over two years is too long to wait to see the shredder, and hopefully NMR, leave North Minneapolis.

One community member left the first event in protest. Another, Roxanne O’Brien, who lives in North and says she’s been following the situation at NMR for five years, said she was uncomfortable with the idea of a settlement. “There’s no amount of money that will pay for our losses,” she told the crowd.

Kilgriff and Dan Huff, environmental health director from the City of Minneapolis Health Department, empathized with them, but said that “there is a benefit to taking” the settlement. Kilgriff says it will guarantee a day by which the business would be forced to leave the area. Without the settlement, the legal battle would likely continue and stretch on for years to come. “Many people would say that they leaving and paying money sounds pretty good,” said Huff.

Fifth Ward Council Member Blong Yang, who hosted the North Minneapolis event, seemed to agree. “All of us would wish that Northern Metals could be gone tomorrow, but that’s just not a reality that is within the realm of possibilities,” he said.

Yang was one of several public officials who were in the audience at both events. Council President Barbara Johnson joined Yang in addressing the crowd at the North Minneapolis event after audience members demanded it (read their thoughts below). At the second event, held at Eastside Neighborhood Services on January 18, Council Members Jacob Frey and Kevin Reich were invited by the organizers to speak to the crowd at the beginning of the event. “We’re at the point where we’re actually coming to a solution on the horizon,” said Frey. “That is a gigantic win,” he added later.

“COMMUNITY BENEFIT” DOLLARS

At both meetings, President of the Bottineau Neighborhood Association (BNA), Mariam Slayhi, read a letter on behalf of the Eastside Environmental Quality of Life (EEQ) group, started by the BNA and the Marshall Terrace Neighborhood in Northeast Minneapolis. The EEQ requested three efforts, totaling $551,000: 1) Funding for the next phase of a study that will determine “how often we get sick and who has gotten sick over the last 20 years.” 2) A study of the Mississippi river bed, followed by river clean-up based on the study’s findings. 3) Blood tests of all children under age 13 in the four census tracts that they say are in the fallout zone around NMR, followed by compensation to all individuals “found to have elevated lead levels or compromised oxygen levels in their blood.”

Additional ideas for how the dollars could be spent were captured in smaller breakout groups for the second half of the meetings. Requests included a public apology from NMR, land remediation and redevelopment on the site, and paying for the healthcare of those affected.

The City says it will record all of the numerous suggestions gathered at both events and bring them back to the community via email to continue the conversation.

“All of us would wish that Northern Metals could be gone tomorrow, but that’s just not a reality that is within the realm of possibilities. It sucks, but at the end of the day, three years or two years from now is probably the best thing we can get. Outside of that, any sort of settlement we can get that allows for us to try to remedy some of the issues that happen in Ward 5 and in North Minneapolis, in Ward 4, and in the surrounding wards on the other side of the river, is a good thing. We are working as hard as we can to get it done right.”

Blong Yang Fifth Ward City Council Member

“The City has been involved in litigation over this facility for 19 [or] 20 years. It’s a real challenge. ...They had a permit. They violated it. They need to be shut down. ...The City joined the lawsuit to have it be to our advantage – that we are included in the settlement that will happen. I think we’re doing the right thing. The land use is a City tool that we have control over. ...If you take big parcels out of what they make their money off of, eventually they’re going to go. Then we will have a chance as a city to do something different about that land use.”

Barb Johnson City Council President
A brief overview of NMR’s history in North Minneapolis

1953
NMR’s predecessor company American Iron & Steel Company began metal recycling operations at 2800 Pacific St. N.

1995
American Iron proposes a “Kondirator” metal shredder on the site but one is never actually installed. The idea receives lots of public pushback around a shredder’s potential noisiness and pollution.

2007 - 2009
In 2007, the site is purchased by NMR, European Metal Recycling’s Minneapolis-based subsidiary. They install a “Metso” shredder which begins operating in 2009. Public protest continues.

2010
NMR is fined $15,000 by the MPCA for air-quality permit violations and is required to “complete corrective actions” which included applying for a permit amendment to modify permit limits.

2012
The MPCA conducts an environmental review and a health risk assessment using NMR’s proposed permit limits. Based on the results of these analyses, MPCA ups NMR’s pollution limits. This happens despite vocal support from residents and local leaders that this will have devastating effects on residents’ health.

Oct 2014
The state installs an air-quality monitor across the street from 2800 Pacific St. N.

Jun 2015
More Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) than allowed under state air standards are measured in the area, and as a result, the MPCA adds another on monitor on the other side of the NMR yard, which recorded additional exceedances of TSP. Elevated levels of lead and other heavy metals are also recorded. NMR sues to stop air monitoring and attempts to block a proposed MPCA order for further testing.

May 2016
After two years of measuring exceedances and violations in the area, the MPCA files in district court to stop operations of the shredder and further processing in the metals recovery plant and a rain/snow shed. The MPCA also administratively moves to revoke NMR’s permit, saying that the shredder is not airtight as NMR said it was in the permitting process.

Aug 2016
NMR is ordered by the district court judge to temporarily stop operating their metals recovery plant and an attached rain and snow shed until it can either prove that the operation of the metals recovery plant is not contributing to the area exceedances or it is properly permitted. The shredder is allowed to continue operating.

Oct 2014
The state installs an air-quality monitor across the street from 2800 Pacific St. N.

Dec 2016
The City of Minneapolis becomes a party to the settlement.

Fall 2016
The judge in the permit revocation matter requires the MPCA and NMR to mediate as part of the court process. When NMR comes into mediation, the previous representatives of the company (attorney and consultant) had changed, along with the posture of the company. Instead of taking an adversarial approach, the company wanted to discuss a settlement, says the MCPA.

Jan 2017
The MPCA and City say that a settlement with NMR needs to be reached by the end of the month (see Page 8) in order to not return to court regarding permit revocation. The potential settlement includes some funding for community environmental projects. Community input sessions are held to gather public feedback on how citizens would like to see the community dollars applied.

No later than Summer 2019
Anticipated time by which all operations contributing to high emissions recordings (shredder and MRP) will leave North Minneapolis and be relocated to a non-metro location as outlined in the potential settlement.
House fire numbers are down Citywide but dangers persist

By Dalvin Crocket | Freshman
With additional reporting and writing by Kenzie O’Keefe (Editor) + Rochelle Anna (freshman)

The Minneapolis Fire Department (MFD) has responded to nearly 20 structure fires on the Northside between November 1 and January 10. At least one of those fires was deadly.

Just after midnight on November 23 MFD responded to a fire call on the 2100 block of Emerson. A 39 year old woman died at the scene. The 78 year old homeowner did later in the hospital. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but there were apparently no smoke detectors in the location where the fire started.

A month later, a severe electrical fire on the 2900 block of Aldrich Ave. N left three children and three adults without a home on Christmas Day.

Mary Boler, managing director of low income public housing for the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), which does not manage either of the aforementioned houses, says it’s no surprise that there seem to be more fires, especially fires that are electrical in nature, in the winter. “You’re using much more electricity in the winter. There is more potential for an electrical fire. It’s a time to be very careful,” she said.

The MPHA manages roughly 1600 properties – a mix of high rise apartments, duplexes, and single family homes – in North Minneapolis. Boler says there have been two fires in MPHA residences so far this winter and that the MPHA takes winter fire safety very seriously.

She says the MPHA mails winter fire safety information to all their residents at the beginning of the winter heating season. They ask people to only use space heaters with a nationally recognized seal “that says they’re safe,” and that have automatic turnoff if they tip over.

In 2014, five children died in a North Minneapolis house fire that appeared to have started near a space heater in the living room. A wrongful death lawsuit was later filed against the landlord, claiming the space had inadequate heating and faulty smoke alarms. That fire was one of only 24 in the country that year that killed five or more people.

Social worker at North High School Kate Allen says she knows many students who have experienced house fires or know someone who has. She says she hears about electrical fires and fires that start from ovens being used as a heat source.

Boler says that she hears about people using their ovens to heat their homes “now and again.” She says “it’s certainly something we don’t want them to do,” and says that they will follow up with residents if they hear about it.

Last fall, three children died in a house fire at 2755 Penn Ave. N. The fire was suspected to have started from an oven being used as a heat source. At the time, Minneapolis Fire Department (MFD) Chief John Fruetel urged residents to seek help if their heat was not working versus using a makeshift source.

Boler says that when a MPHA resident calls to complain about their heat not working in the winter, it is treated as an emergency. “We would dispatch someone immediately if it’s really cold.”

Overall, Bryan Tyner, MFD assistant chief of administration, says that fires in North Minneapolis and across the city tend to be declining in comparison to years past. He doesn’t know of any oven fires caused by using the oven as a heater that have taken place this year but he says they have had “a few” from space heaters.

One reason fire instances and fire deaths may be down is a reduction in smoking cigarettes. According to Boler, all MPHA high rise apartments became non-smoking by August 2015. Before that, she said she saw fires caused by people falling asleep with cigarettes or being generally careless with them. She says that the number of fires caused by smoking in their buildings now are “almost nil.” MPR reported in October that more vaping versus smoking traditional cigarettes may have contributed to less fire deaths in the state overall in 2016 compared to years past.

Regardless of the cause, house fires have had devastating consequences for Northside families. Tina Robinson and her son Tyrin Robinson know this firsthand. Their house, which they rent on the 3500 block of Newton Ave. N, caught fire in early January. Tyrin woke up from an afternoon nap to the sound of smoke detectors going off. When he looked into the hallway, he could see flames coming from the kitchen and the house was filled with black smoke.

“I heard stuff fizzing and breaking and falling. I thought the house might explode,” he said. He and a couple other family members who were visiting escaped the blaze, but they have been living in a hotel ever since. All of their belongings are irreparably damaged.

“Everything is just done for. All we can do is pray to God and hope He has a plan. We can’t do anything but try to go on, step by step."

Tyrin Robinson, 17

A house fire on the 2100 block of Emerson killed two women on November 23. It is one of nearly 20 house fires that have taken place in North so far this winter. Photo by David Pierini
THOR Companies broke ground for their latest $36-million-dollar North Minneapolis development on January 17. By Spring of 2018 they plan to have built their new company headquarters and multi-tenant commercial building on the southeast corner of the Penn Ave. N and Plymouth Ave. N intersection.

A crowd of more than 100 gathered inside a heated tent at the site for the groundbreaking ceremonies, which included short speeches by THOR CEO Ravi Norman, THOR Chairman Richard Copeland, Governor Mark Dayton, Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith, Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Minneapolis City Council President Barb Johnson, Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins, and other local leaders.

Much excitement was expressed for the future of development in North Minneapolis, especially at the corner of Penn and Plymouth.

“In five years, this corner will look so different. We’ll have this beautiful building here. Estes Funeral Chapel, one of our legacy businesses here in North Minneapolis will have a new building across the street, and Northpoint Health and Wellness Center will expand and be an even more important part of our community,” said Higgins.

THOR is Minnesota’s largest minority-owned company. It will relocate from Fridley, Minnesota to the new building upon its completion.

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

Governor Mark Dayton was the first to address the crowd during the ceremony. “I thank you for your success as a company. I thank you for your pioneering leadership in what you’ve committed to doing today,” he told THOR.

THOR CEO Ravi Norman (right) said he sees North Minneapolis as an example of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “dream of a beloved community.” He said, “In a beloved community, people share hope, effort, and trust. Together we build relationship. It’s a balanced ecosystem where every participant is leaning in because not one entity is going to get this done themselves.”

“I live about 200 feet from where I was born, but that doesn’t mean I haven’t come a long way,” said THOR Companies Chairman Richard Copeland, who said he was born “to a single mom in the projects, right down the street” from the new THOR site.
NORTHnotices

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RESOURCES
Clothes Closet at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 2901 Emerson Ave. N. Hours: Saturdays, 10am-12pm, Sundays, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, and Wednesdays 12-2pm. During the Wednesday hours, there is also a Loaves and Fishes food distribution. Donations of clean, reusable clothing welcome, Mon-Fri 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, NRRC. 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
2/5 – Consortium Carissimi: Martin Luther’s Musical World. The Music of Josquin des Prez, Henrich Isaac, Johann Hermann Schein. Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents a concert by Consortium Carissimi – a Twin cities-based organization of mixed voices and instrumentalists performing repertoire from the Italian-Roman sacred and secular music of the 16th and 17th centuries. 4pm, 3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis.

2/11 – Student Art Day. Ages 5-16, 1pm-4pm at Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Avenue N

2/11 – “Mask & Doodle” interactive art. Make & mingle coloring party 2-4pm, reception and Q&A with artist Alex Barreto Hathaway 4-5pm. Free and friendly for all ages and abilities. Serendipity Spot, 3300 Lyndale Ave N

2/15 – Community Artists Talk. Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Avenue N 6pm-8pm

2/27 – Chess Tournament. 5-8pm. All levels welcome, onlookers and cheerleaders too. Serendipity Spot, 3300 Lyndale Ave N. Call 612-564-3478 for more info or to sign up.

Black History Month Emporium 2017 by Richard Amos, Bill Jeter and Shirley Jones. Runs February 3-10. Opening reception, December 10, 5-9pm, gallery talk, December 13, 7pm. Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Avenue N.
Tai Chi classes every Saturday from 9-10:30 am at Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave N.

Mondays – Mahjong game play, 1-3:30 pm at Serendipity Spot, 3300 Lyndale Ave N. Free and open to all levels, Mahjong uses tiles and is similar to rummey. Game hosts available to teach beginners.

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

Join the Northside Singers. Rehearsals are held at Patrick Henry High School in conjunction with the Minneapolis Community Education Program. 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.

Rediscover the joys of reading by volunteering with PPL’s after-school youth programs. We strive to empower students from low-income communities to achieve success in school and in life through academic support and hands-on enrichment opportunities. Volunteer Tutor-Mentors work with youth on literacy skills, relationship-building, and enrichment activities. One-on-one support makes all the difference in helping students achieve their goals! Tutoring takes place on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 5 – 7 pm or 6 – 8 pm at 4046 Lyndale Avenue N. For more information, contact Caitlin (caitlin.dougherty@ppl-inc.org or 612.455.5108).

Homework Help is held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 3:30 pm – 7 pm at North Regional Library during the Minneapolis Public School Year. Homework Help is for all students, K-12, at no cost and with no advance sign-up needed. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, have some experience with school-age children and be available 2 hours a week for one semester. Training is provided; a criminal background check is required. Applications may be submitted online at hclib.org or contact Barb McKenzie at 612-543-8579 or at bmckenzie@hclib.org.

The City of Minneapolis youth employment program STEP-UP began accepting applications for 2017 summer internship placements. Eligible Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 who are interested in participating in the 2017 STEP-UP class have until February 10, 2017, to complete an application online. Businesses, public agencies and nonprofits interested in employing interns in 2016 can find information on the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP website. To learn more about STEP-UP, or to access the online STEP-UP application, visit the City of Minneapolis website. You can also follow STEP-UP on Twitter @STEPUPMpls or like them on Facebook.

BE AWARE

With the current spell of subzero temperatures, bonded ice can be difficult to remove from sidewalks. The City of Minneapolis has several sites where Minneapolis residents can pick up free sand to sprinkle on icy residential sidewalks. This service is available to Minneapolis residents only, not commercial or other properties. Quantities are limited to up to a 5-gallon bucket full, and residents need to bring their own bucket. Sand is available at the following locations, 24 hours a day: 1809 Washington St. NE, at 18th and Jefferson and 2710 Pacific St., outside the main Public Works gate between 27th and 28th Avenues north.

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.

As Minnesotans experience the first snow and ice accumulation of the season, CenterPoint Energy would like to remind the public of important safety tips which also help to prevent service interruption and ensure proper meter operation. Snow and ice accumulation on or near the natural gas meter set and/or on the roof above a meter can lead to potentially dangerous conditions, including natural gas buildup in homes and businesses and service disruptions. Accumulations of snow and ice on the meter set can also cause the regulator to malfunction by blocking the vent and freezing the regulator which can potentially lead to natural gas venting inside the home rather than outside. Thawing snow or ice dams from rooftops above the meter should be kept clear to prevent ice from encasing the meter or chunks of ice falling on the meter causing potential damage. Additionally, customers should maintain a path clear of snow or debris to provide easy access to the natural gas meter.

Snow season is here and Minneapolis residents should go to www.minneapolismn.gov/snow to find out whether a Snow Emergency has been declared. Or contact 612-348-SNOW for questions about snow emergencies in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong.

Minneapolis ordinance requires property owners to clear sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall for houses and duplexes and four daytime hours for all other properties. Failure to shovel your walk could lead to a ticket plus the cost of crews shoveling it. Find more information at www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/shovel.

The City of Minneapolis is giving away 200 radon test kits starting Jan. 17 to increase awareness of the cancer risks of radon and to encourage people to test their homes for it. The test kits are easy to use, and postage and testing instructions are included in the kit. They will be available while supplies last at the City of Minneapolis Development Review, 250 S. Fourth St., Room 300. Minneapolis Development Review’s hours of operation are: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Once the supply of free radon test kits runs out, kits will still be available at the same location for $9 each. For more information on radon testing and mitigation visit www.health.state.mn.us/radon or call the Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601 or 1-800-798-9050.

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

The City of Minneapolis department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), in collaboration with the Minneapolis Department of Administration, issued a Request for Interest (RFI) for 1112 and 1200 Plymouth Avenue, the former State of Minnesota WorkForce Center property, in North Minneapolis. The City seeks a feasible project that benefits the public. The preferred re-use of the property is for job-generating uses. A re-use will provide employment opportunities including from low impact production and processing, technology, creative and office businesses. Responses due to the City on or before noon on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. An opportunity to walk through the site is available to prospective proposers on Tuesday, January 24 2017 at 2:00 p.m. To RSVP, email Beth.Grosen@minneapolismn.gov.

The City of Minneapolis launched a new program on Jan. 1, expanding opportunities for small businesses to compete for city contracts. As part of the Target Market Program, qualified small businesses will have the ability to bid for city contracts up to $100,000 alongside other similarly situated small businesses instead of larger, more established companies. Key goals of the program include increasing competition for contracts, expanding opportunities for historically underutilized small business and stimulating the local economy. For more information about the Target Market Program, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/procurement/TargetMarketProgram.

ACTION

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is seeking applications from the general public to serve on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the North Service Area Master Plan (NSAMP). This planning project will guide long-term capital improvements, management and operations within the North Minneapolis Service Area. NSAMP is a unique opportunity to set the vision for Northside parks for the coming decades. The CAC will work with MPRB staff and consultants over the next 12-18 months to make recommendations to MPRB Commissioners. Project details and CAC applications can be found at: http://www.minneapolisparks.org/currentprojects (select North Service Area Master Plan from the topic list), or by contacting the MPRB Project Manager, Adam Arvidson, at 612-230-6470 / aarvidson@minneapolisparks.org. You may pick up applications in person at each of the six recreation centers in the North Service Area. MPRB will translate applications upon request.

The City of Minneapolis is hosting several listening sessions in coming weeks to gather feedback on a potential minimum wage policy for employers in the City of Minneapolis. The City Council has directed City staff to present minimum wage policy recommendations mid-year after doing additional research and community engagement on the topic. The listening sessions will be an opportunity for community stakeholders to share viewpoints on how a change in the minimum wage would impact them. All meetings are open to the public, though each will have a specific audience focus. Meeting organizers will use a variety of mechanisms to engage community participants and will have interpreters available. Questions and feedback on this issue can also be sent to MinWage@minneapolismn.gov.

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for two vacancies on the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board. This board coordinates the management of water and related land resources in the watersheds that drain into Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek. Members serve three-year terms. The application deadline is February 23. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:45 p.m. at the district office. For more information about this vacancy and to apply online, visit www.hennepin.us/advisoryboards.

The City of Minneapolis is seeking public comment on the proposed Minneapolis Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Fund. The purpose of the Minneapolis NOAH Fund is to assist housing providers with a mission to provide affordable housing to purchase naturally occurring affordable rental housing in Minneapolis for the purpose of preserving the affordability of these housing units. The Minneapolis Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Fund is established to assist eligible preservation buyers to acquire and preserve NOAH rental property in Minneapolis that is at risk of increased rents in order to protect low-income tenants occupying such housing that are at risk of involuntary displacement. Comments are due no later than February 13, 2017 and should be addressed to the attention of Cherie Shoquist: cherie.shoquist@minneapolismn.gov.

ACADEMIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRADUATIONS

Bahward B. Brown – Minnesota State University, Mankato, BS, Psychology
London N. Stewart – Minnesota State University, Mankato, BS, Finance, Cum Laude
Nathaniel C. Lasley – Minnesota State University, Mankato, BS, Mass Communications
Ashli S. Lee – Minnesota State University, Mankato, BS, Psychology
Dan Vue – Minnesota State University, Mankato, BS, Law Enforcement, Cum Laude
Zachary James Anderson – Saint Cloud State University, College of Liberal Arts, Mass Communications
Leon Collins Cheneyon – Saint Cloud State University, College of Liberal Arts, Communication Studies
Vanessa Mae Tu – Saint Cloud State University, College of Liberal Arts, Communications
Amanda Marie Ferry – Saint Cloud State University, School of Health and Human Services, Nursing
London N. Stewart – Saint Cloud State University, College of Liberal Arts, Anthropology
Shirell Watkins – Saint Cloud State University, Herberger Business School, Accounting

DEAN’S LISTS

Valerie Umscheid
Carleton College – Northfield, MN
Mitchell Noble
Carthage College – Kenosha, WI
Kayla Canniff
Champlain College – Burlington, VT
Hal P. Welch
Northland College – Ashland, WI
Jessica O. Enwesi
University of Iowa – Ames, IA
Adrianne Bunn
University of Wisconsin, River Falls – River Falls, WI

NORTHnotices
Are you, or someone you know transitioning out of prison or jail? Chances are, the answer is yes. Here in Minnesota, people of color are a small portion of the population, but are overrepresented in its prisons. Whites are a majority of the state population at 86 percent, but only make up 53 percent of the inmate population. Minneapolis Community and Technical College, part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, is one of Minnesota’s most diverse colleges, and these numbers are reflected within the student body at MCTC. Students who are trying to better themselves by getting their college education but have been recently incarcerated or have a criminal record face a host of challenges unique to their circumstances. Systemic barriers hamper these students from obtaining basic needs, such as housing, clothing, and transportation. Through the support available via the African American Education Empowerment (AME) program at MCTC, students facing these challenges are not alone.

AME’s STEP (Student Success in Transition Education Program) focuses on increasing retention and graduation rates, personal development and transitional skills among ex-offenders and others, such as students moving from foster care to college. “We want to be a place where they can feel heard and safe,” says Al Brown, MCTC instructor and AME’s staff advisor. “If we can’t provide what they need directly, we are able to find the organizations and agencies that do, and help them navigate that process.”

Since its inception, STEP has helped participants gain access to a wide range of resources. Students can access help finding employment, housing, even legal assistance to get their records expunged. The overall goal is to remove barriers for recently incarcerated students so they can complete their education, learn a trade, find housing, and stabilize their income – in short, provide a support system for them.

“A man offered to pay for 6 months training in landscaping for one of our students,” says Brown. “However, the student’s parole officer wouldn’t approve participation in a free training opportunity. Disobeying that order could have resulted in his being re-incarcerated. STEP helped him through that difficult period.”

Interested in STEP? Its services are available to all MCTC students. For information about academic programs at MCTC and services provided by AME and STEP, call Al Brown at (612) 659-6000, or email him at albert.brown@minneapolis.edu.
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University of MN Aims to Expand the K-12 to Higher Education Pipeline

CORE 2025, a University of MN program, is seeking to support students who want to go to college, beginning with current eighth graders from multicultural, first-generation, and under-resourced/under-served backgrounds in the Minneapolis/St. Paul 7 county metro area. We are looking for scholars who enjoy learning, show a high level of motivation, and who are working on their path to college. Rather than falling victim to their circumstances, CORE 2025 hopes to provide youth with the skills they need to successfully graduate from high school, and ultimately college.

CORE 2025 is free, early outreach, cohort model program that recruits 8th grade students and supports them through their high school graduation.

“I believe that programs like the CORE 2025 program and other college readiness programs are critical in helping students maximize their potential, and making them aware of opportunities to advance.”

Shakeer Abdullah, Assistant Vice President, University of Minnesota

Through this program, students can access world-class training & support to help them be ready for college. This includes preparation for applying for college, maximizing academic success, understanding scholarships and financial aid. CORE 2025 scholars are expected to attend quarterly campus visits each year (i.e., January, April, July, October).

CORE 2025 considers all students interested in going to college, regardless of college preference. Apply online for your 8th grader now, at https://diversity.umn.edu/core2025, or call (612) 624-0594.
When married couple Michael and Doris Spicer (bottom left) decided to go into the barbering and beauty business together 25 years ago, they knew two things: they wanted to own their own shop and they were in for a lot of hard work. 25 years later, their hard work has paid off, and their legacy extends far beyond their own business, which still runs successfully at 1417 West Broadway Ave. All three of their grown children – Michael, Darius, and Lisa (pictured below) – began their professional careers at Dimensions, and they’ve launched the careers of many other talented barbers and beauticians. This issue, North News spoke with the Spicers about their enduring business. We discussed the trials they have faced, their hopes for West Broadway’s future, and their devotion to paying their good fortune forward.

By Kenzie O’Keefe

Bottom left photo courtesy of the Spicers
All other photos by David Pierini
How did Dimensions start?
Michael: I went to barber school but also had a business degree and worked in the computer industry for a while. When I went back into barbering and was working at Webb’s in South Minneapolis, my wife said “why work at a business when you could start your own?”

Doris: I was a legal secretary for 25 years. It was a dream of mine to own a business. I saw the gift that God gave Michael in cutting hair and I said “that’s it.” We found our building through a client of Michael’s at Webb’s.

Why was owning your own business important to you?
Doris: If you own your own building, nobody can move you. That’s why we’ve been there for 25 years. We could build the shop we wanted to.

What brought you to North and what keeps you here?
Doris: I was raised on the Northside. Mike had lived here. We wanted to stay in our community and show young people here that we could own our own business in our community and prosper. It’s a great location. The neighborhood has gotten better and better. We’re still getting new customers every day.

What would you like to see Broadway develop into in the next decade?
Doris: Back in the day, Broadway used to be like going to Uptown. Then as time went on that all changed. Now we’re going back around. I’m glad people didn’t give up on Broadway.

Michael: The idea of apartments with retail space below – like Dean Rose’s building – is a good idea. I like Devean George’s stuff – the Commons at Penn. Rome wasn’t built in a day.

What has being a family-owned business looked like for you?
Doris: Our three grown kids got their start at Dimensions. Our son Darius went to barber school and is now a barber in Las Vegas. Our daughter Lisa went to beauty school and still works in the shop. Our other son Michael started his sales career in this building and is now a realtor in Brooklyn Park. It isn’t just our own kids. We raised other kids in the shop. One of our current beauticians, Alicia, worked for us as a kid, folding towels. She calls herself the baby of our family. Her little cousin works in the shop now.

What keeps you in the business?
Doris: When you get a client in your chair, and it looks like you can’t do nothing with their hair, but you work on them and make them look beautiful. The look they have when they see themselves – that excitement. That’s the kind of joy we get from sharing our gifts with others. Everything you go through in the business is worth it for that. Also, Mike and I love to see people make it.

What do you mean “make it”?
Doris: We’re all God’s people. We didn’t just hold on to what we had learned in building and running a business. We taught others. We wanted more young people to get out there and have their own businesses. We had several people who worked for us for some years and then went out and started other businesses. That makes us proud. They’re our fruit. We feel so blessed that we could help others.

What makes Dimensions different than other barber shops and beauty shops over North?
Michael: We are seasoned and good at what we do. We treat people right – with respect.

Doris: We have this model that when people come into our shop, they’re kings and queens. We don’t care about their background. We all have something about where we came from that wasn’t good.

Why the name Dimensions in Hair?
Michael: There are a lot of professionals and everyday working class people. We have clients from all over. It just proves that if you have the right type of business – better service and a safer environment – people will go.

Who is your typical customer?
Michael: There is a lot of professionals and everyday working class people. We have clients from all over. It just proves that if you have the right type of business – better service and a safer environment – people will go.

Who is the most famous person who has ever visited the shop?
Michael: Kris Carter. Adrian Peterson used to come in too. A lot of Timberwolves and Vikings came in back in the day.

Have there been any extremely difficult moments in owning your business?
Doris: Reverend Herron’s daughter got nicked by a stray bullet in the shop last year. That was a huge trial. I didn’t expect her to come back to the shop after that, but she did. They like the atmosphere and Lisa. They didn’t let fear take them over. They have strong faith.

Michael: I was so upset about it. We found two bullets on the floor. One went right by one of our stylists.

What’s it like being in business with your spouse?
Doris: It’s nice not to have to work for someone else. My husband loves me and inspires me. He used to run a business before we started ours, and he brought those skills here. In a barber or beauty shop you have to do the best work and make the clients first. Michael has a gift to talk to people. He’s real friendly to people. He gets to know his clients. He lets them talk. He pays attention to them. He remembers all their names and what they do. He gets to know them.

Michael: Doris has worked very hard. She doesn’t work in the shop anymore, but when she did, I’d have to drag her out of there at midnight sometimes. She comes up with some great ideas for people – like, we serve a lot of biracial kids. White mothers don’t always know what to do with their biracial kid’s hair. Doris offered a seminar for those moms, and we had people who came from all over because it was the only place where they learn what to do and what products to use. People appreciated it. It was an untapped business.

How did you come up with that idea?
Doris: I’m a gentle person, and I have a teaching spirit. I had a lot of those types of clients, and I was inspired by the joy that I saw on their faces when they could comb their kids’ hair and not have pain. Our shop does good hair and teaches our clients to maintain their hair. All the dimensions.

Michael: We still have a lot of that kind of business. We get new people all the time off our website and Facebook page. We’re multicultural. We just cannot do one type of thing. We’ve got to be versatile.

What else do you want people to know about Dimensions?
Michael: We are looking for barbers and a beautician right now – people that seriously want to work and have a love for cutting and doing hair.
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