Florence Timmerman (right), 100, and her sister Jessie Johnson, 104, live together in Folwell.

ALSO INSIDE

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100-year-old sisters live independently in Folwell. Page 22

100-year-old sisters live independently in Folwell.
Marking a milestone: North News celebrates two years since relaunch

Letter from the Editor

This month marks two years since North News was relaunched under new ownership. In November 2015, Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) bought North News from the paper’s founder and longtime owner Margo Ashmore. A few months later, PUC hired me to enact the mission they envisioned: to create a truly community-driven news source while building a year-round youth journalism education program.

In late March 2016, following lots of discussions with community members, we launched our first print edition. Though it was thin in page count, it was symbolic of something much bigger — our burgeoning commitment to news in the community.

Since that first edition, we have striven to meet and exceed the lofty goals we, PUC, and the community have set for us. We have distributed 240,000 print newspapers (24 editions) out into the neighborhoods that make up North Minneapolis. We grew our Facebook following from zero to nearly 3,000 people. And after launching our youth program in June of 2016, we have served over 50 youth through our journalism class at North High and summer internship program.

I’m profoundly grateful to have spent the last two years in deep conversation with the people that make up this vibrant, creative, historically significant community. Though there have been more highlights than I can count, here are a few that have been especially memorable and meaningful:

• Getting to build a journalism program at North High with my co-teacher Sam Wilbur. Students from our current class participated in the Super Bowl festivities: photographing concerts downtown, interviewing Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, and reporting on the Super Bowl Experience.
• Partnering with many Twin Cities media organizations to provide amazing field trips for our young people: the Star Tribune, Minnesota Public Radio, KSTP-TV, the University of Minnesota, Carmichael Lynch and The BrandLab.
• Receiving a grant from the Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation in August of 2017 to bring a second staff member – small business and education reporter Cirien Saadeh – on board.
• Becoming fast friends with Margo Ashmore, who I affectionately refer to as North News’ “birth mother.”
• Getting to know photographer David Pierini and having the privilege of showcasing his images on every edition of North News for the past year.
• Watching Patrick Henry High School student Semaj Rankin grow his discomfort with his school’s name into the #ChangeTheName movement (cover story, November 2016).
• Interviewing Collin Robinson on the back of a moving golf cart at Theodore Wirth Park (neighborhood interview, November 2017).
• Mentoring North High students Talina Hill, Myesha Powell, and Ashley Powell as they created our cover story about Elizer Darris (December 2017).

Thank you – our subscribers, readers, contributors, champions in and outside the community – for all your support as we’ve grown this business over the past two years. I can’t wait to serve you for many more.

Until next time,

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, North News
kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
651-245-2647

Inside Our “O”

A red velvet, tiramisu, salted whip cream and Oreo dessert by Soul Bowl.

After putting on three successful pop-up food events since November, Soul Bowl hopes to open a permanent restaurant in North Minneapolis by summertime.

Brittney and Gerard Klass, the husband and wife duo behind Soul Bowl, created their concept — fast casual, artfully presented soul food — less than a year ago. For under $6 bucks an item, customers are treated to an array of classic soul food items with modern twists and musical names: Lauryn Hill Lemon Pepper Mahi Mahi, Fantasia Fried Chicken, Beyonce Lemonade, Tamia Vegan Mac & Cheese, Red Bottoms cake (pictured on our cover) and much more.

On March 16 they plan to launch a Kickstarter campaign to take their dream to the next level and raise the funds needed to open a restaurant inside the SunnySide Deli building at 1825 Glenwood Ave. N. “This is the old Milda’s. It’s been feeding people for over 25 years,” said Brittney.

In addition to donating to the Kickstarter when it launches and following Soul Bowl on social media, Brittney says there are a few ways community members can help support their new and extremely popular (judging by never-ending line of customers at each of their pop-ups) restaurant: “If you’re a believer, anybody that prays, we’ll take all prayers. When there is a pop-up, when we are open, come out and support and try our food. We love to commune; it’s open, diverse; we love the different kinds of people that come. I feel like it’s just home,” she said.

The campaign will begin and end with more pop-ups. Follow along on Facebook and Instagram at @ soulbowlinn. Visit them online at www.soulbowlinn.com.

Get North News in your mailbox each month!

Purchase your home subscription today:
$30/year for Northside residents
$50/year for non-residents
Email kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org to sign up.
North Minneapolis at a glance

Snow emergencies cause confusion
Two back to back snow emergencies at the end of February led to many questions about where to park and complaints about driving conditions in the neighborhoods from community members. Ward Four City Council Member Phillipe Cunningham took to Facebook on Feb. 25 to address what he called "low-quality plowing and decreased driving safety throughout our neighborhoods." He said he shared his neighbors’ “frustration” about the lack of towing and said the issue would be addressed moving forward. He also said the City would increase its multilingual communications on how to comply with Snow Emergency rules to avoid residents being ticketed and towed.

Cajun food to be served up in Theodore Wirth Park
The Loppet Foundation and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are currently constructing a new building in Theodore Wirth Park – “The Trailhead.” Set to open this summer, the facility will be an outdoor adventure hub, complete with a restaurant for refueling. Cajun Twist, the Trailhead’s just-announced restaurant partner, will serve red beans and rice, jambalaya, and more, along with beer and wine. In the summer months, seating will be available on an outdoor patio. “Having a permanent home for Cajun Twist is going to be a gamechanger. My team is thrilled for this opportunity to bring authentic New Orleans cuisine to North Minneapolis through this partnership,” said Teona Washington, founder and owner of Cajun Twist, in a recent Loppet Foundation press release. Learn more about the Trailhead at www.loppet.org/trailhead.

Ramen restaurant to replace Victory 44
The building that formerly housed Victory 44 (2201/2203 44th Ave N) has a new restaurant tenant. Chef Jason Dorweiler, owner of St. Paul’s Tori Ramen, is planning to open a yet-to-be-named upscale, full service in the space. “We’re excited to produce a product that is completely house-made and to bring ourselves to North Minneapolis,” he said. Half the site is planned to be used for the restaurant and the other half will be used for noodle production. Dorweiler plans to open the restaurant in April of this year.

Storyville project set to relaunch
Last year, the Northside Funders Group (NFG) began a video documentary project that positively profiles Northside leaders and organizations doing game-changing work in the North Minneapolis community. In doing so, NFG hopes to spark a narrative shift that “permeates the minds of our peer grantmakers, policy makers, educators, developers, and Twin Cities residents alike, to think deeper about their own perceptions, and get to know the Northside for themselves,” said Tammy Nolen, the organization’s communications coordinator. The first two episodes of “Storyville” featured New Rules, a creative coworking and event space on Lowry Ave. N, and Appetite for Change, a food justice nonprofit on W Broadway Ave. Local filmmaker D.A. Bullock created these pieces. Ten more episodes, created by Free Truth (formerly Ubuntu Productions), will be released monthly this year, beginning this month. “The work has been reaffirming of the life, artistry, ideas, and joy of North Minneapolis. Everything we knew to be true of the Northside is present in the community, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to share these stories,” said Adja Gildersleeve, who, along with Ryan Stopera, make up Free Truth. Screenings of the documentaries in the community are planned for later this season and at the end of the year. Follow the project at www.northsidestoryville.com and on Twitter at @NorthsideStoryville.

$10K given to food justice projects
Two North Minneapolis groups – The North Star: Urban Ploughshare Collective and Future Food Processing – have been granted $5K each by Northside Fresh for projects they say will expand and enhance food access in North Minneapolis. Both are focused on the growing season. Northside Fresh, a community-based network working to develop “a more self-reliant, just, and connected food system on the Northside,” is sub-granting the dollars, which were originally given to Appetite For Change by the United Way. Eight groups responded to the RFP. A community review panel culled the number to four, and the community decided the two recipients through open-to-the-public online voting. About 350 votes were cast, a number that pleased Miah Ulysse who managed the process for AFC. “It reinforces the idea that people want to have that kind of power,” she said. Ulysse said this round of grants was viewed as a pilot. She hopes to release more RFPs for small and large grants in the future.

Assisted living facility to close
North Oaks on Emerson, an assisted living facility at 2929 Emerson Ave. N, owned by the St. Olaf Residence, an ELCA-affiliated Minnesota nonprofit, was officially closed on Feb. 27, according to a press release from St. Olaf Residence President Dale Hulme. The 39 North Oaks residents, who include Hulme’s brother in law, must be out by March 31 of this year. “We will continue to work with the bond trustee and St. Olaf Lutheran Church to ensure the best possible outcome for this community and to continue to try to hold accountable and gain restitution from those corporations and individuals whose actions resulted in this sad announcement today,” wrote Hulme in the press release. Hulme said that the facility’s closure comes as a result of a failed sale of the building next door and the sale of that skilled nursing facility’s bed licenses.

Avenue Eatery is back on Broadway
Sammy’s Avenue Eatery (1101 W Broadway) is back in business after a four-month closure for renovations funded by The Episcopal Church of Minnesota, who now owns the building where the restaurant is located. The new space boasts a larger garage door opening and an improved seating area. The Eatery is currently hiring for baristas and kitchen staff.

Nellie Stone students release album
K-5 students at Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School announced the completion and release of a musical album on Feb. 2 in a showcase concert open to parents and families. Over 500 students, as well as other community members, wrote, produced, and performed the album, which was done under the guidance of Kyle B. Rucker, founder of North Minneapolis-based Ruck B Music, and music teacher at Nellie Stone Johnson. The album costs $10 to buy online or at the school. All proceeds support Nellie Stone Johnson.

All stories by Cirien Saadeh and Kenzie O’Keefe
North Minneapolis is getting a “gun shop”

For a month, a local art gallery will showcase art made from weapons.

By D’Angelo Raymond | North High

There have been a lot of shootings in North Minneapolis, and the country, in the last several years. Local art gallery, Homewood Studios, is making a bold statement about the violence in their latest gallery show: Art Is My Weapon.

Following a gun buyback program in the community hosted by Pillsbury United Communities (which also owns North News) and the City of Minneapolis in 2016, artists were given the decommissioned guns to make art. The artists, who are both local and from other communities, took guns and created symbolic œuvres; their meanings connect with the recent gun violence we’ve seen in America.

“There’s a lot of finger pointing and blaming but no coming together about how we can solve the problem,” said George Roberts, longtime North Minneapolis resident, retired North High teacher, and owner of Homewood Studios.

Roberts said he wanted to host the show at Homewood because, “This gallery is meant to make you think and say what you feel about our community’s problems.” This show is meant to address the issues about gun violence that we face in our country. The message needs and should be heard by everyone.

Roberts understands that displaying guns in the community might upset people. "It was kind of spooky for us artists to have these decommissioned weapons in our studios while creating our work, so we can understand what thoughts might be coursing through someone’s mind upon seeing the show lit at night,” he said.

The show will display the gun pieces from March 1 to March 21 at Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave N. Gallery hours are listed at www.homewoodstudios.org. Two community conversations on the subject of gun violence prevention will be held in the gallery on March 13 at 7pm and March 20 at 3pm. After Art is My Weapon, don’t miss Homewood Studios’ next show.

Artist Bill Jeter attached a hole puncher to half of a gun to represent that guns “only leave holes.” Guns are designed to kill. They aren’t for fun. Underneath the gun is an African symbol that means “do not bite one another.” This symbol is cautious about incitement and is a symbol of peace and harmony. Jeter is one of several artists whose pieces made from decommissioned guns will be on display at Homewood Studios this month. Photo by D’Angelo Raymond

Peyton Scott Russell’s Graffiti: The Art of Creative Lettering will go up in early May. Russell is a North High graduate.
WARD 4:
Phillipe Cunningham

Have you heard about the Upper Harbor Terminal project yet? This historic site used to be a barge and shipping terminal in the 1960s. It’s now an exciting proposed redevelopment project of 48 acres of land along the river right off the Dowling exit on 94. The City and Parks are working together with United Properties, Thor Construction, and First Ave. to potentially bring restaurants, retail, park space, housing, a hotel, and even an amphitheater to our community.

I am thrilled to support and champion this project because it will create jobs, reconnect our community to the river, and establish North Minneapolis as a hub for progress and opportunity.

The residents of the 4th Ward will directly benefit from the wealth of opportunities this project will provide and forge a new era for progress, sustainability, and the betterment of our residents. This is not just a project but an investment in the people, we need YOU to be involved.

Upper Harbor Terminal has the opportunity to not only benefit our community in North Minneapolis, but also become a Midwest regional destination that highlights our rich history and culture as a community.

Get involved and have your voice heard in this progress of the Upper Harbor Terminal’s redevelopment. Like our Facebook page @CMCunninghamWard4 for more updates about the project and opportunities to engage!

The Capri Theater will undergo a major transformation this year

By Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

The theater Prince first performed at will soon get a multi-million dollar renovation. The Capri Theater Expansion development, an addition to the current theater at 2027 West Broadway Ave. N, is planned to break ground this September. After a yearlong building process, the prominent new building is anticipated to open in the fall of 2019, just in time to serve students from the Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) when school starts.

This is the second major investment that PCYC, which owns the Capri, will make in the theater since it assumed control of it in the mid-80s.

Though the stage Prince once stood on will be preserved, the rest of the theater will get a massive makeover. A brand-new set of seats will be installed and significant lighting and acoustic updates will be made.

“We started with the idea that we had something to contribute to make the neighborhood better by what we do physically as well as what we do inside the buildings and in the community,” said Anne Long, Executive Director of PCYC and the Capri Theater. “We wanted something that would say to the community, ‘you really deserve beautiful architecture,’” said Long.

Dressing rooms, a wardrobe space, and a set workshop will all be added. A catering kitchen will be built to serve the mainstage and the new great hall, a 2,000-square-foot room which will be available for rent to the public. A large gallery wall and a dance studio built on the second story will look out on W Broadway Ave. Additional classrooms and a Best Buy Teen Tech Center will be constructed to serve PCYC and students throughout the community.

An outdoor plaza, inspired by the temporary Freedom Plaza across the street, will be added alongside the building.

“Now with the benefit of all this additional space, we’ll be able to accommodate more needs and out of that we’ll be able to grow more partnerships,” said Theater Director James Scott.

So far, just over half the funds have been raised for the $10 million project. Long says fundraising has gone well thanks to several individual and corporate donors, including longtime friends of the Capri, Janet and Brad Anderson. But, it hasn’t been without challenges.

“This would have been done a good bit sooner had it not been for the the world economics,” said Long, alluding to the economic recession of 2008 which occurred just after planning for the expansion began.
Minnesota’s legislative session returns with plenty on the agenda

By Crien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

With the 2018 legislative session – a period of time in which the MN State Legislature meets for the purpose of policymaking – back in session, Northsiders can look forward to action around the Upper Harbor Terminal, the Minneapolis Public Schools’ deficit, and a number of equity initiatives.

The Minnesota State Legislature is back in session. On the docket this year is bonding – infrastructure investment – and the usual: policy-making. And according to North Minneapolis legislators, it is vital that Northsiders understand the legislature, how it operates, and what they can do to access and advocate at the state level.

“I think people don’t understand the ways in which the legislature impacts their life, because they don’t understand the legislature or other government entities,” said State Senator Bobby Joe Champion, “But knowledge is power. If you can understand the legislature, you can understand your point of access and your power.”

Governor Mark Dayton and DFL and GOP legislative leadership are expecting that February’s budget forecast will include, at minimum, a multi-hundred million dollar surplus – due to increased tax revenue over the past five years – according to GOP leadership – or “sound fiscal management” – according to Dayton and DFL leadership. That surplus will likely be used to fund infrastructure initiatives which legislators, including those who represent the Northside, are advocating for. Dayton has proposed a $1.5 billion bonding bill, which would fund infrastructure projects across the state, including classroom construction at the University of Minnesota and transit development.

According to Champion, this year’s legislative session is still largely an unknown, as the balance of power has yet to be decided, given the lieutenant governorship of Senator Michelle Fischbach (GOP), who rose to office after former-lieutenant governor Tina Smith became Minnesota’s (DFL) junior US Senator. Fischbach is currently serving as senator and in her original role as MN State Senator and President of the Senate, but it is unknown how this position of dual-leadership will play out. If Fischbach leaves the senate, it would leave a 33-33 balance of power. Additionally, there will be much discussion this year pertaining to the state budget, because Dayton vetoed the budget passed during last year’s legislative session. And finally, there is the unknown impact of the recently-passed tax reform law, and other federal legislation, on state lawmaking.

Still, Champion says, he plans to continue advocating for funding for North Minneapolis initiatives including the 26th Ave connection and additional funding for equity issues, including job training and employment opportunities for people across the state.

“It’s important to include North Minneapolis in legislative initiatives so that other other legislators can connect to and see themselves in the legislation,” said Champion.

One more important issue on the docket is the request by Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) for additional special education and English learner language funding. MPS has announced a $33 million deficit for the 2018-2019 school year. They have proposed approximately $27 million in budget cuts. To cover the $6 million hole not covered by budget cuts, MPS will be asking both Minneapolis taxpayers and the state legislature for additional funding.

“I think MPS will have to demonstrate a more diverse Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) system and Lee will be advocating for ethnic studies courses in the MNSCU system.

As for other community priorities, Lee and Champion note that there are several opportunities for engagement by Northsiders. And while the legislature may not be the right place to advocate around a certain issue, Champion notes that he is still available to talk about community advocacy.

“There’s a difference in the work we do other than voting the right away and background policy work,” says Champion. “There are things that require legislative action and there are things that require legislative influence.”

The Minnesota Legislature has a biennial session. The first year of session – in odd-numbered years – focuses on tax policy, while the second session – for example, this year – is a shorter session focused on infrastructural investment. The 2017-2018 legislative session must end by May 21.
Get to know your legislators

North Minneapolis is represented by
1. Sen. Bobby Joe Champion (District 59)
2. Rep. Raymond Dehn (District 59B)
3. Rep. Fue Lee (District 59A)

Champion represents all of North Minneapolis, the North Loop, and half of Downtown Minneapolis in the Minnesota State Senate. Champion serves on four committees: 1) Capital Investment, 2) Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy, 3) Finance, and 4) Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy. He can be reached at sen.bobby.champion@senate.mn.

Dehn represents 59B in the Minnesota House of Representatives which is the southern half of North Minneapolis. Dehn serves on four committees: 1) Capital Investment, 2) Civil Law and Data Practices, 3) Public Safety and Security Policy and Finance, and 4) Ethics (alternate). Dehn can be reached at rep.raymond.dehn@house.mn.

Lee represents District 59A in the Minnesota House, which is the northern half of the Northside. Lee serves on three committees: 1) Education Innovation Policy, 2) Government Operations and Elections Policy, and 3) Veteran Affairs. He can be reached at rep.fue.lee@house.mn.

Community Updates and Priorities

There will be some perennial issues on the legislative agenda this year: the Good Food Access Fund and some other equity funding related to job training and employment opportunities.

“Legislatively, I want to introduce an ethnic studies bill this year, working with some of the graduate students over at the Humphrey School,” said Lee. “I am also working with a lot of community groups on a bill related to community violence, gun violence prevention,” he added.

Do not, however, expect a significant amount of movement on Northside Fresh’s Food Justice Platform. Northside Fresh plans on focusing its advocacy efforts on the Minneapolis City Council and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. As for the United Black Legislative Agenda, there is no clear direction or sense of where the UBLA is going. While neither Neighborhoods Organizing for Change or Minneapolis Urban League responded to a request for comment, there may be movement from other UBLA advocates.

Additionally, in a Feb. 19 town hall meeting put on by Champion, Dehn, and Lee, there was much discussion on other community priorities including voting rights restoration, tax reform, environmental concerns, affordable housing for both renters and homeowners, and public safety and gun violence prevention.

“We have two issues around housing that we have to pay attention to. Governor Dayton formed a working group around affordable housing because we have an affordable housing crisis in the State of Minnesota,” said Champion. Policy initiatives discussed include gap financing for first-time home buyers, the preservation of affordable housing, and the usage of unlawful detainers.

During the Feb. 19 meeting, Northsiders had the opportunity to discuss their own priorities and ask clarifying questions regarding the legislative process. They were also quizzed by Champion, who asked them to figure out which MN state body responded to or dealt with specific community needs or individual requests.

How to Testify

Minnesota residents are invited to testify at committee hearings regarding legislation. In some cases you may have to pre-arrange testimony, which is typically kept to a few minutes, at most. Here are some tips:

1) Tell a story! Keep it personal.
2) Practice.
3) Arrive early.
4) Bring a written summary. And enough copies for each committee member.

Engagement

New events — rallies, protests, and hearings — are being announced at the Capitol each day.

1) March 5: Latino Day at the Capitol
2) March 7: Second Change Day on the Hill
3) March 20: Women Policy Summit
4) March 24: Minnesota March for our Lives
5) March 26: Good Food for Healthy Kids

For more information on these and other upcoming events you can check out: https://mn.gov/admin/government/public-events/calendar.jsp.

City Council Members Phillippe Cunningham and Jeremiah Ellison attended the Feb. 19 legislative town hall and helped to differentiate state legislature versus city responsibilities.
Capri continued from Page 5:

“We scramble for everything we have,” she said.

This project is one of many large developments underway in the area right now. Greater housing density in the area – thanks to Devean George’s Commons at Penn and Dean Rose’s Broadway Flats – have already caused positive change at the Capri. “The people that are able to walk here has hugely increased since these three housing developments,” said Long.

Both Long and James say they hope restaurants will come next. Long says ticketholders often call the theater asking for a nearby dinner recommendation within walking distance. She has to tell them there isn’t a single one. “We’re looking for an experience for folks – retail, restaurants, parking – all of those things contribute to the success of a theater,” said Scott. “We’d like to have this development be part of a larger development that will reenergize this node,” he added.

Capri leaders are quick to note that current community members are at the center of their development process. Community engagement has taken place at every step in the planning process. “We’re really cognizant of this vibrant, local Northside arts community and how we can support them, be there with them, and help them in terms of having more space,” said Janet Zahn, communications manager for PCYC and the Capri.

The Capri is the last vestige of North Minneapolis’ former theater district. When it was donated to PCYC in the mid-80s, “it was on its last legs,” said Scott. Capri leaders believe there were once 13 theaters in the area. “We really see the Capri as a sacred space, and that we are the caretakers of it right now. It’s our honor to do the best by it, so that it can be the fullest space that the community can possibly have,” said Long.

Scott says chance and a little bit of magic have kept the Capri alive during decades of development in Minneapolis: “There have been some stunning buildings torn down in the name of progress. I truly believe that it’s fate.”

At times forgotten, the Capri has recently seen a surge of national and even international attention since Prince passed away in 2016. “People from all over the world have come,” said Long. “They run around and dance on the stage and touch the walls. …Good history resides.”

Both Scott and Long feel a responsibility to support both emerging and seasoned artists in the community, providing the platform that young Prince Rogers Nelson once received: “It invigorates me to think that 50 years from now somebody is going to be sitting around a table going ‘the Capri was the place that my mom let me take the bus to because she knew it was a safe space,’” said Scott.
Operating together, NCE Wellness and The Yoga Room offer holistic health

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

You may not know it, but there’s a great little yoga studio in town. The Yoga Room and Northside Center for Emotional Wellness (NCE Wellness), 4151 and 4153 Thomas Ave. N, combine therapy services and yoga classes in order to provide a holistic mind-body wellness experience.

“There’s people that have never experienced meditation who come in there who feel very calm and serene after meditation. Whatever level you’re at, whatever ethnicity, they always leave filled with a peace and serenity about them,” said patron Khalilah Briscoe. Briscoe has lived in North Minneapolis for ten years just a block away from The Yoga Room and has been taking classes at The Yoga Room for six months.

NCE Wellness and The Yoga Room were opened in February 2016 by longtime Northside resident and owner Laurie Schlosser, a licensed psychologist who has worked in the field with children and families for 20 years. Though she currently works as a therapist out of Fairview Hospital in addition to running her Northside businesses, Schlosser hopes to become full-time at NCE Wellness and The Yoga Room in the next few months.

Schlosser describes the joint-business venture as a mind-body wellness center. Each business can operate independently and as part of the duo. NCE Wellness offers traditional talk therapy, play therapy, and group therapy. The Yoga Room offers a number of different yoga classes, including restorative yoga and a new class called “Mindful Movement,” as well as Thai massage, group acupuncture, and its popular “Meditation for People of Color.” Yoga classes are $10/class; the POC meditation class is a free/donation-based session, and acupuncture is $20.

"I feel that it's important to provide mind-body care for people, because we often store so much past pain, trauma, anxiety and depression in our bodies."  

Laurie Schlosser

Schlosser, they are currently turning away patients for therapy appointments, and after a social media push in December for more neighborhood support, yoga classes now have anywhere from 8 - 12 participants.

I really enjoy working with this community that is more underserved than other Minneapolis communities and offering a service to this community that people really want," said Suzanne Shanklin, a yoga instructor at The Yoga Room since October 2017.

“Operating together, NCE Wellness and The Yoga Room offer holistic health.”

For more information on NCE Wellness and The Yoga Room, check out their website: https://www.northsidecenter.net/. 

Check out the first big ideas for Northside neighborhood parks!

Share your thoughts on park concept plans at two community workshops

- Refreshments
- Family-friendly/kids’ activities

Tuesday, March 6
Folwell Recreation Center
1615 North Dowling Avenue

Thursday, March 8
Harrison Recreation Center
503 North Irving Avenue

Each workshop is 6pm–8pm and features plans for all Northside parks.

FREE! Spring Classes 2018!

Employment Training Programs
- Banking Class (tellers, personal bankers)
- Training for those with criminal backgrounds
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Let’s get started!
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PPL Learning Center
1925 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Center hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
612-455-5300 or www.ppl-inc.org
Minneapolis educators rally at Davis Center for fully funded schools

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Over 300 Minneapolis educators with the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT), as well as students, parents, and administrators, rallied at the Davis Center on Feb. 13 for “fully funded schools,” and to continue demanding that Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) engage with MFT in contract negotiations.

According to Michelle Wiese, the MFT teacher’s president and a lead negotiator, MFT has been engaged in contract negotiations with MPS since 2017. Currently, MPS educators are operating under a contract continuation of their 2015-2017 contract with MPS. The negotiations were moved into mediation on Jan. 16-18 with future mediation meetings scheduled. As of the Feb. 13 Board meeting, MPS and MFT have met seven times for negotiation and four times for mediation.

“I want to strongly encourage the Board to engage in conversations for the schools all our students deserve,” said Wiese.

MFT demands include smaller class sizes; less testing; more school support personnel including the school nurse, a social worker, counselor, psychologist, and library media specialist in every school; full-service community school; and a $15 minimum wage for all MPS employees. According to MPS Senior HR Executive Maggie Sullivan, while MPS agrees with MFT on many of these points, MPS does not feel contract negotiations are the appropriate space for some of these issues.

MPS has also named ten values guiding its own negotiations with MFT. These include: student-centered learning; academic excellence, equity, and accessibility for all students; and recruiting and retaining a high quality and diverse teaching staff.

MPS is currently facing a $33 million deficit for its 2018-2019 budget, which has further complicated teachers’ contract negotiations. According to data from MPS, MPS educators are seeing salary increases annually – with a minimum of 5% salary increases last year and this year. According to MPS, MFT’s proposals would cost the district $160 million. According to Sullivan, even with district cuts adding up to $27 million, there would still be a $6 million hole to fill – the district will be asking Minneapolis Members of MFT and allies rallied outside the Davis Center for 90 minutes on Feb. 13. Photo by Cirien Saadeh Continues on Page 17
Science is a joy to teach. First graders are naturally curious and have such a sense of wonder. Asking why things are the way they are in the natural world comes easily to young students. I enjoy seeing the excitement on their faces when they make a model of the earth or conduct an experiment.

**What is your favorite thing about Ascension?**

Our greatest strength is our diversity. Our students learn from each other and teach me. I appreciate the history of our school and what Ascension has meant to North Minneapolis. Our school has been here for over a hundred years, it has been quietly and consistently making a difference in families’ lives for over a century. That legacy is powerful. We are a Catholic school, so faith is central to our school day. What we teach, how we treat one another, all that we do is shaped by this moral center.

**What is your teaching philosophy?**

I believe in fostering and celebrating students’ gifts and encouraging them to work on their challenges. I want my students to see themselves as competent learners, who push themselves beyond what is comfortable. I do my best to cultivate a culture of respect in my classroom. Each student contributes to our learning and understanding, we are a team.

**What is your favorite quote?**

I have many but this quote sums up what I aspire to every day. “What does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God,” (Micah 6:8).
Leon Wallace, 76, has been a Northside community member for decades. For the past ten years, he’s found it more and more of a struggle to live here comfortably.

For most of his adult life, Wallace was professionally successful and self-sufficient. Then, the 2008 recession hit and the longtime realtor lost his business and much of his retirement savings. The stress led to a divorce from his wife and he had to leave the home he owned. Soon after, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. “Everything was going downhill,” he said.

When Wallace recovered, he found himself needing to build a life that cost less than his only source of income: his $1200 per month Social Security check. “Thank God I put that money aside, or I’d be up a creek without a paddle,” he said.

Stories like Wallace’s are common among seniors on the Northside and throughout Minneapolis.

The elderly are among those being hit hardest by our city’s affordable housing crisis. Many lost homes, savings, and jobs during the recession and foreclosure crisis. Rising rents and increasing property taxes on fixed incomes are squeezing elders out of homes and neighborhoods they’ve known their entire lives. Though some, like Florence Timmerman and her sister Jessie Johnson (see story Page 22), have been able to live independently into their golden years, most need levels of affordability, physical accessibility, and community that can feel nearly impossible to find in Minneapolis’ current housing market. Many are making do with less than what they need to live comfortably.

“It’s inhumane for a wealthy country like this, where seniors who have worked all their lives [are being] told ‘we don’t have housing for you,’” said Wallace.

Wallace ended up moving into a $560 per month efficiency apartment at St. Anne’s Senior Community, a CommonBond Properties development at 2323 26th Ave. N. He describes it as “the most affordable building outside of public housing in North Minneapolis.” He says security concerns keep him from living in public housing, which would cost him less – just 30% of his monthly income.

According to its website, St. Anne’s doesn’t allow pets. Public housing high rises allow one dog or cat weighing no more than 25 pounds or two caged small pets or one aquarium of thirty gallons or less for fish only.

For seniors like Steve Tibbetts, this is a no-go. Living with a dog is a necessity for him. Tibbetts rents a duplex unit on the 4100 block of Aldrich Ave. N with his medium-sized dog Baylor. He’s deeply grateful for his landlord

Leon Wallace feels lucky to have found affordable housing at St. Anne’s Senior Community. Photo by David Pierini
seniors seek homes

who allows him to have Baylor. "The company for me is unbelievable. It makes a whole other life for me," he said.

Tibbetts, 67, says he had a successful career as a psychologist, a mortician, and a handyman until the recession. Then, like Wallace, he says he lost his retirement savings and his home, and then he experienced a series of heart attacks that burdened him with medical debt and an inability to work as much as he used to. "I was a PhD psychologist. People paid attention to me. Then I got sick, almost died, and everybody went away," he said.

After a period of homelessness, his friend, John Richards, another Northside resident, helped him find his duplex unit and vouched for him to the landlord despite his bad credit. Tibbetts feels fortunate to have found his $800 per month unit, but says he worries constantly about rent being raised. "I watch every penny. I don't go anywhere. I seldom eat out," he said.

Tibbetts isn't the only senior who Richards looks out for. His mother Mary Richards, 71, is a resident of Victory Health and Rehabilitation Center, a nursing home in Lind Bohanon. Finding adequate housing for her has been difficult. Before she lived at Victory, she lived at a different nursing home in Crystal, MN. In both places, Richards and his mother say there have been problems – cold food, locked doors, critical health issues ignored, and some security concerns.

"In our family we really believe in the dignity of our elders. That's how [my mother] raised us. Watching people treat her like she's an object in a room is so frustrating," Richards said.

For now, his mother plans to stay at Victory, which she describes as "pretty good."

"She's 12 blocks from my house. She loves North like I do. I don't want to have to move our elderly out of North to get good care," Richards said.

Creating innovative, affordable housing for seniors has been a career-long passion of Cora McCorvey's. McCorvey served as the executive director of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) for over 25 years until her retirement in 2017. Under her leadership, the MPHA built senior-only high rises along with many supportive services for seniors in public housing (see story Page 14).

She says she left her longtime job at the MPHA "in concern." She worries that baby boomers aren't prepared for living longer and that society won't fill the gaps. "I worry if there will be enough political will to do the right thing by people," she said.

Senior housing is more than just a professional passion for McCorvey. She is 68 and lives with her 90-year-old mother. "I tell my mom she will stay with me until she passes. She deserves to have this kind of care," she said.

McCorvey would like to see intergenerational housing options explored.

Leon Wallace hopes co-housing opportunities are created for seniors like himself on the Northside. He says the similarities in seniors’ struggles with aging transcend the differences they may have felt earlier in their lives. "We're all dealing with the same issues and we find ourselves being drawn together by that."
Public housing can be a saving grace

For many seniors, public housing offers community and otherwise unattainable affordable, independent living.

By ABBY PETERSEN & GODFREY MPETEY

Additional reporting by: Josh Towner, Conrad Engstrom, and Kenzie O’Keefe.

Sue McLilly buzzes through the hallways that wrap around the building on the corner of Dupont Ave. N and N 4th Ave. She sits on a two-wheel blue motor scooter with a basket to carry her purse, room keys and her favorite jazz albums. “I am a Bentley, Not a Cadillac” says a sign on the front of her blue scooter.

What her scooter doesn’t say is that McLilly, after moving to Minneapolis from Texas in 1962, made a career as a stripper at the Gay 90’s, before it became a gay bar. She says a neighbor boy, nicknamed “Skipper,” who would later become globally known as Prince, babysat her daughter. She fed singer Tina Turner fried chicken, candied yams and black-eyed peas when she performed in Minneapolis. “She ate like she was on the electric chair,” McLilly said.

McLilly had three strokes beginning in 1975, which required her to move into an assisted-living facility. That’s when she entered the public housing system.

The Cora McCorvey Health & Wellness Center, owned by the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), claims to be the first and only community center of its kind across the nation to provide low-income housing and holistic services for seniors in one place. Feeney Manor, attached to the wellness center, provides 100 percent assisted-living, low-income housing for seniors, including those with dementia and Alzheimer’s.

Feeney Manor is one of 12 senior-only high-rises in the public housing system in Minneapolis. Across the entire MPHA portfolio, seniors make up 37% of residents. Currently, 538 “elderly” people are on the MPHA’s waiting list for housing.

Jeff Horwich, director of policy and external affairs for the MPHA, says the elderly waiting list moves faster than the family list and that it typically takes six months, sometimes less, for a senior to receive public housing. Factors like homelessness, age, income and medical conditions can move the senior up the waiting list. “Our senior waiting list is the shortest and generally moves the fastest…” said Horwich. “There is more hope for seniors entering our program than for families and other singles.”

Sue McLilly is one of the lucky ones. After her first stroke, she moved into Heritage Commons, a public housing high rise building across the street from the Cora McCorvey Center and Feeney Manor. Heritage Commons is only 30% assisted living, and residents like McLilly are able to live almost entirely independently. Residents of all of MPHA’s senior high rises pay 30% of their monthly income for rent.

While families and individuals who apply for public housing may eventually save enough money to graduate from the system, seniors don’t. They may never return to the workforce and will likely never leave the public housing system after they enter it. According to Horwich, places like the Cora McCorvey Center and Thomas Feeney Manor address a need that is always growing – housing for low-income seniors to “age in place.”

Marcie Holley, a marketing specialist for MPHA, says places like Feeney Manor allow seniors to live in community. Before places like Feeney existed, seniors who needed assisted living had to move from public housing to state-funded nursing homes, which often crowd residents into rooms with several people and move them outside of their neighborhoods.

“It feels like giving them their dignity and their life back,” Holley said.

McLilly enjoys exercising at the senior-designated YMCA in the Cora McCorvey Center. She also spends
six hours at Open Circle Adult Day, a weekday program run by Minneapolis-based Augustana Care that provides programming for seniors.

Patty Ryan, the center manager for Adult Day, has worked there for more than five years. “We actually get to make a difference in Adult Day,” Ryan said. “We meet people where they’re at.”

Just like public housing, there’s a waiting list for Adult Day, too.

Heritage Commons, where McLilly lived, opened in 2006, making it only five years older than the Cora McCorvey Center, which opened in 2011. The two neighboring buildings are the newest public housing units in Minneapolis, pending a groundbreaking next spring.

Although both Heritage Commons and the center look new and clean, Horwich says MPHA desperately needs funds to repair the 6,000 units it has now. The repairs alone have an estimated cost of $130 million. That’s nothing compared to the costs of constructing new buildings.

“We could build 20 more Feeney Manors and they’d be full the day they opened the doors,” Holley said.

McLilly, now at Feeney Manor, is comfortable in her new place. At every meal, she dines on her favorite meal: Great Value oatmeal with butter and sugar while listening to the symphonies of jazz artists Jimmy Smith, Jimmy McGriff, Hank Crawford and Charlie Parker. She says if anybody doesn’t like it, they can leave. McLilly is comfortable where she is.

She might never leave public housing, but she’s planning on walking again for the first time in 42 years.

“I motivate myself,” McLilly said. “I want my grandkids to see me walk.”
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School board continued from Page 10: taxpayers and the state legislature for additional funding support over the next year.

“I think we are really committed to a contract that creates the working conditions for our teachers to be successful so our students can be successful,” said Sullivan.

Contract negotiations are currently in mediation. According to MFT representatives, the mediation process takes the contract negotiations away from the public eye. Sullivan contends that MPS went to mediation in order to expedite the contract negotiation process.

The protest was not the only point of tension in the meeting. Directors Rebecca Gagnon, Ira Jourdain, and Kerry Jo Felder (District 2) advocated for a resolution related to school climate written by students to be moved in the agenda from “New Business,” – which occurs late in the meeting when it would be difficult for students to be present – to earlier in the meeting, which caused a 15-minute high-energy debate among the Board members related to Board priorities, student voices, transparency, and Board rules.

“Positively, I ended up being on a list of protests for the Super Bowl. Coordinated protests that included transit, US Bank Stadium, others. They picked two elected officials: Mayor Frey and me. So I had a very large group of folks come to my house and protest. There were a lot of the students and so I reached out and said, ‘you didn’t reach out to me so try calling;’ and they reached out and we sat down and had a conversation at Dunn Bros. on Friday,” said Gagnon. According to Gagnon, the original protest pertained to MPS usage of the School Resource Officer program. Currently MPS has a three-year contract with Minneapolis Police Department SRO program that can be renegotiated each year.

Gagnon said she attended the Friday meeting and then worked with the students to author the proposed resolution. According to MPS protocol, to bring the new item to the meeting, Gagnon needed support from two other committee members. She shared the resolution with Felder and Jourdain, who offered their support. However, during the committee, tension arose when others asked why they had not had time to also see the proffered resolution. According to Gagnon, she had shared the resolution with the Chair and others as required, but had not sent it out to other directors, lest discussion occur violating Open Discussion Law.

The resolution was briefly discussed during the “New Business” portion of the meeting. It will be discussed again at the next MPS Board meeting on March 13.

The proposed resolution asks MPS to fully support and fund restorative justice practices, to allow students to help MPS identify funding priorities and research alternatives to the SRO program, and to hold an open meeting with students before the end of the 2017/2018 school year in order to discuss and impact decisions made for the 2018/2019 school year.

“They were stoked about the resolution and I was so proud of them because it is very constructive. It acknowledges the deficit, it acknowledges other issues, and it acknowledges that there is another committee, and they value that work,” said Gagnon, “They came to me and said “this is how we want to be heard and I was just not going to muck with that,” said Gagnon.
CHANCELLOR’S AWARDS
University of Wisconsin - Stout
Augustine Metzendorf
Hannah Vogel
Lumumba White
Kong Xiong

DEAN’S LIST
Cornell College
Leitch Lodge
U of M Crookston
Scott Hughes
MN State University Mankato
Miranda Hanson
Michael Cushing
Sophie Finnerty
Frank Funwi
Yer Lee
Miranda Mier
Naomi Malloy
Jessica Staples
Brea Watson
May Xiong
Pachee Xiong
Bethel University
Rebekah Hamley
Duachia Xiong
Gustavus Adolphus College
Yee Lor
Duke University
Sara Feldman
Tegan Malone
UW River Falls
Adrienne Bunn
Maiese Yang
UW La Crosse
Elizabeth Eckhoff
Sydney Yarbrough
Northland College
Hal P. Welch
University of Iowa
Aela Rose-Hill
Lewis University
Rachel Aubart
Bemidji State University
Chelsie Matz
Lisa Dawn Pepper
Joseph Riley
St. Cloud State University
Christina Zimmerman
Knox College
Naja Woods
UW Madison
Matthew Benbenek
Hannah Gordon
Keegan Johnson
Alec Keehbler
Josie Madden

Matthew Nyberg
Zoey Rugel

GRADUATION
UW River Falls
Adrienne Bunn
Alexander Leonard
UW Stout
Sherman Aim-able
Dylan Darst
UW Madison
Marcos Jimenez
Keegan Johnson
The College of St. Scholastica
Sydney Davis

RESOURCES
4/15 & 5/20 – Bassett Creek Cohousing Information Sessions will be held at 7pm at 800 Mt. Curve. More information: www.bassettcreek.us or call 612-589-9532.

Northpoint Health and Wellness has announced an eviction prevention pilot program. This program is open to anyone who lives in Hennepin County, lives in a rental unit, and is concerned about being evicted or being unable to pay rent. Mediation services, legal help, and housing case management is available for renters; services are also available for landlords interested in assisting their tenants. To enroll in the pilot contact NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc. at 612-767-9159 or visit 1315 Penn Ave N.

Enter the City’s lottery to purchase a tree to plant in your yard any time now through 3/9. Lottery entrants will hear back by 3/14. About 850 property owners will be able to order a five to eight-foot tree to plant in their yards. Large species shade trees are $30 each. Fruit trees and smaller species are $40 each. Comparable trees cost about $125 at a nursery. Low-cost trees are available for Minneapolis residents, businesses and nonprofits. Limit one tree per property owner. Trees must be picked up May 19-21 at the City of Minneapolis Impound Lot. Volunteers will be on hand to help load each new tree and a complimentary bag of mulch into vehicles. Enter the lottery at treetrust.org/minneapolis-tree-sale-lottery.

Swimming equipment, soccer goals and a skateboard park are among the new equipment, facilities and improvements coming to parks and recreation centers across Minneapolis, thanks to funding from the Hennepin Youth Sports Program (HYSP). The Youth Sports grants were awarded by Hennepin County’s Board of Commissioners at their meeting last week, and were awarded to 22 cities, school districts, and parks and recreation agencies throughout the county.

Homeowners and landlords may be eligible for a free home lead test and as much as $8,000 in lead reduction costs, such as new windows. Contact: healthyhomes@hennepin.us or 612-543-4182.

Apply for and receive the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding assistance in Minnesota; or 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.

Minnesota Solid Waste & Recycling

What’s Up 612! is an online resource for children and youth, ages 5-21, who are interested in learning about city of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. Visit whatsup612.com to explore the basics of the fun, energetic dances of the Soul era and learn about the creative people and rich culture of the time. Visit whatsup612.com to explore the basics of the fun, energetic dances of the Soul era and learn about the creative people and rich culture of the time. Explore your new moves.
in a Soul Train Line. Kindergarten to grade two. Held at the Webber Park Library, 4400 Humboldt Ave N.

3/3 – Open Mic & Northside Performers Night at Serendipity Spot, 3300 Lyndale Ave N. Enjoy poetry and visual arts, all-girl all-rock, and singer-songwriter stuff too. Free. All are welcome. 5pm-8pm.

3/10 – The Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway, presents the SPCO’s Xpressive Xplorchestra at 10am, Saturday, 3/10. Xplorchestra events are geared especially to children 5-9 years old. All ages will enjoy this wonderful, 50-minute musical journey featuring an SPCO ensemble and an instrumental trial zone in the lobby after the performance. Xpressive Xplorchestra is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance to guarantee admission. Reserve them online at www.thecapritheater.org or by calling 612-643-2024. Walk-ups are welcome based on space availability.

3/11 – Artist talk with Juan Parker whose work is currently on display at Serendipity Spot, 3300 Lyndale Ave N. Complimentary coffeehouse beverages as well. 2pm-4pm.

3/14 – 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. Webber Park Library, 4400 Humboldt Ave N.

3/16 – The Capri Theater (2027 W Broadway) presents the SPCO’s program “Strong Sisters” at 7pm. As a part of SPCO’s mission to make classical music more accessible, free, open seating tickets are available for this concert on a first-come, first-served basis at www.thecapritheater.org. Tickets may also be purchased for $15 each (guaranteed, general seating admission) at www.thescpo.org or call the SPCO box office at 651-291-1144.

3/21 – Be a Visitor in Your Own City! 1-2:30pm. Enjoy exploring all that Minneapolis has to offer. Join Michael Hernandez, Director of the new Minneapolis Visitor Center, as he spotlights the many activities available to local residents and visitors alike here in your own backyard of Minneapolis. Discover what’s locally available for you to explore and hear more about where Minneapolis is headed in the next 10 years. Presented in partnership with Minneapolis Community Education. Held at the Webber Park Library, 4400 Humboldt Ave N.

3/22 & 3/23 – Capri After School Theater students proudly present three one-act plays, including Moving/Still by Lindsay Price and Love Poem #98 by Regina Taylor, at 7pm at the Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway Ave. The event is free and open to the public. The CAST program is free and open to all students currently enrolled in high school. To enroll, or for more information on CAST or Moving/Still, contact Kevin West at 612-643-2039 or kwest@pcyc-mpls.org. Thursdays – Community Coffee & Conversation, 11am-1pm, complimentary beverages at Serendipity Spot, 3300 Lyndale Ave N.

Fridays – Family Storytime. 10am - 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. Held at the Webber Park Library, 4400 Humboldt Ave N.

4/19 – Turn Your Grief Into Poetry. 6-7:30 p.m. Work through your feelings from a loss or grief through writing poetry. Learn writing prompts and exercises. Webber Park Library, 4400 Humboldt Ave N.

**EDUCATION**

3/1 – Master Gardener: Small Space Vegetable Gardening. 2-3:30 p.m. Do you love to garden but have limited space? Learn how you can grow your own vegetables and ornamentals in a small space in this interactive workshop. Webber Park Library, 4400 Humboldt Ave N.

Tuesdays – Free in-person and online tutoring for K-12 students at the Webber Park Library, 4400 Humboldt Ave N. Minnesota 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**

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

**BE AWARE**

3/6 & 3/8 – Northside community members have contributed an amazing range of ideas and input on local neighborhood parks over the past eight months. Staff from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) have been using this information and working with a design team to develop initial concepts for every Minneapolis neighborhood park north of I-394 and west of the Mississippi River. This process is a key part of creating an overall long-term plan known as the North Service Area Master Plan (NSAMP). The next step is asking people to view and comment on the park design through a series of public workshops. Each concept includes options and locations for a range of amenities and activities. A 3/6 workshop will be held at Folwell Recreation.
The Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour will take place 4/28-29 this year. For 11 hours, home-owners and contractors open their doors to share ideas with other home enthusiasts, based on their remodeling experience. If you or someone you know needs more information, contact coordinator Margo Ashmore at mfashtmore@aol.com or 612-867-4874. Visit www.MSPHomeTour.com for more information.

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-Link-Vet (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 10/15 and 4/15. 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.

The City’s Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinance took 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.

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 to renting to voucher holders. That means a landlord cannot refuse to rent, impose unique standards, or otherwise treat HCV holders differently from tenants without vouchers. Landlords retain their ability to screen the voucher holders like other tenants using legal criteria.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

The Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) is now accepting applications for their new private office spaces that feature windows, open workspaces and more. There are several options available, ranging from a drop-in guest pass ($10/day) to a platinum plan ($500/month with private office). For more information visit https://www.neon-mn.org/spaces.

The City of Minneapolis, through its Department of Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED), is seeking redevelopment proposals for a commercial building located at 927 W Broadway Ave. along with three vacant lots located at 1828, 1832 and 1838 Dupont Ave N. Redevelopment proposals are also being sought for a commercial building located at 1001 W Broadway. Proposals are due no later than 4pm, 3/23. Additional information is available at: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/rfp/WCM-SP-208185. Questions regarding this RFP can be directed to CPED staff person, James Terrell by email or phone (612) 673-5022.

If you have an interest in property located in Minneapolis that is known (or suspected) to be contaminated, you are encouraged to carefully review the information that appears below in order to determine whether you would like to seek financial assistance in the spring 2018 brownfield grant round. In the spring and fall of each year, applications for environmental investigation and/or remediation (cleanup) grants are accepted by local brownfield grantees. In the upcoming spring 2018 brownfield grant round, funding will be offered by the State of Minnesota (DEED), the Metropolitan Council (through its Tax Base Revitalization Account, or TBRA, program), and Hennepin County. For the spring 2018 funding cycle, all three grantees will have the same application deadline: May 1. For a property or project located within the City of Minneapolis, the City must (in most cases) be the “official” applicant, and/or the City Council must approve a Resolution in support of the application, in order for that application to be considered by the funding agencies. However, the grant application must actually be prepared by the owner/developer that is seeking the funding, even if the grantor’s procedures require that the City be the “official” applicant.

The City of Minneapolis has launched a new tool to make it easier for entrepreneurs and small businesses to do business in Minneapolis: http://business.minneapolismn.gov. The Minneapolis Business Portal is an online platform designed to connect entrepreneurs and business owners to the information and resources needed to plan, launch, and grow a business. The portal features helpful starter guides for the most common businesses started in the city, links to financial tools, and other great resources to help both start-up and existing businesses. Features include: 1) comprehensive checklist for starting a business, 2) starter guides for common business types, 3) centralized information on the regulatory process, 4) a library of business support organizations and programs.

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

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

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

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

www.caphennepin.org
facebook.com/caphennepin

A program of Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County, sponsored by:
The Minnesota Department of Commerce &
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Florence Timmerman and Jessie Johnson have known the Northside for more than a hundred years each. The sisters, who are 100 and 104 years old, grew up at 37th and Bryant Ave. N before the neighborhood had paved roads. They spent their lives educating generations of students in the community, and now they live together in Timmerman’s home in the Folwell neighborhood.

By Kenzie O'Keefe
Photos by David Pierini
**How did your family originally end up in North Minneapolis?** Florence: My mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Puerner, moved in on Bryant and 37th Ave. N before there were any streets in North Minneapolis. At the time, the city light post was in their front yard. They chose this community because my father’s aunt and uncle owned a house here and had it for sale.

**Then the two of you came along?** Florence: Jessie was born on September 3, 1913. I was born in 1918 in January. We’ve always been just the two of us. Dad was a railroad man, and I think he was one of the most wonderful men in the world. He was a loving father and a loving husband too. Mother was the one who kept order. We loved our parents.

**What life lessons did you learn from your parents?** Florence: I knew I had to be fussy about the boys I dated. One time a boy came to our house and honked the horn, and my mother went right out up to the car and said “If you want a date with my daughter, you come to the door and introduce yourself to me.” Then she turned around and came inside. He drove off, and I never had that date.

**What was your childhood like?** Florence: Railroad men and their families had free transportation. As a family we traveled way to the west coast and the east coast. We got out to Treasure Island in the Pacific for the World’s Fair. We did a lot of traveling. We were lucky. Jessie: We went to Philadelphia and saw the Liberty Bell and that wonderful big organ. It was a thrill to be in that big city. It makes an impression! Florence: We had canaries when we were young. Jessie: Oh yes! Mickey and Dickey. Mickey was the pride of our hearts. Florence: Mickey learned how to get out of the cage on his own. He would fly around the kitchen and take a bath in a saucer on the kitchen table. The milkman came to the door once when Mickey was out, and Mickey took advantage. He flew out the back porch into the wide spaces.

**Where did you go to high school?** Florence: Both of us were students at North High School. At the time there were 4000 students. I can’t believe it’s so small now. Dad took the streetcar on Washington to work. Jessie and I took the one on Fremont to school or we walked.

**Have you spent your whole lives in North Minneapolis?** Florence: No, I became a teacher at the University, and I went out to Madison, MN for four years. I loved it because I loved teaching and the children. Jessie was a teacher too, she taught piano and organ.

**What do you think about the war?** Florence: We thought we wouldn’t have any problems with his nerves. He would faint away and we had no idea why. We went to Rochester, and they said it was his nerves. Most of the men who I knew, you’d look at them and they were fine, but their nerves were really shot. It’s understandable because they didn’t have any help when they came home. We just thought they were the way they had always been. Since then we realized people can’t go through what they go through, shooting to kill and being shot at. Seeing death all around you.

**Did you and your husband have children?** Florence: I had three children of my own. I lost one as a little baby, and my daughter Linda died three years ago in her 50s. We were together all the time. I’ve missed her a lot. I have a wonderful son and a wonderful daughter in law in South Minneapolis, so I feel very fortunate. We have the nicest kids in the community too. The Boys to Men Club started shoveling for me. They came over for my birthday and brought a cake.

**Has North changed in your lifetime?** Florence: I can’t judge it now because I’ve been inside for years. The people I know are wonderful. I think it’s because most of them are not wealthy. There is a sense of sharing and closeness; we look out for one another.

**What has made you stay in this community?** Florence: I’ve always felt that it’s a good community. I know people look down on the Northsiders, but I’ve always liked this community. There are such good people I’ve known. …The police have been really concerned. I’ve been told that every house in the neighborhood has been broken into. We haven’t had anyone try to break in. It’s kind of strange. I’ve never been scared of North Minneapolis. I don’t think my father and mother were ever afraid.

**What do you like about living together?** Florence: We get along. Jessie: She takes care of me. Florence: It’s because we love each other.

**Does she take care of you too, Florence?** Florence: Yes. We don’t get lonesome. We have somebody to talk to or at every day. She’s also protective of me. Jessie: In the morning I can see the sun and in the evening I have enough of a crack through the bedroom door that I can look in the other direction and see the moon. What more can you want? If I have to move from here I’ll be very unhappy. We have to face that because you never know. Florence: I think we’re fine now. We get along very well even though we don’t always agree.

**How did your experiences during WW2 shape your life together?** Florence: Those men never talked about the war. We thought they were the same way they were when they left as 18 year olds. He started having problems with his nerves. He would faint away and we had no idea why. We went to Rochester, and they said it was his nerves. Most of the men who I knew, you’d look at them and they were fine, but their nerves were really shot. It’s understandable because they didn’t have any help when they came home. We just thought they were the way they had always been. Since then we realized people can’t go through what they go through, shooting to kill and being shot at. Seeing death all around you.

**Tell us more about your teaching career,** Florence. Florence: I taught 11th and 12th grade English for close to 30 years. I taught in Madison and at Central High School and Patrick Henry High School. When I was at Central, WW2 ended. My husband and I had been engaged all during the Second World War. He was involved in four terrible battles. How he ever lived, I don’t know. He received a Bronze Star. I taught school even after my husband came home from the war. I loved it. I just loved the kids. Quite a few of my students became English teachers. I’ve heard from them through the years. I had a letter last week from a man I had 70 years ago. By the way, one of my students was Robert Bly, who has been quiet famous as a poet. He remembers the first poem he ever wrote for me. I don’t, but he does! He learned to love to write.

**Do you still play the piano, Jessie?** Jessie: Once in a while. My grand piano was sold to a piano mover last week from a man I had 70 years ago.

**Do you still play the piano, Jessie?** Florence: I taught 11th and 12th grade English for close to 30 years. I taught in Madison and at Central High School and Patrick Henry High School. When I was at Central, WW2 ended. My husband and I had been engaged all during the Second World War. He was involved in four terrible battles. How he ever lived, I don’t know. He received a Bronze Star. I taught school even after my husband came home from the war. I loved it. I just loved the kids. Quite a few of my students became English teachers. I’ve heard from them through the years. I had a letter last week from a man I had 70 years ago. By the way, one of my students was Robert Bly, who has been quiet famous as a poet. He remembers the first poem he ever wrote for me. I don’t, but he does! He learned to love to write.

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