Jamil Ford talks growing up in the community and his hopes for its development.

Neighbors Page 22
Gratitude for our high school students (and all they're doing for us)

One thing I know for sure is that these young folks, regardless of what some of their ACT scores or disciplinary records might supposedly reflect, have brilliant minds that make me excited for the future they'll architect.

Early in March, I sat at a table in one of Patrick Henry High School’s gymnasiums, watching PHHS senior Semaj Rankin and a group of his peers engage the school community in an educational presentation about changing their school’s name. They had clearly put hours of research into it, and they supplemented their historic facts with vulnerable anecdotes from their own lives, explaining what it feels like to be the descendants of enslaved people asked to wear the name of a man who owned their ancestors. They remained thoughtful and calm despite the at-times angry audience members (many of whom were PHHS alumni) despite the fact that some of these folks haven’t offered them the same decency in return.

“All it does is feed me more and more energy to boost myself up to where I want to go,” Rankin told me when we talked after the meeting. He’s been working on this name change since the fall of 2016, and he plans to keep on respectfully but forcefully dialoguing and fund-raising until he achieves his goal, which, for the record, is supported by many of his teachers, school leaders, classmates, and community members.

A few weeks later, I received an email from PHHS senior Pa Nhia Moua about the budget cuts that will almost certainly force nearly 20 teachers and support staff out of the school at the end of this year (see Page 4). Moua was one of North News’ 2017 summer interns, and I hear from her frequently – she requests information for class projects and connections to folks in the community. She’s studious and compassionate; I admire her curiosity. “I am going to fight and protest for the teachers and staff who are there in supporting me to graduate,” she wrote in her email, concluding with a link to the change.org petition her peers created and details about meetings she encouraged me to report on.

Our teenagers are fighting for our future here and on a national stage. Three of the students currently in our North High journalism class went to Washington D.C. (see Page 3) to attend and document the March For Our Lives, a youth-led protest against gun violence.

I’ve heard a lot of people in this post-Parkland world saying that it’s time for us to step aside and let our youth lead. But as we step aside to give them space to “save” us, I think it’s important to lean in with support in its many forms too. Our students are fitting activism into rigorous academic and athletic schedules. Many are seniors, applying for scholarship after scholarship, hoping to piece together the funds to get the educations they deserve as they simultaneously work to clean up messes made by the adults and institutions around them.

So even though they’re apt to have me out searching for their broken-down bikes on Plymouth after dark (true story) or to use our fancy cameras to take pictures of me when I’m frustrated with them, I want to express my gratitude for them. It’s humbling to work alongside these future leaders.

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NORTHNews

INSIDE OUR “O”

A donut from the Thirsty Whale

The Thirsty Whale, 4149 Fremont Ave N, North Minneapolis’ brand new and only bakery, opened its doors on Feb. 10 to rave reviews and block-long lines. “I’m looking forward to supporting a Northside business, as well as the donuts. It’s just beautiful,” said Peggy Burress, a long-time Northsider, who waited in line for donuts for nearly an hour on the day the Thirsty Whale opened. The bakery, which specializes in custom cakes as well as donuts, is open every weekday (except Monday) from 6:30am-6pm, Saturdays from 7am-3pm, and Sundays from 7am-1pm.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter
Photo by Jaylen Green | North High

Show some love for the antique that you live in...

Get ideas for your vintage home April 28-29, when dozens of homes across Minneapolis and Saint Paul are open with ideas for restoring, remodeling, & decor.

At MSPHomeTour.com, plan your first stop. Pick up the printed guide there.

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Tour is Free & Self-Guided
Homes are open
Saturday, April 28
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
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1-5 p.m.
Promoting North Mpls since 1988

Images from 2017 tour, courtesy Scott Amundson Photography

To nominate a home for a future tour, call Marge 612-867-4874.
North Minneapolis students march for their lives in Washington D.C.

Northside teens from several different high schools traveled to our nation’s capitol for “March For Our Lives” on March 24. “The Northside group came together to not only fight against the negligence of the NRA and government officials, but to nourish the power within [ourselves] and [our] community. Enough is enough,” said Azha‘e’a Hanson, a North News photographer who attended the march with many of her classmates and took these photos.

“Save the babies, not the .380s,” called North High School junior Chris Jennings as he marched. The Northside group marched for four blocks and stopped at the Capitol building, where they stood for hours waiting to hear speakers. Thousands of people, mostly other students, marched and listened with them.

“[Our] community. Enough within [ourselves] and to nourish the power within [ourselves] and [our] community. Enough is enough,” said Azha‘e’a Hanson, a North News photographer who attended the march with many of her classmates and took these photos.

Street sweeping begins April 17

For about four weeks, beginning April 17, crews will sweep more than 1,000 miles of city streets and alleys. To make sure the crews can do the most complete job possible, temporary “No Parking” signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets are clear of parked vehicles. Drivers need to follow street sweeping parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot. Folks can use a tool on the City’s website to find out when the sweeping crews are coming through their neighborhoods. By the Friday before the first week of the sweep, people can go to www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping and click on “street sweeping schedule lookup” to find out when a street is scheduled to be swept.

Eggstravaganza returns to North Commons for third year

Over 50,000 eggs will be dropped by helicopter over North Commons Park again this year for Easter. The third annual community Eggstravaganza will take place on April 7 from 1-4pm. Originally, this year’s event was scheduled for March 24, but weather required it to be rescheduled. In addition to the egg drop, the event will offer bounce houses, face painters, a balloon artist, and live entertainment. Last year, thousands of people attended. The Strong Roots Foundation organizes the event every year in collaboration with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board because “we believe the North Minneapolis community should have more,” said organizer Shameka Bogan. So Low Grocery, KMOJ, and Shiloh Temple International Ministries also help sponsor the event. “The faces of the kids when they see the helicopter and thousands of eggs pour out is truly priceless!” said Bogan. The event is also a food drive, so organizers request that attendees bring a non-perishable food item to donate to NorthPoint Health & Wellness’ food shelf. All are welcome.

2018 Bush Fellowships given to three North Minneapolis leaders

Three North Minneapolis community members – Me’Lea Connelly, Neda Kellogg, and Larry McKenzie – have been awarded fellowships by the Bush Foundation this year. They are among 24 people across Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, and the 23 native nations who share the same geography that have received this prestigious fellowship, which offers individuals up to $100,000 over 1-2 years to seek out development experiences that will help them grow as leaders in their communities. 751 people applied for the fellowship this year. Read more about Connelly, Kellogg, and McKenzie at www.mynorthnews.org.
Henry High School faces $1.9 million in budget cuts next year

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Community members fear that Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) won’t look the same next year. The school is slated to undergo $1.9 million in budget cuts – a drastic number which would potentially “excess off” (eliminate) 16 teachers and a number of support staff, with cuts impacting numerous departments including the Japanese, English, social studies, and math programs, according to teachers from the school.

Rumors regarding the budget cuts began swirling around North Minneapolis in mid-March. MPS’ Media Relations Coordinator Dirk Tedmon gave a general statement to North News on March 13: “Patrick Henry, like many schools in Minneapolis and the central office, has a reduced budget for next year. As more than 85% of our district budget is people, we expect to see impacts on staffing districtwide. Staffing decisions will not be finalized until budgets are completed later this month,” he said.

Budget cuts are occurring across the district, but PHHS is one of the schools anticipated to be hit hardest. These cuts are one outcome of the district’s efforts to course correct after a $33 million deficit this year.

Officials appear hesitant to comment in detail. “I was told that there are too many variables to know if layoffs are going to happen,” said a teacher and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT) representative who attempted to reach out to MPS’ Human Resources department for clarification.

Students have begun circulating a change.org petition to “Keep Our Teachers” and social media is rife with discussion as people attempt to figure out what is fact and how they can act. PHHS community members, including alumni, students, and parents, met on March 17 to organize what they know and don’t know and begin putting together a response to the cuts they anticipate. “I’m absolutely devastated, as we learn about the cuts and about how deep the cuts go. This was my 22nd year at Patrick Henry. My whole career has been here,” said one PHHS teacher to the tearful and frustrated crowd that day.

Many individuals spoke on the tight-knit nature of the community.

MPS Board Director for District 2, Kerry Jo Felder, who attended the meeting and works for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, said that PHHS, Washburn High School, and South High School will be hit hardest by anticipated cuts, shoudering approximately 7% of the deficit.

MPS School Board candidate Kimberly Caprini attended the March 17 meeting. One of Caprini’s daughters graduated from PHHS; another will attend PHHS next year. “What they’re doing to Henry is what they did to North [High School]; they are turning off the faucet,” she said.

PHHS is one of the district’s most diverse high schools. Community members fear that the cuts at the school would destroy the learning community that has been built in the years since the last round of major budget cuts hit the high school in 2004. “During the first round of budget cuts, we lost things – programs and staff – core to our community identity,” said one teacher at the March 27 meeting.

MPS recently announced that they would be going back to Minneapolis taxpayers this November to seek additional support through a tax referendum. According to district officials, MPS fears that if their budget situation is not taken care of hastily, they might face a takeover by the State of Minnesota. MPS also recently announced that they had come to a contract renegotiation deal with the MFT, but one MFT representative at the March 17 meeting was quick to point out that the contract renegotiation and the cuts at PHHS were very separate issues.

MPS is also one of several Minnesota school districts being sued in an “integration” lawsuit that went before the Minnesota Supreme Court in Jan. 2018. Plaintiffs in the case argue that MPS and other districts are “shirking” their duty to appropriately educate low-income and minority students.
Prince was proud to be from Minneapolis, and he remained close to his hometown, and many of those who knew him, throughout his life and career. In honor of Prince Rogers Nelson, the Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) will host a day of activities and conversation on Saturday, April 14, 2018.

Held in conjunction with the University of Minnesota’s two-day Prince from Minneapolis Symposium (April 16 – 18), Prince Day at UROC is free and open to everyone. In addition to many family-friendly activities, the event will feature a very special UROC Critical Conversation—Prince’s Legacy: A Family Value. Critical Conversation panelists, including members of Prince’s extended family as well as University of Minnesota researchers and community experts, will explore Prince’s unique relationship to North Minneapolis. Many questions will be discussed, including: What role did Prince’s biological and extended family play in his musical development, commitment to philanthropy and eventual rise to stardom? And, how did the Northside community at that time help foster Prince as a young man and artist?

“Prince’s legacy really is about community and family,” says panelist Artika Roller. The community relations manager with the Hennepin County Department of Health and Human Services, Roller will speak to the importance of Prince’s connection to community and family. “He loved his community and stayed connected to it, and that had a big influence on his art and creation of what we now think of as the Minneapolis sound.” Prince also served as a meaningful role model for younger generations, she explains: “He represented power, pride and excellence, and he also did things differently. It’s important for kids, especially kids who feel like they don’t fit with what our culture says they should be doing, to see a whole spectrum of possibilities.”

North Minneapolis resident Patricia (Trisha) Anderson is also a panelist and will share her experience of growing up with Prince in her mother’s nurturing household. Trisha was a freshman in high school when Prince, who was best friends with her younger brother Andre (André Cymone), came to live with her family. Trisha’s mother, Bernadette Anderson (who passed away in 2003), became a second mother to Prince and the two boys spent a lot of time writing and playing music in the basement. “Mother never sat us down and said, ‘Now this young man is going to live with us.’ But we knew he was there to stay, and we weren’t the kind of family who would make someone feel uncomfortable,” she recalls.

Far from it. Bernadette Anderson, who passed away in 2003, was well known in her community as someone who not only nurtured her own six children, but all young people and was a true champion for youth and civil rights. “My mother had absolutely no idea who Prince would become when she took him in,” Trisha says. “But she was a nurturer, and she took him into her home. She always expected a great deal from the community and the kids and I think that helped everyone succeed.”

Prince Day at UROC ends with a reception that is also open to everyone and includes Prince-inspired appetizers and music.
Putting their **money** behind their **missions**

Local churches are making intentional, innovative investments in the Northside economy. According to local faith leaders, these acts are as much about religion as they are about remaining relevant.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

In just a few months, the rooftop of Shiloh Temple International Ministries (STIM) will be home to a solar garden. The garden, which is being built in partnership with Masjid An Nur, will provide solar energy for both faith communities, as well as over two dozen North Minneapolis homes.

Low income communities often don’t have access to solar energy because excellent credit is typically required to purchase solar panels. “This is a triumphant moment for our community. We are proud that this roof of 630 panels, 204 kilowatts of power, will provide electricity for many in the same community,” said Bishop Howell of STIM at the groundbreaking ceremony for the garden. “God said let there be light and there was light. And God saw the light and it was good. Today we recognize that same light has come to this community from a roof that will provide the right light for energy, power, and opportunity.”

The solar garden is one of many non-traditional economic initiatives being taken by local religious institutions in efforts to empower the community and remain relevant. They are supporting, strengthening, and, in a couple of cases, creating Northside businesses. They are combating gentrification through land ownership and are operating as landlords, supporting residents hit hardest by the city’s affordable housing crisis. Nearly all are providing some sort of direct service – financial literacy classes, food shelves, and workforce development.

How much money is being pumped into North Minneapolis by faith communities is difficult to estimate.

Religious institutions like Sanctuary Covenant Church, the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (which recently established its headquarters on W Broadway Ave.), and Corner Church (which operates Corner Coffee Camden) are building relatively new congregations in the Northside, investing economically, through new buildings and spaces. For example, the Episcopal Church in Minnesota invested heavily in a total reconstruction of its new space on the corner of W Broadway and Emerson Ave. N. Instead of kicking first floor tenant Sammy’s Avenue Eatery out when they bought the building, they did the opposite: they remodeled his space and reduced his rent.

Sanctuary’s new campus, a $5 million construction project, was intentionally built on busy W Broadway Ave. Eventually, church leaders envision becoming an economic player on the corridor. They’re already connecting with the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition.

Older congregations are doing the work too.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, a 125-year-old church, combines direct service with direct action. The congregation provides a food shelf, community meals, daycare, and access to a program called PAVE (Pathways from Volunteerism to Employment) for individuals (including the elderly and formerly incarcerated) to access employment through volunteer job training and resume development. All of its programming is open to community and, according to Pastor Jeff Nehrbass, most of the programming serves non-parishioners.

PAVE recently graduated its first volunteer who took on a job at Cub Foods. Four other individuals are currently going through the program. PAVE was the result of community engagement efforts as the church attempted to figure out what its role in the community should be.

“When I got here, 9.5 years ago, the congregation was asking itself should we close or does God have other plans for God’s neighborhood church? What the congregation decided to do was figure that question out and we went out into the neighborhood to ask the neighborhood a simple question, ‘What would we need to be in order for us to be the neighborhood’s church?’ said Nehrbass. They got an answer – step into community and put their money where their mouth was.

Perhaps no religious institution on the Northside is more involved in the local economy than Redeemer Lutheran Church on Glenwood Ave. According to Senior Pastor Kelly Chatman, Redeemer’s involvement in the local economy is “an act of solidarity on holy ground.”

Redeemer has invested a significant chunk of change into Harrison — it owns the entirety of its block from 1830 Glenwood Ave. to 1720 Glenwood Ave, and from Glenwood Ave N to 4 th St. The block is home to Venture North Bike, Walk & Coffee shop (a project of the church), historically significant Milda’s restaurant, Health Commons, homes, duplexes, other housing units, vacant lots, garden plots, and the church itself.

“Our mission statement is to be a beacon of hope to the neighborhood,” said Chatman, “How we function within the neighborhood is the same as how we function within the walls of the congregation.” Chatman compares the work occurring in Harrison to the story of “stone soup,” with everyone putting something small into a pot resulting in something magnificent.

Chatman calls that magnificence an “an activity of God.” According to Chatman, the role of faith
**Redeemer Lutheran Church** has revitalized an entire block of Glenwood

"It's about being relevant to our community. Our mission statement is to be a beacon of hope to the neighborhood."

*Pastor Kelly Chatman*

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Above: The ministry of Pastor Kelly Chatman does not end with the people in the last row of pews. He believes Redeemer Lutheran Church ministers to all of Harrison neighborhood. Right: Cora Iverson and her son, Elijah, 1, live in an apartment owned by Redeemer. Their building is next door to the church, which provides affordable housing for those in need. *Photos by David Pierini*

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Above: Redeemer Lutheran Church helped set Kendrick Hall’s (above) feet on a path. He worked at Venture North as a teenager but was inspired by the church to work on justice issues. He is now in his second year of Lutheran seminary and works for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a hunger advocacy fellow. Right: Venture North is a coffee and bicycle shop that has provided affordable transportation, job training and a social atmosphere for the last six years. Both Simon Fulda-Strate, left, and Alexis Pennie were once kids who got involved in the shop’s All About Bikes program. Fulda-Strate is now a mechanic at the shop and Pennie, a social worker, still volunteers his time as barista. *Photos by David Pierini*
The Goddess of Glass wins “Best Place to Take an Art Class” for second time

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

The Goddess of Glass, 4400 Osseo Road, is colorful gem in the Victory neighborhood on the site of a former gas station. The store is a consignment shop for North Minneapolis artists and the studio space connected to it is home to a range of classes on everything from glass fusing to cookie decorating also taught by Northside artists. Its owner and proprietor Connie Beckers has lived in North Minneapolis for the last 52 years, nearly all her life.

“I started consigning with 30 or 40 artists. My goal is to tap into every creative person in North Minneapolis and help them sell their work for them,” said Beckers. The shop was named a top GLBT-owned business by the Twin Cities Business Journal and, in 2018, for the second year in a row, it was named the Best Place to Take an Art Class by the Minnesota Women’s Press.

“I started making glass in 1995 for my 40th birthday. I started out by making stained glass things that I peddled at gift shops. I was working at our only North Minneapolis coffeehouse that we had back then, DestinationX, and I brought in some of the stuff I was making and people started buying it and it propelled me to make more and then explore other avenues, so I did consignment with gift shops, art shows, and then I started teaching stained glass classes. Then in 2005, for my 50th birthday, I celebrated with a kiln so I could teach glass fusing,” said Beckers.

At that point, Beckers was teaching glass classes in the basement of her Northside home. After significantly growing her business by selling class vouchers on LivingSocial (similar to Groupon), she moved her business out of her home and into her first shop on Penn and Lowry Ave. N in 2009.

Beckers rents her current space — though she hopes to be able to purchase it in the next few years — and has built it to be a community gathering space. The Victory Neighborhood Association meets there regularly, an upcoming Patrick Henry High School (Beckers’ alma mater) alumni reunion will be held there, and the Camden Farmers Market is held there each summer. She has also offered

Continues on Page 19
Minneapolis City Council newcomers Phillipe Cunningham (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) were inaugurated in January 2018. *North News* has invited them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.

**WARD 4:**
**Phillipe Cunningham**

GAF, founded in 1886, has become North America’s largest manufacturer of commercial and residential roofing according to a Freedonia Group study. The business operates a shingle manufacturing plant at Lowry Avenue and the Mississippi River in the 4th Ward.

Over the years, residents have raised concerns about the odors from the plant and its environmental impacts. They currently rent a parcel of space for shingles storage and the lease expired December 31, 2017.

Recently, I provided my position regarding GAF’s shingle storage on city-owned land and provided a timeline outlining my expectations of GAF. I stated that “Despite this challenging decision, my hand remains extended to working with GAF as a long-time business in my ward.” It is from this extended hand new opportunities have been brought to the table.

Surrounding wards have been meeting about the odors from the plant. The factory and shingle storage itself is in Ward 4. I want to hear from the community. In the spirit of increasing transparency and good policymaking, I will be hosting a panel and community discussion, “GAF: Air Quality Equity,” to dig more into this topic and what options we have moving forward.

There will be a panel and discussion with staff from Minneapolis Environmental Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Minnesota Department of Health to learn more about the science. There will also be an overview of potential pathways forward as a community to achieve our vision of air quality equity.

The information gathered at this event will be critical to how we move forward. Everyone interested should attend!

**Coffee with CM Cunningham**

**GAF: Air Quality Equity**

A panel and discussion

Date: Sat April 6th

Time: 2 pm to 4 pm

Where: Serendipity Spot

3300 Lyndale Ave N

Join CM Cunningham, The City of Minneapolis Environmental Health staff, and The Minnesota Department of Health staff to learn more about and discuss potential pathways forward with our vision of air quality and equity.

**WARD 5:**
**Jeremiah Ellison**

It’s been interesting to see how government works from the inside – how the sausage is made, as they say. One thing that becomes pretty obvious when working as a council member is that cities have as much power as the state allows us to have. Things like the $15 minimum wage and paid sick time for all workers could be gone at the drop of a dime if the state suddenly decided to take those decisions away from us. And with a state legislature increasingly interested in these preemption laws (laws that take local control away from cities), the fight to maintain local control has been a big topic of discussion here in City Hall.

Currently, if the city wanted to pass better gun laws, we can’t because the state won’t allow us to. If the city wanted to require a percentage of our police force to live in the city (nearly 94% of Minneapolis police do not), well, we can’t because the state won’t allow us to.

Some city officials have seen this as a barrier, but I see it as an opportunity to keep you more informed, and to better collaborate with Northsiders as we fight, at every level of government, for the neighborhood and community we love.

The real meat of the work is in full effect at City Hall. I’ve begun to settle into my leadership roles as Vice Chair of both the Housing Policy & Development committee (HPD) and the Economic Development & Regulatory Services committee (EDRS). And then there are the external committees – external committees are groups outside of City Hall that can still support the work in Minneapolis. You’ll probably hear more from me about this in the future.

In the last few months we’ve passed resolutions to honor Black History Month and Tibetan Uprising Day, and to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS and Multiple Sclerosis.
Houston White writes: the origins of my love of fashion

By Houston White | Contributor

I recall when I was a child preparing for church on Sunday morning, and my mother would check my necktie then add that final layer of cocoa butter to my face. It was done in love, but I was like, “mom…I’m good!”

Looking your best was something instilled in me at an early age, and Sunday morning style was paramount. Once we arrived at church, it was a site to behold – the deacons were dressed in perfectly pressed black suits, the mothers of the church wore their signature white, all were huddled together in their VIP section, front left of the pulpit.

My grandmother, Annie Mae Edwards, had sewn most of the hats worn by them. As I’ve come to understand the concept of branding, I realize the clothing she made was my introduction to items I could recognize from a distance. As I now identify Nike or Apple from afar, I could recognize my grandmother’s hats.

My mother and father had a reputation for being a very well-dressed couple anytime they went out. I can recall them going out one night in particular, dressed to the nines! My sister and I watched them leave as we often did, kissing them and wishing a good night. We would certainly be asleep, as they had directed our older cousin staying with us for the night, when they returned.

The saying “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree” has most definitely rung true for me as I think back to the origins of my love for fashion, the amount of time, energy and money I've spent on clothing.

I thought to myself, “As a 38 year old man, I have to find a way to combine my love for aesthetics with a purpose!”

This is how my brand HWMR was born. I created it out of a very personal need of my own, to have a lifestyle brand, an iconic brand, that embodies the confidence and self-expression of the upwardly mobile African American man. We launched in the barber shop, one of the cultural epicenters of the black community.

Over the next few months I will be writing about the art of style, and how we can use it to promote a sense of pride, promote social change and redefine the narrative about black men in North Minneapolis.
Great hair comes with a high price tag. Students say it's worth it.

By Ana Maria Hernandez, Morris Grear Jr., Vera Essionley, and Damon Brown | North High

Students at North High School are spending more on their hair every month than most people spend on some of their utility bills.

The average cost of a traditional sew-in is about $100, but it was not always that price. It used to cost just $50, according to Takisha Dean, hairstylist at Foreign Lengths in North Minneapolis. Due to the demand for hairstylists, the price has gone up. Most students afford their hair by having a job, asking their parents, or they have one or multiple significant others who they ask to pay for their hair.

Young people are willing to pay high prices because their hair is important to them. “Getting my hair done boosts my confidence and makes me feel great,” said North High Senior Passion Osborne.

Over time people change how they style their hair. Everybody wants the newest styles and to fit in with the latest trends. Whether their hair is real or fake, they rock it. In a place where your appearance matters, students are willing to pay a lot to look their absolute best.

This has opened the door for students to make money. One of those people is Osborne, who earns income doing her friends’ hair. "As we get older, we grow away from the bobbles and beads, and turn to more sophisticated hairstyles like sew-ins and braids, which can cost up to $200," she said.

According to Trey Ellis, a barber at Fade Factory on West Broadway, “People like all types of hairstyles now – dreads, braids, etcetera. The clean cut look is boring, most young men are now letting their hair grow out to rock the afro look.”

Ellis’ cuts cost on average about $20. Haircuts for most young men that go to school can be expensive depending on how much the barber charges and how often the young man gets his haircut. They also spend money on products. If we compare the prices young woman pay to what young men pay, the prices that young women pay will be much higher than the young men.

Although you might see people with the same hairstyles, every individual rocks their hair differently. “It’s more about the personality and creativity of the person wearing it,” says Donvi Davis, a North High junior who loves to do her hair. She mostly rocks her natural hair and sew-ins.

North High teacher Courtney Bell is an example of Black Excellence. Photo by Jaylen Green | North High

monarchy, and I believe that everything that we do is excellent. …We are people who should be proud of who we are and where we come from,” she said.

Freshawn Collins, a sophomore at North High, wants to do well in his school classes as an African American leader. He wants to represent African American people well. It impacts the younger people under him. He lives as an example. After reading about history in school, he thinks
Kristel Porter knew the best bridges to sleep under. When she was in her mid 20s she was knee-deep into her political science degree at Augsburg University while providing for her three kids. After her classes finished for the day, she might put the key in the ignition of her 1993 Chevy Lumina just to drive, just for the sake of passing time the way streetlights change from green to yellow to red. Sometimes she drove to lull her one-year-old baby, Gilbert, to sleep for the night. Other time she drove to give her two daughters, Kylia and Kaitlyn, a reason to forget what they were all going through.

She couldn’t afford a $1,400 apartment as a full-time student, and she couldn’t find a landlord who would cut her a break. For seven months, they lived in their car. During that time Kristel’s GPA fell from a 4.0 to a 3.1. Her daughters didn’t have the energy to worry about school amid insecurity and inconsistency.

After those seven months, Kristel finished her degree and received the keys to her duplex, a humble spot on James Ave. N, right across the street from a playground, on April 14, 2013. It was just in
time for Gilbert’s second birthday, so they celebrated on the hardwood floor and were “happy as hell,” said Kristel.

Despite their current stability, Kylia and Kaitlyn say their education has suffered from the ramifications of those years when they struggled with housing. The Porter family’s experiences are emblematic of a larger struggle experienced by many families in Minneapolis – how does one prioritize their education when their basic needs aren’t being met?

During their months of homelessness, the Porter children were three of thousands of homeless children in the City. Minneapolis Public Schools’ (MPS) most recent data from the 2016-17 school year estimates that 8.2% of their students are homeless, most living in shelters, hotels, and abandoned and public spaces. The majority – 74% – are black. Preschoolers are more likely than any other age group to be without a home.

These statistics terrify KerryJo Felder, MPS Board Member for District 2 (North Minneapolis). “If that’s what they’re experiencing, how stable is their future education going to be?”

Felder says she has encountered youth housing struggles throughout her life – both as a child growing up in North Minneapolis and as a public official in the district.

She says she recently met a North Minneapolis high school student who “sleeps from couch to couch and occasionally in abandoned homes.” She says he is on the B honor roll but “should have been on the A honor roll.” The stress of his daily life kept him from achieving his full academic potential. Fear of the system kept him from seeking help.

To support their families who struggle with housing, the MPS board recently passed two resolutions related to housing. “Resolutions are great, but resolutions are words,” Felder said.

Solving housing issues will require addressing institutionalized racism, she urges. Families need jobs and stable housing for their children to be successful. Instead of IEPs and EBDs, she says students need “therapy, love, stable classrooms, stable schools, and teachers of whatever ethnicity they are.”

“I think about things long term and I don’t think we’re doing that right now. We have to think long term growth,” said Felder.

North High School history teacher Tom Lachermeier, a Northside resident, is frustrated with the gentrification that he sees swallowing up affordable housing opportunities and displacing many of his students. It doesn’t matter if a kid has potential when they don’t know where they’re going to sleep at night.

Every time a student moves, Lachermeier says, their education is disrupted. It’s not right. And it’s not fair for families to get to the point in which compromising their child’s education is the only option.

Kristel’s oldest daughter, Kylia, now 19, failed her freshman year of high school. She graduated with a 2.0 GPA. She spent her high school years trying to live up to the pressure of chipping in what she could to help her mom pay the rent. She worked more than a high school girl should ever have to work. And her grades suffered because of it.

Today, Kristel Porter is an advocate in both her personal and professional life for those who struggle to secure stable housing.

She is the executive director of the Cleveland Neighborhood Association (CNA), which hosted its third annual North Housing Fair on March 24.

She’s also a landlord who owns a duplex and takes in homeless people for below market rate rent until they’re able to buy a house of their own. So far, she says she has taken seven people out of homelessness, including one of her daughter’s friends, a senior at North High, who lives with Kylia, and Kaitlyn, Kaitlyn’s boy-

“**I feel like I was set up to fail. I work hard, and that’s the only thing that would probably save me.”** – Kylia Porter

**THE STATS**

5,834 children and youth experience homelessness in Minneapolis

8.2% of MPS enrolled students experience homelessness.

74% of MPS homeless students are black

Black students are more likely than any other racial group in MPS to experience homelessness.

27% are preschool students

Younger children are more likely to experience homelessness than older children in MPS.

MPS data from 2016-17 school year
Looking to buy a home? Habitat can help.

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Learn more at buywithhabitat.org/north

*Habitat mortgages are originated by TCHFH Lending, Inc., a non-profit subsidiary of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. We are an Equal Opportunity housing agency, employer, and lender. TCHFH Lending Inc.: NMLS #1482482. Twin Cities Habitat: NMLS #400065.

Kaitlyn, who is Kristel’s oldest daughter, loves school. She’s a self-proclaimed nerd. An artist, like her big sister.

She has everything going for her, and quite a bit going against her. She’s got a place to stay, with heat and running water and a stove. She’s got Cornejo, and she’s got a free daycare provider at school for her daughter, who is – without question – the best thing that’s ever happened to her.

But her life is clouded with could-have-beens. If she weren’t homeless for seven months, she could have developed better learning habits. If she had lived in the same home all her life, she could have formed friendships without worrying when the eviction notice would come. If she hadn’t contracted a series of health hiccups – E. Coli and pneumonia and a kidney infection during her pregnancy – she could have had a shot at a dance scholarship that would have easily sent her floating towards a four-year college degree.

“I don’t want to sound like I’m bragging… But I think I’d have good grades if I wasn’t in the hospital all the time,” Kaitlyn says. “I love school.”

“That’s not bragging, girl,” her sister, Kylia responds.

“Yeah,” Kaitlyn said. “Sometimes you have to throw things overboard in order to stay afloat.”
Educator Spotlight

Yusuf Abdullah, principal at Patrick Henry High School.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Patrick Henry High School has been in the news a lot this year, whether it be community advocacy around “Change the Name” or the $1.9 million in cuts that PHHS is slated to experience for the 2018-2019 school year. As Principal, Yusuf Abdullah is often the most well-known and oft-discussed community member. Abdullah has been the Principal at Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) for three years and an educator for twenty years. And while it’s been a busy year for the PHHS community, Abdullah has demonstrated a hands-on leadership style.

What brought you to Patrick Henry? My wife. We did a lot of good work in Duluth, but then it was time for us to move to Minneapolis to get closer to her family, to be in more of an urban setting. The Northside was a no-brainer. When I was in Duluth, I was an admissions counselor and basketball coach, so I did a lot of work in the Twin Cities. Henry High School has always been that place that felt like home; it felt very diverse and connected, it was a place that I could see myself fitting right in, primarily based on my upbringing. I came from a community that had high populations of African-Americans and Latinos, and Henry had a feel such as where I came from.

What is your teaching philosophy? In general, I think all students have an ability to learn at a high-level. If we create safe, welcoming environments where students can feel at home and feel comfortable, from there they will pick up the pieces and run with them.

What made you go into education? I am one of the first in my family to go to college, and I didn’t know the college culture. I didn’t even know the process when it came to selecting the courses or choosing the major. I was just randomly thinking, “Well, I am an athlete, let’s be a gym teacher.” I was a student athlete and played basketball for UMD; I loved sports. So I went into the phy.ed world and I learned the pedagogy and the philosophies and I really had this unbelievable connection to young people. I always felt like if I ever made it to the NBA, or the status of celebrity, I was always going to come back to the community and give back. And my own personal philosophy to go along with that was “No one should ever go through life without giving back what was given to them.” So education was just, “let’s do this.”

What’s your school climate like? The morale determines what is going on and determines the climate. The climate changes like the weather changes on what’s going on in community, in the school. If there are fights, it brings the climate down. If there is an exciting basketball game, it brings the climate up. And with the cuts right now, our students are feeling bad for our teachers.

North News has launched a new column to highlight the work of Northside educators doing innovative and socially-just work in our North Minneapolis classrooms. If you have any recommendations for our upcoming spotlights, you can email North News at cirien@pillsburyunited.org. If possible, please include contact information for the person you are recommending.
Who is responsible for student work ethic?

By Tayler Johnson, T’Nia Riley, Gianna Griffin, Azhae’la Hanson, and Zadir King | North High

Work ethic is something we don’t always talk about, but it is required every day of our lives. This month, we asked North Minneapolis students, parents, and teachers about their thoughts on work ethic: what is it and how is it taught in order to effectively impact an individual’s self motivation and life goals?

Monaea Upton, a freshman at North High School, believes that you get work ethic from yourself. She says she knows that’s what she needs in order to have a bright future. Her work ethic allows her to complete her goals. She said she’s motivated by, “My career, because I have to have a certain GPA in order to succeed and go to the college I want to go to.”

North High School’s senior English teacher Tina Schaffer defines work ethic as your ability to complete what is required of you and to go above and beyond. To Schaffer, everyone has some type of work ethic and the amount of work ethic you have can correlate to how you feel about what they are doing. “Work ethic defines a lot about you,” she said. “It becomes part of who you are.” A huge part of how people view you will come from what they perceive to be your work ethic. Work ethic is developed in many different places. “It takes a village to raise a child, you need to learn it at home, school and work,” said Schaffer.

Sharon El-Amin, a North Minneapolis business owner, defines work ethic by results. She is a successful entrepreneur who owns local Broadway business El-Amin’s Fish House. She says her work ethic comes from her embodiment of her community’s support as well as the economic circular sustainability of North Minneapolis as a whole. “It takes a lot of motivation, patience, being able to change and willingness to learn and seek what you may not know or can have and change. Having the determination to achieve and not be afraid. To always have a plan,” she said.

As a mother of two sons, El-Amin feels a responsibility to inspire her boys to have the same, if not better, work ethic as she has had all her life. However, El-Amin knows that teaching work ethic is only possible if the receiver accepts that knowledge. “If we don’t take advantage of that time to show and introduce our youth to the reality of life, they will be lost,” she said.

While everyone’s opinions and definitions on work ethic differ, two things were commonly said: work ethic is taught, and work ethic helps you achieve goals. Through our community, we see the value of work ethic and that it can lead to becoming a future lawyer, doctor or teacher. Take time to consider how it has affected you and where it has led you in your life.

High school arts funding needs more support

Students at North High say their arts programs are under-resourced.

By Kiara Ross, Alanna Smith, and Bryana Thomas-Butler | North High

Many feel that the North High School’s arts program doesn’t have as much support as it needs from the district and the community.

North was originally an Arts and Communications-based school. Now, it also offers what is known as the STEM program as a further branch of the education here. The STEM program brings science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-based classes to the freshman and sophomores at the school.

North High Principal Dr. Shawn Harris-Berry said that adding the STEM program split the money the district gives to the school in half between STEM and the arts and communications program.

According to the arts specialist and dance teacher at North High, Tamiko French, the arts budget is evenly split between the different branches of the arts: visual arts, band, choir, radio, theater, and dance. Since the arts funding is so limited and it’s being split up in so many different ways, many teachers are left with the decision to either teach with less than what they need or to buy supplies for their programs with their own money.

North High’s art teacher Ted Hansen, who is also a painter, said, “This year I’ve spent about about $300 or so, through selling my paintings.” His investment provides students with materials such as painting canvases, ink, and drawing pencils.

Although many schools aren’t able to get a majority of their supplies from their budget, with the help of the community they’re able to raise more money to fill the gaps. Many schools already have pre-existing systems in place with past alumni and the community to raise that money. North doesn’t have that in the way other schools in the district do.

Despite lack of funding, there are amazing artists at North who have incredible talents. Currently, students are building portfolios for AP submissions. Two of our seniors, De’ange-lo Ramond and Althea Hadley, are painting a wall sized mural. Some of our artists’ work has also been featured in Viva City. Viva City is an art festival, celebrating the fine arts education offered in the Minneapolis Public Schools.
North High students are proud of their athletic accomplishments but would like to see their school celebrated for more than just sports.

By Talina Hill, Monique Wooten, Ashley Powell, and Myesha Powell | North High

In the city of Minneapolis, North High is known for its state championship basketball and football wins, not its stellar students. Some people underestimate North High, as if we aren’t good for anything but sports. It’s great that we recognize our school’s athletic accomplishments, but without doing well academically, a student isn’t allowed to play on a sports team, and without a good education, it’s difficult to be successful in life. A student’s GPA is what colleges are going to look for first, so North High needs to work to be recognized in the community for our strong academic offerings.

Our academics are excellent. We have strong students who make the honor roll every quarter. For quarter one of this school year, 203 of our 426 students made the honor roll. In quarter two, 175 students made it. Literally hundreds of North High students are academically successful. North High is filled with a majority of black students. In a district where black students experience many disparities, we should be known for our successful students.

We asked Lady Polars basketball coach Crystal Flint how she feels when people only recognize North High for sports. She said “I think that people are jealous, and we don’t talk about how great our theater class is, and we don’t invite students or the community to our programs that dance class puts on, but when there’s a basketball game we support them and have everyone show out.”

North High should be known for many things. We have many art programs: radio, journalism, theater, dance, and a Black culture class. We also have a family atmosphere. Teachers have a good connection with the students. Jenelle Sanner-Robinson, a North High sophomore, says, “We just show love toward each other.”

It sounds like North High’s administration plans to encourage more recognition for the school’s academics. Mr. Steve White, the school’s assistant principal said, “Our academics will be having more opportunities for AP classes which is earning college credits in high school.” He added: “We have a good start going on more AP classes next year and the goal is for being known for academics as well as athletics.”

In the last six years while North High has been rebuilding, the school has had a lot of athletic success, which the community is proud of. But North has also been developing in academics and extracurricular classes. Our staff cares about the students here and they try their hardest to help us succeed.
Looking Forward to Supporting Urban Agriculture in North Minneapolis!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1835 Penn Avenue</th>
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<td>612-200-9686</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wirth.coop">www.wirth.coop</a></td>
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If you have an open Child Protection case with Hennepin County, Cultural Navigators are here to help families navigate, connect & advocate.

STOP BY OUR CORNER TO SEE WHAT’S COMING SUMMER 2018

IT’S GOING DOWN

FOLLOW ALONG
facebook.com/JuxtapositionArts
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Goddess of glass continued from Page 8:

the space to Ward 4 Council member Phillippe Cunningham for his weekend community town halls.

Part of Beckers’ business success comes from her nontraditional business model. She has used Groupon to draw in crowds of people to her classes, and she seeks to support other small business owners on the Northside. She’ll be renting her parking lot this summer to a local Northsider, Joanne Goddard, who is working to get her gardening business off of the ground.

Goddard’s Garden Mart business will focus on selling gardening supplies to Northsiders; the goal is to make sure that North Minneapolis is flush with fresh flowers, amongst other fruits and vegetables. Goddard explains that she had reached out to a number of businesses in the area, asking them if she could rent space in their parking lot. Many businesses did not respond and the ones that did, while helpful, did not have room. Beckers did respond, however, and agreed to open up her parking lot to Goddard.

“Just having questions, just having somebody to bounce ideas off of, it’s so important,” said Goddard, “Opening a business takes longer than you can expect, things don’t happen the way you want them to, it is basically fixing problem and answering questions,” said Goddard about Beckers’ support in opening up her new business. According to Goddard, Beckers opened up her shop to Goddard, but has also been a valuable partner in the Northside business community offering mentorship and guidance.

Beckers’ classes are designed for individuals, families, and couples. With restaurant Tori 44 soon to open across the street, all the makings for a great date night can be found on one Northside corner.

More information on the store can be found at goddessofglass.com.

Church continued from Page 7:

ment in a way that individuals and smaller organizations cannot. What is also unique is the number of churches in North Minneapolis investing economically. There is no specific data on how much money comes back into Minneapolis via church-related economic investment, but a sampling of over two dozen churches in other parts of Minneapolis lists lots of direct-service work and limited economic development work. As Minneapolis continues to grow, more money is pumped into communities like North Minneapolis. Because of their connection to community, religious institutions may have the capacity and the opportunity to turn this economic growth into sustainable community wealth.

“It’s about being relevant to our community,” said Chatman. “I believe, and I believe our congregation believes, that the church is a manifestation of the Kingdom of God, so no matter what your faith background, every religious faith is about how you live out that belief in care for God’s creation.”
Swimming equipment, soccer goals and a skate park are among the new equipment, facilities and improvements coming to parks and recreation centers across Minneapolis, thanks to funding by the Hennepin Youth Sports Program (HYS). The Youth Sports grants were announced 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.

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.

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

The Twin Cities Mobile Market delivers affordable and healthy food in the community. 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! Check wildergo.org for schedule details.

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.

The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council-NRRC is partnering with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid to connect residents of Near North and Willard Hay with free attorneys. If you are having legal troubles that relate to your home or business and live in the Near North or Willard Hay neighborhood visit their clinic at the NRRC office.

Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am - 3pm or set up an appointment by calling 612-335-5925.

The Science of Art: Art and Wine Embrace @ 6pm - 4:30pm. Graced by 1-6. Create colorful propellors using art tools while you learn about, play with and explore wind energy. After testing your artistic skills, test your colorful propellers to see how much energy they capture. Materials provided. Collaborator: City of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Park. Register online. Held at Sumner Library (611 Van White Memorial Blvd.).

4/7 – Summer Library houses the Gary N. Suddath African American History and Culture Collection, over 5000 books for all ages. Widely respected as a civil rights leader and a champion of public li- braries, Suddath believed in the power of books and reading for all people, especially children. Join Summer Library to honor Suddath and the books that make Summer Library special. Music, stories and activities for all ages. Program will start at 1pm. Collaborator: Summer Library Community Advisory Group. Register online.

4/7 – Explore Nature! Enjoy nature-themed activities, meet a live critter, and learn about the Mississippi watershed and our regional ecosystem. Collaborators: North Mississippi River Regional Park, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. All ages. Held at the Webber Park Library (4400 Humboldt Ave), 2pm - 4pm.

4/9 – Children’s Storytime at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N), 10:30am. Songs, stories, and literacy tips followed by open play for ages 0-5.

4/10 – Black Poets in the Stacks, 6pm - 7pm. Join us for an adventure of poetry and creativity! Listen to micro-poetry readings from local and distinct Black poets throughout the sections and stacks of Webber Park Library. Celebrate the ways that poetry lives in all spaces and forms in Black American expression from jazz, “playing the do- zens,” hip-hop and culinary arts to activism and performance art. You will be guided in creating your own poetry to affirm the poet in us all! Collaborator: Free Black Dirt. All ages. Held at the Webber Park Library (4400 Humboldt Ave), 2pm - 4pm.

4/11 – Senior Surf Day. 10 am - 12 pm. Learn computer basics, how to navigate the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior Link/Age Line. Registration required. Register online or at 612-543-KNOW. Held at the Webber Park Library (4400 Humboldt Ave), 10am - 12pm.

4/15 & 5/20 – Seed Swap & Seed Saving at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N), 2pm - 4pm. Learn, trade, and ask questions about seed saving Northside gardens. Complimentary coffeehouse beverages too!

4/15/16 – 5/20 – Basset Creek Couhoosing Information Sessions will be held at 7pm at 900 Mt. Curve. For more information, visit www.bassetcreek.co.us or call 612-688-6932.

Northside Boxing Club (1704 33rd Ave S) offers free lessons to kids ages 9-21. Training includes boxing drills, technique work, running and strength conditioning. T raining includes boxing drills, technique work, running and strength conditioning. T raining includes boxing drills, technique work, running and strength conditioning. T raining includes boxing drills, technique work, running and strength conditioning.

Dead King Mother is a blues for chamber ensemble that tells the story of a near-for- gotten event in North Minneapolis and United States civil rights history that has been with Seru since early childhood. The performance will be followed by a panel discussion led by Arleta Little of the McKnight Foundation. Tickets are $15/810 for students and seniors. Tickets and details at zeitgeistnewmusic.org. The performance is at 7:30pm.


4/18 – Travelogue: Brugge, Belgium: The Heart of the West. Enjoy the beauti- ful medieval city of Bruges, Belgium, often referred to as the “Venice of the West.” View 13th-century buildings, miraculously untouched by World Wars I and II, still standing along the canals that lead to the sea. Learn about the Belgium: ABCDs of Art, Beer, Chocolates and Diamonds. Col- laborator: Minneapolis Community Education. Held at the Webber Park Library (4400 Humboldt Ave), 1pm - 2:30pm.

4/19 – Turn Your Grief into Poetry. Work through your feelings from a loss or grief through writing poetry. Learn writing prompts and exercises. Collaborator: The Loft Literary Center. Funded by Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Held at the Webber Park Library (4400 Humboldt Ave), 6pm - 7:30pm.

4/21 – The Wooddson Lectures: Remember, Revitalize, Resist! An Ecological Ap- proach to Black Community Empower- ment. 2pm - 3pm. Held at Summer Library (611 Van White Memorial Blvd). Dr. Zenzele Isokwe will discuss new ways of building and fostering relationships and community. In this time of unprecedented levels of stress and political divisiveness, Isokwe will draw upon the ideas of black feminist writers and noted black female grassroots organizers to illuminate three components of intersection: (1) the politics of not forgetting, (2) black feminist homemaking and (3) a politics of feeling. Isokwe is associate professor of Gender, Women and Sexual- ity Studies at the University of Minnesota.
and author of "Urban Black Women and the Politics of Resistance." Books will be available for purchase. Register online.

4/28 – North Methodist Church (4350 Fremont Ave N) will be having their Annual Salad Luncheon beginning at 12pm. Entertainment will follow at 1:00. This year’s entertainment are the Mellow Fellows. Tickets are available at the door. Cost is $10.00 for adults, $4.00 for children 5 - 11, and children under 5 are free. Contact 612-522-4497 with questions.

4/28–29 – The Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour. For 11 hours, homeowners and contractors open their doors to share ideas with other home enthusiasts, based on their remodeling experience. Visit http://www.msphometour.com for more information.

Thursdays – Community Coffee & Conversation. 11am - 1pm, complimentary beverages at Serendripity

Fridays – Family Storytime. 10am - 10:30am. 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)

Registration for the UCare Tri-Loppet is now open. Participants in this annual event will compete in a three-part race, comprised of a 7-kilometer paddle through the Chain of Lakes, a 5-kilometer trail run, and a 13-kilometer mountain bike ride, all in the heart of Minneapolis. Interested parties can learn more about the UCare Tri-Loppet and register themselves at loppet.org/lloppet.

NorthPoint Clinic Offers Older Adults:
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Northside Economic Opportunity Network is now accepting applications for their brand new private office spaces that feature windows, open workspaces and more. There are several office space and pricing plans 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/

We want to feature your notice!
Email kenzieO@pillsburyunited.org

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
The Minneapolis Business Portal is a new online platform designed to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners to the information and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business. The online portal, available at business.minneapolis.gov, features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources to help both new and existing businesses.

March 29, 2018 • North News • 21
Jamil Ford grew up in North Minneapolis and has had a hand in designing more buildings here than he can count.

The co-founder and president of Mobilize Design & Architecture (MDA) got his start designing buildings in his backyard, constructing clubhouses with friends, and in an architecture and engineering program at North High, which was offered when he was a student there in the mid 90s.

It’s hard to find a corridor in North Minneapolis that Ford, now 40 years old, hasn’t touched. He designed Venture North bike shop on Glenwood. He helped remodel Breaking Bread, Kindred Kitchen, NEON and Sammy’s Avenue Eatery on West Broadway. He worked with Devean George on the Commons at Penn, and he designed the Hennepin County Human Services Center on Plymouth.
Currently, Ford has his hands full with the new Estes Funeral Chapel on Penn and Plymouth and the NorthPoint Expansion across the street. Up at 42nd and Fremont, he’s envisioning “Baldwin Square” – a $4 million proposed renovation of 1920s era building into MDA’s headquarters and other office and commercial spaces, including a possible restaurant, bookstore, and black box theater. The name pays homage to James Baldwin, an important figure for Ford who reflects often on the ways racism has impacted his life and community.

With all of his work, Ford hopes to do more than design buildings; he wants to ensure longtime Northside community members get to live in the neighborhoods of their dreams. This month, he spoke with North News about the future of North Minneapolis and paying his good fortune forward.

By Kenzie O’Keefe
Photos by David Pierini

What inspired you to become an architect?
I grew up a couple blocks away from North High. I was part of the arts and communications program there, which focused on architecture and engineering. I met [local architect] Mohammed Lawal at a school career fair. He had started a metro-wide youth architecture program, and I ended up being in one of his original cohorts. A counselor landed me an internship with HGA, an architecture firm, during my junior year. I started out doing a little bit of everything and getting great exposure to architecture. That led me to my studies at the University of Minnesota.

What did you do after you finished school?
When I graduated I decided to stay and continue to work in my community. I built a house in Heritage Park. I had one daughter already and then had two additional children. I think my experience growing up here made me want to be the change I wanted to see for this community.

What led to you starting your own architecture and design firm, Mobilize Design & Architecture (MDA)?
Back in 2010 I was laid off from my job at Collaborative Design Group (CDG). It gave me an opportunity to look at where I was going in my career. I reached out to David Witt, who I had worked with at CDG, and he became my business partner. Then Venture North became our first project. We were able to complete the job on time and with a reduced budget. Then Devean George created an opportunity for us – the Commons at Penn.

How do you pick the projects you work on?
A lot of our work comes from word of mouth relationships and producing good work that allows individuals to seek us out. When a client wants to involve a community and go beyond themselves and the exterior walls of their space, it takes that project to the next level and inspires us to do the work we do.

What project are you most proud of so far in your career?
Our most notable are the Commons at Penn and the Hennepin County Human Services Center on Plymouth. With the Hennepin County building, we created the transparency that neighborhood residents specifically asked for. We worked directly with Juxtaposition Arts and the youth in their environmental design studio. We made a connection between employees who work there, residents who utilize their services, and individuals who have nothing to do with the building other than walking by.

If you could design anything for North Minneapolis, what would it be?
An arts and entertainment district on West Broadway that reflects on the history of North through arts, culture, and entertainment. Through that space we’d increase opportunities for jobs, local amenities, exposure to culture arts – performance, visual, many or all forms of art. We’d create a space for artist housing, creating an opportunity for both local exposure with a large national or international opportunity for people to come as a destination.

Lots of people are talking about gentrification. What’s your take on it here?
I think we have to be very proactive in our approach to [creating] the community we’d like to see moving forward. We need to be intentional about keeping and maintaining our cultural characteristics versus allowing the North Loop to spread this way and oversaturate us with other folks and their ideals and their concepts of economic development that do not support the values that are here.

What’s your role as a designer and architect in that work?
I think it’s critical to push the envelope to how we go beyond just meeting the needs of today and ourselves. I try to get [clients] involved with the youth and the community as a whole so there is community ownership.

You have three children and you’ re raising your nephew. What are you like as a parent?
I want the flexibility for my children to explore and embrace their differences. I’ve always pushed and inspired them to become something they envision versus a push down approach. I’ve always wanted my children to have the liberty to explore what’s out there. Giving them access and exposure is critical to me; keeping them involved in church is critical to knowing that what we do as young adults will have an impact on how we live our lives in the future.

Who inspires you?
Jesus Christ and his story. He lived with the people and was in the trenches. He didn’t mind going into scary or fearful places. I don’t have to look far for individuals that inspire me. My father grew up in a family of sharecroppers in Louisiana, picking cotton. He turned nothing into a success story for him and his family. In terms of architects, I don’t need to look internationally. I can look here – Mohammad Lawal has had a great impact on my life. There was a time when I dropped out of school when I was at the U. He helped me get back into school just by having a conversation.

What motivates you?
There are 6 Ps that [I] live by personally and in my business: have a plan, be prepared, be persistent, perform, get paid, and pay it forward. Paying it forward is embedded within me. There are 6 Ps that [I] live by personally and in my business:

Ford designed the Hennepin County Human Services Center on Plymouth Ave. N in 2014.

Don’t Get Disconnected! Energy Assistance Can Help.

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

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

NEED HELP?

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

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

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