 Married couple Roger and DeAnna Cummings, who founded Juxtaposition Arts in 1995, stand on the organization’s newly vacant lot at Emerson and Broadway.

The co-founders of Juxtaposition Arts discuss their future in North Minneapolis. Neighbors Page 22

JXTA IS ABOUT TO MAKE THE BIGGEST ANNOUNCEMENT IN ITS HISTORY
Spring is finally here, and we’re grateful to be emerging from the gray and gloom with a little bright spot of our own – our cover story on Juxtaposition Arts.

You’ve probably seen the organization’s newly vacant lot on Broadway and Emerson Ave. N. In our “Neighbors” section on Page 22, we bring you next. Big thanks to North High journalism student D’Angelo Raymond for designing the cover and spread for this story. Raymond works in JXTA’s enviro lab after school, and is a perfect example of how JXTA is inspiring and molding the next generation of our creative economy workforce.

Another sign that spring is truly upon us is that there are soon to be lots of opportunities to buy local produce in the community. Check out small business reporter Cirien’s guide to shopping fresh and local this summer on Page 8.

In other exciting news, North News applied for a grant from The Resilience in Communities After Stress & Trauma (ReCAST) program out of the City of Minneapolis. In March, we learned that we received the grant, which will provide us with resources to empower our student journalists to create in-depth, impactful stories about trauma amongst youth in North Minneapolis. We have hired four student reporters – Ashley Powell, Myesha Williams-Powell, Naja McComb, and Caprice Whimer – to explore how trauma has impacted their lives, their peers, and their community as a whole.

For the next four months, they will design a methodology to gather the information they are seeking and in July, they will produce a cover story for North News that showcases their findings. At that time we will take part in a couple of public events to share our insights with the community beyond the pages of our paper. If you’re interested in sharing your experiences with our student reporters, please reach out to me, and I’ll put you in touch with them.

As many of you know, the basic operations of our paper – my salary, designing it, printing it, delivering it, the expenses associated with our youth programming, and more – are supported by print advertising sales. Grants like this one from ReCAST, and our grant from the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation (which supports our reporter Cirien) have begun to give us capacity to take on research-intensive reporting that requires more resources. We’re thankful for the opportunities their generosity provides.

The arrival of Spring also marks the beginning of the end of the school year for our North Minneapolis scholars. At the end of each school year, North News has a tradition of celebrating the graduating seniors in our community by running their names in the newspaper. For the past couple of years, we’ve asked Northside schools – public and charter – for lists of their graduating seniors. This year we plan to do that AND we want to invite community members to submit names too. Do you have a child, grandchild, friend or neighbor who lives on the Northside and is graduating from a high school not located in North Minneapolis this year? If so, help us recognize them too, and send me their name and school. Please send by May 23rd. Their names will print in our May 31 edition.

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

Letter to the Editor

I believe in youth. Youth are the truth. Those words resonate with me. Young people need to learn math and science and English and they also need to have learning opportunities in civic engagement to improve their community.

Patrick Henry, the historical figure, is famous for his speech “Give me liberty or give me death.” Yet he was a slave holder and co-author of the Indian Removal Act. The racial demographics have changed in North Minneapolis. Whereas in the past, [Henry]’s students were mostly Caucasian; this school year 93% of the students at Henry High School are students of color.

Momentum for change has grown over the last few years. This school year the students are organizing to promote a name change – #changenename. The students arranged a listening session with community members and received negative feedback from people who graduated from Patrick Henry years ago. Arguments primarily had to do with the loss of the school name being a loss to their own history with the school. They also argued that students should focus on their school work and not worry about things like this. But things like this matter! Learning how to be a positively engaged citizen and community member should start at school.

I entreat adults in the community to let the voice of the students be felt in your heart. Imagine being an African American student going to school that honors your historical oppressor. Those who graduated from Henry in the past will always be graduates of Henry. They will still have yearbooks and reunions. That will not change.

In the community listening session, one opponent said “but you’d be taking away our name.” An African American elder said “Our names were taken away.” Well said.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly O’Brien, youth mentor at Patrick Henry High School
North Minneapolis at a glance

Northside doctor wins big at Adult Figure Skating Championships

Chris Williams, 54, placed in two categories at the US Adult Figure Skating Championships (Master’s Level 50 +) in Marlborough, MA in mid-April. He took home first place in the artistic category and sixth place in the freestyle category. His wife and three children were there to cheer him on. The pediatrician trains during his lunch hour at Parade Ice Garden and after work at Augsburg Arena. He is also co-founder of the North Minneapolis Hockey and Figure Skating Program of New Directions Youth Ministry. He lives on the Northside with his family.

City brings back collaborative safety strategy funding

For the second year in a row, funding for innovative, community-driven projects that “interrupt patterns of violence or criminal behavior” has been allocated in the city budget. Last year, $500K was split between both the West Broadway Ave. and Little Earth communities. In North Minneapolis, six teams of community members were awarded the grant money. This year, $350K was allocated, and just $100K has been ear-marked for North Minneapolis – $50K for West Broadway and $50K for Penn Ave. between 32nd and 37th Ave. N. Informational and project ideation sessions were hosted by the City’s Neighborhood and Community Relations department in each community in mid-April. Anyone who lives, works, or owns a business in each area is eligible to apply. Proposals will be reviewed by community-based committees and recommendations on grantees will be made in early May. Projects will be executed June-October. For more information visit http://minneapolismn.gov/ncr/initiatives/css.

North High’s Courtney Bell is a finalist for teacher of the year

North High social studies teacher Courtney Bell has been named one of 12 finalists for the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the year award, a contest organized by Education Minnesota. Bell is the only Minneapolis teacher in the group. The winner will be announced on May 6. The Minnesota Teacher of the year is selected by an independent panel of over 20 leaders in the education, business, government and nonprofit sectors. There were 167 candidates this year.

U of M researches connection between wages and health

The University of Minnesota Medical School’s Department of Family Medicine and Community Health has begun a five-year study that will examine the effects of the municipal minimum wage increase on health and wellness outcomes among a sample of the 71,000 Minneapolis residents projected to be impacted by it. The experiment involves both Minneapolis and Raleigh, North Carolina, which will be the comparison site. It’s funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Eligible community members can earn up to $350 over five years by participating. Learn more at https://familymedicine.umn.edu/research/wage.

Kwanzaa undergoes name change

In April, Kwanzaa Community Church, PCUSA, announced it had changed its name to Liberty Community Church. Liberty will continue the church’s legacy of healing with two flagship ministries – 21st Century Academy for youth on the Northside; and the Northside Healing Space: “a place to rest, revive, and resist!” according to the church. An event to celebrate the new name is being held at the church (3700 Bryant Ave. N) on Sunday, April 29 at 11am. All are welcome to attend the worship service, performances, and building tours, and hear Pastors Ralph and Alika Galloway’s vision for the church’s future.

"I AM" fundraiser to lift up young women in the community

Girls in Action (GIA), a mentorship program for young women that began at North High and now operates in 17 sites across the metro area, is hosting its annual fundraiser on May 11 from 7:30am-9am at The Marriott Northwest. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from girls who are currently in the program, many of whom are Northsiders. Since Dr. Verna Price founded GIA in 2005, 3,800 young women have been given the tools to “find, use, and leverage their personal power in life,” she said. “They are being told that they can graduate from high school go on to college, and have a productive and peaceful life,” she added. Visit www.girlsinaction.com for more information about the program and the fundraiser.

Domino’s on 44th has closed

Domino’s Pizza (2147 44th Ave N) has shut its doors permanently, and now the City of Minneapolis is seeking input on redevelopment plans for that site as well as the former Restoration Counseling and Community Services office next door through its 44th & Penn Avenue North Redevelopment Plan. Redevelopment goals include transit-oriented mixed-use commercial and multifamily housing development.

Calm Mind, Healthy Body

THE YOGA ROOM
Offering Yoga, Meditation & Acupuncture
4153 Thomas Ave N
Class schedule and workshops: www.northsidecenter.net

UROC celebrates Prince with a day of art and discussion

Despite a major snowstorm, Prince Day at UROC took place as planned on Saturday, April 14. Prince’s extended family members, North Minneapolis community, and University of Minnesota researchers came together to explore how Prince’s family and community on the Northside helped give rise to his global stardom. On the walls were images of Prince that included lyrics, poetry and quotes that visitors absorbed during the event. See more of David Pierini’s photos from the event on Facebook @MyNorthNews
Wirth Co-op has temporarily closed, promising to reopen soon

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Wirth Co-op has temporarily closed, promising to reopen soon

In a surprise announcement to many of its members, Wirth Cooperative Grocery Store (1835 Penn Ave N) announced on April 9 that it would be temporarily shutting its doors as it assesses and restructures parts of its store. This evaluation is being done in partnership with the Northside Economic Opportunity Network’s (NEON) Food Business Incubator (FBI) program.

“We’re super excited to be bringing forth the resources in our agency to help in any way that we can to make the co-op amazing. ...We’re hopeful about the future of the co-op,” said Ann Fix who works with NEON’s FBI program. Attempts to reach Wirth staff and board members for comment were forwarded on to NEON.

Wirth Co-op will be closed temporarily to make improvements. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Wirth Co-op opened in October 2017 after ten years of community activism. Management has changed a few times in the co-op’s short existence. Just last month, Wirth announced that former General Manager Winston Bell would be replaced by current manager Snow Aukema.

“All the little pieces are there, but the reality is the co-op hasn’t really been hitting their projections and their numbers, and so, last week, the Board came to the conclusion that ‘we really need to shake things up a little bit,’ ” said Fix. According to Fix, the closure is also occurring because of the Penn Ave. improvements project. Road construction and road closure along the corridor will make accessing the business more difficult.

“Everyone thought this was a really good time to slow down. Everyone though ‘let’s just slow down, shut the doors for a little while and kinda regroup, retrain, engage the members, engage our community, and really get focused on where we want to be when we reopen in a couple of weeks,’” said Fix.

According to Fix, much of the work occurring at Wirth in the next few weeks will focus on creating new structures and processes for the business, while also re-evaluating merchandising, and providing additional training for staff members.

A review of Wirth’s Facebook Page shows a highly rated community grocery store that has garnered much community support. Comments on and shares of its hiatus announcement, however, were a mixed bag with some community members expressing concern and others curious to know when (and whether) it would be opening back up.

According to Fix and Wirth’s social media posting, the hiatus should only be a few weeks long. They plan on engaging members in this assessment and do plan to host at least one member engagement event in the next few weeks. North News will keep you updated as announcements are made. For now, community members with comments, questions, or concerns can email info@wirth.coop.

Mother’s Day Boutique

May 5 & May 12
11am-5pm
931 W Broadway

Each day will feature vendors selling a variety of clothing, accessories, art, perfumes, butters, & baked goods. Find something special for your loved ones and support local businesses!

Cleveland Neighborhood Association and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board present...

Live on the Drive
THURSDAY
JUNE 14
34th Avenue North & Victory Memorial Parkway

“Equal parts Stevie Wonder, D’Angelo and Prince” - NPR

Nooky Jones
6PM - 8PM
La La Land at dusk
LiveOnTheDrive.com
Introducing Neighborhood U
Starting in April, UROC will be hosting free family-friendly events to connect the University and the community.

From the start, the Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) has always been more than a University of Minnesota research center. Based in North Minneapolis, UROC has become a part of the Northside community, acting as a gathering and meeting space as well offering educational and cultural opportunities and events.

This month, to further strengthen the connection between the U and the community, UROC is launching Neighborhood U. Each two-hour Neighborhood U event will feature family-friendly demonstrations, displays and educational presentations by a wide range of University faculty and staff. All events are free and open to everyone. Join UROC on April 28 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the first Neighborhood U, featuring the University of Minnesota Bell Museum’s ExploraDome. This mobile planetarium offers immersive tours of space, including real pictures taken by the Mars Curiosity rover. Shows start approximately every 20 minutes, and every journey through space is different because the onboard ExploraDome educator changes the presentation to suit audiences of all ages. “The ExploraDome is all about helping people see that science is for everybody and we hope that people will also come and visit the Bell Museum,” says Planetarium Programs Coordinator Sarah Komperud. An initiative of UROC interim director Marilyn Higgins, Neighborhood U is being informed, developed and organized by UROC administrative assistants Leola Crawford and Anna Orr, who have deep roots in the North Minneapolis community. “I am so excited to bring the University of Minnesota to North Minneapolis,” Orr says. “There are so many brilliant minds in the communities that UROC serves, and as a product of this community, I want to illuminate opportunity for future generations. I hope Neighborhood U helps destroy barriers in the minds of those who don’t see themselves at the U.”

Dates and times, as well as details about future Neighborhood U events, can be found on posters in UROC’s front window as well as the Center’s Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/umnUROC/. Local residents and passersby will also know when a Neighborhood U event is planned when they see 20 maroon and gold flags flying outside of UROC. Meant to be a colorful, U-themed invitation, the flags will fly the day before and the day of each program. No registration is needed for Neighborhood U events and all events are free and open to everyone. The goal, says Higgins, is to introduce residents to the wide range of activities, resources and ideas that the University has to offer. “Accessing an institution as physically large and organizationally complex as the University of Minnesota can be a daunting and intimidating task,” she explains. “We’d like to see UROC become a platform that inspires creative, voluntary and useful connections between the U and the community.”

Free Upcoming Neighborhood U Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The U’s Bell Museum brings the ExploraDome mobile planetarium to UROC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>U Professor Sam Mukasa brings the U of M College of Science and Engineering’s solar vehicle to UROC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>U Human Resources Specialist Marvin Banks explains how to get a job at the University.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td></td>
<td>U Extension Educator Sharon Powell talks about how people can improve their financial situation.</td>
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Come and See the U’s Solar Car

May 16

The University’s Solar Vehicle Project was founded by a group of undergrads in the College of Science and Engineering in 1990 who competed in their first solar car race in 1993. Since then, the student-driven team has built many solar vehicles, including the Eos II, which will be on display at UROC on May 16 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Professor Sam Mukasa, special assistant for STEM initiatives in the University’s office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, will be at UROC to talk with visitors about the solar race car. “Bringing the University to the community is a brilliant strategy and I applaud UROC for coming up with the concept of Neighborhood U,” Mukasa says. “I hope that parents and their kids will use this opportunity to share in the excitement of some of the University’s science and engineering research designed to humanity’s greatest challenges. I especially look forward to seeing our Solar Vehicle Team demonstrating how solar energy can be used for transportation—in this case, in a sleek race car!”
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

I promised to get ahead of the summer spike in violence by collaborating across many departments to develop a summer violence prevention plan with a public health approach — incorporating prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry strategies. This approach ensures a more sustainable solution to violence in our community by addressing the root causes of violence while also holding accountable those who cause harm. The work that I am leading focuses on policy changes, prevention, program development, process improvement and outreach.

Here is an overview of some of the work that will be done this summer to address violence: Group Violence Intervention (GVI) brings law enforcement, social services, community members who are considered credible to offenders, offenders’ families, and the community overall together to send a clear, moral message: Violence is unacceptable and must stop immediately. The program has been in action since January 2017 and conducts what are called “call-ins,” which are gatherings of targeted frequent offenders convened by program partners. While no strategy will tackle the problem entirely, it is exciting to see how well it’s working already.

As the chart below shows, after the GVI call-in on May 15, 2017, gun recoveries increased 21% at the time when violent crime decreased 19%. After the September 21, 2017 call-in, gun recoveries slightly increased over three months at a time when violent crime remained stable until December when it decreased 15 percent. Since GVI has started, record numbers of guns have been collected and people are turning over guns by choice. Next Step (NS) program is a hospital-based bedside youth violence intervention strategy that interrupts the cycles of trauma and retaliation (the victim becomes the perpetrator) by connecting victims to resources like jobs, housing, and a new community away from crime. Since 2016, the program has been based at Hennepin County Medical Center. Nearly 150 people were served by Next Step in 2017 and only 3 returned with the same or similar injuries: a remarkably low recidivism rate. This year, NS will be expanding to North Memorial. While many Northsiders are served by NS, this partnership will ensure many more in our community who are victims are connected to resources and permanently out of a life of crime.

I’m all in for addressing safety this summer. I personally will be collaborating with MAD DADS to regularly door knock 5-8 blocks with the highest rates of crime to directly connect with folks, connect them to resources, and begin building trust and relationships to get folks out of a life of crime and increase safety in the neighborhoods overall.

For more information, join me for open community office hours Tuesdays 4-7pm at Corner Coffee Camden and Thursdays 12-3pm at Serendipity Spot. Our next Coffee with DADS will be May 5th. Check out our FB @CMCunninghamWard4 for details. If you want to connect directly, reach out to me at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward4/ contact-ward4.

WARD 5: Jeremiah Ellison

I was once told that the political life of an idea has nothing to do with whether or not that idea is good or bad, and has everything to do with how much support that idea has behind it. That means some really bad ideas get done because they have a base of supporters ready to put pressure on elected officials. And, sadly, it means really good ideas can get left in the dust – no one there to give them strength. This is why you see Council Member Cunningham and I so committed to lifting up your voice, because we genuinely need the resilience and innovation that the Northside has always had.

To that end, I hope I will continue to catch all of you at my open office hours, now at Sammy’s Avenue Eatery, every Saturday from 10am-noon.

This past month has continued to be both productive and full of discovery. How do you improve a neighborhood without allowing “the market” to price people out of it? After all, if people have poured their hearts into their homes, their local parks, and schools, why shouldn’t they reap the benefits of a new café, increased business and arts activities? Solving this problem, commonly known as gentrification, is the task of every urban core in America right now, including Minneapolis.

Very smart people in cities like Portland, Seattle, Oakland, San Francisco, New York, Boston (and the list goes on and on, really) haven’t been able to solve this problem. I say that not to shy away from the challenge, the opposite, in fact. I say all that to point out that there is no lack of ideas. And maybe, more than anything, the best ideas lack the political support they need.

To that end, the Twin Cities has joined a cohort of ten American cities to come up with solutions to prevent displacement caused by gentrification. It’s called the All In Cities Anti-Displacement Network and it’s organized by PolicyLink, a national organization that supports research and social justice initiatives. Council Member Andrea Jenkins and I are the City’s representatives, and I’m excited to work with her, and others from all over the country.

In City Hall, a lot of things are moving. The Council President and I are working on an ordinance that will strengthen tenant protections, Council Member Cunningham is leading a group of us as we try to create a more equitable Conduct On Premises ordinance, Council Member Andrew Johnson and I are working to join a regional effort of raise the age of tobacco purchasing to 21, and we recently broke ground on the construction of the C-Line, a bus route that will operate at a higher frequency, and have the same shelter amenities as our light rail lines.

On the Northside, a number of community-led efforts have kept me inspired, I probably can’t name them all, but to name a few: Shiloh Temple and Masjid An Nur broke ground on a solar garden they’re collaborating on, and Village Trust Financial Cooperative – a black owned credit union – formally kicked off their funding campaign.

Thank you, and as always, I look forward to seeing you out in the community! Call my office at 612-673-2205 or email me at wards5@minneapolismn.gov.
ABEP bringing “equitable” payday lending to North Minneapolis

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Payday lending has been the subject of much consternation for many years. Social justice advocates with groups like ISAIAH (a faith-based coalition) have attempted to pressure the Minnesota State Legislature to further regulate the payday lending industry.

Reports from ISAIAH note that payday lending is meant to be regulated by the state’s Consumer Small Loans Act, but groups like Payday America have used loopholes in the law to increase loan and interest amounts outside of what borrowers can pay back. This then creates a cycle of lending that can be difficult to break out of. That same report notes that payday borrowers typically take out ten loans a year, with a typical annual interest rate of 250% - 500%.

It is these alleged inequities that have, in part, inspired the newest efforts of the Association for Black Economic Power (ABEP), the organization behind Village Trust Credit Union. ABEP recently announced New Day Loans, a North Minneapolis-based payday lending service, opening May 1 to a limited audience.

New Day Loans is meant to challenge traditional payday lending, while also serving the immediate needs of North Minneapolis residents, according to ABEP Executive Director Me’Lea Connelly.

“New Day Loans developed out of our observation that there was a need for accessible loans for Northsiders,” said Connelly. “Payday loans have been traditionally circular, extracting wealth from North Minneapolis.” Connelly says ABEP has plans to do payday lending differently.

ABEP was formed in the aftermath of the shooting of Philando Castile in an effort to foster economic resistance among the residents of North Minneapolis.

Continued on Page 13...
YOUR GUIDE TO
Northside farmers markets

April (snow) showers bring May flowers...and fruits, vegetables, and other plants. Summer is right around the corner, and so are your opportunities to shop fresh and healthy while supporting local growers in North Minneapolis this season.

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

McKinley Community

McKinley neighborhood offers a community garden, community supported agriculture (CSA) service, and market. The McKinley Community CSA serves 10 people, offering full-and-half-shares. According to Serendipity Spot shopkeeper Kelley Skumautz, who shares a space with the CSA, there is still time to sign up for a share. Full-shares are $300 and include 12-15 weeks of produce; half-shares are $150 and include at least 7 weeks of produce. Shares can be purchased with cash, check, or credit card. For more information, contact Serendipity Spot by calling 612-564-3478 or by stopping by.

The McKinley Community Garden is tended by local farmer Regina Carter. Carter says community members will also be able to buy garden produce from Serendipity Spot and the West Broadway Farmers Market.

West Broadway Farmers Market

The West Broadway Farmers Market will kick off its eighth year on Friday, June 1 from 3-7pm. According to market manager Devon Nolen, this year’s market will look a lot like last year’s. “Consistency is important with Northsiders,” she said. Nolen says the market will continue to be held at Freedom Square (2034 West Broadway Ave) and will continue to include an opening drum call and closing line dance. Northside vendors will continue to be prioritized, even as the market expands. The market is under new fiscal management this year. Appetite for Change has taken over the market from the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition.

Camden Farmers Market

The Camden Farmers Market will be back again on June 7. It is still managed by Chaz Sandifer of Noir Elite Fitness, but it will now be hosted by Pillsbury United Communities in the parking lot of North Market on 44th and Humboldt. The market will be open every Thursday from 3-7pm through October 11. Look out for a launch event for the Camden Farmers Market and North Market partnership on May 19. “The need for fresh food and a fresh, healthy environment is needed. Plus it brings the community together,” said Sandifer. Community members should expect to see the knife-off and local food trucks back at this year’s market. The market accepts EBT, SNAP, and Market Bucks.

Goddard’s Gardens

From May 1-July 4, vegetables, herbs, and other greenery will be for sale at the brand new “Goddard’s Gardens” garden mart outside the Goddess of Glass on the corner of Penn and 44th Ave. N. The shop will be open every day from 9am-6pm. Find them on Facebook at @Goddard’s Gardens.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market continues to bring fresh and healthy food, including produce, dairy products, lean meats, and basic dry goods to North Minneapolis. All you have to do is hop on their bus! The market accepts SNAP/EBT, cash, and credit/debit card. WIC is not currently accepted. Find their schedule online: https://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/tcmm/Pages/Mobile-Market-Map.aspx
NORTHnow

April 26, 2018 • North News • 9

5 tips for getting the most out of your farmers market
1. Bring a reusable bag.
2. Get to know your local farmers! Ask them questions about their produce and their favorite recipes.
3. Visit the market early for the best selection and later in the market for the best price.
4. Know what is in season so you can manage your expectations.
5. Respect the produce. Don’t squeeze produce or rip off pieces to sample.

Northsiders’ Favorite Recipes: Making the most of your favorite fresh food bounty

It can be difficult to know how to best use the fresh bounty of Minnesota’s warmer seasons. Northsiders are sharing their favorite ways for you to make use of your CSA box or farmers market purchases.

Recipe #1
Tomato Basil Salad
Thanks to Joanne Goddard for the recipe.
1. Combine tomatoes, basil, and a mesclun salad mix with olive oil, salt, and pepper.
2. Add fresh mozzarella.

Recipe #2
Southern Fried Okra
Thanks to Regina Carter & Kelley Skumautz for the recipe.
1. Wash okra, let dry. Cut it into one-inch pieces.
2. Put some flour or cornmeal (or a mix of the two) with a couple shakes of your preferred seasoning (salt & pepper or Lawry’s) into a ziplock bag. Shake!
3. Fry in oil until golden brown.

Recipe #3
Okra Goulash
Thanks to Regina Carter & Kelley Skumautz for the recipe.
1. Parboil fresh tomatoes and skin them
2. Cut up okra
3. Add corn and broth
4. Simmer or slow boil
5. Serve over rice

Recipe #4
Tomato Basil Salad
Thanks to Joanne Goddard for the recipe.
1. Combine tomatoes, basil, and a mesclun salad mix with olive oil, salt, and pepper.
2. Add fresh mozzarella.

Recipe #5
Southern Fried Okra
Thanks to Regina Carter & Kelley Skumautz for the recipe.
1. Wash okra, let dry. Cut it into one-inch pieces.
2. Put some flour or cornmeal (or a mix of the two) with a couple shakes of your preferred seasoning (salt & pepper or Lawry’s) into a ziplock bag. Shake!
3. Fry in oil until golden brown.

Upcoming events
4/28, 10am - 2pm
Free seed distribution at Lucy Craft Laney Elementary School. The event will include a free meal, children’s activities, composting and gardening activities, and giveaways.

5/19, 9am - 2pm
Free plant distribution at Sanctuary Covenant Church’s parking lot. The event will include a free meal, children’s activities, composting and gardening activities, and giveaways.

The Northside Growers Collective is coordinating volunteer support for Cleveland, Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan, and McKinley community gardens for spring, summer, and fall. Volunteers with all levels of experience, ability, and/or commitment are welcome. Call 612-564-3478 or email info@serendripityspot.com with questions, comments, or concerns. Volunteer activities include preparing soil, planting seeds, watering and weeding the garden, and harvesting produce.
Shortly after Emily Laconic, 38, bought her first home in Lind-Bohanon 11 years ago, its value plummeted. In 2007 she purchased the foreclosure, which had been vacant for a few years, for $124,000. Less than two years later it was worth $72,000. “I’ve been upside down on my mortgage this whole time,” she said.

So when Laconic received her 2018 property valuation notice (for taxes payable in 2019) this March and saw that the City had assessed her property’s market value at $130,000 – 12% higher this year than last – her feelings were mixed. On the one hand, if the City valuation is correct, her home is now finally worth more than what she bought it for. On the other hand, her taxable market value increased by $15,260, and when she received her property tax bill for 2018 that same month, she saw an increase that worried her. She says she owes 17.3% – or about $800 – more than last year. “Other years it’s been a lot lower increase,” she said.

There are many intersecting factors that could explain Laconic’s property tax increases and other experienced by Northsider’s. The total amount of money the county needs to collect has gone up. There’s a high demand for affordable starter homes in Minneapolis, and the Northside has the most right now, leading to increased home values here. And the Northside’s slow but increasing bounce back from the foreclosure crisis means that home values here have increased at higher percentages this year than in other parts of the city.

**YOUR HOME VALUE DETERMINES YOUR SHARE OF THE PROPERTY TAX PIE**

The City has 14 residential appraisers who appraise residential homes like Laconic’s each year. They calculate values by looking at sales data for each neighborhood. By statute they have to physically view 20% of the City’s properties each year.
Laconic is skeptical that her house is worth as much as the City says it is, so she applied to appeal her valuation with the City Assessor’s Office by their April 13 deadline.

Patrick Todd, the City Assessor, encourages this course of action. “If you don’t tell us it’s wrong, we assume it’s right,” he said, noting that while the assessor’s office prides itself in accurate valuations, even a 1% margin of error can result in thousands of homes being valued incorrectly.

But Todd is careful to make clear that while your home value determines your share of the property tax levy (the total amount needed to be collected from taxpayers), it plays a limited role in determining the actual dollar amount you pay.

“If you have an issue with a tax bill,” he said, “you have an issue with decision making by your elected officials who determine the city and county budgets that make up the tax levy. Property taxes support the city, county, and school district’s budgets. All three increased in 2018.

Laconic worries that this is happening in her neighborhood. “What I’m really concerned about are those stupid houses on the Humboldt Greenway that are going for $299,000. None of our houses are worth that,” she said.

**TAX BILLS ARE LIKELY INCREASING FOR NORTHSIDERS**

Near North and Camden (the entire Northside) are the only two Minneapolis neighborhoods that haven’t seen their median home values return to their pre-recession assessments. They have the lowest median home values in the city, and they are just two of three neighborhoods where median values are below $200,000.

Relatively affordable home values in an increasingly squeezed housing market, particular for first-time home-buyers, have increased demand for homes in North Minneapolis. Last year, Folwell and McKinley were two of the “hottest” housing markets in the Twin Cities, according to a study done by Zillow Inc.

According to Ken Rowe, a senior administrative manager for the County’s property tax division, supply and demand change from year to year, and values go up in desirable neighborhoods. The faster they go up in relation to overall increases in value across the city, the more likely they are to experience property tax increases.

Rowe says many North Minneapolis homeowners likely saw property tax increases because of this in 2018. “If there is an increase in value in my neighborhood that isn’t being experienced throughout the whole city, that causes my share to go up relative to everyone else and that’s why my taxes go up.”

In addition to increased demand for homes in a neighborhood, new builds worth more than the area median home value and renovations to existing homes that increase their value to more than the area median value can increase a neighborhood’s share of taxes they need to pay.

“The problem with gentrification is that people come in and start building bigger homes and making it more valuable and that drags [other residents’] values up. Absent any other changes, that will increase their share of the tax base which results in the same types of tax increases that you’re seeing now,” said Rowe.

Duffie says navigators help property owners “get upstream” of challenges that prevent them from paying their taxes. “The navigator will talk to a person about their finances, their wellbeing. …They can have that conversation before tax forfeiture is involved.”

**THE PROPERTY TAX PROCESS IN MINNEAPOLIS**

The City assesses everyone’s property values each year. If you think they valued your home incorrectly, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/assessor.

The County uses those values to determine each property owner’s share of the total property tax levy – the amount needed from taxpayers to fund the county, city, and school district budgets.

If you receive a property tax bill from Hennepin County in March. Your first payment is due May 15. Your second is due October 15.

If you miss a payment and haven’t made it by Jan. 2 of the following year, you are considered delinquent and the county has a legal obligation to take action. You’ll receive a courtesy notice of your delinquency in January. If you don’t take action, the county will file a court action in April.

If you’re unable to pay your tax bill, are already delinquent, or are in the forfeiture process, the Hennepin County Navigator program can help. They’ll assess your situation and connect you with resources to get you back on track.

**AREA MEDIAN HOME VALUE INCREASES THIS YEAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McKinley</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near North</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENNPIN COUNTY OVERALL</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumner Glenwood</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willard Hay</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINNEAPOLIS OVERALL</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingle Creek</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webber-Camden</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorne</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folwell</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lind Bohanon</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*single family homes

**RELIEF IS AVAILABLE**

In 2017, Hennepin County piloted a program that connects people who are delinquent on their property taxes with a navigator who can help them avoid property forfeiture. Of the 53 people who were referred to the program that year, 33 were able to stay in their homes either by paying their taxes or working out a plan to pay them. 22 became active human services cases.

“That’s a huge percentage,” said Jan Duffie, who supervises the program for the county. “People are flying under the radar; they’re not getting the services they need because of a variety of mental health and financial and medical circumstances. …They’re paralyzed in whatever situation they’re sitting in.”

This success led to the program being established permanently. 80 property owners have enrolled in the program so far this year.
The school board report
Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

The April 10 Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Board Meeting was an emotional and highly charged event. Over 100 community members gathered to advocate against cuts proposed by the MPS Board. The schools most impacted by the proposed cuts include Patrick Henry High School, Southwest High School, and Washburn High School, the latter two having lost Title 1 funding for the coming school year, though Superintendent Ed Graff has shared that both schools will be receiving one-year targeted assistance instead.

Following a referendum offered by Director Rebecca Gagnon (at-large), time adjustment allotment funds were restored to the MPS budget. The referendum allows the district to access its limited reserves and urges Superintendent Ed Graff to make additional cuts from Minneapolis Public Schools’ Davis Center to cover the $6.4 million in cuts that would have otherwise been made. Time adjustment allotment funds are funds that are distributed to all MPS middle school and high schools to cover expenses related to the seven-period school day. The referendum was passed five to four, Gagnon and Directors Kerry Jo Felder (who represents North Minneapolis), Siad Ali, Kim Ellison, Bob Walser, and Ira Jourdian voting for the referendum.

After nearly a year of negotiation, MPS has agreed on a two-year tentative contract with the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT). The contract will provide a .5% pay raise to MPS educators, retroactive to July 1, 2017. The pay increase had already been reflected in the district’s project $33 million deficit. 77% of MFT members voted for the contract; 23% of MFT members opposed the contract. Despite the increase, MFT president Michelle Wiese told the Star Tribune that the contract is “financially devastating for teachers” as it does not account for inflation and increased cost-of-living expenses.

MPS has passed a new policy which would allow MPS students to indicate and use their chosen name and identified gender at schools and on official paperwork. Students can do so by filling out a form found on the district’s website. The policy is part of a larger initiative called Out4Good, which seeks to create a safe and inclusive environment for LGBT students within MPS schools. For more information on Out4Good and the policy, you can visit http://osfce.mpls.k12.mn.us/out4good.

Students from Washburn High School and Patrick Henry High School headed to the world ro-

Continued on Page 13...

Educator Spotlight
Chandra Meach, fifth grade teacher at Hmong International Academy

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Meach teaches reading, writing, and social studies. She is a long-time Northsider who previously taught at Lucy Craft Laney Elementary School. Meach is described as a “teacher leader” by her peers at HIA and has been teaching grades 2-5 for 20 years. She is also a Cambodian refugee and world-traveler, having traveled to over 70 countries, who moved to the United States in the late 1970s.

Why did you go into education? I became a teacher because when I was younger I didn’t notice teachers who look like me, and I struggled a lot with identity growing up because [of that]. I’m from Cambodia, [and] April 17, 1975 is the day that Pol Pot took control of my country, and I came to America because most of the educators were murdered in my country. Even though I had an issue with identity growing up, I feel like my strength here is my identity. I became a teacher to give back to my community and to be able to let my students know “people who look like you can make it in this world.”

What is your favorite country that you have been to? My favorite countries in Europe is Bosnia. It’s a beautiful country with so much history. And of course Italy. I backpacked through Italy.

What is your favorite food from your travels? I would have to say because I love fish and I love sushi, when I was in Japan, Japan ruined it for me. America does not have good sushi; I ate good sushi in Japan. I’ve been to Turkey and I love Turkish food. Anything with a lot of spices, curry.

What do you love about North Minneapolis? I’ve been here for 20 years. The fall looks really beautiful, the colors of North Minneapolis. The people here, the small businesses. I’ve seen so much growth here, so much change here; it’s so good. I feel welcomed here. The students and the families here. North Minneapolis is my second home, almost. It’s a beautiful place to be, a great place to teach. The people here are friendly, kind-hearted. I always tell my friends, it’s not what you hear, you have to be in there to know.

It’s fun to see my students’ reactions, to see them illustrate different sayings, and it’s cool to see them say stuff from their country, as well.

What is your favorite country that you have been to? Cambodia. I’ve been back. I love Turkey and the Middle East. And I love Laos; Laos is a beautiful country. One of my favorite countries in Europe is Bosnia. It’s a beautiful country with so much history. And of course Italy. I backpacked through Italy.

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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 ciriens@pillsburyunited.org. If possible, please include contact information for the person you are recommending.
School board report continued
from Page 12:

The robotics competition held the week of April 23 in Detroit. They were among nearly 1,500 other teams competing in the For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology (FIRST) Championship robotics competition. For the competition, students had to build a robot which lifts items onto a “teeter-totter.” The team with the most items on the teeter-totter wins.

“Without want to burden people with debt that they can’t pay back,” said Connelly. ABEP will be hosting pop-ups around North Minneapolis or at their office at 227 Colfax Ave N. where community members can learn more about New Day Loans. ABEP hopes to eventually be able to report the loans to credit companies in the form of credit-building loans.

To pledge your support and membership to Village Trust Credit Union, you can visit http://www.abepmn.org/pledge-now to fill out a non-binding pledge. The pledge paperwork asks questions about the services that you desire. ABEP is seeking 5000 pledges for Village Trust; they currently have just over 1000, according to their website.

New Day Loans continued
from Page 7:

 amongst Black communities. ABEP has been largely focused on developing a black-owned-and-led credit union, Village Trust Credit Union. ABEP is a project of Blexit, an economic resistance organization.

According to Connelly, New Day Loans offers an opportunity for Village Trust Credit Union to engage community members — current and future — in the credit union charter. Following the May 1 launch, they will provide loans for a small sample group, as they work to perfect the lending process. They have plans to expand their loan capacity later on in the summer.

To be eligible for a loan, Connelly urges individuals to pledge their membership to Village Trust Credit Union. She and others spoke on ABEP and New Day Loans at the first-ever funders’ meeting for Village Trust Credit Union on April 19. In attendance were Minneapolis elected officials, including Mayor Frey and several members of the Minneapolis City Council, as well as representatives from foundations and financial organizations. Frey has plans to include Village Trust Credit Union in his budget recommendations to the City Council.

New Day Loans offers an 8% interest rate. This is meant to cover the cost of the loan to New Day Loans. It is also meant to protect New Day Loans who must pay be able to back their preliminary $50,000 loan from Working World, an East Coast non-profit which works to build cooperative businesses in low-income communities, within a year of receiving the loan. According to Connelly, that $50,000 loan should allow for New Day Loans to make approximately 100 loans to Northsiders. During the April 19 meeting, Connelly and others urged foundations and other Minneapolis funders to invest their financial resources in New Day Loans in order to expand the loan pool. Additionally, an individual would be allowed to take out one loan at a time; they would have 9-12 months to pay it back.

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S pots of mold were splattered along the ceiling of Ebony Chambers’ house. Moisture streaked down the sides of her white walls, beneath a hung picture of her and her son. The floor beneath it bowed and warped from water moisture and mice skittered between the legs of the kitchen table. In the wintertime, the thermostat read 80 degrees on the inside of her home due to poor insulation. But still, Chambers would not move out of her house.

Conditions continued to worsen when her landlord – or “slumlord” as Chambers called him – stopped returning her calls, raised her rent every year, and didn’t fix her insulation. One winter, the insulation was so paper thin that her home was freezing to the point where she had to crank up the heat to a livable temperature so she wouldn’t freeze. Her heat bill skyrocketed to $1,200 a month that winter and two years later, she is still paying it off.

According to the Home Buyers Club website, less than 23 percent of African-Americans own their homes in Minnesota. In 1990, black ownership in Minnesota was about 30 percent – the lowest group percentage among blacks, whites, American Indians, Asians and Hispanics. Since then, the gap has grown steeper. The rate of black homeownership in the Twin Cities, according to the 2015 U.S. Census Bureau, is among the worst in the nation. Many people in North fall in the category of the over 75 percent who do not own their homes due to lack of opportunity.

Chambers’ housing issues turned around after an Xcel Energy Center company party. Chambers invited her co-worker, Taya Morgan, back to her apartment after the party. When Morgan walked in, she scanned the room, eyeing the mold and streaks of water lining the walls.

“Do you own this Ebony?” Taya, her co-worker asked.

“No,” Ebony told her. “I rent – and it’s irritating as hell.”
The Black Women’s Wealth Alliance Home Buyers Club Class of 2017 pose for a group picture after their graduation ceremony at Breaking Bread on November 30. They went through a six week process to get to this point. | Photo by Carlo Holmberg

“I wanted to make sure, before my first child left for college, that they have a house so that they always have a place to come back to.”  – Portia Jackson

“Why don’t you go through the program I went through?”
“What program?” Chambers asked.
“Urban Homeworks.”

The Urban Homeworks program partners with the City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) to keep homeownership opportunities available to the community. According to CLCLT’s website, the non-profit buys properties to remove them from the for-profit real estate market. Once the community land trust owns the property, they sell it at an affordable price “benefiting the community by ensuring that it will always remain affordable for homebuyers.” Once a person moves into her newly bought home, the CLCLT will continue to partner with them, providing support throughout the process of homeownership.

After the CLCLT buys the property, Urban Homeworks defines its goal as transforming vacant properties into dignified housing.

Portia Jackson had her pointer finger looped around the key ring, the key to her new home dangling from the chain. It was 2015, and she stood frozen, watching as movers climbed up the steps to her house carrying boxes full of pots and pans, clothing and all the other items she stuffed into a box, ready to move into her new home. This new house would allow her kids to walk to school, and she would finally be living in a home that was truly her own, not a landlord’s. But all she could do was stand there, rooted to the cement sidewalk in fear. She’s never owned a home and neither had anyone in her family. The $500 monthly mortgage payment loomed over her, keeping her from jumping for joy. Her kids skittered inside the house immediately after they pulled up to the house, dodging movers, but she stood outside, fear buzzing through her veins.

“What have I done?” she asked herself.

Jackson had been renting apartments she was 18. But her children were her motivation for buying a home two years ago. She wanted something that her children could take pride in and she wanted to plant roots in the neighborhood.

“I wanted to make sure, before my first child left for college, that they have a house so that they always have a place to come back to.”

THIS STORY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BETHEL UNIVERSITY AND NORTH HIGH JOURNALISM PROGRAMS.
Lovely’s Sewing & Arts Collective helps youth stitch together their future

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Tucked into the basement of Homewood Studios, the future leaders of North Minneapolis are hard at work making art with Keiona Cook, local couture fashion designer and the founder of Lovely’s Sewing and Arts Collective (LSAC). The non-profit, which got its start in summer 2009, teaches sewing, yoga, painting, dance, public speaking, and entrepreneurship to Northside youth.

“I grew up wanting to be a designer or an architect. I’ve been sketching clothes for women and little girls since I was six,” said Cook who graduated from North High School and went on to receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Savannah College of Arts & Design. Cook has designed clothes for the likes of Prince, Luther Vandross, and other Minnesota celebrities. She still owns Qe’Bella Couture, which she launched in 2004.

Cook founded LSAC after realizing that local schools no longer offered home economics after moving back to Minnesota after she graduated from college. “Ever since I was little I knew I wanted to give back to the community, too,” she said.

“It was the void that I wanted to fill in the community. We teach art and yoga, but we also teach the youth entrepreneurship and how to be accountable leaders,” she said.

“I’m grateful to be able to reach and teach as many kids as we can. It’s my goal to soak up as much information as I can and squeeze it out into the kids.”

Cook credits her current mentors, as well as the artists at Homewood Studios where she currently rents studio space, and the patrons at the Minikahda Club where Cook worked for years for supporting herself in her efforts to deepen and expand LSAC. George Roberts, who owns Homewood Studios, was once a teacher at North High School, and one of Cook’s teachers.

“All of the things I feel I should have learned as a kid and I feel I should have been exposed to, I am exposing to the kids,” said Cook. According to Cook, she also pairs youth up with elder mentors to help guide youth participants.

Cook mentions her previous lack of business expertise as one way in which her current mentors have helped her get LSAC off-the-ground.

“When you’re in art school you learn art, you don’t learn business,” said Cook.

According to Cook, nearly 300 youth have participated in the classes during the past nine years, with many repeat customers. Summer classes typically have 12-16 youth participants, while winter classes typically have 6-8 participants.

Youth ages 6-16 are invited to take classes. An 8-week sewing curriculum is offered for $220. Students make three items and are required to sell one and use the money from that sale to open up a savings account, which Cook helps them do. Sewing classes for youth are offered every Saturday or Sunday at Homewood Studios from 4-7pm. Painting classes are held at the McDonald’s on West Broadway every Saturday and Sunday from 1pm-3pm.

LSAC will be hosting its 9th annual fashion show this coming September. The show is kid-created and kid-modeled. More details will be released in the coming months.

For more information on LSAC, you can email: lovelyssewing@gmail.com or visit www.lovelyssewing.org.

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NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center Clinic
at Cora McCorvey Health Center
1015 4th Ave. North Minneapolis

NorthPoint Clinic Offers Older Adults:

- **Medical Services** for urgent health problems and ongoing medical and chronic care.
- **Behavioral Health** counseling for assessing and dealing with stress, depression, anxiety, health goals and chronic conditions for those 40 and older.
- **Medication Management** includes pharmacists that are available to help you understand and organize your medications and assist with medication issues.
- **Foot Care Services** for those needing foot care.

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Houston White writes: let's celebrate our phenomenal women

By Houston White | Contributor

‘Cause I’m a woman
Phenomenally,
Phenomenal woman,
That’s Me.
~ Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou’s words perfectly capture the essence of the vast beauty of women. The role of women, particularly in the black community, cannot be understated. I often say if you polled ten black people and asked the question “what are the most essential institutions in our community?” it’s my belief that an overwhelming answer would be grandma’s house, church and the barber shop.

My Aunt Lorean, a Mississippi native who migrated to Minnesota in the 1960s is the perfect example of this fact. She has lived on the Northside for over 45 years and though she has occupied many different houses, she is the institution, a pillar of hope, love and consistency that so many, whether blood relative or not, have come to call Mother Patterson. In fact, this jewel of a human being is the reason my mother, sister and I are in Minnesota. She opened her home to us to escape a difficult time and helped us in our pursuit for a better life.

My aunt for whom I am eternally grateful is just one example of the many phenomenal women that reside in North Minneapolis. I think about Mrs. Beverly Cottman, who was my Biology teacher at North High. I recall how hard she was on me. Of course at that time I didn’t like it, but as an adult I now realize that it was because she was much more than just another teacher. She was then, and still is today, a village mother.

The bible says, “When a man finds a wife, he finds a great thing.” My journey in life has been greatly impacted by the presence of my dear wife Donise White. She is the inspiration behind the entire women’s line at HWMR and the embodiment of the modern phenomenal woman.

Please join us Saturday, May 12 at HWMR for a celebration of phenomenal women, in partnership with Beautiful Classy Driven. We’ll also be releasing a limited edition collection in celebration of Mother’s Day.

White calls his Aunt Lorean a “a pillar of love, hope, and consistency,” and says she made it possible for his family to move to Minneapolis. Photo by Nikki McComb

White and his wife Donise sit outside HWMR in warmer months. Donise inspired the women’s clothing line at the shop. Photo by Katherine Harris

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Home ownership continued from Page 14:

left for college, that they have a house so that they always have a place to come back to,” Jackson said.

Jackson is now one of the group leaders of the Black Women’s Wealth Alliance (BWWA) Home Buyers Club, claiming to be Minnesota’s first black woman-owned social enterprise. The site says its goal is “to Strengthen Black home ownership by creating a clear pathway to Black women becoming homeowners…” and to offer “… insights on the history of Black Land ownership and alternative pathways to homeownership.”

BWWA has classes, partnered with the Washington County Community Development Code, that meet once a week for two hours for five weeks. Jackson, along with a few others, guide the women in the class through the process of owning a home and everything that comes with it.

The class teaches the women about credit, mortgage, real estate, home inspections, home maintenance and other issues regarding owning a home. Not only do they talk about home buyer education but they do it through the lens of the historically black female experience.

“It is a great thing to have a [home] and to say – that is our family's [home], it is ours,” Jackson said.

Not all housing program paths are alike, however. In Chamber’s case, the CLCLT had an application process which included attending an informational session and filling out an application. Once a person is approved for this process, they can choose which path to ownership to take. A homeowner can buy a home directly from CLCLT or take part in the homebuyer initiated program (HIP). CLCLT explained that HIP helps families find, purchase, and fix up homes in Minneapolis for no more than $55,900.

Jeff Washburn, executive director of CLCLT, said during the last 15 years the program has assisted 300 households, including Chambers’ in purchasing homes in Minneapolis. They’ve already seen 50 resells over time.

Though Jackson and Chambers became homeowners through different organizations, they both agree that owning a home is entirely different from renting a home. They’re homeowners now. When something goes wrong, it is up to them to fix it.

“Even though there is change happening in the neighborhood, this isn’t what I signed up for,” said Chambers.

So why North?

“I’ve lived in Robbinsdale, New Hope, and Crystal for the first ten years of my life,” said Chambers. “But I was raised in North Minneapolis.”

It’s her home.
DEAN’S LIST
Knox College  
Naia Woods

RESOURCES
5/20 – The monthly Bassett Creek Co-Housing Session will be held at 7pm at 900 N. Ctr. For details call 612-588-9532 or see www.bassettcreek.org.


The City of Minneapolis is seeking development funding proposals for the 2018 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. ESG program funds may be used to renovate, rehabilitate and construct buildings for use as emergency shelters for people who are homeless. There is approximately $400,000 available and proposals must be submitted by 5/15. For RFP materials available online: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/2990 or set up an appointment by calling 612-335-5924 or email contactus@hsrc.org.

5/10 – The monthly meeting of the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (RRRC) will be held at 7pm at 3600 Oleary St N. RRRC Funds are available for a project or event you want to create. For more information call 612-335-5924 or email contactus@rrrc.org.

5/15 – The Capri Glee! Adult Community Choir will perform at The Capri Theatre (2027 West Broadway) at 7pm. Capri Glee! members come together from all walks of life and with varying degrees of musical experience (from none to much) to sing great music and make good friends. Singers often gather for fun and good conversation after rehearsals – coordinated by the choir’s enthusiastic Directors of Singers.

5/19 – Camp Capri, 10am-2pm, for middle school-age students. Guest artist to be announced. Free. Lunch is served. Register in advance: www.thecapritheater.org or 612-643-2058. Enrollment is limited to the first 25 registered students. More information: www.thecapritheater.org or 612-643-2054.

5/26 – On Screen for Families: Coco. 2-4pm. Enjoy this family-friendly movie on the big screen together! We’ll also have supplies to make your own Coco-inspired rubber band guitar. Sponsored: Friends of the Webber Park Library. Funded by Minnesotta’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Held at the Webber Park Library (4440 Humboldt Ave N).

The Minneapolis & Saint Paul 2040 Plan is seeking community members 18 years and older to participate in a community engagement "mapping tool." Visit http://www.minneapolis.gov/2040/mapping tool.

Too all are welcome.

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).

EDUCATION
As the cost of college grows, research shows that so does the number of hungry and homeless students at colleges and universities across the country. Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless is offering ten $2,000 scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year to Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) students who are currently homeless or have experienced homelessness in the past two years. Funds can be used for education or living expenses. For more information please contact Ed Murphy at 612-338-5577 or emurphy@oyah.org.

Tuesdays – Free in-person and online tutoring for K-12 students at the Webber Park Library (4400 Humboldt Ave N), begins Feb. 13, 4:30pm - 7:30pm. No advance sign-up needed. For more information, see www.hclib.org/homework. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library. The last session is May 22.

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

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

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday – Homewood Studios (2400 Plymouth Ave) offers a tai chi class from 9am - 10:30am.  

Monday – Teen Geeksry Club at Sumner Library (611 Van White Memorial Blvd). Watch anime, share your artwork and discuss your favorite fandoms. 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

Sunday – North Methodist Church (4350 Fremont Ave N) will have its annual Salud Luncheon beginning at 12pm. Entertainment, the Mexican Folklorico will follow at 1pm. 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.

Sunday – 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.

Monday – The Capri Glee! Adult Community Choir will perform at The Capri Theatre (2027 West Broadway) at 7pm. Capri Glee! members come together from all walks of life and with varying degrees of musical experience (from none to much) to sing great music and make good friends. Singer often gather for fun and good conversation after rehearsals – coordinated by the choir’s enthusiastic Directors of Singers.

NORTHNOTICES

This draft plan is the result of extensive outreach efforts and community engagement. The Minneapolis 2040 Plan is not a replacement for current land-use plans or zoning. The Minneapolis 2040 Plan is a comprehensive plan that seeks to address issues such as climate change, social equity, and economic development.

For more information, please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/2040. To provide feedback on the draft plan, visit the public review and feedback website at https://www.minneapolismn.gov/2040.
NORTHnotices

Customers with Cold Weather Rule (CWR) payment plans should take steps to avoid having large unpaid balances become due or their natural gas service disconnected 10/15 through 4/15. All customers with CWR payment plans should contact CenterPoint Energy prior to 4/15 and set up a new payment plan to ensure continuation of service.

With spring approaching, Public Works crews are gearing up to start the City’s comprehensive street sweeping program to clear away the grime from winter. The City has scheduled Tuesday, 4/24, for the first day of sweeping. Drivers should watch for temporary “No Parking” signs to avoid a ticket and tow. Starting April 24 for approximately four weeks, sweeping crews will take care of more than 1,000 miles of city streets in addition to sweeping 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. Residents, workers and visitors have a number of ways to find out more about street sweeping: no parking signs, phone calls to residents, an interactive web tool (http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping), and multi-lingual video (http://www.youtube.com/cityofminneapolis). Residents should not push leaves, grass clippings, or anything else into City streets. It’s bad for our lakes and waterways, and it’s against the law. Anything that goes down a storm drain flows directly into our lakes, creeks and river, and decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic plants and algae.

A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this spring. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Translation and interpreting services are available upon request to ensure all residents have the ability to participate. People can apply through the open position pages linked below and stay up to date on vacancies, position descriptions and timelines by visiting minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings. The positions are open until filled. There are 99 open positions on 15 City boards and commissions:

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 tenants; 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.

The City of Minneapolis can help renters who want smoke-free housing, and it can help property owners make their buildings smoke-free. For smoke-free rental housing help, renters and property owners and managers can call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/smokefree.

Sidewalks are a critical part of Minneapolis’ transportation system and they should be open for everyone. With the snow season upon us, here’s a refresher on the City’s snow clearing rules: Minneapolis ordinance requires property owners of houses and duplexes to clear sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall, and all other property owners must clear their sidewalks within four daytime hours. People should call 311 to report unshoveled sidewalks and learn more about resources available to people who may need help clearing their sidewalks.

The City Council has approved the creation of a new division in the City Coordinator’s Office to help drive the City’s work to reduce and eliminate racial inequities throughout government. The Division of Race and Equity will include staff of the City’s equity team who will engage with City departments to set goals and expectations around race equity, assist in accelerating the City’s efforts and progress around racial equity goals and create accountability.

The Minneapolis City Council approved two ordinances to support programs that will help the City accelerate toward its energy and climate change goals. One ordinance for gas and one for electricity raises the franchise fees by half a percentage point – about 59 cents monthly for the average household. The rate increase will take effect in the spring.

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 Veterans Affairs Homeless Veteran Registry.

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 1/1/2018. Small businesses with 100 or fewer employees will be required to pay workers at least $10.25 beginning 7/1/2018. Large businesses have until 7/1/2022 to reach a minimum wage of $15 an hour and small businesses have until 7/1/2024 to reach $15 an hour.

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

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

The City Council has authorized the City Attorney to recover monetary damages incurred by the City in any lawsuit that have filed similar lawsuits against drug makers to help recoup costs associated with fighting the opioid epidemic.

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 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.minneapolismn.gov, features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources to help both new and existing businesses.

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/spaces

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 grantors. 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 grantors will have the same application deadline: May 1. For a property or project located within the City of Minneapolis, the City must be the “official” applicant, and 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.)

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DeAnna Cummings graduated at the bottom of her class at South High. Her husband Roger didn’t finish high school until he got his GED in his 20s, but their lack of resonance with traditional education hasn’t stopped them from becoming nationally recognized for their ability to train teens to be successful in life through the arts.

Now two decades and two Harvard fellowships later, the co-founders of Juxtaposition Arts lead the organization’s four social enterprises, which instill entrepreneurial skills in young people while teaching them graphic design, screenprinting and fashion design, environmental design, and contemporary art and public art.

In April they spoke with North News about their lifelong commitment to teaching teens to know their worth and reach their potential, and their plans for JXTA’s campus expansion on West Broadway, which has seen millions of dollars in investments since they moved to the corridor.

Story by Kenzie O’Keefe  
Photos by David Pierini  
Design by D’Angelo Raymond
So you decided to build an art plaza. Tell us about that.
Roger: We’re calling it a skate-able art park. There are more young people in this general area than any other place in the state. There should be amenities for young people, and I believe this is one of those things. There will be illuminated benches and sculptural elements and places that are friendly to skate. We want to key in on the assets of North Minneapolis – youth, energy, movement, and things like that.

"The plaza will be a place to gather, a bright and active landmark that shows off what JXTA is about: youth, art, activity, and engagement." - NIKO KUBOTA-ARMIN, JXTA INSTRUCTOR

The art plaza will be a temporary structure, right? How does it fit into your long-term master plan? DeAnna: I think of it as semi-permanent. The lot will be cleared with sod by the end of the month. It’ll be a field. By FLOW this July, the pop up park will be in place. By FLOW 2019, a more permanent, semi-permanent park plaza will be installed. That’ll be in place for at least three years, and we can see elements of the art plaza remaining beyond.

How can the community learn more and support you in this next step? DeAnna: Come to our open house on May 31st, 2:30-4:30pm at 1108 W Broadway Ave. We’re going to make the biggest announcement in the history of the organization, and we want to share it with you.

Roger: You can support us by hiring our young people to do their logos, graphic design, and environmental design work.

JXTA teaches artistic skills, but there’s also a practical, entrepreneurial element to what you do. You’re teaching young artists how to make a living doing art. Why is that a focus? Roger: DeAnna and I each got fellowships at Harvard in 2008. That’s when we began to be less about the 20th century MFA or BFA artist who is in their studio and more about the expanded practice of artistic production for the 21st century artist who impacts people across the street and down the block. Now it’s like “how can we break bread and create opportunity for other people and bring people along so everybody eats?” That’s important to us. We employ 70 youth annually plus 22 working artists. Young people are learning college level stuff and getting contracts to do work that professional firms are doing. At Harvard we learned about the tipping point in families’ economies. We structure our wages so young people can make a real difference in their households. That’s independent livelihood. That’s what’s America is based on. We have a lot of potential with the 3Ms, Cargills, General Millises, and Targets where young people can be pipelined into longer careers with 401Ks and things like that.

You’re also focused on teaching young people general skills that contribute to lifelong success. Who are some of your program alums who embody these teachings?

DeAnna: Ward 5 Council Member Jeremiah Ellison. Ben Janssens who owns Sign Minds. Houston White of HWMR. Davu Seru, a professor at Hamline. Drew Peterson who works here at JXTA and has a thriving and growing practice as a contemporary artist. Kelsey Lee Carol who does jewel making. Herbert Johnson, an actor and dancer. They are all making their ways in the creative world, but we also have alumni who are teachers, nurses, and EMTs. Our goal isn’t that every young person that is part of our programming goes on to be a famous artist somewhere. We want kids to leave here with tools to go where they are trying to go in life. The skills that kids get through their involvement in the arts translate like nothing else. It’s amazing to remember where they were at when they started at JXTA and where they are when they leave here. The level of belief in their ability to do anything is amazing; it’s beautiful, and it’s why we do the work.

Why have you made your home on West Broadway and why do you continue to deepen your investment on this busy corridor? DeAnna: This is the heart and soul of the African American community and is one of the most diverse communities in Minneapolis. This is the community where we were created to be a part of and we’ve never considered leaving. North Minneapolis has an abundant population of young people and kids of color that are still in some ways not fully recognized as the community assets that they really are. When we started we didn’t have a vision that was ten years out, we were just doing a program because there weren’t programs. We were teaching art as a way to monetize your worth and production. Being on Broadway made perfect sense.

"The park will showcase new public art in the form of murals and mosaics and will include several planting areas and rainwater gardens." - SAMUEL BABATUNDE ERO-PHILLIPS, JXTA ENVIRO LAB LEAD
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