North Market project leaders from Pillsbury United Communities, Adair Mosley and Vanan Murugesan, have spent three years bringing the store to life.

North Market is set to open Dec. 13 at 44th and Humboldt. Page 12

Folwell overhauls its neighborhood association Page 4

New city council representation for North Minneapolis Page 5

Your guide to shopping local this holiday season Page 10
Letter from the Editor

Though the leaves have fallen, and winter approaches, we continue to grow over here at North News. This fall has found us exploring new partnerships and new ways of reaching our various audiences.

Some of you may be reading this letter for the first time; that’s because for the first time, North News is experimenting with home delivery on a large scale, thanks to our advertising customer North Market (which, like us, is owned by Pillsbury United Communities), which saw the opportunity to use North News to get information about North Market into many homes. Addresses in all of 55412 and parts of 55430, and 55422 (the zip codes immediately surrounding the store) have received the paper at home.

Typically we deliver 10K papers to 400 public drop sites. This month we’re delivering 24K — 10K to the drop sites and 14K to homes. Home delivery is expensive and time consuming, but ideal. It puts the news in front of you without requiring you to work to find it. If you have enjoyed receiving the paper at home this month, and would like to see that happen regularly, let us know. Your feedback will help us make a case to more advertisers who can support this work. You can help support it too, by buying a subscription.

In other news, I met Kate Moos, Executive Producer at Minnesota Public Radio, at a Hawthorne Huddle in October. MPR is renting a small space at UROC with the intention of exploring how to better connect with a Northside audience.

Moos and Laura Yuen, MPR’s correspondent for new voices, then graciously offered to host a field trip for our North News journalism class at North High (see photo to the right). Our students were enamored with the studios and story discussions. We look forward to building a deeper partnership and possibly doing some collaborative coverage.

Another exciting partnership that’s really taken off this month is our work with Bethel University. Our North High journalists are partnering with college journalists from Bethel to put together coverage related to affordable housing in North Minneapolis. We have six student teams exploring topics that range from ownership through land trust to an examination of the rental market over here. We’re hoping to begin running these pieces in our next issue. If this edition of the paper feels a little light on the student stories, that’s why.

As always, please send us your feedback and story ideas. This publication is for you.

Until next time,

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, North News
kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
651.245.2647
Basketball legend will return to North High as assistant coach

Khalid El-Amin, one of Minnesota’s greatest prep athletes ever, played professionally worldwide for 15 years. Now, he has joined the North High Polars’ basketball program as assistant coach. El-Amin hopes to lead the Polars to a third state title this year, something he accomplished as a Polar from 1995-97.

AFC awarded $471k Bush Prize for Community Innovation

Appetite for Change is a nonprofit that runs Breaking Bread Cafe on West Broadway Ave, serving healthy, global food, providing jobs, and offering a neighborhood gathering space for the community. They bring the community out and together, and they motivate individuals to build racial, economic and health equality through community cooking workshops, and job training programs for youth. AFC is on a mission to build health, wealth and social change in North Minneapolis, using food as its tool. The Bush Prize is awarded once a year to problem-solving organizations across Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and the 23 native nations that share the same geography. Winners receive a package that includes promotional support and materials, and an unrestricted grant. Out of the 127 applications the foundation received, AFC was one of the seven winners with a grant of $470,981. “The 2017 winners are unstoppable forces who show up everyday determined to create collective solutions for their communities. They push through challenges and hardship for causes they care about, stirring up and inspiring much-needed change in the places they call home” said Mandy Ellerton, Community Innovation Director at the foundation.

By Myesha Powell | North High Reporter

Commissioner Higgins won’t run for reelection in 2018

Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins announced on Nov. 10 that she will retire in January 2019 and not seek reelection next year. Higgins has represented District 2, which includes North Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Plymouth, North-east, the North Loop, and Bryn Mawr neighborhoods since 2012. She said she was giving notice now “to allow all potential candidates time to weigh their options and for constituents to make an informed decision.” There has been some speculation that State Senator Bobby Joe Champion (D-59) will run for the position, but he says he will not. “I’m really not running for county commissioner,” he told a group of Folwell residents on Nov. 13.

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

Hawthorne Huddle

The monthly community meeting has garnered national attention for its success connecting people, bringing down crime, and creating better living conditions in the neighborhood. On Dec. 7, the Huddle will celebrate its 20th anniversary at its usual meeting at Farview Park Rec Center at 7:30am. Huddle leaders past and present will be honored. Read more on Page 17.

Oscar-winning Moonlight to screen at the Capri on Dec. 7

This month’s First Thursday Film at the Capri is Moonlight. The screening begins at 7pm and will be followed by a discussion lead by actor, director, and educator Kevin D. West of Penumbra Theatre. 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.

Two Northside events celebrate 20 year anniversaries:

Holiday on 44th

The 20th annual Holiday on 44th celebration will take place Friday, Dec. 1. Event organizers say that “all the usual activities people expect” will return this year – chestnut roasting, ice carving, horse-drawn carriage rides, and much more. In honor of the event’s 20 year anniversary, a hot air balloon will be inflated at Loring Field. “We thought we needed something super exciting. It won’t be flying but it will light up Loring Field with fire and color,” said event organizer Tammy Rose. The celebration will stretch from Patrick Henry High School to Loring School on 44th Ave. N. It begins at 6pm.

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

Northsider competes for Miss Minnesota USA title

Thandisizwe Jackson-Nisan, Miss Plus America 2016, competed against 50 other women in the Miss Minnesota USA 2018 pageant on November 25-26. Jackson-Nisan ran under the body-positive platform “Plus is Equal.” Though she didn’t place, she was given an award for interviewing.
The neighborhood association has a brand-new board, no paid staff or office, and promises greater connection to community.

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

After a year of upheaval, the large faction of Folwell that wanted to see an overhaul of their neighborhood association (FNA) got their wish on Monday night, Nov. 13. Eight brand new board members, including at least one renter, LGBTQ person, and several people of color, were elected at the association’s annual meeting. Over 100 people packed the Folwell Rec Center gymnasium to vote, compared to last year’s meeting which drew just 12.

Only three previous members will remain on the board – Danielle Tietjen, Silas Bell, and Earl Milton. All three were elected this year and have been publicly critical of the board’s operations in the neighborhood. None of the legacy board members, including Chair David Brown and Vice Chair Jerry Sannan, decided to run for reelection after questions about their effectiveness and alleged exclusionary behavior were raised earlier this year.

“I know they love Folwell, but [the FNA] could never get to its full capacity with them,” said Tietjen.

Despite the accusations and infighting that led up to this night, the mood at the meeting was upbeat, communal, and celebratory – a testament to a shared experience among all in attendance: a desire to do right by the neighborhood and its people.

“I’m so thankful for this community – for the truth and freedom I’ve gained in living here. It’s empowering to see the strength of this community and the way that they show up to fight for one another,” said Tietjen.

While votes for new board members were being tallied by representatives from the League of Women Voters, several local elected officials gave speeches to the crowd. Current Council President Barb Johnson, who lost the Nov. 8 election to Phillipe Cunningham after serving the neighborhood for two decades, spoke first, delivering a hopeful message about change.

She thanked the outgoing FNA board and celebrate the newcomers: “I know there is going to be a big changeover, and change is good. You’re hearing it from me. It’s important. I think that people will have the opportunity to grapple with things in new ways, and I think that will be fine.”

Continued on Page 8
Cunningham and Ellison land Northside council seats, unseating incumbents

On election day, Nov. 7, North Minneapolis voters turned out in higher-than-usual numbers and delivered surprising victories to two political newcomers – Phillipe Cunningham in Ward 4 and Jeremiah Ellison in Ward 5.

31% of Ward 4 and 28% of Ward 5 cast ballots in this year’s election.
Empowered by solar

Three new solar garden sites are intended to benefit North Minneapolis families.

By Reeve Currie | Contributor

Typically, the financial gains from large solar garden projects go to developers. Two new solar projects being spearheaded in part by Northside residents hope to flip that dynamic, offering families on the Northside the opportunity to access green energy and see lower electric bills because of it.

This will be done through three new solar panel gardens that are estimated to be functioning by mid-2018. Two of the gardens are being created by Greenway Solar and Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES). Renewable Energy Partners (REP) is running the third site.

MRES, a nonprofit dedicated to educating Minnesotans about renewable energy through community projects, will be using the roof of Impact, a marketing agency on Lyndale Avenue for one of their sites. The other will be on farmland in Northfield. Together, these two systems will generate around one megawatt of solar power (enough to provide between 400 to 900 homes with electricity for a year according to the NRC) to be utilized exclusively by Northside residents.

Katrina Stratton, Folwell resident and MRES Board Chair and Community Solar Garden Manager, is excited about the implications of these gardens. “Currently, developers are the ones making money in solar gardens, not residents,” she said. “Our goal with these two projects is for people to live as free as possible. We want to be in the community for the community.”

The mission of these solar gardens is to let low-income families purchase subscriptions. “I believe we’d be the first solar garden of its kind to allow low-income residents to partake,” said Stratton. The subscriber receives a credit on their monthly bill for the electricity generated by their portion of the community solar; they then pay a portion of those credits back to the company managing the solar garden.

Normally, solar garden subscriptions require credit checks, among other financial regulations. MRES will be using state regulations as far as who qualifies for low-income status, as well as a points system that is still being created; however, there won’t be credit checks upon interested subscribers. Households that are below 80% of the Area Median Income qualify as low-income in Minnesota. Residents will have to have an electric bill to qualify, as well as agreeing to partake in a research project.

Subscribers will be split up into four different groups: a control group; a second group that will take two classes on energy efficiency; a third that will have an in-house electricity monitor; and a fourth group that will be reminded monthly via texts to conserve energy.

Together, the two sites hope to offer 125 to 200 subscriptions and aim to lesson electricity bills by 15-20%. Impact will be a backup subscriber as needed. If certain members can’t continue their subscription, Impact will pick up the cost until a new subscriber is secured. Stratton wants people to see that low-income residents aren’t a risk to solar energy.

Renewable Energy Partners (REP) is a Minnesota nonprofit company based in North Minneapolis that is committed to building a skilled workforce through continuous training and certification programs. The location for their planned solar garden site is still under discussion, but their first choice is the roof of North High School. They currently have eleven other possible sites if North High falls through. Jamez Staples, Founder and President of REP, says the locations were chosen as the most cost-effective and visible to the community spots.

The cost of the equipment for the solar garden will be financed by the St. Paul Port Authority. “The program is specifically designed to support projects that benefit low-income households and the development of women and minority-owned small businesses,” said Staples. The City will be a 20% subscriber and will pay nothing upfront, receiving monthly bill credit from Xcel. Staples noted that the City will pay back some of those bill credit to REP and keep the difference; REP will use these payments to repay the financing from St. Paul Port Authority. The estimated cost for the project is $2,184,000.

REP will be using the same state regulations as MRES to assess who can buy subscriptions to the program. “We will start, first, in North Minneapolis and broaden out to other parts of the City until all subscriptions are signed up,” said Staples. REP is working in partnership with Pillsbury United Communities and Community Action Program-Hennepin County to canvass neighborhoods to reach households interested in participating.

Staples is hopeful that low-income residents will have access to solar energy benefits. “Less than 10% of the subscribers in Minnesota’s community solar gardens to-date have been residential subscribers.” Most of the subscriptions have gone to corporations, which is one of the main reasons for these projects. Staples is clear that REP’s proposal has set a target to have low-income families make up at least 60% of the subscribers. Based on each household signing up for six kilowatts, the program will reach 120 to 140 subscribers. This number doesn’t include kilowatts that will be going to the City and North High.

The benefits to Northside residents go beyond just lower electricity bills. “The sites will also facilitate their use as workforce training sites for Minneapolis residents receiving training for entry-level positions in solar energy,” said Staples. He acknowledged the difficulty REP has encountered as an emerging minority-owned business. “Getting the first agreements to build solar energy facilities can be difficult when we are competing with established and much larger companies.”

Staples says the next steps are to secure leases for the roof space and begin assessing and reviewing the necessary financial and construction elements. He estimates that the project will be completed by October 2018. Stratton says once they get the go-ahead from the Public Utilities Commission (and after all the snow has melted), both MRES gardens will be constructed. Both REP and MRES are hopeful that low-income residents in North will be positively impacted by these new solar gardens. Said best by Stratton, “It’s time for the community, not developers, to start benefiting from solar power.”

To find out more information about MRES subscriptions email HELLO@MINRENEWABLES.ORG.

To find out more information about REP subscriptions visit www.renewableenergypartners.com.
Doorstep Foundation goes to great lengths to provide for youth

By Kenzie O'Keefe | Editor

True to the name of his foundation, Andre “Debonaire” McNeal will stop at nothing to ensure the success of the youth he mentors— including showing up on their doorsteps when they need him.

The support he gives his young people consistently goes above and beyond—he regularly consults with their teachers and their parents, exposes them to inspirational adults, and takes them on college tours and service outings. Recently he landed them all free swimming lessons at the YMCA and provided (courtesy of generous donors) each of their moms with a gift card to Cub to help with their Thanksgiving meals.

The father of four and mentor to more than 50 is the founder of the Doorstep Foundation, an organization that currently runs three different mentorship programs for boys and girls in North Minneapolis.

Growing up on the Southside of Chicago, McNeal says he was surrounded by adults who molded and supported him to become the man he is today—“my dad, my boy scout master, teachers, guys in the neighborhood, my big brothers. The village,” he said. Now a full-time Family Achievement Coach at the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) and a well-known fixture in the Minneapolis club scene, McNeal spends his spare time giving back.

“As much of some of you get on my nerves, I’m going to fight tooth and nail for each and every one of you, to keep you straight,” he recently told his Den Brothers North group.

For nearly three years he has held this group in “The Gathering Space” at NAZ. Every other Wednesday, his now 35 program participants, all young, African American boys, gather to learn from successful adults and connect with each other.

At each meeting, the boys share a confessional “self-report” and a celebratory “bright spot.” At a recent meeting, one young man shared that he had been accepted to college. Another shared that he was “passing all but one of my classes.” McNeal asked him which class he wasn’t passing and the boy told him it was geometry. Another boy in the group piped up—“I can help you with that!”

“My hope for these boys is that all of them become high character young men—high character, working class, business owners, fathers and husbands.”

Andre McNeal

That combination of communal support and individual accountability is central to McNeal’s teachings. “My hope for these boys is that all of them become high character young men—high character, working class, business owners, fathers and husbands,” he said.

A diverse set of guest speakers—like State Senator Jeff Hayden, State Farm Agent Tony Pankey, Sergeant of Public Safety at St. Thomas University Reggie Wright, and members of the ICR motorcycle club—regularly attend Doorstep group meetings to share their stories with the boys.

Intermingled with the boys’ questions about these visitors’ educational experiences and career paths (“Did you go to college?”) come questions like “have you ever been to jail?” or “were you ever in a gang?” The adults don’t seem to shy away from answering tough questions honestly and thoughtfully.

“I think it’s important for these children to have role models—people who look like them and people who can come in and talk to them and give their testimony,” said Mino Leon, mother of Taneo Davis Jr. 8, who has been attending Den Brothers for six months. “I think for a lot of kids, a lot of boys, they have this, how should I say it, they’re expected to know everything and to grow up to be this man. But nobody has, in many families, been able to give them the tools along the way. I think this group is doing that,” she said.

Davis’ father Taneo Davis Sr. attends many of his son’s Den Brothers meetings. “Why I come here is because there are so many negative images out there that are pushed daily by so many different people. Versus when you have someone doing something positive, pushing a positive message on a child makes a big difference,” he said.

Last year McNeal expanded his program into another group of boys that meets during lunchtime at a local middle school. After one of his Den Brothers’ sisters asked for a group for girls there too, he started “Debs’ Girls,” another lunchtime group that he runs with Jadon Johnson, a Health Access Specialist at NAZ.

In January he plans to expand again into another local middle school. He says he’ll begin both Den Brothers and Deb’s Girls groups there.

McNeal says his love for young black men keeps him motivated—and he makes clear to his youth how deeply he is committed, evidenced by a comment he made to his Den Brothers recently: “I put in a lot of hours for you guys, and I’ll continue until the day I die.” Interested in connecting with McNeal? Find the Doorstep Foundation on Facebook, or call him at 612-360-5284. Email him at andre.mcneal@ymail.com.
The school board report

Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

The Nov. 14 Committee of the Whole focused largely on the budget, but that was not the only news from the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) this month. Here are some highlights: Superintendent Ed Graff attended the monthly Hawthorne Huddle on Nov. 4 and discussed his work as a Superintendent in Alaska, social-emotional learning in MPS classrooms, and some of the challenges facing the school district, including the projected $33 million deficit for MPS. Graff also discussed MPS' non-profit and community partnerships saying, “Our schools exist because of the community and we want to make sure they’re closely linked.”

Teachers from the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers attended the Nov. 14 MPS Board meeting to comment publicly on contract negotiations. In mid-November, the MPS Board filed for contract remediation, which the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers representatives called “a clear signal that your Administration does not want to engage in open discussion” and “an affront to transparency.” This led to some tension between the MPS Board, particularly from Director Samuels who questioned the capacity of the Board to listen to public comment, such as that from the teacher’s union, without being able to respond. Samuels said, “It’s a strategy that fits with our agreed-upon political rules but does not fit within a spirit of negotiation.” Chair Gagnon, after providing some context to the public comment, said “I did not feel I was being chastised, but I recognize that there is not always a level playing field when it comes to the media.”

Budget discussions have begun for 2018-2019. Both an online survey and focus groups are being conducted, as well as internal working groups focused on structural changes to MPS. The working groups are exploring a 2018 referendum campaign, payable for the 2019-2020 school year, as well as other issues, including bell-times, the MPS school calendar, increasing class sizes by one student in some MPS schools, the possibility of MPS middle and high schools going back to a six-period day, amongst other cost-saving measures. “These are not, by any means, final decisions or conclusions on what we should or will be putting forward,” said Graff.

MPS has announced a hiring freeze and has implemented travel restrictions for MPS employees as a cost-cutting measure. Hiring will be restricted for positions which do not directly serve students, according to a press release from MPS and exceptions to this will require approval from MPS senior leadership.

There will be no school for MPS students from 12/25-1/5. The MPS Business Meeting will be held Dec. 12 from 5:30pm-8pm. The MPS Committee of the Whole will be held on Dec. 19 from 6pm-8pm. Both will be held at the Davis Center at 1250 West Broadway Ave.

MPS to take a look at Northside facilities

Franklin’s pool and Patrick Henry’s air conditioning are scheduled for repair.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Numerous Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) buildings and facilities are scheduled for improvement and repair over the coming years. Up first is some major repairs – and minor improvements – at the Franklin Ave. pool, which is set to be completed in the Fall of 2018.

“The state of facilities in the Northside is actually not bad. That’s the good news,” said David Richards, the Manager for Capitol Planning and Project Development.

There are two measurements used to help define and prioritize facilities repairs, noted Richards. First, is the facilities condition index, which measures the need and conditions for repair. The second is the educational index, which primarily looks at the needs for pedagogical support. At the same time, the Board and Superintendent discuss facilities’ needs, as well as community values.

MPS currently has a $33 million deficit, but that deficit exists out of its general fund. Facilities repair are funded out of the Building Construction Fund, which is funded through Bond sales, which in layman’s terms is a “mortgage” that the schools and other bodies can take out to fund specific projects. Money from this fund cannot be used on other projects and money from other funds cannot be used towards facilities.

Other Northside schools and facilities are also set for repair. Bidding for construction work at Patrick Henry will begin in the winter with construction commencing next spring. The focus at Patrick Henry will be student safety, food services, and air conditioning. Loring Elementary School’s repairs are included in the 2018/2019 maintenance budget and North High’s field renewal will be discussed in the 2019 fiscal year at the very earliest.

Still, many think the Facilities repairs are not enough. At recent Business Meetings of the Board of the Directors, several community members have spoken up in favor of redevelopment of a Northside ice hockey rink into a rollerskating rink, which Director Kerry Jo Felder has also advocated for.

“We’ve asked for a facilities equity analysis,” said Felder. That analysis would cover both the allocation and funding of MPS facilities according to an October 10th Board Meeting. During that meeting the Board directed the Superintendent to present an athletic equity and diversity impact assessment that included an athletic facilities assessment by the February 2018 MPS Board meeting.

That analysis and discussion is ongoing.

Continued from Page 4...Folwell neighborhood ftps board

Brown seemed to agree. In a statement to North News after the meeting, he said, “The new board has a great opportunity to create their own unique identity and future for FNA. The legacy board members wish the best of luck to the new board members.”

FNA no longer has a physical location or paid staff members. Longtime Executive Director Roberta Englund resigned the day of the annual meeting and did not attend. Tietjen said that reestablishing both will be a priority of the new board’s.

“I am not a pessimist, change happens and it is neither good – nor bad in and of itself. The possibilities are endless, and what comes as a result will be known when it occurs,” Eglund told North News, noting that the city will be reexamining how and if neighborhood organizations are funded after 2019. “Neighborhood organizations are at risk of defunding by the City on December 31, 2019. If that happens it may become difficult to hear resident voices. How resident advocates would continue to do their work is yet to be known. The task will be monumental, and I sincerely wish the restructured FNA well in the work ahead of them,” she said.

According to Tietjen, new board members Debbie Tallen and Beryl Ann Burton will serve as interim board chair and interim treasurer as the FNA reinvents itself.

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New board members Mysnikol Miller, Marcia Phillips, Kassaundra Mullen listen and react to other candidates’ speeches to the crowd of over 100 people at Folwell’s Annual Meeting. Photo by David Pierini.

“There is a severe system of broken trust. We have a lot of work to do. I think it’s going to start with showing up for residents and earning their trust and listening to them and building what they want,” said Tietjen.

Read our North Neighbors interview with Danielle Tietjen on Page 22.
Severson to serve as the Northside’s new park board commissioner

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

The race for the Minneapolis Park Board District 2 seat was hard fought on both sides, but on election night it was decided in the first round of ranked choice voting.

Kale Severson, a former parks employee and local activist who helped lead the fight to keep North High open, prevailed with 57% of the vote. His competitor, well-known parks coach Mike “Talley” Tate, received 42.3%.

Severson said he was surprised by his quick win. “I thought it was going to be a little bit closer,” he said the day after the election, but he says his team “did the work” to deserve it. He credits tireless door-knocking, his campaign manager, and all of his campaign supporters, specifically people of color and youth in the community for the success of his campaign. “Our platform was intriguing to folks in North Minneapolis and throughout the city,” he said.

Severson promises to advocate for more youth and senior programming in the parks. He says he’ll push for park buildings to go green and for the entire system to examine its hiring practices. Through all of it, he plans to tackle racial inequity directly and impactfully. “We’ve got to deal with our biases and have some tough conversations. It’s going to feel really uncomfortable. Race relations are extremely important and the park board is struggling in that area,” he said.

Two of Severson’s most vocal supporters were Minneapolis School Board Director for District 2, KerryJo Felder, and local schools supporter Kimberly Caprini, who ran against Felder in last year’s election. Severson would like to see more collaboration between the schools and parks. “I am about capacity and coalition building,” he said, adding that he would like to see a townhall meeting involving the parks and the schools soon.

Reflecting back on his campaign, Severson says the highlight was that he got to meet “phenomenal” Northsiders. “There are so many wonderful people in our diverse community, and I get to collaborate with [them].”

Severson replaces Jon Olson who decided not to run for reelection. Olson, who has held the seat since 2002, previously owned the Dairy Queen on the Northside and now runs food and beverage at Como Golf Course in Saint Paul. Despite Olson’s endorsement of Tate, Severson says he looks forward to connecting with Olson during the transition process. “Jon Olson is experienced. He’s been on the park board for years. I want to reach out and meet with him. …and respect his legacy on the board,” he said.

Though he lost the election, Mike Tate still sees a victory in it: “Kale and I drove people out [to vote],” he said, pointing to the higher voter turnouts in both Wards 4 and 5 compared to previous municipal elections. Tate plans to continue attending park board meetings and serving as a volunteer coach in the parks. “I’ve got nothing but joy for the people of North Minneapolis,” he said.
Shop locally
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

1. **Black Girl Magic tee**
   Juxtaposition Arts offers a wide variety of apparel and accessories handmade here in North Minneapolis. One of their top selling items is their Black Girl Magic tee. **$29**
   [Buy: https://juxtaposition-arts.myshopify.com/collections/all](https://juxtaposition-arts.myshopify.com/collections/all) or visit their shop at 2007 Emerson Ave. N. Hours: 4:30-7pm M-Th and 12-3pm Saturday.

2. **Cookie Cart mug**
   Pick up a box of cookies too while you’re there. **$10 each**
   [Buy: the Cookie Cart](https://www.cookiecartmn.com) (1119 West Broadway Ave.)

3. **Noire Elite Fitness sporty baseball hat**
   Represent the North Minneapolis-based fitness company. **$30**
   [Buy: https://www.noirelitefitness.com](https://www.noirelitefitness.com)

4. **Wirth Coop Membership**
   Own a part of one of the Northside’s newest grocery stores at 1835 Penn Ave. N. **$100**
   [Buy: using a major credit/debit card in store and online (https://wirth.coop/join-now/)], via Paypal, or by mailing a check and registration form to Attn: Member Registration, 1835 Penn Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411.

5. **Butters by Jay**
   Butters By Jay is a handmade all natural bath and bodycare line founded by community member Jasmine McConnell in 2011. **$15 (8oz jar)**
   [Buy: buttersbyjay.com, HWMR (1500 N 44th Ave.), LashBar (1011 W Broadway)]

6. **“Victory” the Album**
   8 of the Northside’s most musical young people came together to make Victory and honor their community. **$5**
   [Buy: https://www.ruckbmusic.com/victory](https://www.ruckbmusic.com/victory)

7. **Mothering Through Pain and Suffering in Silence**
   This book, written by Northside resident Jasmine Boudah, immerses you in the lives of several astonishing black women who are mothers. **$23**
   [Buy: www.motheringthroughpain.weebly.com or email at ubuntuminneapolis@gmail.com](mailto:ubuntuminneapolis@gmail.com)

8. **Goddess of Glass**
   Necklace and other jewelry **$10 - $80**
   [Buy: 4400 Osseo Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55412. Check their website for business hours.]

9. **Own a piece of North Market**
   Put your family’s name or a loved one’s name on a brick at North Market. **$50** for residents, **$75** for non-residents. Buy: [www.givemn.org/project/north-market-building-blocks-for-great-er-goodness](http://www.givemn.org/project/north-market-building-blocks-for-great-er-goodness59bbcc6ac937aTBD)
Keep your money in the neighborhood and find something for everyone on your list!

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter
Additional reporting by Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

10 Serendipity Spot Tumbler
This $10.00 cup gets the user a discount every time they bring it in for a drink purchase at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N.) $10+
Buy: in store. Mention North News and you can receive special pricing on gift certificates: a $10 certificate for $9; a $15 certificate for $13.50, or a $20 gift certificate for $18.

11 Toolkit Supplies
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12 Sammy’s Avenue Eatery Giftcard
Support a much-loved local business and treat your loved ones to delicious food and drinks. $5 minimum
Buy: in-store at Sammy’s Avenue Eatery (1101 West Broadway Ave.)

13 The Bride Price
Mai Neng Moua’s memoir explores the consequences she faced when she refused to take part in a Hmong marriage tradition. $16.95
Buy: http://www.mnhs.org/mnhspress/books/bride-price

14 Corner Coffee Camden Giftcard
Support the Northside’s newest coffee shop. $5 minimum
Buy: in-store at Corner Coffee Camden (4155 Thomas Ave. N)

15 Black Excellence Sweatshirt
$45
Buy: at HWMR Barbershop (1500 N. 44th Ave.) or at www.shopblackexcellence.com

16 Black Lives Matter Arabic tee
$29
Buy: https://juxtaposition-arts.myshopify.com/collections/all or visit their shop at 2007 Emerson Ave. N. Hours: 4:30-7pm M-Th and 12-3pm Saturday.

17 Yoga Room Class Pass
Purchase an e-gift card from The Yoga Room (4153 Thomas Ave. N). A $45 gift card covers five classes and an $85 gift card covers ten classes. $45 or $85
Buy: https://squareup.com/gift/43J3BRDY8H21N/order.

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19 Venture North Bike
Bikes from the shop come with a 90-day guarantee. Bike tuneups are available for $50 and Winter Service Specials are available for $100. $200+
Buy: Venture North Coffee & Bikes (1830 Glenwood Ave.)
3 years in the making, 
North Market 
is set to open its doors

Webber-Camden will have a full service grocery store beginning Dec. 13. 
North Market is an enterprise of Pillsbury United Communities.

North News is also an enterprise of PUC. PUC does not have any editorial control over the paper.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Bright orange and gleaming silvery-gray, North Market is much more than a grocery store on the corner of 44th and Humboldt Ave. N.

Set to open on Dec. 13, the market is currently teeming with life as staff members stock shelves and construction crews erect signage, complete the electrical system, and handle other finishing touches.

North Market - a grocery store and wellness center in partnership with North Memorial – is a project of Pillsbury United Communities (PUC). It is one of the few full-service grocery stores in North Minneapolis. It is located in Webber-Camden on the site of a former Kowalski’s, a high-end grocery chain.

The grocery store is an exciting new business in Webber-Camden, which recently saw the opening of the Webber Library and all-natural Webber Swimming Pool. Both the library and North Market were designed by the same architecture firm, LSE Architects.

“Two years ago, at our annual meeting, we celebrated the opening of the swimming pool. One year ago, we celebrated the library. Next year we can celebrate North Market. Things like that just don’t always happen,” said Linda Koelman, Chair of the Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization and twenty-year resident of the Northside.

“The development is going to be good for the whole neighborhood. Especially the senior citizens across the way who can walk across the street to get their groceries,” said James Savoren, owner of Savoren Services North, a local auto shop. Savoren has owned his Northside business for forty years, and even though he isn’t a Northsider, he is excited to just cross the street for groceries when he needs to.

That is the same for Koelman who has been buying her groceries at the Cub Foods in Brooklyn Center in recent years.

“I would have rather kept the money in the neighborhood, but we couldn’t,” said Koelman, “I am excited to have things for a salad and fresh fruit near by and to be able to buy that stuff when I want to. I don’t have to plan ahead to get my groceries anymore.”

There are very few grocery stores in North Minneapolis: a Cub Foods on West Broadway Ave., an Aldi on Penn and Lowry Ave., So-Low on Emerson Ave., and an abundance of convenience stores, including Webber Mart just down the street from the market.

“Kevin at Webber Mart does a great job. But it’s not the same as having a grocery store,” said Koelman.

The backstory

The process of creating North Market began in 2014. PUC staff had been working with Hunger-Free Minnesota to explore WIC underutilization in the Northside, and a mobile WIC market was dreamt up to solve for that challenge. It ultimately fizzled due to a lack of state support. Eventually, that dream morphed into what is now North Market, inspired in part by a community in Philadelphia that was opening its own grocery store.

PUC began exploring the feasibility of opening in the grocery store in the Northside, analyzing six sites. At the same time Hennepin County put out an RFI – Requests for Interest – for the site at 44th and Humboldt Ave. N. After engaging with the community, PUC put in a bid, which included a letter
of support from the Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization. Other organizations and businesses, including a daycare, liquor store, a church, and a business incubator, also put in proposals for the site.

The site had been vacant since 2005 when Kowalski’s closed; it was a long-running Supervalu before that. Webber-Camden does not have a full-service grocery store and for many years the neighborhood organization bussed residents from Hamilton Manor (an apartment complex directly to the East of the North Market site) to the Cub Foods on West Broadway, three miles away.

“That just wasn’t accessible for people. They had to head out in the cold, get their groceries, and get them back to their apartment. The bus left at designated times, too. It just didn’t work for people,” said Koelman.

At the same time, some community residents felt Kowalski’s wasn’t affordable for them. The price point for most of Kowalski’s products are much higher than that of Cub Foods, which opened just a few months before Kowalski’s announced that it was closing. Kowalski’s came to North Minneapolis as part of a deal with the City of Minneapolis. Kowalski’s could purchase other parcels, if they also purchased the North Minneapolis site. Kowalski’s did not respond to a request for comment.

“It was a Kowalski’s in name only. They would engage the community. We tried to show them that the store was needed, but it was a constant feeling of ‘yeah, they’re not going to keep it,’” said Koelman, who argued that the Kowalski’s wasn’t as nice as other Kowalski’s.

According to Vanan Murugesan, the Project Manager for North Market and a former mechanical engineer for Supervalu, affordability has been at the front of their minds in the planning, development, and building of the grocery store. According to Murugesan, the North Market team is excited for the competition – stores like the new Hy-Vee opening up in Robbinsdale, the new Wirth Co-op, and surrounding Cub Foods. They plan to ensure North Market’s prices are competitive.

“Even though we don’t have the dollars per se of each item, we do have profit margins of each category, and when that was set, it showed that we would be able to be sustainable. That’s looking from a micro-perspective. However, right now, at the end of the day, even within the categories, it’s going to be a mix. Our commitment is to be very, very competitive and that will ensure that the core, key items are priced at an affordable rate,” said Murugesan.

According to Savoren, his customers are excited for the new grocery store: “They just cannot talk about it enough,” he said.

“When there is more competition, it means people will be more eager to serve people better, as opposed to being the one store in the area. We welcome competition because we believe it benefits the entire community. That being said, we provide a very different set of experiences compared to all the other stores,” said Murugesan, who is primarily tasked with business operations, business strategy, and project sustainability.

According to Murugesan, that different experience is what he calls a “friendly, simple, quick, clean shopping experience for our customers.” This experience includes the wellness clinic and health and fitness programs, and a significant amount of space dedicated to local produce — though no set number has been announced yet.

The commitment to community engagement

Koelman notes that PUC has provided regular updates to Webber-Camden and sought feedback as they moved throughout North Market development.

Adair Mosley, the interim President and CEO for PUC says the organization is committed to “ongoing engagement.”

“Largely what we’re doing is bringing everything back in front of the community, and so that is where we captured a lot of the ideas around product mix and vendors and design, all of those things including what kind of classes they wanted to see. So now we’re bringing that back in front of them and saying ‘here’s the response to what you told us you wanted to see and are we meeting that need,’” said Mosley.

Despite the community engagement, however, there are still concerns regarding the sustainability of such a project, which cost over $6 million to build.

“I would shop there as long as the community was benefitting from North Market,” said Alfonzo Gorman, a long-time

Story continued on Page 21
Black Friday and Small Business Saturday bring together local entrepreneurs

After Thanksgiving, community members gathered for a two-day shopping event: Black Friday on Broadway and Small Business Saturday. While the majority of the shopping occurred at pop-ups shops at NEON and New Rules, over a dozen Northside businesses – including HWMR Barbershop and Juxtaposition Arts – also participated. By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Ni’Kol Imani Dowls sells her artwork, jewelry, and lotions at the NEON pop-up.


Above: Northsiders gathered at the NEON pop-up shop where vendors and local business owners were selling jewelry, food, clothes, lotions, and artwork.

Right: Ini Augustine of Afire’ Imo Art & Antiquities sold clothes, including the Nigerian wrap dress she is wearing, at New Rules on Lowry Ave.

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December 1-13

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Discussion Leader(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moonlight</td>
<td>7pm, Dec 7</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Juan Jackson, Rev. DeWayne L. Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx Gothic</td>
<td>7pm, Jan 4</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Faye M. Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selma</td>
<td>7pm, Feb 1</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Christina Hamm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step</td>
<td>7pm, Mar 1</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Neda Rene Kellogg</td>
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Tickets $5 in advance at www.mspfilm.org or at the door night of show.

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Together we can give voice to North Minneapolis.
Hawthorne Huddle celebrates 20 years of creating a forum for positive change

The monthly community meeting has garnered national attention for its success connecting people, bringing down crime, and creating better living conditions in the neighborhood.

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

Hawthorne has long been the subject of concern. Back in the mid 90s, crime and poverty had significantly deteriorated livability in the neighborhood, contributing in part to Minneapolis’ nationally known identity as “Murderapolis.”

Hawthorne block clubs mobilized in response to the challenges, and by 1997, members of them, supported by the General Mills Foundation, banded together to do something big. In the years since, residents, community leaders, and the foundation have tackled crime, improved housing, and helped create assets in Hawthorne, like Nellie Stone Johnson School. A central component to their work was a monthly meeting to discuss what was happening in the community – the Hawthorne Huddle.

Now, two decades later, that group and those who have joined them and benefited from their work will celebrate their successes at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Hawthorne Huddle on Thursday morning, Dec. 7. Founding community members Hillary Freeman, Diana Hawkins, Dave Ellis, Loretta Ellis, Richard Spratt, and Paula Haywood will all be honored that day. Early leaders of the huddle, Reatha Clark King and Pastor Floyd Beecham Sr, will also be honored.

The Huddle is an open-to-the-public meeting that has taken place on the first Thursday of every month since its inception. It first took place at the Village Social Service. Now it takes place at Farview Park Rec Center. Elected officials, educators, social service professionals, law enforcement representatives, faith leaders, and residents meet to exchange information, discuss shared goals for the neighborhood and take action. Whether it’s a humid summer morning in July or a dark, frigid morning in January, the crowd of attendees is always sizeable and often includes a well-known public figure or two. MPS Superintendent Ed Graff attended last month’s Huddle, and historic attendees have included former US Attorney General Janet Reno, former US Vice President Walter Mondale, and current Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton.

These days, the meetings are lead by Ann DeGroot, executive director of the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) and Diana Hawkins, executive director of the Hawthorne Neighborhood Council.

Hawkins was among the founding members of the group. “The goal of the Huddle was to bring people together to talk about change in the community,” she said.

Community member Shawn Lewis, who has been attending the Huddle for over a decade, says he keeps coming because it’s “one of many ways for me to connect with what’s going on on the Northside.”

Reatha Clark King, retired corporate executive and the former President, Executive Director, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the General Mills Foundation, was instrumental in the successes of the Huddle. General Mills was interested in helping reduce crime and increase safety in the mid 90s. Hawthorne’s struggles, along with its proximity to the General Mills headquarters made it an attractive community for the company to focus on. “It’s part of the company’s culture. It was committed to community service and action to improve the lives of people in communities,” said King, who reminisced about General Mills employees from the Betty Crocker Division helping build the playground at Nellie Stone Johnson School.

King says General Mills’ involvement as a philanthropic partner has been unique. For over a decade she prioritized building trust in the community. Though General Mills offered financial support to the community, forming and fostering enduring relationships that had the potential to create sustainable change was King’s priority. “We were not quick to make grants unless we saw the plan and knew why money would help solve the problem. Grant-making can be a short-term solution. That’s the easiest thing to do. The problem solving is the hardest part. That comes from conversations and follow-up without delay,” she said.

The model for the Huddle and General Mills’ support of Hawthorne was unique. “We can say we did it from scratch. We didn’t have a template or a model to follow or another best practice,” King said. Harvard University thought so as well. When King announced her retirement in 2002, after over a decade of work in Hawthorne, they did a case study about the Huddle, helping it arrive at a plan for leadership after King’s departure.

Claudine Galloway, a communications manager for the General Mills Foundation, says the organization plans to continue to support the Hawthorne Huddle into its future, specifically directed to the YCB which currently stewards the funds.

Lewis hopes that Huddle leaders will use the anniversary to reflect on how to move forward. “20 years is a good time to step back and say ‘should we do things differently?’”

Hawkins hopes the Huddle continues “the success that we have achieved so far,” and “pave[s] the way for new leaders,” to carry it forward.
RESOURCES

12/5 – Hawthorne Neighborhood Council and Minneapolis 2024 will be co-hosting a Minneapolis 2040 Planning Session from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Farview Park, 261 N. 29th Ave. For more information, visit: https://www.minneapolis2040.com/

12/9 – Hawthorne Neighborhood Council’s 4th Annual Winter Warmth “Give Back to the Community” event. 12pm-3pm. Farview Park. Children must be present to shop.

Free computer basics classes offered at the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave N, on Mondays-Thursdays, 11am-1pm.

Need help getting Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare? Call Legal Aid: 612-334-5970, or visit www.mylegalaid.org.

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 home improvement projects that can be seen on the street. Visit 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.

Minneapolis 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.minnesotawaste.com/organics. There is no extra cost for organics recycling, but you have to sign up.

Tuesdays – 12pm-1pm, the Twin Cities Mobile Market brings affordable and healthy food directly to NorthPoint Health & Wellness (1313 Penn Ave. N). A wide variety of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, and staples like rice and dried beans are available at below-market prices. Cash, all major credit cards, debit cards, SNAP/EBT, and Market Bucks are accepted! Questions? Call 612-529-8054.

Mondays – 12pm-1pm, The Salvation Army at 2024 N. Lyndale Ave. is partnering with Loaves and Fishes to offer a free produce giveaway.

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

Minnesota has developed a new tool, available to the public, that details the city’s discretionary spending and the improvements the city can make in increasing participation of women-owned and minority-owned businesses in City of Minneapolis contracts.

The City of Minneapolis has posted the deleted Environmental Protection Agency climate change data. The information is available on the City of Minneapolis’s sustainability website.

What’s Up 612! is an online resource for children and youth, ages 5-21, where citywide afterschool activities can be found. More information can be found at: http://www.whatsup612.com

Camden Neighborhood Center offers time and space dedicated to seniors age 65+. Snacks, lunch, and limited transportation are provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays with RSVP. 1210 37th Ave N. Call for details: 612-787-3718.

Explore public art using interactive map tours developed by the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. To take a self-guided tour or more information: argc.is/mlpsart.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

12/1 and 12/16-12/17 – The Goddess of Glass & Friends will be hosting Holiday Magic: Artisan Gift Boutique. The 12/1 will be held from 6pm-9pm and the 12/16-12/17 event will be held from 10am-4pm. For more details visit www.goddessofglass.com

12/1-12/3: John Kantar will be hosting his 4th pottery show at Homewood Studios. The opening reception is 12/3 from 2-5pm. Gallery talk will be held 12/5 beginning at 7pm. The closing event is 12/13 from 4-7pm.

12/3 – Art Activity Hang Out, 1-3pm. Join artist, Salem Murre, and neighbors to draw, doodle, and collage - while discussing the current gallery show at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N).

12/4 – 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, 2027 West Broadway. For more information visit www.theicapritheater.org or call 612-643-2024.

12/7 – The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul and the Capri Theatre present Barry Jenkins’ Oscar-winning masterpiece Moonlight, followed by a discussion led by Penumbra regular Kevin D. West. The screening begins at 7pm at the Capri Theater, 2027 West Broadway, Minneapolis. 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. Each First Thursday Films screening at the Capri is followed by a passionate discussion of the movie. For Moonlight, The Film Society of Minneapolis and the Capri Theatre welcome actor/director/educator Kevin D. West who recently directed A Soldier’s Play, Fences and The Colored Museum at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Select Penumbra credits include By the way meet Vera Stark, Two Trains Running, Radio Golf and Fences, among many others. West is also the artistic director of the Capri After School Theater (CAST) and a resident teaching artist at PYC Arts & Technology High School.

12/9 – The Story Garden is having their annual “Woodland Edible Christmas Tree party” from 3-4pm. There will be...
hot chocolate, cookies, bonfire, and we will string ornaments to help feed the squirrels, bunnies, and birds for the cold month of December.

12/9 – HWMR, 1500 44th Ave. N, will host "Black Excellence/A Night of Urban Fashion + Pop-Up. 6-9pm.

12/9 – Children’s Christmas Gift Sale, 9am-1pm. For just $1, North Minneapolis children can pick out 5 new gifts for their loved ones – mom, dad, grandma, sibling, cousin, etc. – and experience the joy of giving as they ‘shop’ alongside a caring volunteer. Contact Catrice O’Neal, 612-643-2026 or giftsale@pcyc-mpls.org with questions or requests for more information. Check out http://pcyc-mpls.org/gift-sale/ for information on how to donate or support the event.

12/10 – "Second Sundays & Holiday Pop-up Shop, 2-4pm. Complimentary beverages, Hopewell Music’s Flute Choir, and holiday gifts from a dozen local makers at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N).

12/10 and 12/13 – 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.

12/11 – Kid’s Storytime, 10:30am at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N). Songs, stories, and open play for children ages birth to five.

12/17, 1/21, and 2/18 – There will be Bassett Creek Cohousing Information Sessions. The information sessions will be held at 7pm at 900 Mt. Curve. For more information, visit www.bassettcreek.us or call 612-588-9532.

1/14 – Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents a delightful afternoon of arias, songs, and piano music featuring local freelance professional singers Chandler Molbert and Tricia Van Ee, with pianist Jill Dawe, performing works by Schubert, Vaughan Williams, and Brahms. Also featured will be Mount Olive’s recently acquired Steinway piano. The event takes place at 4:00pm, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis.

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

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

Fridays – Family Storytime. 10-11am. For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

EDUCATION

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 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.

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, 612-370-4921.

BE AWARE

12/6 – Harrison Neighborhood Association will host "Shaping the Future of Housing in Harrison" community meeting. 6-7:30pm at the Harrison Neighborhood Association, 503 Irving Ave. N.

12/19 – On December 16, 2011 the City Council adopted Resolution 2011R-667, reestablishing a Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board. The key work of the Policy Board is to review and approve the NRP plans and substantial modifications to NRP plans. The NRP Policy Board meets as needed on the third Tuesday of the month. Meeting locations vary. Please visit http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/nrp/index.htm for each month’s location and agenda items. This month’s meeting will take place from 5pm-7pm, location TBD.

12/20 – The Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (MACOPD) is a citizen based education and advocacy group formed to expand opportunities for all children and adults with disabilities throughout Minneapolis, without regard to disability or other protected class status. Additionally, the MACOPD advocates for policies and programs that promote the independence of persons with disabilities and protect their right to fully participate in society. The MACOPD meets the third Wednesday of every month from 4:30-6:30 pm in Room 132 of Minneapolis City Hall. For more information please call Lance Knuckles at (612) 673-2919.

12/26 – The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) is responsible for developing guidelines for the City’s principal neighborhood funding program, the Community Participation Program. The Commission also works to broaden participation on advisory boards and commissions, develops recommendations for improving the City’s public participation process, and reviews the business plan for the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. Eight of the 16 NCEC commissioners are appointed through the open appointments process with the remaining members elected by Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. The City Department En-
gagement Task Force (CDETF) meets on the third Thursday of the month. This month, the meeting will take place from 6pm-7pm at the Crown Roller Mill Building (105 5th Ave. S.).

The City of Minneapolis is preparing language for an “Amended and Restated Unified Housing Policy of the City of Minneapolis.” A summary of the proposed substantive changes to the policy are as follows:

Expressly stating affirmative fair housing marketing requirements and source of income nondiscrimination per City Ordinance.

Clarification that the requirements of the Policy apply to not only to residential projects of 10 or more units that are financially assisted by the City, but also those projects that are developed on City-owned property. City-owned property in minority or poverty impacted areas would be exempt from this requirement.

Clarification that unless stated otherwise by specific program requirements, all City-assisted new construction projects will be subject to a minimum of a 30-year affordability period.

Change the affordability requirement for ownership projects. Currently, the Policy requirement that 20% of the units are affordable at 60% AMI applies to both rental and ownership projects. This requirement is not feasible for multifamily ownership projects. A requirement of 10% of the units at 80% AMI is proposed.

Clarification that the City’s policy goal of preservation includes the preservation of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing.

The proposed new policy language can be found in its entirety along with the current policy at: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/cped_affordable_housing_resolution. Public comments are being accepted through 4pm on Monday, 12/11. Comments should be submitted in writing or by email to my attention.

The City has finished tabulating the results of the 2017 municipal election. In this election, voter turnout was 42.45 percent, compared to 34 percent in the last municipal election, which was held in 2013. This also marks the third municipal election in which Minneapolis voters used ranked-choice voting to elect candidates. To see detailed election results, visit vote.minneapolismn.gov.

The Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour, April 28-29, 2018, is accepting nominations at www.MSPHomeTour.com, click on “submit a home” for the option to apply online or download an application. For 11 hours, homeowners and contractors open their doors to share ideas with other home enthusiasts, based on their remodeling experience. Visitors are particularly interested in period-accurate restoration/adaptations and expansions sensitive to the surroundings. Being on the tour gives homeowners great feedback as well as the incentive to finish those last few projects. If you or someone you know needs more information, contact coordinator Margo Ashmore at mflashmore@aol.com or 612-867-4874. Selections are made in January-February.

Minneapolis has joined a statewide program to help reduce homelessness among veterans. Since the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs launched the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry in 2014, it has housed 1,218 homeless veterans – 613 in Hennepin County, Minneapolis* and Hennepin County have the highest concentration of homeless veterans in the state. Anyone who served in the U.S. armed forces, Army Reserve or National Guard can join the registry regardless of the type of discharge. Homeless veterans or their representatives are encouraged to call 1-888-LinkVet (1-888-546-5838) or complete the application online at the website for the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs Homeless Veteran Registry.

CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about certain rights and their responsibilities as it relates to the Cold Weather Rule (CWR), which protects residential customers experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between Oct. 15, 2017 and April 15, 2018. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers extra 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 (LIHEAP) 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 1-612-372-4680 or 1-800-729-6164. For additional information, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com/ReadyForWinter.

The City’s Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinance takes effect 1/1/2018. There will be a tiered phase-in period 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 7/1/2018. Large businesses have until 7/1/2022 to reach a minimum wage of $15 an hour and small businesses have until 7/1/2024 to reach $15 an hour.

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 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 9am-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 U.S. Department of Justice is awarding the City of Minneapolis a $1.2 million grant to help combat gun violence. These funds will make it possible to add 10 sworn officers to the Minneapolis Police Department.

The City Council has authorized the City Attorney to initiate a lawsuit against manufacturers and distributors of opioids. The proposed litigation will seek to recover monetary damages incurred by the City in responding to the opioid crisis in Minneapolis and injunctive and other relief. The City of Minneapolis joins a number of states, counties and cities across the country that have filed similar lawsuits against drug makers to help recoup costs associated with fighting the opioid epidemic.

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 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.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**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.

**Want to see your notice in this section? Email:** kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
Northsider, who now gets his groceries at Cub Foods. Gor­man wants to see people hired from the community and a grocery invested in the Northside’s success.

The project is funded by a host of philanthropic and corporate partners. Cargill Foundation and Otto Bremer Trust are two of the biggest funders. Other funders include General Mills, who has also provided in-kind support, and Target.

The biggest donor to the project, however, was the State of Minnesota through an appropriation written into the Omnibus Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy Bill during the 2017 legislative session. The State of Minnesota awarded PUC $2 million for North Market. The original request was for $3 million. The original Senate legislation, S.F. 1287, was authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion (DFL-North Minneapolis) and Senator Kari Dziedzic (DFL), who represents parts of Northeast Minneapolis, Southeast Minneapolis, Cedar-Riverside, and Seward neighborhoods. The corresponding House legislation, H.F. 1828, was authored by Representative Fue Lee (DFL) and Representative Raymond Dehn (DFL), both of whom represent North Minneapolis.

“It’s going to be a huge asset to the Northside,” said Lee, who noted that the health services component of the market is particularly needed. “I’m really glad PUC is able to partner up with North Memorial and bring that to North Minneapolis,” he said.

Murugesan notes that the funding from both the state and philanthropic sources will keep the cost of the build-out from impacting product costs, which he says often happens in new development.

A deeper look inside

According to appraisal records for the new North Market site, the original space was 15,000 square feet. The store has since been expanded, however. 16,000 square feet will be dedicated to the grocery store, an additional 1,900 square feet will be used by North Memorial for a health and wellness center, which will be staffed by community health workers, a dietician/nutritionist, and a pharmacist, employed by North Memorial. The remaining 2,100 square feet are devoted to community gathering spaces.

“It’s our job to care not just when people are sick, but to get involved in preventative care,” said Michael Koch, Project Manager with North Memorial Clinically Integrated Network. “This is our backyard, the community we build in and want to invest in,” he said. On its website, North Memorial prides itself on approach to health care, which include a community paramedic program and a house call-like option.

The North Memorial space at North Market also includes a community classroom and workout space. North Market and North Memorial will offer classes and trainings, including meal prep and fitness classes hosted by community partners beginning in December. Grocery store tours for those exploring healthy eating, among other programming, will also be offered.

For many Northside food systems leaders, North Market is not just an important resource for healthy living. It is also a sign of North Minneapolis’ economic transformation, a transformation being guided by food systems change.

“Wirth Coop and North Market are going to be the people’s grocery store, part and parcel of the community, and not an occupying force,” said Michael Chaney, Executive Director of Project Sweetie Pie, a Northside food and economic justice organization. “Residents should look to North Market and Wirth Coop. Let’s do business with who wants to do business with us, respects us, and wants to see the community thrive,” he said.

For people like Koelman, and the dreamers and designers behind North Market, Dec. 13 is a huge day. Koelman is still in disbelief.

“Bright orange. I love it! It looks happy and welcoming to me. I saw the orange and I thought, ‘I hope they’re leaving it.’ It makes me want to go inside,” said Koelman, “I think we’ll notice a huge attitude change up here, because North Market will give people something they can rely on. What a tremendous gift to the community.”

According to Mosley and Murugesan, North Market is intended to be a lasting, community fixture.

“I always think we have the possibility of doing great things like this, but to really see it in action is a little surreal. We’ve had an incredible amount of partners and people who have helped bring this to fruition, but knowing that it was our idea and that we’re the genesis of that, I can think of no better way to serve this community,” said Mosley, who has lived in North Minneapolis for 15 years.
How would you describe yourself?
I'm a fierce observer of people, and I love to create space. I love to sew, and I'm a ferocious reader. Sometimes, I feel like such a mess.

Your and your family have lived at 35th and Humboldt Ave. N for 16 years. What brought you to North Minneapolis originally?
When Paul and I got married, this was where we could afford to live. We used the money from our wedding to put a down payment on this place with our friend Jeff. We thought this would be our starter home. Between the economy crash and the tornado, we are still upside down on our mortgage and can't sell, but our hearts and life are now invested here.

Despite not really being able to leave, I get the sense that you choose to stay and lean into this place. Explain that force.
I'm so thankful for this community – for the truth and knowledge I've gained in living here. It's empowering to see the strength of this community and the way that we show up to fight for one another. It has profoundly impacted me. I will always choose being hopeful and looking at the positive, because if I don’t, it's easy to get lost. I don't want my heart to be so poisoned by bitterness that I see people as objects or projects. There are people who will discredit me because I choose to tell the positive. If I can only hold one of those things, then I'm going to choose the gift. I don’t
want the toxic undertow of classicism to slip out of my mouth because my heart has been hardened. I don’t want my children to hear that. That will stop with me. I will not pass on the tones of racism, classicism, sexism because I’ve been so poisoned.

Who do you hope your children will grow up to be?
Paul and I recognize we’re raising privileged children in a global world and there’s a responsibility in that. My children come to meetings with me. I explain the responsibility we have to the community in which we live. I want them to be open and unafraid and self-aware and socially conscious. I want them to be warriors for justice and workers for peace. I never want their hearts closed to hate and judgement. I want them to be honest – honest with themselves and others, honest in the way that they live life. I know they’ll be creative because they already are. I care deeply about their character. Their capacity to love is important to me. I am fiercely in love with my children and deeply in love with my husband, but my love for this community is deep too. It can be hard to hold three great loves of your life.

Who in the community inspires you?
In this community, there are so many who tirelessly show up to work for North. In regards to justice work, a few come to mind. I really love the work of Marcus Kar, my fellow gardener. His heart and passion for youth, his phenomenal history and story and perspective on life. His gift of growing food and his ability to be in space and to turn it into something vibrant and living is inspiring. De’Von Nolan – she garners all of my attention when she opens her mouth. I am attuned to her. I want to absorb and learn from her. I have learned so much from Roxanne O’Brien. I don’t know how she lives with all the hard truth that she does. She teaches me to be unafraid. She teaches me to show up in space more powerfully. She is necessary. Kenya McKnight and DA Bullock inspire me too, especially on social media. Malik Holt-Shabazz from CURA is a mentor of mine. He’s a dynamic leader who leads from behind.

How did you get involved with the Folwell Neighborhood Association (FNA)?
Two summers ago, I needed a flyer printed for the Story Garden. Someone told me that our neighborhood association did that, but I didn’t even know it existed. I was curious so I went to the FNA’s annual meeting. Recently I have been trying to put my body in spaces I can learn more from. Last year there were no new applicants for the board. I left, and wasn’t sure what I had gotten from being there. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have gone into the FNA for community outreach and engagement, but I’ve lived here 16 years, and I’ve never been door-knocked or flyer-ed, and I know other people haven’t either. Soon after that, my neighbor Nancy and I ended up applying for the board together. We were told that our applications were denied because they were looking for diversity on their board. We’re both white. I completely get that; I’ve never been door-knocked or flyer-ed, and I know other people haven’t either. Soon after that, my neighbor Nancy and I ended up applying for the board together. We were told that our applications were denied because they were looking for diversity on their board. We’re both white. I completely get that; I had wanted to be on the board to work to work myself out of the position.

But you stayed involved?
I kept coming to meetings and I said whether I’m on the board or not, I’m still going to be an active community member. Then they reffered me the position a few months later. Those unwritten rules are the abusive ones. Kristel Porter, Executive Director of the Cleveland Neighborhood Association, was the one who convinced me to say yes to the offer.

How did she convince you?
A big reason why I wanted to get involved is that I think the system needs to show up differently for over-burdened residents. There are so many resources out there for folks but there is a serious gap in connecting people to those resources. We need an entity that would be hyper-localized that would work for you, walk alongside you. Whatever the issue is, we know where the resources are. We can help you connect with them. In a large systems capacity and village capacity. Kristel said, "why build something different when you have a neighborhood org right here that could be that? The system is already set up." So, I said yes.

FNA now has an entirely new board. In many ways, you’ve lead the fight to re-envision it, but you wouldn’t call yourself its leader. Explain. I don’t want to be the face of something that was such a collective effort. There’s responsibility in the privilege I carry. I know I am not the first to have a different vision for what neighborhood organizations can do or be. I’m honored that I could use my time and privilege to be able to push at this to be able to open it up.

Read North News’ story about the FNA board shake-up on Page 4.
Hey neighbor, look what's coming to our backyard...

North Minneapolis' newest grocery store.

The new North Market is almost ready. Built with you, by you, for you. With fresh produce and great brands, at friendly prices. Staffed by your neighbors.

Come enjoy your market.

Opening Dec 13th at 44th & Humboldt Ave. N
Open daily from 7am-9pm
Served by bus 5, 721 and 724
Find us on Facebook @MyNorthMarket

An enterprise of Pillsbury United Communities, in partnership with North Memorial Health