Anissa Keyes is the first individual to develop a vacant lot through the City's infill housing program. Read her story on Page 17.

Owning our neighborhoods

Exploring community-focused paths to homeownership Page 8
Expanding our coverage with a new partnership and Facebook live-streaming

Letter from the Editor

'Tis the season for political forums! Have you noticed that North News has started Facebook live-streaming candidate forums? Often these events are attended by only tens of people, and we know that the information is relevant to thousands of voters. We hope these recordings make it possible for more people to participate in the campaign process without having to be available during the exact time of every event. We’re trying to make it to as many as possible, and we have a smartphone tripod we’re happy to lend out if you’d like to do some live-recording for us. Reach out, and we’ll make it happen.

In other political news, this month, we bring you our first collaborative piece of journalism with another media entity in the Twin Cities. North News and the Twin Cities Daily Planet (both mission driven news organizations) have worked together to create the guide to Northside City Council Candidates on Page 11. This four page spread was researched by TCDP and designed by North News. We look forward to future partnerships!

This issue is only our second 24-pager ever, and it is chock full of the news you need now. Don’t miss our small business stories on Page 5 or Cirien Saadeh’s exploration of paths to homeownership (our cover story) on Page 8.

Last but not least: in early September we had the fortunate opportunity to meet many of you, our print readers, as you passed by the North News table at Open Streets. Thanks for stopping by, connecting with us, offering your feedback, purchasing subscriptions, and buying t-shirts.

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, North News
kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
612.302.3424

Letter to the Editor

When I first moved to the Folwell neighborhood, I was unhappy to hear (from a few folks) that actively participating in the neighborhood association would probably not be a positive experience because of the Executive Director’s tight control over the organization and with the (then) current board being complicit with her decisions (this is not the typical board - executive director relationship).

I am so very pleased to say that things have and are changing and are looking positive for my neighborhood organization (FNA) in that there are new and energetic people participating in moving this organization forward; finally. The best part is that the FNA Board is actively promoting and seeking new and interested people to run for Board member positions; 10 new members will be elected in November. The FNA Board has created an outreach committee to search for any individuals living within the Folwell Neighborhood that would like to have direct and impactful input into the direction of the neighborhood. I feel this is a great time to finally get our neighborhood organization moving to represent all of us with a unified voice made up from our unique diversity that is unique to this neighborhood.

All Folwell residents interested in affecting improvements in the neighborhood are encouraged to seek a seat on the board. I would like to see all 10 seats filled with the kind of people that want to contribute to a positive future for my Folwell neighborhood. The next time to get together is at a listening session: 6:30pm, September 28 at Folwell Park, 1615 North Dowling Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55412. Since the October meeting has just been decided to be closed to others (another of the current administration’s and board’s idea of not being transparent) this will be the last time to get together and see how enthusiastic we are about the possibilities for the future. The election will be held at the November board meeting during the annual meeting on November 13.

Even if you are not seeking a board seat, please attend the session and annual meeting and help elect the new board in November. And then continue coming to the monthly meetings so that ALL voices are heard.

Gary Schollmeier, a Folwell neighborhood resident

Inside Our “O”

Corner Coffee & Cone

The brand new coffee and ice cream shop on 42nd and Thomas Ave. N serves up specialty treats inside a spacious, modern work environment. It is owned by the Assemblies of God Church, which hosts church services on the site on Sundays. They own similar coffee shops in the North Loop and Uptown.

Read more about the shop in reporter Cirien Saadeh’s small business profile on Page 5.
Transit fares will increase this month

Beginning October 1, all bus, light rail, and A Line fares (except in the Downtown Zone) will increase by 25 cents. Local off-peak fare will increase from $1.75 to $2.00, and local peak fare will increase from $2.25 to $2.50. Limited Mobility fare will increase from 75 cents to $1.00. Downtown Zone fares will remain just 50 cents. On their website, Metro Transit says this is “the first fare increase in nearly a decade and a necessary step to address the increasing costs to provide transit service.” The Met Council voted to approve the new fares back in July of this year.

Alongside the fare increase, Metro Transit is rolling out a new Transit Assistance Program in an effort to make transit more affordable for low-income residents. Enrollment begins October 1. Visit https://www.metrotransit.org/TAP-riders for more information.

Mayor releases 2018 budget

Following a month-long delay, Mayor Betsy Hodges has presented her 2018 budget. The budget includes a 5.5% increase in property tax levies as well as increased spending for public works, the Minneapolis Police Department, and the Office of Community Planning and Economic Development, amongst other increases. “Our values form the foundation of our budget, our budget forms the foundation of our actions, and our actions get positive results for the people of Minneapolis,” said Hodges to the City Council on September 12. In her budget presentation, Hodges discussed the socioeconomic inequities facing communities of color and Indigenous communities including proposed funding increases for affordable housing, and a proposed Office of Immigrants and Refugees. “We hope that in the coming months the city will provide ample time and opportunity for the Northside and other communities of color in Minneapolis to weigh in on how the city can best meet their needs on housing, environmental justice, innovative public safety strategies, and more,” said Anthony Newby, Executive Director for Neighborhoods Organizing for Change, in a statement for North News. The budget dedicates $4 million to public safety and building community trust, with $200,000 in strategy dollars to Downtown Minneapolis and $730,000 for training and hiring eight community liaisons to be embedded across the city. The Mayor’s Budget does not include continued funding for the public safety strategy program that occurred on West Broadway and in Little Earth this summer.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

FREE Cervical and Breast Cancer Screenings
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For More Info go to: www.northpointhealth.org
The school board report

Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

This is the first of a new regular monthly column that will explore happenings at the Minneapolis Public School Board Meetings. At this month’s Business Meeting on September 19, board directors spent a considerable amount of time discussing the rules which govern their meetings, including whether they should eliminate the public comment period in the Business Meeting and move it to the Committee of the Whole. This was discomfiting to some audience members as well as to Director Kerry Jo Felder, who represents the Northside. Emergencies happen and, in the words of Felder, “kids are wily”; our urgent community issues can rarely wait a month to discuss. The Minneapolis School Board will vote on these – and other rule changes including a change to office hours and limits on Board Member speaking time during meetings – in October.

Other meeting highlights included:
1. Southwest High School parents and youth came out in droves in support of David Nutter, their former Assistant Principal who was moved to an administrative role at the Davis Center in August. Parents begged the Board to bring Nutter back to Southwest who they argued was a champion for equity at the high school and because of their concerns with the lack of transparency and explanation provided.
2. Medtronic and the Minnesota Vikings were briefly acknowledged for giving North High School $20,000 for their Athletic Center.
3. A mariachi band performed to honor Hispanic Heritage Month.
4. Students from Fair High School performed selections from their award-winning play Once On This Island JR.

The next Business Meeting is October 10 from 5:30pm-8pm. The next Committee of the Whole meeting is October 24 from 6pm-8pm. Both are held at the Davis Center.

Student journalists document each other's humanity

North News teaches a journalism class at North High each day. In September, our young journalists practiced their interviewing and photography skills, culminating in this project which asked each of them to interview a peer, and bring their lives to life in just one simple quote. Here are three of their submissions. Find the rest on the North News Facebook Page.

Morris Grear, sophomore

“I stayed in Liberia my whole life, but I moved to America in 2015. If I could choose anything to change about myself, it would be the friends I choose, because some are bad influences. Red is my happy color, and black is my sad color. I say black is my sad color because it reminds me of when someone dies. When someone dies, everything’s black. I look up to God; he is the higher power. I feel like the world needs more love and less hate. …If I could be anything I would be a musician. In the future, I see myself making business and making some money.”

Grear is a black, African American man who grew up in Liberia, Africa. His favorite color is red, and he looks up to God.

By Marshefani Tyler

Jaylen Green, sophomore

“To be a Polar at North High is very good, very comforting, they make me feel loved here. One goal I have for this year is to just pass to next grade with a 3.0 or higher. …I’m self motivated, my family motivates me, and most of all my brother. He motivates me in the best way because he passed away, and I felt like I had to really grow up and be a man and make better decisions for him.” [The thing I’m most passionate about in life is] making sure my family is good. I’d rather have my family alright more than me.”

Green takes school seriously because he believes in the saying “knowledge is power” which means the more you know the better you grow and the more options you have for yourself.

By Jermaine Hardin

Eli Campbell, junior

“What inspires me is my little brother. I gotta be a good role model for him. I do what I do for him so he can grow up and do what is right and not wrong. You feel me? [What inspires me is] growing up in poverty and not having everything I want. So I do everything to get what I want. [I want to go to college] out of state because I feel like you have better opportunities out of state.”

Eli is short for Elijah. He plays both football and basketball and was on both of the state championship basketball teams. He will be wearing #2 this basketball season, and he is already #1 in football, so be on the lookout for this amazing junior.

By Tayler Johnson
New Camden coffee shop serves up ice cream, and church on Sundays

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

A new coffee shop has come to the Northside: Corner Coffee & Cone Camden (4155 Thomas Ave. N). It serves up typical cafe offerings: specialty coffee drinks, pastries, ice cream, and something a little less typical: religious services on Sunday, courtesy of the Assemblies of God Church, which runs a few other similar coffee shops.

In addition to running his flower shop, Murphy has sought to raise awareness for neighborhood crime through his “True North Minneapolis” Facebook page for three years. He says he hoped that the page would reduce crime in the area and enable him to keep his doors open without fear. “I hoped that I could be here selling flowers today instead of selling my belongings,” he said. Photos by Kenzie O’Keefe


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Saturday, September 9 was a gorgeous day for this year’s West Broadway Open Streets celebration, which gave the streets to pedestrians from Penn Ave. N to Lyndale Ave. N. Hundreds of community members gathered to partake in bike rides, dance in the street, and visit vendors. Next year’s date has yet to be announced.
Community members enjoyed the car-less streets on bikes. Photo by Azhae-la Hanson.

Above, left: A temporary skate park was set up near Penn Ave. N. Above, right: Dancing in the street was a common sight throughout the celebration. Left: Youth from Appetite for Change performed at the Eastern end of the festivities. Photos by Azhae-la Hanson.

There are four Ward 5 candidates that want to be on the ballot this November. Get to know who they are and why they're running at this upcoming forum hosted by the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition in partnership with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce.

We welcome questions from the community as well at westbroadway.org/ward5forum

Date TBD this month

Visit the website for up to date information on scheduling.

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Join us on October 6 for a free community dinner party to celebrate another great year of the Farmers Market
To many, North Minneapolis homes seem like a good investment right now. The housing stock is among the least expensive in a city that is short on starter homes and sure to continue growing.

Many see homeownership as one pathway out of generational poverty – a reality for many on the Northside. But here, where the foreclosure crisis hit hard, the average family income is around $39,000 and folks disproportionately experience bad credit, predatory lending, un(der)employment, and lack of information about the home-buying process, homeownership often feels inaccessible and risky.

Outsiders have the means to take advantage of the financial opportunity our housing may offer. For example, HavenBrook Homes, a Georgia-based company, owns hundreds of rental properties in North Minneapolis. The average purchase price of their homes was $102,000, reported the *Star Tribune.*

What will it take for people who currently live in North (many for generations), to own the homes in our community and experience economic and social stability from them? This month, *North News* has begun to explore the answers to those questions. We’ve started by taking a deeper look at a few of the organizations and people who are working to reduce barriers to homeownership for people here.

The three programs we’ve highlighted on the next page cover logistical supports like financial literacy and process assistance as well as social and psychological supports for current community members who don’t believe they can own a piece of their neighborhood.

This piece is the beginning of a conversation. If you are a first-time homebuyer, or a longtime Northsider, or someone who doesn’t believe homeownership is a good wealth building strategy, let us know your thoughts. We would love for you to tell your stories on our pages in subsequent editions of our newspaper.

| The average sale price of a home in Minneapolis is $205K. In North Minneapolis, it’s $101K. (City of Minneapolis CPED) | There are approx. 500 vacant lots in the City. Approx. 400 of those vacant lots are in North Minneapolis. (Star Tribune) | The average sale price of an “affordable” new-build house, on the Northside, bought through the city is $194,500. (City of Minneapolis CPED) | Average household income in the City is approx. $65000. In North Minneapolis it is approx. $39,000. (Star Tribune) |
**CITY PROGRAMS**
The City’s housing infill program offers incentives to homebuyers and developers to build or buy city-owned vacant lots and homes on the Northside.

One of its major champions, Ward 5 Council Member Blong Yang, has advocated for Northside homeownership. He sees increasing homeownership on the Northside as requiring both an economic and a psychological shift. He wants to see people building their homes on the Northside and putting down roots.

“Homeownership is a route. It might not be right for you, but you should think about it at least.

And you should think about within the context of wealth, within the context of this is what the market says, and the rent for a four-bedroom is going to be $1400 or $1500, your mortgage is going to be $1200 or $1000,” he said.

**BUILD WEALTH MN, INC**
2100 Plymouth Ave. N

Build Wealth, MN is a nonprofit made up of educators and guides, which offers a two-year program aimed at increasing family stability and financial literacy, and home development. “Build Wealth has a really comprehensive approach to helping people build wealth,” said David McGee, Executive Director.

They offer several different programs and services, including the Family Stabilization Plan. “Families take 12 weeks of financial literacy and then are paired up with a coach and that coach works with them to create economic plans and action plans in six-month bites to attack credit, underemployment, housing opportunities, looking for housing options, building a budget. And prioritizing relationships and getting stable again,” said McGee.

The organization sees teaching people to become homeowners – in the Northside and across the Twin Cities – as not just about teaching people to balance their budget or improve their credit, it’s about making people believe they can be homeowners and providing them with the tools, resources, and mentors to make that belief a reality.

The organization’s services are in high demand. Their programs currently have a waiting list, despite not advertising their programs.

Build Wealth MN can be contacted at 612-877-4182

**URBAN HOMEWORKS**
2015 Emerson Ave. N

Urban Homeworks is a nonprofit home developer which combines public, private, and faith-based forces in an effort to create “dignified” housing stock in North Minneapolis.

Pam Bookhout, Urban Homeworks’ Manager for Real Estate Development, says the organization’s goal is to empower people to become homeowners if they can achieve it. She says they reduce barriers to homeownership through a multi-pronged effort in partnership with other community organizations that share their goals: helping low to moderate income people become homeowners and helping to stabilize the housing market.

“There are so many resources. We can’t provide it all, but if we can refer someone to Build Wealth and/or Habitat for Humanity or Homestretch, then we’re going to do that too,” Bookhout said.

Many of their programs are currently under construction, as they work to keep community needs and voices centered and their programs sustainable.

Urban Homeworks can be contacted at 612-724-9002
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City Council members have a lot of power. Their votes on city policies can influence your wages, your rent and even the quality of the air you breathe. But you, the voter, have even more power. With your vote, you can put someone into that City Council seat who is right for you – the kind of person who deeply understands your neighborhood and can bring what your community needs.

That’s why we at the Twin Cities Daily Planet developed a voters guide for the 2017 Minneapolis municipal elections. In partnership with North News, we’ve included an excerpt covering the City Council candidates for North Minneapolis in Wards 4 and 5 in this edition. The information included goes beyond candidate talking points and stump speeches.
**Ward 5**

### The Issues

**Police Brutality + Accountability**  
He was one of the lead muralists/organizers for the "What do we tell our children when...?" mural in South Minneapolis created after the death of Philando Castile in response to the loss of numerous Black lives at the hands of police. [TCDP 9/28/16](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-politics-philando-castile-memorial-idUSKBN1391XQ)

**Workers’ Rights**  
"We should go beyond $15. A minimum wage is still a minimum wage. We need to acknowledge that wages alone don’t necessarily bridge racial divides." [NOC Q&A 2017](https://www.redstarcampaigncenter.org/)

**Housing + Tenants’ Rights**  
"Beyond enforcing anti-discrimination laws against landlords who refuse to take Section 8, we need to make sure every Northsider has a safe and healthy home by removing lead, asthma triggers and other contaminants from the environment." Facebook 3/23/2017

**Immigration + Sanctuary Cities**  
He says he is against Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), "I will promote program and strategies, and collaborate with community organizations, and churches aiming to protect immigrants and refugees." [NOC Q&A 2017](https://www.redstarcampaigncenter.org/)

**Community Development + Gentrification**  
"There is a real need for cooperative business models like credit unions, where community members, rather than outside shareholders call the shots. A black-owned credit union is a step in the right direction to ensure that communities of color benefit from growth and opportunity in the Northside." Facebook 6/20/2017

**City Hall Culture**  
Ellison’s dad, Keith Ellison, is a congressman representing the Fifth District of Minnesota.  
"I’m committed to collectively building a Northside presence that can’t be ignored." Facebook 4/30/2017

**Racial + Gender Equality**  
Ellison was a 2015 Creative Citymaking artist focused on developing culturally specific ways to increase voter engagement with the Minneapolis City Clerk’s Office, especially among communities of color and immigrants. [Intermedia Arts 2015](https://www.intermediaarts.org/)

**Jeremiah Ellison**

As executive director of the Jordan Area Community Council, Spann started community policing programs in the Jordan neighborhood. Star Tribune 4/18/17

"I live in a community where people deal with the police on a daily basis," she pointed out. "We’re secondary victims; we’re primary victims of violence." MSR 4/4/17

**Cathy Spann**

In 2013, only 23 percent of North Minneapolis voters went to the polls to pick their representatives for Minneapolis City Council. That means between both Ward 4 and Ward 5, fewer than 7,600 people elected two council members to represent a community of nearly 70,000 residents.

Through interviews and archival research, we analyzed several years worth of information to show you not only what the candidates say they believe, but how they have shown up for the Northside community. Through their votes, their jobs, their affiliations and their actions, candidates embody their beliefs through the choices that they make.

We hope this information can give you confidence in the choice you will make on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7. For more information on the Minneapolis City Council, mayoral and Parks and Recreation Board elections, subscribe to the Twin Cities Daily Planet newsletter at [http://bit.ly/subscribeDailyPlanet](http://bit.ly/subscribeDailyPlanet) and be the first to get our comprehensive guide when it releases.
Raeisha Williams

“I hear people say most police are good ... well duh; most police are good, but there are those who are preying on the community and they need to be held accountable,” said Williams in announcing her reasons for running for City Council. Insight News

Blong Yang

Yang was not present at the Fourth Precinct protest following Jamar Clark’s killing in 2015. Soon after, he was part of proposing “$605,000 in one-time spending for safety and accessibility improvements at the Fourth Precinct to better serve officers and the community.” Minn Post 12/16/16

Phillipe Cunningham

“Our community in the fourth ward needs much stronger leadership on investing in community safety beyond policing. … I’m a huge supporter of our youth violence prevention work because when we look at who is most likely to be the victims or perpetrators of violent crime, we’re looking at young folks.” NOC Forum 2/23/17

“Most often [access to hours and fair scheduling] affects single mothers. … I would implement a policy that employers have to at least give you a 48 hour notice. That gives you two days to figure something out but giving you an 8 hour notice is not good enough.” NOC Q&A Video

“I will work to establish rent regulation and rent stabilization programs in North Minneapolis to ensure affordability for all Ward 5.” raeshaforward5.com

Says she is interested in exploring co-op housing opportunities on the Northside. NOC Q&A Video

“I am openly and vehemently opposed to the unjust immigration ban against Muslims or any global citizens.” Facebook 1/31/17

Yang was the first Hmong-American elected to Minneapolis City Council. He was born in a refugee camp in Thailand. He voted in support of resettling Syrian refugees in Minneapolis and called on other communities to support the resettlement of Syrian refugees. City Council Proceedings 1/13/16

“We could create a more transparent culture. If we're looking at young folks.” NOC Forum 2/23/17

“City Hall is doing great things for other parts of the city such as the redevelopment of the Mississippi Riverfront,” Williams said, “but they seem to forget about North Minneapolis as they get left out on some of the city’s plans.” TCDP 3/27/17

“We want to raise our kids here. But we want to raise our kids in a place that's safe, in a place that has jobs for the people who live here. In a place that has housing options for the people who live here. In a place where civil rights is a value that our city practices.” Yang Campaign Video 9/21/13

Williams was the Communications Director for the Minneapolis branch of the NAACP. Minnesota Women’s Press 9/26/17

He's introduced measures he sees as ways to combat racial inequities, including repealing three low-level ordinances (including spitting and lurking laws) he said were likely to be used by the police to target people of color, and expanding the city's programs for selling and building affordable housing on vacant lots. Star Tribune 3/14/16

Co-ordinator for My Brother’s Keeper in Minneapolis, which works to keep young men of color in school and out of violence. MPR 9/22/16

“I will be a tireless champion for more investment in more restorative justice and community safety strategies that lift up, not lock out neighbors.” NOC Q&A 2017
The Issues

Police Brutality + Accountability

"We need to recruit and hire police officers from our communities. When officers have roots in the neighborhoods they serve, they are better able to earn the trust and respect of those they are sworn to protect." vote stephaniegasca.com

"[MPD] will continue to be aggressive and relentless as they search for the people who are hurting and killing our neighbors, affecting the quality of life and safety for everyone. Our law enforcement partners will continue to put every available resource out on the streets in an effort to avert future acts of violence." July 2015 Newsletter

Workers’ Rights

She is the communications organizer at CTUL. "I believe that employers should be required to post schedules two weeks in advance. Low wage workers struggle against poverty wages and a volatile schedule. We can begin to combat this cycle of poverty with an attention to predictability in pay." NOC Q&A 2017

Voted against putting $15 wage minimum on the ballot in November’s election (City Council Proceedings 8/5/16) but for the $15 wage minimum (Star Tribune 7/11/17).

"I have listened to both sides of this issue extensively and I don’t support the City telling employers how to manage their employee’s hours." NOC Q&A 2017

Housing + Tenants’ Rights

"I want to work directly with potential homeowners to help them navigate the process and the sense of doubt like I had. With this level of engagement in place I expect more people of color can become homeowners." The Wedge Times-Picayune 2017 Q&A

"In a letter to the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority in 2014, Council Members Blong Yang and Barbara Johnson asked that the authority stop the use of vouchers in their wards, which together contain one-third of the city’s Section 8 housing, until voucher use was balanced in all 13 wards." MinnPost 5/13/16

Immigration + Sanctuary Cities

"My vision for a Sanctuary City is one that includes a living wage with access to sick time and vacation, access to homeownership, access to healthcare that is in multiple languages and culturally appropriate, and attentiveness to the emerging hostility towards people of color." NOC Q&A 2017

"We do not have control over the federal CVE program. Non-profits apply and are awarded the funding, not the city. I have not seen the presidential order and would not work to change our separation ordinance. Our city law enforcement is not in the business of enforcing federal immigration laws." NOC Q&A 2017

Community Development + Gentrification

"We can convey a new vision for North Minneapolis that will be shaped by many more voices of the ward than what has previously been allowed, all the people that our political system ignores, pushes out and discourages." Latina.com 4/10/17

"Sometimes people have limited horizons," said City Council President Barbara Johnson, who represents the area and rightly celebrates the push for new homes and higher incomes in a district where housing values had declined for a decade. "We have to look past the negativity," she said. Star Tribune Editorial 8/19/15

City Hall Culture

"I’m here to build power with and for our most marginalized communities, those of us who have been historically and systemically left out of the decision-making processes that impact our daily lives." Latina.com 4/10/17

She has represented the 4th Ward since 1997. The seat has been held by members of her family for nearly 50 years. Star Tribune 7/5/2015

She voted against allowing 15 minutes of public comment time before each city council meeting. City Council Proceedings 1/6/14

Racial + Gender Equality

"My most important role in life is the role of being a mother. Our youth are amazing and deserve a lot more than living in a city where we’re facing some of the worse racial disparities in the nation." Facebook 9/9/17

Some activists from the city’s communities of color have claimed she doesn’t serve the best interest of her ward’s African-American community. MinnPost 4/14/17

She was the only councilmember who voted against the repeal of spitting and lurking laws. City Council Proceedings 8/5/15
Shared Table
at Oak Park Community Center

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October Show
Healing HeART’s
Art Though Activism, a Year of Pop-Ups

October 1-31, 2017

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October Show
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Art Though Activism, a Year of Pop-Ups

October 1-31, 2017

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3107 PENN AVE NORTH (Across from ALDI)
Northside mom is first to take advantage of City housing infill program

Anissa Keyes has four children, three boys and a college-aged young woman. She’s a single mom, yoga instructor and business owner, and she is dreaming of the day when her sons will have their own bedrooms. That dream is soon to be a reality; Keyes is the first and only individual (non-developer) to buy into the City’s infill housing program.

The program, created in 2017, provides a $20,000 homebuyer’s incentive for those who qualify and commit to buying a Northside vacant lot and building their home on it. The program is part of the city’s efforts to recover from the economic crisis wrought by the foreclosure crisis and the tornado of 2011. For the house and the land, after the homebuyer’s incentive, Keyes spent $220,000.

“I get challenged by people, ‘well you have the resources to leave this community,’ but I am just excited for my boys to see the community in this way. There is so much wonderful-ness about North Minneapolis. North Minneapolis gets a bad wrap, but I am sticking around,” said Keyes, who is a native Northsider.

She is the proud new owner of a vacant lot on Knox Ave. N. in the Jordan Neighborhood, the site of a former convenience store which the city bought for what Fifth Ward Council Member Blong Yang calls its “blighting influence.” It is also the spot where a young man, Austin Young, 17, was found dead in his car in June of this year. But despite its sordid past, Keyes has high hopes for its future.

“Sometimes I drive down 26th. I remember how drug-ridden it was, the challenges the community had. But when I think about my family being there, having our own spaces, it’s amazing. I am here as a remnant of this community, having been hurt and healed by North Minneapolis, creating more opportunity for the community, taking what little money I have and reinvesting it. It’s so much greater than just having a new home. It’s how we build community. It’s step-by-step. The memory of this kid who bled there is not in vain. We create a memory of something different,” she said. She hopes to break ground on the property in October and complete the build by February.

"I am here as a remnant of this community, having been hurt and healed by North Minneapolis, creating more opportunity for the community, taking what little money I have and reinvesting it. It's so much greater than just having a new home."

She hired a developer/financier who helped her design the home. Keyes will be renting the Northside home she currently owns after she and her family move into the soon-to-be five-bedroom house with a basement on a quarter-lot. “It was a little hard, because initially you needed to have a design plan. That was kind of spendy, we had to get an architect and pay him to design something. We had to buy a builder. That was a little bit of a complicated process,” said Keyes.

Despite her excitement to move into her new home, Keyes does not think she would go through the process again.

“If I had to do it again, I would not do it again. There was a lot of red tape. The neighborhood had to agree to it, the city had to agree to it,” she said.
Groundbreaking signals the beginning of a new chapter for Estes

It was a jovial and reverent afternoon, filled with both immense laughter and a few tears, at the groundbreaking of the new Estes Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Minnesota’s oldest and Minneapolis’ only black-owned funeral home. It has been in business since 1962.

Estes was founded by Richard Estes (1929-2013) and his wife April who continues to own the business; the CEO is the Estes’ nephew Tracy Wesley. “It’s not just that the Estes Funeral Chapel is the Estes’ Funeral Chapel; it is our funeral chapel,” said April to a gathered crowd of community supporters and business partners from the state, city, county, and community. “I cry because he is not here to see what the fruits of his labor has become. [Richard’s] probably saying ‘you’ve done a good job, babe.’”

The business is relocating to 2210 Plymouth Ave. N., just across the street from its current location. The move will make room for the expansion of NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center. The expanded funeral home is expected to open in 2018. It is being developed by North Minneapolis native and architect Jamil Ford of Mobilize Design & Architecture, LLC.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

See more photos and a video from the groundbreaking ceremony on the North News Facebook page.
**ACADEMIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Graduations**

*Bemidji State University*
Nathaniel Hale

*Marquette University*
Alessandria Rhines

**RESOURCES**

11/4 – Free coat giveaway for kids ages newborn to 17 years, 9am-1pm. First come first serve. Children must be present to receive the coat. Coats will be new or gently used. Oak Park Center, 1701 Oak Park Ave N | Minneapolis, MN 55411

The Penn Avenue Community Works Project is providing financial assistance to individuals who currently own a home or are looking to buy in the Penn Ave. Corridor. The Front Yard Fix Up initiative provides up to a $5,000 forgivable loan for homeowners on Penn. It seeks to beautify the neighborhood by funding a home improvement project that can be seen on the street. Visit [http://www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/penn-avenue-community-works](http://www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/penn-avenue-community-works) for more information.

Hennepin County funding assistance for lead paint – homeowners and landlords may be eligible for a free home test and as much as $8,000 in lead reduction costs, such as new windows. Contact: [healthyhomes@hennepin.us or 612-543-4182](mailto:healthyhomes@hennepin.us or 612-543-4182).

Minnesota Solid Waste & Recycling customers who have not signed up to participate in the organics recycling program may do so at any time by visiting [www.mn.gov/solidwaste](http://www.mn.gov/solidwaste). There is no extra cost, but you have to sign up.

**EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

9/28-9/30 – *The 26th Annual Signifyin’ and Testifyin’ Storytelling Festival*. For more information, call Nothando Zulu at 612-529-5864 or email at nzulu@blackstorytellers.com.

10/3 – *Author Talk: Mai Neng Moua*. 6-8 p.m. Mai Neng Moua is a writer spinning tales of what it means to be Hmong in America. The founder of Hmong literary arts journal “Paj Ntaub Voice” and editor of “Bamboo Among the Oaks,” Moua will share her experience as a writer and read from her memoir, “The Bride Price: A Hmong Wedding Story.” Location: Webber Park Library.

10/3 – *Ward 4 City Council Candidate Debate*. Focus: Economic investment, police accountability, workforce development, and affordable housing. 6pm-8pm. Location: The Mastery School, 4021 N. Thomas Ave.

10/3 – *ART IS MY WEAPON*: conversation for artists and interested folk, 3pm-5pm. Location: Homewood Studios. For more information: [www.homewoodstudios.com](http://www.homewoodstudios.com).

10/4 – *Walk to School Day*. Register at [http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/registration/](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/registration/). Join students and their families, as well as community leaders, and elected officials to celebrate the benefits of walking to school.

10/5 – *UROC Community Day*. 3pm-7pm. Enjoy UROC’s annual open house celebration of community-University partnerships with tours, displays, live music, food, and a sneak peek of Bridges: We Are Stronger Together in the UROC Gallery. Free event and open to the public. 2001 Plymouth Ave. N.

11/4 – *The Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association will once again be hosting a Chili Cook Off in partnership with the Hawthorne Neighborhood Council and Jordan Area Community Council. This event will be held at Bohanon Park Field House (4917 Bryant Ave N), 1pm-3pm.*

10/9 – *Kid’s Storytime*, 10:30am at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N). Songs and stories for children ages birth to five. Featuring fall themes and gooey bags - costumes are welcome too!

10/9-10/10 – *MNShape Conference at Wayzata High School*, connecting school resources and physical education.

10/10 – *Gardening class*. Plant those spring blooming bulbs like tulips and daffodils in the fall for a beautiful display next spring. Discover major and minor bulbs you may not know about. Learn how to protect your bulbs from critters this fall and next spring. Bloom time and planting will be discussed; handouts will be shared. ALL level gardeners are welcome. [Lynhale Laney Community School](http://www.lynhalelaneycommunityschool.com), 3333 Penn Ave. N., 6pm-8pm. $19. Register online at [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com) or call 612-668-2219.

10/11 – *Senior Surf Day*. 10am-12pm. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge line. Registration required. Register online or at 612-543-KNOW. Location: Webber Park Library.

10/12 – *Sleep*, considered the “Third Pillar of Health” behind diet and exercise, is a widely overlooked component of our overall health and well-being. It is common knowledge that the quantity and quality of our sleep has a direct impact on our health, energy levels and productivity. Learn more during this fascinating and educational discussion about sleep with Sarah Moe, Board Certified Sleep Specialist. CommonBond-Shingle Creek Commons, 4600 Humboldt Ave. N., 10:30-11:30 a.m. $1 at the door. Register online at [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com) or call 612-668-2219.

10/16 – *Try a fun, quick method of making colorful prints with gel plate printing*. Prints can be used as backgrounds on paper art, or fabric can be printed and used in mixed media projects. Combine with the Mixed Media Art Journal class this afternoon class for a full day workshop of fun. Bring a sack lunch. All supplies provided for $5 supply fee. Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N, 10am-12pm. $19. Register online at [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com) or call 612-668-2219.

10/16 – *Use a variety of papers, including papers you printed in Gel printing class, to create a simple mixed media journal*. Start adorning pages with your personal creations and journaling during class including a few new Zentangle patterns to draw in your journal. All supplies pro-

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**ADVERTISING IN NORTH NEWS**

**RATES**

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Please inquire for pricing if you’d like a different size than the ones listed.
vided for $5 supply fee. Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N., 12:30pm-2:30pm.
$19. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

10/19 – Thriller Dance Class. 5-6:30 p.m. Halloween is coming up, so why not let your inner “zombie” come out with this fabulous line dance version of Michael Jackson’s classic “Thriller”. Gather friends and family for a fun time! All ages. Location: Webber Park Library.

10/26 – It Takes a Village: Inspiring Young Black Girls & Women (workshop). Location: Macalester College, St. Paul. 1pm-4pm. For more information and to register: www.bensonsrutteninnovations.com/events

10/27 – Way to Grow’s Annual Gala, 6pm-10pm, The Depot/Minneapolis Hotel. Tickets are $175 for an individual. The fundraiser will have a masquerade theme “Blessings in Disguise” and will feature master of ceremonies, T. Mychal Rambo, an Emmy award-winning actor and vocalist, and music by Salsa del Soul.

10/29 – An all-volunteer team of local chefs, under the direction of award-winning chef, restaurant consultant and event co-founder Pat Weber, will come together to prepare a four-course gourmet dinner at the ninth annual Cookie Cart Chefs’ Dinner fundraiser. The event is open to the public and will be held at the Town & Country Club in St. Paul.

10/9-11/27 – Improve your flexibility and balance using Tai Chi. Learn several movements that help you gain better control of your health and improve your quality of life while harmonizing body, mind and spirit. Wear comfortable clothes to move in. Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N., 10:30am-11:30am. $29. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

10/10-12/14 – Enjoy doing exercises designed to improve your strength, coordination, balance, flexibility, and endurance? This evidence-based program is the best prescription for maintaining independence head-to-toe through the senior years. The certified fitness teacher offers exercise options while seated or standing; use of some equipment in class. Attend either both sessions each week. Residents of SCC/KC attend the class at no cost; community members are asked to pay. CommonBOND-Shingle Creek Commons, 4600 Humboldt Ave. N., 1pm-2pm. $19. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

10/10-11/28 – Hip Hop Cardio is a fun, upbeat, and easy to follow dance workout! Students will learn energetic routines that can be modified for all ability levels. Bring a water bottle, towel and comfortable workout attire. No previous dance skills are necessary; just come ready to have fun with this invigorating workout taught by an experienced dancer/choreographer. Lucy Craft Laney Community School, 3333 Penn Ave. N., 6:30pm-7:30pm. $39. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

11/3-11/4: North Methodist Church Community Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale on 11/3, 5-8pm and Saturday November 4, 10 am-1pm. We will host several community vendors who will be selling handmade jewelry, 18” doll clothes, decorations, greeting cards and various embroidered, knitted, crochet and knitted items. A raffle will be held for an Afghan and a Quilt. Sloppy Joes will be sold on Friday 5-7pm and Saturday 10:30am-1pm. Free coffee and cookies will be served. Hopewell Music students will be providing music on Friday night. There will be special bundle prizes on North Methodist crafts on Saturday. There will be LEFSE for sale. North Methodist is located on the corners of Fremont and 44th.

Mondays – Community Yoga at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N) 6-7 p.m. Vinyasa flow for all levels; $5 suggested donation.

Thursdays – Community Coffee & Conversation, 11am-1pm, complimentary beverages at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N).

9/6 and every Wednesday until 10/11 – Pop-up Storytime in the Garden. The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board will be offering a free event for preschoolers at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

EDUCATION

9/28 – Mayoral Candidate Forum on Educational Equity and Excellence. The following candidates are confirmed to participate: Raymond Dehn, Jacob Frey, Betsy Hodges, and Nekima Levy-Pounds.

10/3 – Learn from Master Gardener, Theresa Rooney, what you can do in the fall to help your lawn and garden be even better next year. The timing of when you do certain tasks is important to assure a healthier and happier lawn and garden the following growing season. Tips and short cuts will be offered; handouts included. Lucy Craft Laney Community School, 3333 Penn Ave. N.

10/5-10/26 – Immerse yourself in Japanese culture while learning the art of Japanese Calligraphy, known as Shuji, the authentic style Japanese students learn in Japan. In this Level 1 class, you will be exposed to other aspects of Japanese language (pronunciations, meanings, pictography, etc.) as well as its culture and history. Experience this beautiful art form as taught by Mieko Yamazaki, educator and award winning artist. (See supply list online or call for information—order supplies early.) Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave. N., 1-3pm. $45. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

10/5-10/26 – This class is a continuation of Japanese Calligraphy. In this advanced class, students will choose an individual project/goal at the beginning and complete it by the last class. A textbook, Simple Art of Japanese Calligraphy is required for the first class. Textbook can be ordered through Barnes & Noble, Amazon, etc.; allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave. N., 3-4:30 pm. $39. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

10/9-10/30 – Focus on seeing things differently as a photographer while connecting with your own self-expression. Improve your composition, and visualization skills through discussions, demonstrations, assignments, visual exercises and critiques. Students must provide their own digital camera or even an iPhone would work. Class taught by Jack Mader, past lead faculty at MCTC in photography. Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave. N., 6-8pm. $45. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

MN Comeback and Great MN Schools, sisters organizations building a community of great schools, have launched Minnesota School Finder. This resource guide for parents provide objective, relevant information on schools across Minneapolis so parents can find schools that are the best fit for their kids.

Teen Tech workshop is held every other Thursday, North Regional Library, 5-7pm. Get creative and make music, videos, animation, and other projects using high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines. Led by the library’s Teen Tech Squad. More information at http://www.hclib.org/about/locations/north-regional.

BE AWARE

Absentee voting – either in-person at 217 S. Third Street or by mail – begins 9/22 and continues through 11/6. Voters who live anywhere in Hennepin County can pick up an absentee ballot application or a voter registration form at the Hennepin County Government Center – 300 S. Sixth Street, Minneapolis –skyway level. Hours are 8am-4:30pm, M-F.

10/17 – Minneapolis Public Works will begin the task of curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout the city. During the four weeks of the comprehensive fall street sweep, crews will clean about 1,000 miles of city streets. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary “No Parking” signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they’re swept. The first signs will be posted 10/16, and sweeping will begin the next day. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow posted parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed.

Through its 311 service, the City of Minneapolis has opened a new hotline for reporting hate crimes. Which are harassing behaviors motivated by prejudice. The hotline number is 311 for anyone calling from within the city or 612-673-3000 statewide. The 311 hotline will be answered 7am-7pm weekdays and 8am-4:30pm weekends. Those with a report to make can also call the Department of Justice at 612-664-5600. As always, in the case of immediate physical violence, property damage, or threats, people should call 911.

Following Minneapolis fire laws will help keep our neighborhoods safe and livable; outdoor fires are permitted 5am-10pm, fires must be less than three feet in diameter and two feet high, and a fire must be completely out before being abandoned. Illegal open burning or recreational fires could result in fines that start at $200. For more information on recreational fires or to register a complaint about a recreational fire, call 311 or email Minneapolis 311@minneapolismn.gov, or to register a complaint about a recreational fire outside 311 hours, call 911. The Fire and Police departments are authorized to extinguish a fire immediately if it is hazardous.

The temperature inside a car can change drastically in a matter of minutes. It doesn’t have to be that hot outside for the temperature inside a vehicle to become dangerous to animals left inside - even with windows cracked. Animals left in vehicles can suffer from heatstroke and irreparable organ and brain damage. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control urges pet owners to take special precautions to protect their animals when the heat index is so high. If you see an animal outside or in a car exhibiting signs of heat stress, call Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC) immediately - in Minneapolis, dial 311 (612-673-3000). If you believe the situation to be life-threatening, please call 911.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has banned all tobacco products on Minneapolis park properties and owned and/or operated facilities as of 5/8.

The Minneapolis City Council has passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination against Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher holders. Under the ordinance, landlords will only be obligated to consider to renting to voucher holders. That means a landlord cannot refuse to rent, impose unique standards, or otherwise treat HCV holders differently from tenants without vouchers. Landlords retain their ability to screen the voucher holders like other tenants using legal criteria.

For planting season, the City urges all Minneapolis gardeners, landscapers, and farmers to protect pollinators. Find resources here: www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

If you have an interest in property located in Minneapolis that is known (or suspect- ed) to be contaminated, consider the 2017 brownfield grant round. Funding will be offered through the State of Minnesota (DEED), the Metropolitan Council, and Hennepin County. Pre-ap- plication requirements are September 5th at Noon. Application deadlines are November 1st. For more information contact Kevin Carroll, the Principal Project Coordinator, at 612-673-5181 or kevin.carroll@minneapolismn.gov.

Target Market Program: Qualified small businesses will have the ability to respond alongside other similarly situated small businesses for City of Minneapolis contracts up to $100,000 instead of competing against larger, more established companies. For more information: www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/procurements/TargetMarket-Program.

WE WANT TO FEATURE YOUR NOTICE! Email kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
MY PARK PRIORITIES:

Support healthy, welcoming, and safe parks for everyone. I’ve already worked to promote tobacco-free parks, and I will promote policies that reduce pesticides and keep our parks and air clean.

Work to expand the community engagement process. I believe that the best decisions are made when the community is able to make their voice heard.

Support youth recreation opportunities, like arts, music, and dance programs. Parks are places where kids come together to learn, grow, and form bonds with one another!

www.latrishavetawforparks.com  |  @lvetawforparks
Prepared by and paid for by LaTrisha Vetaw for Parks, 5315 10th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417

OASIS is an integrated program of AGAPE 24-hour Child Development Center, which offers free domestic violence services:

- Women’s support, counseling, court and housing advocacy
- Emergency child care
- Shelter support
- Limited financial assistance related to domestic violence crimes
- Community outreach and training -- TPT (Thrive Past Trauma)

The OASIS team of Advocates and Intervention Specialists invites the community to call 612-529-6055 to enroll in our 2017 fall groups for women, children, and men.

2017 FALL GROUPS
Support groups for women and children: Tuesdays, 9/19 - 11/14 from 6 - 8:30p.m.
(Intake required - light meal served)

Intervention groups for men: Mondays, 9/11 - 12/18 from 6 - 9p.m. Court referrals accepted (intake and program fee required). Orientation held on Monday 8/28 from 7 - 8:30p.m.

QUESTIONS?
Contact E.B. Brown, Program Director, at 612-529-6055 or support@agapeoasis.com

www.agapeoasis.com

Unemployed or Underemployed?
Ready for a change?

Barb Johnson
FOR CITY COUNCIL
EXPERIENCE GETS RESULTS

“I am excited to support Council President Barb Johnson’s re-election campaign. Barb is an outstanding leader who knows what it takes to pass progressive policies and make government work.”
—Governor Mark Dayton

“As a registered nurse, Barb understands and appreciates the important work that nurses do every day. It was Barb’s leadership that led to the passage of Minneapolis’ Sick Time Ordinance. We are proud to support her candidacy.”
—MNA President Mary Turner

“Barb understands how important public safety is to the residents of North Minneapolis. Barb believes that every resident of the 4th Ward deserves prompt, respectful, and effective policing and that is why I will be voting for her this November.”
—Sherman Patterson
MPD Community Engagement Coordinator, McKinley Neighborhood

Prepared and paid for by the Barb Johnson Volunteer Committee - John Rainville, Treasurer - 4318 Xerxes Ave No., Minneapolis, MN 55412
Ten years ago, Ticiea Fletcher’s toddlers were poisoned by lead, and her life changed forever. At the time she was in her mid-30s with a college degree in Business Management and a passion for housing the homeless. Now she fights lead full time: caring for her son, Dustin Luke, who was disabled by his exposure to it and advocating on the ground in neighborhoods and at the state capitol to save other families from the difficulties her family has experienced.

By Kenzie O'Keefe; Photos by David Pierini

When did you become aware of the dangers of lead?
Ten years ago I was living in South Minneapolis – at the corner of Chicago and Lake in a beautiful duplex. It had a three season sun porch with 18 windows that we didn’t know were full of lead. My kids, Logan Jessica, now 10, and Dustin Luke, now 9, got poisoned from the lead dust found on the floors. My son became mentally disabled and has recently been diagnosed with autism.

How is your son doing these days?
God has brought my son a long way. In the beginning, he was severely bow legged. After about a year, his legs began to strengthen up each year. It seems like something would always worsen or get better. He would have tantrums because he couldn’t talk. Today he is able to hold small conversations and is able to ask for what he wants and especially where he wants to go. He has severe sensory issues and some behavior issues that are caused by the poisoning. There are a lot of things we struggle with on a day to day basis, but we work through them slowly. I just want him to be safe and happy.

How did you transition from being the mother of children poisoned by lead to an activist fighting it?
The people of the community gave me the name activist; my children made this my cause.

You’ve fought for lead safety measures at the state legislature. What has that looked like?
I have been working very hard and closely with Representative Karen Clark who is the chief author of a bill (HF No. 491) in the House of Representatives. We have taken the issues to our legislators explaining to them this is not just an African American issue but a human issue. It can affect all races of people, and we shouldn’t wait until the last minute to do something about something that is preventable or wait until it hits their backyards. There are 700 or more children getting poisoned each year by lead in the state of Minnesota. We have the high numbers. Something needs to change.
How has your bill been received at the legislature?
It (HF No. 491.) has not gotten a hearing. The legislators okay-ed Sunday liquor sales, but they won’t look at the lead safety bill and the information that we have shown them a thousand times. We could be the first state to attack this issue and set something in place for our low-income taxpayers. Why wait until something bad happens and then do something? Even though we are low-income, we are still taxpayers who deserve to live in safe, decent and affordable housing. I’m sure that most of our legislators are living well. Why shouldn’t we?

What do average people need to know about lead that most currently don’t?
Lead is dangerous – it can cause death and learning disabilities in young children. It can be found in their homes. They can contact 311 if they suspect that lead is in their homes or they can purchase an eight dollar lead check kit from Menards or Walmart.

If you had a magic wand and could change one thing related to lead in this city, what would you change?
That it doesn’t happen to another child.

What advice about lead do you have for parents?
Don’t be so quick to move to a rental property. Check the unit out first. Ask questions about the year the property was built, and act like an inspector: check for chipping and peeling paint on and around the property, especially windows. Make sure that the lead disclosure gives correct information before signing it. Washing your hands and your children’s hands before preparing and eating any meals or snacks will cut down the chance of being poisoned. Call 311 for help if you need it!

In many ways it seems like you’re fighting this battle alone – without the consistent backing of one organization or team. God is with me at all times. He has been my guide through the entire journey. I’m never alone. Just because you don’t see people walking with me doesn’t mean that I am alone. There’s about twelve others working with me daily.

Getting people to take action on this issue has been difficult. How do you keep from giving up?
I’m on an assignment from God, and there is a light at the end of the tunnel. To be honest with you, there are many people taking action on the issue. It’s our legislators who haven’t. We have nurses, organizations, some political people, families and me of course. I have given up many times, but every time God does a new thing in my son’s life. It’s like a push from him, telling me to keep going. I’m not going to stop until I win.

Want to meet Fletcher, get tested for lead, and learn about lead-related resources available to you? Attend her National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week event at River of Life Church (2200 Fremont Ave. N) on October 23 from 5-7 pm

10 tips for lead safety

1. Insist that your child receive a blood test for lead every six months for children under three, and once a year for children between three and six. Testing is the only way to know if your child has been poisoned.
2. Wash hands, toys, and pacifiers often.
3. Remove shoes at the door.
4. Consider limiting indoor access to any outdoor pets and bathe them regularly. They may carry lead dust into the home.
5. Clean floors, window frames, windowsills, and other surfaces weekly. Focus your cleaning on painted areas with friction-based moving parts such as windows and doors.
6. Avoid re-contamination with cleaning supplies.
7. Investigate existing lead hazards in your home before taking on any remodeling projects. Hire contractors who are trained in lead-safe work practices, and make sure they comply with regulations.
8. Eat foods high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.
9. Wash vegetables thoroughly.
10. Let the water run for a least a minute before drinking it or using it to cook.

For more information call the Sustainable Resource Center’s Lead Line at 612-870-4937.

DON’T GET DISCONNECTED! ENERGY ASSISTANCE CAN HELP.

When heating prices skyrocket or a financial situation changes, many families worry about their heat being shut off.

For those having trouble paying their heating bills, Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAP-HC) can help! CAP-HC’s Energy Assistance Program (EAP) provides financial assistance to eligible Hennepin County residents, to help with home energy costs.

Energy Assistance Program offices are now open in St. Louis Park and 3 Minneapolis locations: Minnesota Council of Churches, Sabathani Community Center and Minneapolis Urban League

For more information, call 952-930-3541
E-mail eap@caphennepin.org
or text 4WARMTH to 555888

www.caphennepin.org
facebook.com/caphennepin

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