Maya Farmer performs Bach's Minuet in G Major during a recent student recital at Hopewell Music Cooperative North.
Fall has been filled with firsts for North News and our high school journalists

Saadeh live-tweeted a few meetings and events on behalf of North News this month. Keep up with her reporting there at twitter.com/NorthNews_MPLS. If there is an event you’d like us to live-tweet, let us know. She plans to consistently live-tweet at school board meetings.

We welcome a new contributor this month – Northside resident Papa MBye. MBye is a talented young illustrator and writer, who combined his skills in a story about local clown Sista Pickles (Page 14). Whatever you think you know about clowns, prepare to have your assumptions challenged.

Nearly every member of our North High journalism class has their first story published in this edition of the newspaper. We’re so proud of how far our students have come in their development as journalistic writers in just a short time this school year.

The Polar basketball teams officially begin their seasons this month, and you can catch up on team happenings on Page 10 thanks to student reporters Britney Price, Tiffany McNell, Antonio Simmons, Eli Cambell, Jaylen Green, and Pierre Hampton.

On Page 8, Ashley Powell, Jermaine Harding, and Myesha Powell bring you part one of a three part series that will follow three North High seniors as they go through the ups and downs of their final year of high school and prepare for what’s next.

Azae’la Hanson and Tayler Johnson interrogate the narrative that in order to be successful, young people need to aim to leave North Minneapolis. Read their stories about successful Northside residents Senator Bobby Joe Champion and dance instructor Tamiko French on Page 7.

Last but certainly not least: don’t forget that ELECTION DAY IS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7. Juxtaposition Arts is offering free bus rides from their building and Folwell Park to the early voting station (217 S. 3rd St.) for Ward 4 and 5 residents. Details can be found on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Juxtaposition-Arts. Find your election day polling place by visiting: www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us. You can register to vote on site on election day as long as you bring an accepted form of identification. Learn about your options at http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/ELECTION-DAY-REGISTER.

Until next time,

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, North News
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612.302.3424

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Letter to the Editor

Response to "North Mpls City Council Voting Guide" which appeared on Page 11 of our September 28, 2017 edition:

I must express my disappointment at North News’ decision to publish what was called a “Guide for Voters” in Wards 4 & 5. It really is a thinly-disguised campaign piece prepared on behalf of my opponents. The same verbiage was used at the 4th Ward DFL Convention. It uses disjointed quotes from and misrepresents my record.

I am proud to have represented the people of the 4th Ward for 20 years. We have worked together to improve our community. We have dealt with challenges unknown to other areas of the city, including record foreclosures, predatory lending, criminal housing fraud, and a tornado.

My time on the council has been spent furthering the interest of 4th Ward residents. Working together, we have built a new library, a new natural swimming pool, and hundreds of new and rebuilt homes. We will soon be opening a new grocery store in our community. Small businesses are thriving in our neighborhoods. Schools and commercial buildings are being rehabbed.

My office is responsive to my constituents’ concerns. People contact us every day with issues around safety, livability, and city service delivery. We attempt to answer the questions and fix the problem. We are responsive and helpful.

I have worked with federal officials, state legislators, Metropolitan Council members, county commissioners, park and school board members, and neighborhood organizations to accomplish improvements that matter to our community. Residents and business owners know I have an open door to hear their concerns and to help them navigate city processes.

My family roots are deep in North Minneapolis. I am proud to say that I was raised here and am also proud that my family’s tradition is one of service. My commitment to making all of our lives better has never wavered, or been stronger.

Barbara Johnson, City Council President
North Minneapolis at a glance

Highway 55 will close for two weeks
Starting October 30, Highway 55 just west of downtown Minneapolis between Van White Memorial Boulevard and West Lyndale Avenue will be closed for about two weeks to replace a structurally deficient storm sewer. The work is planned to save time and money later when a Blue Line Extension light rail station is built at the intersection above the sewer’s present location. During construction, traffic will be detoured to Highway 100 and Interstate 394. For a detour map and construction information, see http://bit.ly/2xchv5A and http://bit.ly/2zoEA5R. For more information about the LRT project, visit www.BlueLineExt.org.

Old Highland will welcome trick or treaters this Halloween
For the second year in a row, Old Highland neighborhood will offer community members an organized place to trick or treat on Halloween. Neighborhood organization President Angelina McDowell says she and her fellow organizers want to let Northsiders know that you don’t have to leave the neighborhood to have fun during the spooky holiday. “Our dream is for Old Highland to be the place you go for Halloween. We want to put Old Highland on the map for trick or treating,” she said. McDowell is in the process of making a map that will highlight the homes that plan to offer treats and activities on October 31. She will distribute it door to door in her neighborhood during the weekend before Halloween. All are welcome, and community members who are not Old Highland residents are invited to email her directly for a copy of the map at Angelina.mcdowell716@gmail.com. She says the idea for the map was brainstormed by herself, and her neighbor, Leesha Gerkman, to encourage and draw more families to trick or treat in the neighborhood. While passing out the maps last year (their first year of doing so), they got feedback from parents that they had never taken their kids trick or treating in the neighborhood because they weren’t sure it was safe. Eventually McDowell hopes to team up with other neighborhoods nearby to do maps and exchange them so people can “really make a day of it.”

Find more Halloween coverage on Page 14!

“Grow-Way” opens on 33rd Ave. N
A year-round, self-guided garden tour, called the “33rd Avenue North Grow-Way,” has been created by local beekeepers, farmers, neighbors, stakeholders, and municipal agencies in the heart of North Minneapolis. Tour brochures for the .6 mile route – which stretches along 33rd Ave. N from 4th St. to Fremont Ave. N – are available at Cityview Performing Arts Magnet Elementary School, Fremont Clinic, or Serendipity Spot coffee shop. Tour participants should look for numbered markers to learn about native plant habitat and conservation techniques to use at home, school, or work. Information courtesy of Kelley Skumautz.

Candidates define food justice in Northside Fresh Forum
A local food policy forum for city council candidates was held by Northside Fresh on October 17 at the Cora McCorvey Health & Wellness Center. Ward 4 incumbent Barbara Johnson, as well as Phillip Cunningham, and Stephanie Gasca participated. Ward 5 candidates Jeremiah Ellison and Cathy Spann did too. The event was set-up quite differently from usual candidate debates and forums. Candidates spent most of the debate sitting at small tables listening to a few community members speak at a time. Each person was asked to share their voices on food policy and food justice issues in an effort to engage candidates in a conversation on the future of the North Minneapolis food system. “Remember these are people who will vote on these things as elected officials,” Northside Fresh organizer Miah Ulysse reminded the audience of approximately 75 people, many of them youth food justice leaders. Candidates were asked to define food justice in their small groups and to answer a number of specific policy questions as part of a panel Q&A. There was some tension in the room when councilmember Johnson discussed what she believed was a lack of support from the community to the Cub Foods on West Broadway. Spann fought back against that, arguing “we should want the businesses that serve the Northside to do better,” which was applauded by the audience. You can read more on the forum by checking out our Twitter liveblog at Twitter.com/CirienSaadeh.

Avenue Eatery has temporarily relocated for a building remodel
When you walk into Sammy’s Avenue Eatery on the corner of Emerson and West Broadway, it’s easy to feel at home, and that’s exactly what owner Sammy McDowell wants. “It’s our local neighborhood mock-up of Cheers, where everybody knows your name,” he said. For the next month, community members will have to get used to a slightly different Avenue Eatery experience. The Broadway location closed for a remodel on October 20. McDowell opened a temporary location inside the recently vacated Sunnyside Cafe (1825 Glenwood Ave. N) on October 23. He plans to be back in the Broadway shop by November 27. The Broadway building that houses Avenue Eatery was purchased by the Episcopal Church of Minnesota for their headquarters earlier this year. According to McDowell, they were so impressed by what they saw in the shop, they asked him to make a list of his desired renovations and said they would pay for them. The list included a garage door front, a ventilated oven, a more efficient space, a new counter system, and exposing the wood beams covered by the current ceiling. McDowell says they also plan to seek a license to sell beer and wine. McDowell says Avenue Eatery will celebrate a grand reopening and their five-year anniversary when they are back in the Broadway building, though no details have been confirmed yet. He plans to hire two part-time experienced baristas to join the team once they’re back at their current location. To apply, you can submit a resume online.

Want to help the City of Minneapolis decide how to utilize funds from the Northern Metals Decree ($200,000 a year for three years) within the impacted neighborhoods of Sheridan, Bottineau, McKinley and Hawthorne?

Apply to join the Northern Metals Consent Decree Advisory Committee today:
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards/openings/WCMSP-20511
Application deadline extended to November 6, 2017.

The new NorthPoint clinic at 800 W. Broadway strives to provide a wide range of services to improve the well-being of our patients.

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Bus company set to expand into North Minneapolis, creating 70+ jobs

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

The Metropolitan Transportation Network, Incorporated (MTN), a Fridley-based company, is set to expand into North Minneapolis. The organization and its CEO and President Tashita Tufaa were honored at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 13 at the organization’s newest Terminal – the Iverson Terminal – in the Lind-Bohanon neighborhood. The early morning event was attended by elected officials and business leaders.

“I’m always looking for good jobs for the neighborhood, so this was really exciting. We need to have these good jobs to be successful,” said city council president Barb Johnson who represents the neighborhood.

In order to bring MTN to North Minneapolis, Tufaa reached out to Bill English, the Community Director of the Northside Jobs Creation Team (NJCT). The NJCT is working to bring 1,000 sustainable jobs to the Northside by 2019. MTN would provide nearly 7% of that number.

The event was hosted by Al McFarlane of the Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium and Insight News. “Not only are we celebrating this new business in the Northside, we are celebrating this whole idea of self-determination, this whole process,” said McFarlane. McFarlane discussed the importance of having another immigrant-owned business in the city that was focused on building their business in North Minneapolis.

MTN is a Minnesota-based, people-of-color owned transportation business, with 270 school buses and vans, that was founded in 2004. The Iverson Terminal will be the first Minneapolis-based terminal for the expanded company. The facility is expected to employ 70 individuals, all at a living wage, with a starting pay of $17 per hour. They are currently accepting applications for a part-time seasonal dispatch and bus driver positions. More information can be found on their website. The terminal was designed, renovated, and built by Thor Cos., in a $2.7 million redevelopment.

“We don’t want to just go to North Minneapolis to do business; we want to do well,” said Tufaa, who is Oromo, born in Ethiopia. Tufaa is looking for an additional 12-15 acres in the Northside to create a state-of-the-art facility for the transportation company. A location for this new facility has not yet been found.

“Tashita embodies the entrepreneurial spirit, the dedication, the genius that makes Minneapolis vibrant and growing,” said Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges who also spoke at the event.

The Iverson Terminal is open for business. They can be contacted at 763-571-1541 for more information.
Residents and nonprofits have worked together to create a community-based Public Market proposal focused on bringing healthy food, entrepreneurship, restaurants, shopping and entertainment to North Minneapolis. DeVon Nolen, previously the manager for the West Broadway Farmers Market, explains her role in the project is of a community ambassador of sorts. She states that she’s “working to ensure the community vision is embedded in the project.”

While the project is still in its initial development stages, Nolen remembers how it all got started from a trip to Barcelona to attend a Public Markets conference. “The location we are pursuing has set dormant for many, many years,” says Nolen. “The work we have done helped raised the visibility of a blighted property on our main commercial corridor, which in turn has prompted interest from the City to issue [a] Request for Proposals (RFP).”

The proposed project would take place on several vacant properties along the 1300-1400 block of West Broadway Ave, turning the area into a four-story building with opportunities for a vast amount of uses – housing, shopping, restaurants, and rentable space. The building will feature “programming that will support and promote access to fresh healthy food and small business development.”

The project is headed by Michelle Horovitz from Appetite for Change and the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, along with local architect Jamil Ford’s firm, Mobilize Design & Architecture. Among those working on the project are Mike LaFave, assisting with finances, Colin Cureton, who is researching the feasibility of it, and Nolen.

The leadership team agrees strongly that this is a “project by the Northside, for Story continued on Page 17
The school board report

Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

October 10 offered another jam-packed Minneapolis Public School Board Business Committee Meeting:

- The 2018 legislative session is a non-funding year. According to an MPS lobbyist, MPS students are asking for more mental health resources from the state. Special education funding and the teacher’s retirement association pension will also be key to MPS advocacy at the State Capitol.

- Board members were supposed to vote on a collection of “Board Protocols” including a change to public commenting but instead threw it back to the taskforce and the appropriate committee for further discussion and follow-up. Many people attended the meeting to give public comment on this issue.

- The board continues to discuss Athletic Equity, re: the allocation and funding for athletic facilities across Minneapolis. This would include the development of an Equity/Diversity Impact Analysis, which would do an audit of finances/facilities under the District’s purview. “Lack of facilities, after school programs in this area [Northside] have led to crime, to school dropouts,” said director Kerry Jo Felder, who represents North Minneapolis. Both Graff and Chair Gagnon were hesitant to pass an EDIA protocol unsure of what its parameters and impact might be.

Upcoming MPS events

- Visit-Our-Schools Days: 10/25-11/15. This is open to parents, business owners, and community members. Schools will do their own planning and announce their own specific details. Please contact your school(s) individually for more information.

- The next MPS Business Meeting will be held on 11/14 from 5:30pm-8pm; the next Committee of the Whole will be held on 11/28 from 6pm-8pm. Both will be held at the Davis Center.

Council will wait to vote on Homewood historic designation

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

For over a year debate has roiled over whether Homewood neighborhood in North Minneapolis should be given official historic designation from the City.

Resident have been deeply divided – some believe designation is the only way to protect the area’s historically significant architecture from incoming developing forces. Others believe it will contribute to gentrification – driving up costs of living in the neighborhood in ways that will push out the very residents that make the place historic.

In March, the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (MHPC) voted to recommend that the Minneapolis city council designate the district. At that time, Ward 5 (which includes Homewood) councilmember Blong Yang requested and received up to an additional six months for the council to review a nearly 1000-page staff study on the topic and explore potential financial incentives for homeowners before voting on it.

But the council did not vote on designation at their October 6 meeting, which marked the end of that six-month time period. On September 28, the Zoning and Planning Committee voted to refer the item back to staff (a motion made by chair of the committee Lisa Bender) and direct it to work on community engagement (a motion made by council president Barb Johnson).

Yang, who is not on the committee, spoke at the meeting to support this outcome. He described the process as “probably the most contentious issue in Ward 5 to come before the council while I’ve been a member.” He lamented the discord the process has created thus far, and said he supported referring the item back to staff “so they can work to find a much more delicate solution to this – one that respects neighbor’s property rights, one that elaborates on the entire history of Homewood, and one that allows for opportunity and growth while still preserving the central character of Homewood.”

Bender supported Yang’s request but expressed her concern for the way the city approaches historic districting, particularly in places that are “of cultural significance,” she said. When part of her ward was given historic designation earlier in her term, she said she door-knocked every door twice and invested significant time answering the many questions and concerns from property owners in the area. “I think it’s the right thing to do at this time to regroup. I do think it’s too bad that so long has gone by without that happening,” she said.

Yang responded saying that he “loves the idea of doing outreach” but that the “quasi-judicial process” of designation makes it difficult. “It’s hard to be knocking on people’s doors because people are going to ask what position you’re on and you can’t really say anything about that. That just makes it hard. If that wasn’t the handcuffs to my hands, I think I could easily door knock 254 houses in a weekend or two,” he said.

Initially Yang asked for interim protection, which has been in place for six months, to be extended for six more months. At the September 28 meeting, the assistant city attorney said the city did not have a legal route to make that

Story continued on Page 17
Many youth in the community believe that in order to be successful, they have to "get out" of North Minneapolis. However, two very successful people with very different professions have one thing in common, which is both having grown up on the Northside and deciding to work and live on the Northside as adults. North High student reporters talked to North High dance instructor Tamiko French and Minnesota state senator Bobby Joe Champion (D-59) about how they define success and why they decided to stay in North Minneapolis.

**French finds purpose and identity teaching dance**

*(By Azhae'la Hanson | North High Reporter)*

Success to most students is being able to leave behind the biggest legacy. Growing up in North Minneapolis, Tamiko French envisioned that as well. "Gangs were wild, students were trying the system and it seemed like we were not going anywhere. While inside the school we were doing excellent despite the environment, the environments continued to define us," she said.

The issues that French faced in her community caused her to aim for something better and focus on leaving the Northside in order to achieve her idea of success. As she explored her talents, she felt captivated by the world of dance. She left the community in pursuit of her dreams as a dancer, dancing in four different states outside of Minnesota.

However, in pursuit of her dreams, French became aware that the dance program at North High School had been cut. Learning about that became the defining moment where Tamiko looked back at her community and saw the deep need for her presence.

Dance wasn’t the only thing she aimed to improve. "I wanted to improve the image of the young black female in Minneapolis. We were told that we would be pregnant and on welfare, and look at me...

...I wanted to bring dance to those spaces and lives that do not normally experience social/emotional learning, the hard work, discipline, teamwork, and sense of achievement that comes from learning dance. North was the only reason," she said.

French moved back to the Northside and is now a full time dance instructor at North High School. She is currently sparking the fire and passion of dance back in the school and hopes the positive energy seeps into the community.

French has accomplished building relationships between the world of dance and her students. She has sent her former and current students to the Ordway, State Fair, and local dance companies across Minneapolis to share their talents with different communities.

“I believe that you need to explore the world and see what’s out there. Minneapolis is small and does things differently than other places. In order to know how to bring growth to the place you live or want to grow, you must know what is available to you. Leaving for school is good. Knowing your direction and who your want to serve is what is important. It may not be here. It all depends on what you see as success. I am resilient beyond compare. I know how to persevere and overcome through just about any kind of hardship. I found self love. I understood that I am not my circumstance and I am not my environment. I create who I am.”

**North Minneapolis taught Champion to persevere**

*(By Taylor Johnson | North High Reporter)*

In order to be successful, you will have to fight through struggles or obstacles. Minnesota state senator Bobby Joe Champion had a lot of those, but instead of giving up, he remained humble and worked hard to achieve his dream.

“You can do whatever you put your mind to,” he said. That was the slogan he chose to live by as a young kid growing up in North Minneapolis. He wouldn’t let anybody tell him he couldn’t achieve his goals.

Growing up in the North Minneapolis area, senator Champion saw all of the opportunities within his community and he took advantage of them. “I was always community focused, so I did a lot of community activities and worked hard in the community,” he said.

Through his focused work in the community, he began to realize there were priorities that he had to be aware of. He always wanted the best for his community, so he did things that kids his age didn’t. He stood out and no matter how many people looked at young Bobby Joe Champion and doubted him, he knew he could use it as motivation to achieve his dream of being a senator.

Becoming a senator wasn’t much of a shock to him, but it was a huge shock to a lot of people in his life, including his family. Senator Champion was the first in his family to go to college and as he was in college, he was determined to finish what he started and not give up.

After graduating law school, Senator Champion went on to take “The Bar.” The Bar is an exam you have to take after graduating law school. Senator Champion took The Bar once in Illinois and passed it on the first try. Then he chose to move to New York. Every time he tried to take The Bar there, a major event happened. At the time, senator Champion took it as a sign that God was telling him “don’t even think about it.” He then chose to come back to Minnesota to serve and give back to his community.

Senator Champion says you have to have "patience, vision, and commitment" in order to be a successful person. "I had a family member tell me 'you’re going to fail and I’m going to be there to watch you fall.'"

But that didn’t faze senator Champion. He used it as motivating fuel, and it bettered him as an individual. “The only thing that stops you from being anything you want is you,” he said.
Part 1 of 3: North High senior stories

Throughout this school year, North High student reporters will follow three seniors as they prepare for life after high school.

Ricquel Williams is ready for college
By Ashley Powell | North High Reporter

Ricquel Williams is a senior at North High School who has a big future ahead of her. She is 17 years old and an honor roll student who has already been accepted to two colleges. She started at North her Sophomore year and has been a cheerleader since. Williams’ biggest struggle in life was coming to Minnesota. She moved here after a family member was shot on her block in Chicago. She was sad because she didn’t want to leave her family behind. It took her a little while to warm up to her new community, but now she never wants to leave. “I stayed to myself, until I was comfortable enough with the people around me,” she said.

Williams is starting her senior year with two college acceptances already: one from Bethune University in Daytona Beach, FL and one from Mississippi Valley State in Itta Bena, MS. She says her transcript and her ACT scores were good and those schools gave her acceptances on the spot at a college fair. Even before she got accepted, Ricquel knew she wanted to go to a historically black college or university (HBCU). “I feel like I learn better around people that look like me, act like me, and have more in common with me,” she said.

After high school she plans to go directly to college, probably Mississippi Valley State. She especially likes the small class sizes there. “I can actually get one on one help if I need it,” she said.

Williams had never been in any extracurricular classes until she came to North. She says being a part of these things at North has given her “rhythm.” One of those extracurriculars is cheerleading. Williams is a cheerleader at North, and she wants to cheer in college too. “Cheer is important to me because it help me get out my comfort zone, like interact[ing] with people more,” she said. Photo by Myesha Powell

Alasha Lloyd is focused on success
By Myesha Powell | North High Reporter

Alasha Lloyd, 17, is a senior at North High School. She is studious and focused on her future. Even though she works at Dairy Queen, she still makes time for her school work. “Instead of watching TV and being on my phone, I do my homework or I just finish my homework at school," she said.

One of her goals this semester is to be on the A or B honor roll. Lloyd picked that to be one of her goals because she said she has “never been on the honor roll in high school." She strives for whatever goal she sets for herself in school and on the basketball court.

Lloyd hopes to go to Clark University, a historically black university (HBCU), for college, and she wants to to play basketball there. She has been playing basketball since she was in sixth grade. "Playing basketball helped me express myself," she said, adding that she hopes she can take it to the next level in the future.

Lloyd is not just a hooper. She’s smart and academically focused. She wants to major in either entrepreneurship or physical therapy. “I want to be an entrepreneur because I like to be my own boss," she said. If she were to get this degree, she is interested in investing her money into a food truck because it would allow her to travel to different communities. "Everybody needs a little taste of my soul food," she said.

She’s interested in physical therapy because she likes “helping people who have sport injuries,” she said.

Lloyd says she is filling out college applications right now and studying for her ACT with the support of her family and friends. Photo by Myesha Powell

Odell Wilson is aiming "Bigg"
By Jermaine Hardin | North High Reporter

Odell “Biggs” Wilson is a senior at North High School. Biggs is a person I look up to. When I first came to North certain people stood out to me and he was one of them because of the way he carried himself. Biggs is a student athlete and he works hard to maintain a high GPA so that he can get into a great college. Biggs is a popular athlete here at North High School. Odell plays basketball and football. He has been playing basketball here for five years straight, he started playing basketball for North in the eighth grade when he was a student at Love Works Middle School. Biggs is also a big inspiration especially to his little brother Willie Wilson, his friends, and his family. As of right now being a senior is challenging, but Biggs says “I’m doing pretty well both academically and athletically and I heard from many people and many colleges that the colleges want to see how well you can perform in school first because grades come first before sports.”

Biggs is really focused on his academics. He wants to go to a four year college so he can have a successful future and career. His future career is to play pro basketball in the NBA because it’s a passion and he loves the game. He wants to also further his education as a black African American man. In my opinion I think he wants to be a part of black male successes to prove black stereotypes wrong. He has a lot of support in his corner such as his family and friends to push him and help him go further in life.

He says one of his biggest challenges this year will be "staying away from distraction and staying on task." Photo by Azhae’la Hanson
NORTHnews

Students explore the story behind school lunch

By Dalvin Crockett, Talina Hill, Marshefani Tyler | North High Reporters

Many students at North High say that they don’t eat school lunches because they don’t like them. This is bad — you need to eat to gain energy to do your work during the day.

Some students say they don’t like school lunch because they don’t believe it’s fresh. Sophomore Jaylen Greene says he doesn’t like school lunch because “it’s trifling because it’s from Minneapolis.” Junior Julian Martin says he doesn’t like it because he feels like “it’s processed. It tastes the same all the time, and I do not believe it’s fresh at all.”

Many of you might wonder where your school lunch comes from and how it gets there. Recently, North High’s journalism team took a field trip to the Minneapolis Public School Culinary and Wellness Services building where we found out the inside scoop. You might be very surprised about what you’re going to find out.

When we arrived at the culinary building, we met menu planner Anne Ferreira, the farm-to-school coordinator Kate Seybold, dietitian Erin Lynch and director Bertrand Weber. Ferreira told us that Southwest High School has a big selection of lunch options with four choices each day. Patrick Henry has three. North only has two, and it’s often the same two choices every day. She said that in order for a school to have more meal choices, more students need to eat the lunch. Bigger numbers will bring more options. We also learned that giving feedback could lead to different options being offered at our school.

Sous chef Richard Hollenback gave us a tour, and he told us that some Minneapolis schools don’t have kitchens. They get pre-packed food each day. Schools with kitchens, like North High, get fresh ingredients delivered each day that are cooked on site. Hollenback said Director Weber believes students deserve good, healthy food.

So why don’t students eat lunch, even though it’s free and made well? According to a September 2015 New York Times story, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 might be one reason. Because of the Act’s nutritional guidelines, school districts throughout the nation made school food more nutritious — less greasy and salty. The result, according to the story, was that students started eating less lunch and wasting more of it.

Students seem to say that school lunch is nasty. In reality, our school lunch is freshly prepared in a clean environment. It’s nutritious, but the culinary team takes steps to make sure it tastes good. They even eat it themselves. For any more questions go to nutritionservice.mpls.k12.mn.us and give them feedback. Remember, feedback is a way to get the lunch you want.

This story was sponsored by Hunger Impact Partners.
Lady Polars say they're poised for a "season not to miss"

By Britney Price, Tiffany McNell and Antonio Simmons | North High Reporters

The North High Lady Polars basketball team season begins in November. Their first home game is against Cooper High School on November 28. Both the team and its fans think they are going to be successful and will draw more support this year. Lady Polars coach Crystal Flint and many more people who are a part of the Lady Polars program believe that this is their year, and that they will end the season with a bang.

Players have been putting in work throughout the summer and early fall and have progressed. They have been getting in the gym and working hard. Senior point guard Serena Ballard (aka “White Chocolate”) says that she goes to the gym and “works on my craft.” Ballard who is known for hitting buzzer beaters and being a top scorer for the team, says her goals are to win the championship for this 2017-2018 basketball season.

Flint believes that Ballard’s goal is achievable. Flint, and other Lady Polars coaches, Tisa Mitchell, Krystal Taylor and Darryl Crisp, are one of the reasons why the team has the potential to be very successful. All the coaching staff gives the players their all. They have been taking time out of their days to focus on the team. “If I’m gonna do something, I’m gonna do it right and give it my all,” said Flint. Despite all the past seasons and the struggles the team has experienced like loss and some conflicts with each other, she still remains committed. “I don’t know why I keep coming back. I need my head examined!” she said.

The Lady Polars want a championship this year more than anybody. They believe that since they want it they will put in the effort to get it. Senior point guard Gianna Griffin (aka “Gigi”), who many think is the best defender on the team, said, “This is my last year, so I gotta give it my all.” Senior Monique Woolen (aka “Streets”), who jumps out the roof to block shots, believes that this will be her year specifically because this is her last year to show what she’s made of.

The girls need the community to rally to support their team. Amazing things are going to be happening at these games and the team wants the community to come see them go out hard. The girls work just as hard as the boys and deserve some of the spotlight. As the girls team moves up a division this year to Class 2A, they will be playing new teams, starting new rivalries, and facing new competition.

Two championships moved North up to 2A

By Eli Campbell, Jaylen Green, Pierre Hampton | North High Reporters

People think the North High men’s basketball team should move up more classes. North High moved up from 1A to 2A this year, but many people think North should move up to at least 3A. 3A means the school’s population is 1086-1303 people, however, North High’s current population is 455.

Did you know for the past two years the team has been beating teams regularly by 20+ points? They also easily won two state championships in a row. Because of this, players and their haters agree: it’s time to move up a class.

Players want to move up so they can get better. Senior point guard Zion Sanford says North should move up a class because, “it’s too easy and everybody complaining about us beating everybody by 40 or more.” North High’s basketball is trying to grow as a team and for that they need to have more competition.

In the last three years North has become a force that nobody in their division can compete with. As the school continues to grow, the school will need to adjust with the league they play in because the more people we have the better chances we have for good athletes. Senior center Odell “Biggs” Wilson who has been on the team for five years and has seen the team struggle and dominate, says “2A is not doing anything to make us better.” He says the only good competition the team had last year was Hopkins and Apple Valley, which are both in the class 4A. “We’re in 2A now, this is just a stepping stone to keep growing and moving up divisions until we are competing with the best of the best,” he said.

Junior point guard Nasir El-Amin says he thinks this year in 2A would be a good test for the team. “Last season people complained about how North blew teams out of the water. If North continue to do that this year, then they would know that they need to move up to another class,” he said.

Luckily, North was able to travel to different states like North and South Dakota, Illinois, Wisconsin and play the best teams in their different classes. For North basketball players they think some teams have advantages over them, and they have the advantages over other teams. Some advantages other schools have on us are more people to pick from. Like bigger schools with more people have a better chance of getting better athletes than schools with less people.

North basketball players and coaches think that North basketball are mentally ready to move up a division. They think that because of how hard North works and how competitive we are.

What do you think we should do? Should we move up another a class or stay?
New Sanctuary Church on West Broadway is set to open mid-November

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

After over a decade of conducting worship services in several Northside schools, Sanctuary Covenant Church is wrapping up construction on a $5 million home of its own. By mid-November, the building, located on the corner of Aldrich Ave. N and West Broadway Ave., will be open to the public.

The new church, designed by architecture firm Station 19, will serve both the church's 500 congregants and the surrounding community. “We want to make it clear that we see buildings as a resource for our community. We wouldn’t need to build if we were just a Sunday-only type of place. We see groups in our community being able to use our space,” said Senior Pastor Dennis Edwards, who has been with the church since 2012.

The brand-new building boasts seven classrooms, a kitchen, a 500-seat auditorium, and state of the art technology. Its raw, industrial aesthetic is both stylishly modern and cost effective. By leaving the ceilings exposed and not painting them, “it saves money. We try to think about how to efficiently use resources,” said Jeremy Scheller, the Church’s Director of Communications.

Scheller says the church has been thoughtful about even the building’s smallest details. “I’ve been trying to resource from individual makers for things whenever possible,” he said. The church’s lights were handmade by an artist on Etsy, and the tables are going to have legs handmade by a steel worker.

In addition to the new building being constructed, Sanctuary has acquired and rehabbed part of the building next door to be their administrative headquarters. Eventually they plan to bridge the two buildings with an outdoor patio and walkway. The church is also exploring opportunities to eventually connect their operations to commercial happenings on West Broadway Ave.

Part of the administration building's rehabilitation has been done by dozens of congregants through the church’s regular “Sweat Equity” days, led by Executive Director of Operations, Andrea Lee. “We invite congregation members to join us in the labor to save money and allows us a greater sense of ownership by getting our hands dirty in the process,” said Scheller.

Sanctuary was founded in 2003 by Pastor Efrem Smith, a North High School graduate, and it was seeded by suburban evangelical churches. Dennis estimates that 25%-35% of the current congregation is made up of Northside residents. “There’s a growing number of us attending who live in North,” he said.

“We hope the space will be a catalyst for growth for the church,” said Scheller, who added that half of Sanctuary’s staff, including himself, is comprised of Northside residents.

The church plans to host their first public Sunday of worship at the site on November 19. Until then they will continue operating out of North High School.
The Musical Education of North Minneapolis

Northside student access to music education is the result of community partnerships and adult leadership.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

For decades, North Minneapolis has been a music incubator with two bountiful resources: the talent and creativity of youth musicians and the commitment of experienced teachers and directors.

Take for example, Beats & Rhymes, the program behind the viral music videos “Hot Cheetos & Takis” and “Grow Food.” The former was featured in the latest season of the popular Netflix show Orange is the New Black, and the latter impressed football superstar Colin Kaepernick so much that he donated $25K to the nonprofit Appetite for Change which supported its creation.

Beats & Rhymes is an after-school YMCA music program that follows a long history of musical talent being birthed and produced on the Northside and then changing the national scene. From Billboard-chart-topping Gospel singer Jovonta Patton to global-sensation Prince and the wealth of talented performers who got their start producing the “Minneapolis sound” at The Way, a former community center on Plymouth Avenue, African American youth on the Northside have shown a unique propensity to produce music that propels them to local and national stardom.

Music is everything to Kyle Rucker, a parent of two at Loring Elementary where he is contracted to teach music education – including songwriting, performing, publishing, and distribution. Rucker is also the founder and owner of North Minneapolis-based Ruck B Music, a music consortium of music educators and creators. He works with youth at Loring, in his neighborhood, and at Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School.

His youth create songs that chronicle their young lives – grades at school, the economy, and for his kindergarten students – pumpkins. Their albums can be purchased online and at neighborhood gathering places like Goddess of Glass gift shop in Victory neighborhood.

“Music is already in many of these kids. It’s not that we’re coming here and necessarily teaching fundamental music. We’re coming and saying ‘you have this in you and let me pull it out of you. Let me show you a few things along the way, but you already have this,” says Rucker.

Rucker says his music classes are a place where Northside youth get to see themselves positively. “These kids are fighting every single day. They are not getting up in an environment where everyone is looking out for them; everyone is trying to see them succeed. That is not their world and so they have to really fight and the music class has been, for them, a place where they can come and celebrate the things they are doing and succeeding at,” said Rucker.

Rucker’s vision for his program is district-wide and beyond. He says the Minneapolis Public School District (MPS) is aware of his program and it seems like it also shares his belief in the importance of rich music offerings.

Despite MPS’ predicted budget shortfall of about $30 million, Nora Schull, the district’s arts coordinator, says music and arts education may be on the rise in the Northside.

“I predict growth in our music programming on the Northside. Many of our schools, teachers, and administrators in our Northside schools strongly support the arts and music. There is a strong history of outstanding arts programming in many of these schools. I am seeing growth this year in a band program being added back in at Loring and Cityview and the choral music program at Franklin. Of course there are concerns with the upcoming budget shortfalls but MPS is committed to providing outstanding arts education to all students,” she said.

Many Northside schools are providing music education options by looking to the community, whether it’s bringing in individuals like Rucker or partnering with community organizations, like Hopewell Music Cooperative North on Fremont Ave. N.

“There’s an opportunity to bring community together in a way that is about celebrating life and community. I think music education also helps people to think about [the]topic differently,” said Brianna Farah, executive director of Hopewell.

“Having music education, having a space like Hopewell. Our families, our kids know that they can come here and they’re safe and getting something done. This space is theirs. We’re just creating opportunity for what is already here.”

Hopewell provides lessons and ensembles, as well as parent-taught early childhood music classes, and in-school programming at Brightwater Montessori and afterschool programming at four Northside locations: Lucy Laney, Jenny Lind, Nellie Stone, and Pillsbury United Communities’ Oak Park location.

The benefits of music education extend far beyond the possibility of stardom. According to a recent report from PBS, music education leads to learning in many fields, from language development to spatial awareness.

“Music education is tangible, they can feel it. It is about self-discovery and self-determination,” says Farah. “We expect a lot from our students, but we are also firm believers in everything that music can do.” Both Rucker and Farah compare music education to math, noting that music education is a prime way to engage and educate students in math learning.

That engagement is also key to the efforts of Janet Zahn and the leaders and staff at Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC), a longstanding Northside organization which conducts cultural and educational programming, through their arts and technical alternative high school, after-school programming, and the Capri Theater.

“Music builds bridges between people, between organizations, between different parts of our neighborhood, between different parts of the city,” said Zahn, communications manager for PCYC and the Capri Theater, and a member of three different choirs.
North Minneapolis has raised many musical superstars – most notably, Prince, and more recently, Jovonta Patton, a Grammy-considered Gospel singer. Patton often performs on the Northside, and Rucker recently brought him to Nellie Stone Elementary School to sing for his students there. Students had the opportunity to interview Patton, asking him about his music career, inspiration, and experiences as a student at Nellie Stone.

“They see him and think “if he can do it, I can do it,” says Rucker who is a youth worker by trade. “We’re taught to abandon ship, but we’re teaching students to build pathways deeper into the community. We say ‘this is your neighborhood. Own it.’”

LaCresha Dobson’s teenage daughter Jordan is a violinist with the MacPhail Northside Youth Orchestra. “We’re Northsiders by choice and we do know that, for fact, that there is a lack of amenities in the Northside. So for us to find something like this, it’s so beautiful and so enriching, I can’t put a price to it. It means a lot,” said LaCresha.

MacPhail provides full orchestra training for students in grades 7-12. They specifically partner with the Harvest Network of Schools, where they offer a beginner and intermediate strings classes 2-3 days a week, and Ascension Catholic School, where they have a full strings program three days a week. MacPhail also offers general music classes at Ascension and the MacPhail Northside Youth Orchestra, offered on Saturdays, “for students who play any instrument, from sixth grade to twelfth, who have been playing their instrument for more than a year,” says Tamara Gonzales, the conductor for the youth orchestra.

“It gets us out of the house, it gives us opportunities we would not otherwise have. We played at Orchestra Hall; I don’t think that would have happened somewhere else. I

Story continued on Page 17
HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

Star Grigsby hopes the community will give clowns a second chance

By Papa MBye | Contributor

After last year’s killer clown craze, I gave up on the colorful-faced circus characters, but after some thinking, I realized I should give them another chance. Then I watched this year’s remake of Stephen King’s ‘It’, and nearly wet my pants while in the theater. I screamed until I barely had a voice anymore. Yeah, it was annoying for those sitting in close proximity to me. The movie was scary, and that creepy clown played a huge part in that. So now that’s two strikes. Just when I was about ready to give up on them, I met community member Star Grigsby, also known as Sista Pickles the clown.

Sista Pickles is a local clown with unwavering passion for what she does. Her energetic spirit erased all of my horrible experiences with clowns, and showed me what kind, fun-loving individuals they can be. They just wanna make people laugh! Grigsby was born in South Minneapolis and graduated from Central High School, where she ran track and played basketball. Her path from then on was very interesting. She went from community college, to cosmetology school, to getting pregnant, to training to become a firefighter, to working in the medical field. Yeah.

After working as a nurse’s assistant for about nine years, she had to attend to her son’s disability. Going back and forth between work and her son resulted in her losing her job. Pretty bogus right? It was at this time when she met Hershey, a local clown. The two befriended each other and Hershey talked to her about clowning.

Though hesitant at first, after Hershey succumbed to cancer, Grigsby decided clowning was something she wanted to pursue. Upon taking a trip to the Twin City Magic store to buy supplies, she was introduced to the St. Paul Powderpuff, where she started to learn more about the art form. She picked up the alias Sista Pickles and got to work.

Her most impactful gig was one she did for a child as part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This was when she realized that clowning wasn’t all just fun and games. “I want to bring laughter and joy into people’s lives,” Grigsby told me. She compared the act of making people laugh to giving them medicine. Star exemplifies this message and carries it with her literally everywhere she goes.

For example, when going out, she always carries around her red nose just in case someone is in need of a boost in happiness. Through her fun loving and happy go lucky personality, Sista Pickles hopes to erase the stigma put on clowns – especially the notion that they’re monstrous or scary. Erasing that stereotype will open up more opportunities for clowns to get booked and support themselves doing what they love. Star’s big goal is to give back to the community in the form of a carnival. She plans to one day throw a huge one at a park, where EVERYTHING is free. That means free food too. I know a majority of you like free food. Let’s do what we can to help her make this happen.

Oh, and if you’re still creeped out by clowns after reading this, I suggest you meet and talk to Sista Pickles. Guaranteed instant shift of opinion. Okay, not literally instant, but you get what I mean.

Find Sista Pickles on Facebook at Sista Pickles the Clown or call her at (612) 323-9274

Bobby L. Brown

Neighborhood Development Center is a nonprofit that works with entrepreneurs to maximize their business potential. We offer training, loans and business services for start-ups and existing businesses!

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"Empty Bowls" event is planned to fill up local church's food shelf

By Cirien Saadeh | Reporter

Connie Marie Beckers, a local business owner, is pulling out all the stops and capitalizing on long-standing community relationships in order to make North Minneapolis’ first Empty Bowls event a success.

“We’re doing the event at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, the church where I grew up. I just really support that they keep going. They are a 125-year congregation and it’s not easy to keep an urban ministry going. They run a daycare now, and a food shelf. I admire that and want to help and support them,” said Beckers who has lived in the Northside for 52 years. The proceeds from the Empty Bowls event will go to the Camden Promise food shelf at the church.

Empty Bowls is a grassroots event and movement taking place all over the world in an effort to engage people in the fight against hunger. Community members are invited to attend the November 24 event from either 11am-2pm or 5pm-8pm. They will be asked to donate a few dollars in exchange for a bowl of soup and some bread. The soup and breadsticks are donated to them,” said Beckers who has lived in the Northside for 52 years. The proceeds from the Empty Bowls event will go to the Camden Promise food shelf at the church.

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The Goddess of Glass is hosting a number of bowl-making events to prepare for the November 24 Empty Bowls event.

- **Clay-Bowl Making Classes** are November 26, 6:30pm - 9:30pm & November 26, 10am - 1pm, $52/$44 Studio members + $10 Supply Fee. You’ll create five bowls; three to keep and two for the cause. Attend one or both. Limit 8 participants per class. Instructor: Mike Smieja

- **Clay-Bowl Decorating Classes** are October 31, 6pm - 7:30pm and November 15, 6:30pm - 8pm and 8:30pm - 10pm, $25 Flat Fee. You’ll decorate and glaze bowls made by Mike; one to keep and one for the cause. Instructor: Mike Smieja

- **Glass-Bowl Making Classes** are October 29, 2pm - 4pm and November 7, 6pm - 10pm, $79 Flat Fee. Using pre-cut 9” circles of fusible glass, you’ll create two bowls; one to keep and one for the cause.

Public market continued from Page 5

the Northside,” as stated by Ford. So far, three open-to-the-community meetings have been held to source community input. The project’s direction at this point has been largely driven by community input, via meetings and surveys.

The project aims to create opportunities for Northside entrepreneurs, encouraging them to start and grow their own businesses by creating a tiered system of low-risk market opportunities. “We are modeling it after what was done at Midtown Global Market,” stated Nolen, explaining that they are learning from those who have gone ahead of them at Global. 70% of local businesses say they are interested in selling at the proposed space according to a research project done in tandem with the U of M. Those surveyed included farmers market vendors, vendors who have contributed in PopUps in North, as well as food businesses who are a part of the NEON’s Food Business Incubator, explained Nolen. Their excitement in the project is encouraging to the project leaders who hope to see local residents in leadership positions.

A lack of fresh food, affordable housing and areas for small businesses are the motivating factors for the market’s creation. “The community is demanding it. This is what’s missing in our community... We need to bring life back to the avenue as we knew it,” said Ford, reflecting on the neighborhood in the 80’s at one of the recent community meetings held on October 10.

The property is currently owned by the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. The project team is continuing to refine their concept before the RFP is put out by the City at the end of 2017. The next community meeting has yet to be scheduled. To stay connected with the project and updates, email info@afcmn.org.

Homewood continued from Page 6

move. Despite the expiration of interim protection (which required property owners in the area to adhere to federal historical designation guidelines when augmenting the exteriors of their homes), anyone who wishes to demolish a property in the city is required to submit it for the city zoning administrator to review as a potential historic resource, causing city officials to feel that adequate protections are in place in Homewood without the interim guidelines. “We don’t feel that we’d be putting any properties at risk,” said Steve Poor, director of Development Services for CPED, who spoke to the committee members on September 28. Martine Smaller, Executive Director of the Northside Resident’s Redevelopment Council (NRRC), the neighborhood organization for the area, says she appreciated residents on both sides of the issue being engaged in the designation process. “Additional outcomes that I would like to see is the same level of interest and study in the residents of Homewood that stabilized and maintained this community from the 1970’s on,” she said.

Music continued from Page 13

think it’s really important that this is available and accessible to Northsiders,” said Jordan Dobson, who has played with the MNYO for two years.

Despite their enduring successes, challenges remain for music education programs in North Minneapolis. Sustainable funding is an issue, as well as parent engagement, district-wide prioritization, and access to instruments and music books.

“Funding for music education and arts education needs to be prioritized. It’s getting better, but there is still a big gap on how people understand the impact that music can have on STEM education. The funders are not quite seeing the influence. That is the biggest thing: more awareness on the impacts of music education on the success of students, not just academically, but also those soft skills, of determination, of learning a skill, setting goals and accomplishing them, and becoming confident,” said Farah.
Living with Scleroderma

By Danisha Crockett | North High Reporter

When I was two years old I was diagnosed with a disease called Systemic Scleroderma. My grandmother noticed something was wrong with me, so I went to see a lot of doctors and that’s when I was diagnosed.

I have to take folic acid. I take four a day. It helps put more folic acid in my system. I take Nifedipine once a day for my blood to flow and Nexium for my acid reflux. Last but not least, I take Methotrexate which is used to control Arthralgias in Scleroderma. It makes me have mood swings, makes my stomach hurt, and also makes me eat a lot. I am currently taking the pill form. At first it was a shot every Friday. I didn’t like it. It was very painful. They say the pills work better for me.

I have to get my blood drawn every three months to see if the medicine is working. I have to go to the doctor to see if my organs and stuff are okay.

I’ve had a tough life. I usually don’t tell anybody about my disease, and I try to be like any normal person. But my body doesn’t do well with the cold. My hands and feet turn purple when I’m cold due to poor blood circulation. I get talked about a lot because I have a smaller mouth. I really get defensive about it because no one knows what I have been going through.

Once I went to the Scleroderma Foundation in California. It was really cool to meet people that knew what I was going through. There were mostly older people there because most people get Scleroderma at an older age. When I was there I learned a lot about the disease and I saw people in really bad situations. I use to hate when I was younger in the winter that I couldn’t go to recess because it had to be above forty five degrees. I would just sit in the computer room and hope the weather was good. I remember it like it was yesterday. Once I had hit sixth grade thing started to change. I had gotten a really bad temper. I got into a lot of fights and got in so much trouble.

I’ve came a long way since then I could say I’m not the same person I was, and I am proud of myself.

“I accept myself for who I am finally after all these years.”

Danisha Crockett

Now I never get in any trouble. There’s a bigger deal now I’m starting to fail some classes. I try working on my grades but it’s never enough. I’m kinda getting caught up. My goal is to get all my credits. I think I’m doing a little better.

I’ve learned a lot about the disease, and it has made me change but it’s a good change. I can’t wait to see how life plays out for me. I am Danisha, and I accept myself for who I am finally after all these years.
**NORTHNOTICES**

**GRADUATION**
Davenport University
Olamide Ojo-Fati

**DEAN’S LISTS**
The College of St. Scholastica
Ian Thompson
Sydney Davis

**ATHLETICS**
Carleton College
Dane Birkeland, Knights’ Football

**RESOURCES**

11/4 – Work of Art: Fundraising for Artists. 9:30am-12pm. Diversity your funding streams as well as understand the essential elements of researching and writing grants that appeal to potential funders of your art. Collaborator: Springboard for the Arts. Funded by Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Register online at https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/ or call 612-543-6875.

11/18 – Work of Art: Business Plans for Artists. 9:30am-12pm. Learn how to prepare a simple business plan, in arts-friendly language, to help you organize all the various aspects of your artistic practice and make informed business decisions. Collaborator: Springboard for the Arts. Funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Register online at https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/ or call 612-543-6875.

11/4 – Free coat giveaway for kids ages newborn to 17 years, 9am-1pm. First come first serve and children must be present to receive.

**EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**
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. 7pm.

11/1 – ART IS MY WEAPON conversation for artists and interested folk. 3pm-5pm. Location: Homewood Studios.

11/2 – First Thursday Films at the Capri Theater. 7pm. The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul and the Capri Theater present Jordan Peele’s thought-provoking horror film Get Out, followed by a discussion led by Michael Starrbury. Tickets to First Thursday Films are $5 and can be purchased in advance at www.mspfilm.org or at the door the night of the show.

11/4 – International Games Day: Uno Tournament, 1pm-3pm. Are you an Uno master? Spend an afternoon playing this fun card game and challenging others in your age group. Location: Webber Park Library.

11/6 – Freedom of Xpression Open Mic with host Desdamona. Free. Doors open at 5:30 for registration and on-stage rehearsal, event begins at 6pm. Capri Theater.

11/9-11/10 – Capri After School Theater presents “To Be Young, Gifted and Black.” 7pm. The CAST program is free and open to all students currently enrolled in high school. To enroll, or for more information on CAST or To Be Young, Gifted and Black, contact Kevin West at 612-643-2039 or kwest@poyc-mpls.org.

11/13 – Create leather masterpieces like bracelets or key chains folks by drawing Zentangle patterns on top of beautifully painted leather items. Zentangle patterns are easy to learn and draw and are fun and relaxing. Combine with Drawing: Creating Zentangle Gifts class in the afternoon and have full rewarding day of art making. Bring a sack lunch. $5 supply fee. Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N. 10 a.m.-12:00 pm. $19. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

11/13 – Use your own hand-drawn beautiful repetitive Zentangle patterns on personal and home decor 3D items like purses, pendants, wood boxes, place mats or pumpkins. Create excellent gifts for the upcoming holidays. $5 supply fee. Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N. 12:30 - 2:30 pm. $19. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

Hockey and figure skating for girls and boys ages 6-14 are offered at North Commons Park and Northeast Arena during the months of November through February. All equipment is provided and the cost is minimal. Transportation is available for those who need it. Register and get more information at North Commons Park, 612-370-4926.

Christmas Bazaar at Ascension Catholic Church. 11/4, 10am-6:30pm, and 11/5, 9am-2pm. Includes a this ‘n That Sale, Craft & Vendor Sale, Silent Auction, Pictures with Santa, a Mystery Gift Booth, and much more. Location: 17th and Dupont Ave. N., Lower Level Cafeteria.

**ADVERTISING IN NORTH NEWS**

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

**ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH**
2901 Emerson Ave. N. 612-529-7726
Sunday School/Adult Bible Study at 9am
Worship at 10:30am
Nursery provided
Pastor Dale Hulme
www.stolaflutheran.org and on Facebook
We are LGBT affirming.
Diversity thrives here!

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

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN (ELCA)**
Logan & Glenwood
612-374-4139
Adult Bible Study 9 am Sunday
Prayer & Praise 10-10:30 am Sunday
Worship 10:30 am Sunday
After School Program Tuesday 4:30-6:30 pm
Pastor Kelly Chainman

**A TREE SERVICE, INC.**
Trimming, removal, stump grinding.
612-724-6045

To place your notice:
Email kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org or call 612.302.3424
11/17 – Fundraiser Piano Party with Daina dePrez, 7-10pm, $5 cover, hosted by The Goddess of Glass. For more information visit Facebook or www.goddessofglass.com

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 exercises 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. Common-Bond-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 Friday November 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, crocheted 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 special bundle prices on North Methodists that will be sold on Friday 5-7pm.

11/5 – Mayoral Debate live on KMOJ, 12pm-2pm. 89.9 KMOJ.

11/8 – 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.

11/9 – Some people say that good health is the greatest wealth. Join us to discuss some economic factors affecting our health and the decisions we make regarding our well-being. As we consider areas of concern, we will offer options to redirect your personal plan for health and wealth resulting in greater personal success. CommonBond Communities—Shingle Creek Commons, 4600 Humboldt Ave. N. 10:30—11:30 am. $1 at door. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

Free in-person and online tutoring for K-12 students. No advance sign-up needed. For more information, see www.hclib.org/homework. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

MN Comeback and Great MN Schools, sister organizations building a community of great schools, have launched Minnesota School Finder. This resource guide for parents provides objective, relevant information on schools across Minnesota 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.

The State of Minnesota’s Civic Engagement Practitioners Group will be hosting a food policy discussion at the State Capitol on October 31, 2017, from 2:30pm - 4pm. Email nicholas.kor@state.mn.us to RSVP.

11/11/27 – Understand the technical basics of digital photography, including shutter speeds, apertures, exposure, focal length, ISO, motion and depth of field, mega pixels. Learn how to control your camera to get the desired effect. Students must provide their own digital camera. Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave. N. 6-8pm pm. $45. Register online at www.mplscommunityed.com or call 612-668-2219.

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.

11/7 – City of Minneapolis municipal elections. For more information: http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/

CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about certain rights and their responsibilities as it relates to the Cold Weather Rule (CWR), which protects residential customers experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between 10/15/17 and 4/15/18. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers protection as defined in the CWR, but residential customers must contact CenterPoint Energy to set up a payment plan. Under the CWR, special payment terms are available to customers who: 1) Apply for and receive Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI HEAP) funding assistance in Minnesota; or 2) Meet income guidelines set by the state of Minnesota and provide proof of income. Call CenterPoint Energy to set up a payment plan at 1-812-372-4680 or 1-800-729-6164. For additional information, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com/ReadyForWinter.

Garbage day in the week of 11/13 is the last 2017 collection for leaves, brush and other yard trimmings. Yard waste must be in compostable bags – paper (Kraft) or compostable plastic – or unbagged in a reusable container at least 26 inches high with sturdy handles. Yard waste is not allowed in City-provided containers. Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling customers should set all yard waste next to their garbage carts by 6 a.m.

The City’s Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinance takes effect 1/1/18. There will be a phased-in phase for small and large businesses. Large businesses that employ more than 100 workers will be required to pay employees a minimum of $10 an hour beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Small businesses with 100 or fewer employees will be required to pay workers at least $10.25 beginning July 1, 2018. Large businesses will have until July 1, 2022 to reach a minimum wage of $15 an hour and small businesses have until July 1, 2024 to reach $15 an hour.

11/13 – The Folwell Association Annual Meeting will be held from 6:30pm-8pm at Folwell Park. Babysitting is available and snacks will be provided. If you have any questions, please call 612.643.1686 or email danielle.tietjen@gmail.com.

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 of 612-673-3000 statewide. The 311 hotline will be an-
Neighbor - I’m running for Park Board because I believe our parks make a difference for our community.

I was born and raised in North, and I’ve been a volunteer coach here for over forty years. As a coach, I see every single day the positive impact that parks have on the lives of our kids. As your commissioner, I’ll look to build on our success as the #1 park system in our country by expanding park opportunities and programming for kids, residents, and seniors.

ISSUES:

• Improve and expand programs for local kids at our parks. Let’s invest in new sports, artistic, and educational programs to bring kids together to learn and grow.

• Support investments in renewable energy by greening our parks and recreation centers. Our parks are our city’s green spaces, and they improve the quality of life. Let’s keep them that way.

• Ensure our Parks employees are paid a fair and livable wage, and look to hire more Northside Minneapolis residents to serve at Northside parks. Let’s make real investments in equity and diversity.

“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
COLLIN ROBINSON, 17, lives in the intersections of many worlds in Minneapolis.

He calls the Homewood neighborhood of North Minneapolis home but traverses town every day to go to school at Southwest High School. He’s biracial – his mother is white (a transnational adoptee from Australia) and his father is black – with a lineage that stretches back to Cameroon. Robinson has been arrested for protesting on the highway, but he also fights systemic inequity from official positions within large institutions in Minneapolis. He is the Citywide Student Body President for the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) district and the Supervisor at Theodore Wirth Golf Course, part of the Minneapolis Park System.

In late September, he introduced Governor Mark Dayton at his water quality town hall at the Minneapolis Urban League. It was the first time in several years that the governor visited in the Northside in an official capacity. Robinson implored him, and all in attendance, to hear – and heed – youth voices.

This issue Robinson spoke to North News about his passion for youth-led systemic change, his unorthodox relationship with his mother who inspires him, and his plans to become a lawyer someday.
You’re deeply engaged in racial justice work in the Twin Cities. How did that begin? I’m biracial, and in middle school I wasn’t able to sit comfortably with the white students or the black students, and I didn’t have the words or abilities to process it. My middle school principal at Clara Barton Open School, Patrick Duffy, was the founder of a cohort called Dare 2 Be Real, which uses guidelines to facilitate conversation about race. When I found out about it, I was like: “I gotta do this.” I didn’t know why, but I had this gut feeling.

Jamar Clark’s death also had an influence on you. I was 15 when Jamar died. I was in Dare 2 Be Real, and someone pulled up an article about a man who had been shot and killed a few blocks away from my house. I heard about the occupation, and I emailed all my teachers and told them I would be spending a lot of time there. My mom said I shouldn’t go, but I went anyway. I would sleep at the precinct, walk to work, and then walk back. I did that for 17 days.

You work as a supervisor at Theodore Wirth golf course. A golf course job might not be what people expect a young social-justice-minded high school student to be doing in his spare time. I started as a cart kid three years ago and made my way up to the highest non-salaried position here as a supervisor. I’m the only 17-year-old I know with an office. I keep my activism and my golf course lives totally separate. A couple of my golf coworkers have seen me on the news and they figured it out. One time I got arrested at a protest and didn’t show up to work because I was in jail. Some of them found out that way.

You’re also the citywide student body president for Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS). MPS is frequently accused of perpetuating systemic inequity. What are your thoughts on those discussions and what needs to happen in order for systemic change to occur? My biggest frustration with MPS is that there is a lot of really cool stuff happening on a policy level that doesn’t get implemented at the schools. No one is on the same page. There is no system to make sure people are held accountable to implement some of the bare minimum things, like newer policy that has been passed.

What are your goals as student body president? We’re working on establishing student government with strong foundations in all the schools. Students need to have an outlet to get their voices heard in a system that’s supposed to be for them. I think they need to have a vote in every single site council and a voice in curriculum. Teachers hold students accountable, and students need to be able to hold teachers accountable. Part of what we’re trying to do is make sure there’s a system in place for that.

How do you get students interested and excited about being involved in educational policy? That’s a terribly hard challenge. Even for me and for other students who might enjoy reading scholarly legal journals, education reform can be daunting. Not only because it’s so complex, but because it impacts so many students who we sit next to every day. I can’t say I have the key. What I can say is once students start to understand not only what is at stake but how the systems work, that’s how we get stuff done.

Do you have role models? My mom. She raised me. She’s taught me everything, and all that I have achieved couldn’t have been done without her. For eight years my mom was a teacher at the juvenile detention center downtown. Now she is a special education teacher at Southwest. I can’t think of a time when my mom hasn’t been in school. She has seven Master’s degrees. She has just continued to work and work and work and go to school to make sure that me and my sister get set up for spreading our wings. To see the way she worked so hard for me, is one of many reasons why I keep doing what I do.

Your mom teaches at Southwest, and you’re a student activist there. Is there tension between the two of you over that? Whenever we do a walkout, my mom gets upset that her students are going to skip class, and I tell her to suck it up. Me and my mom’s relationship is so unorthodox. The way that I talk to her is very different than other kid-parent relationship that I know. Her rule is that as long as you’re open about what’s going on in our house and as long as you’re honest with me and don’t let things interfere with your life, I don’t care. She has always held high expectations for me, whether that be in school, my activism work, or things like me being able to lease a car in her name. All of these things are examples of things that require a deep level of trust, and respect for each other.

What motivates you to wake up every day and do the work you do? I definitely think that in the fight against racism and its intersections, I should do whatever I can do to make things better. That means juicing every privilege that I have and utilizing all the wonderful people that I can. Have you ever seen how Barack Obama gives handshakes to black and white people? It’s the dap with black people and the “how do you do” to white people. It’s that dap being able to live both worlds and speak both dialects and utilize the powers at be to make out world better. I think if you can do that, you should. So, I try to do it every day.

Collin Robinson sits in his office at Theodore Wirth Park. He started working at the course as a “cart kid” three years ago and now holds a supervisor role. “I keep my activism and my golf course lives totally separate,” he said.
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