Tommy Vazquez takes a swig of La Doña Cervecería's brown ale.

The Northside's newest brewery is bringing Latinx culture to Harrison neighborhood. Page 10

ALSO INSIDE

The future of Wirth Co-op remains uncertain Page 4

WCNO struggles with board departures and community criticism Page 5

Estes Funeral Chapel enters a new era Page 22
Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the November edition of North News.

This past month’s work stretched our team to new heights, and we’re excited to share the fruits of that labor with you. Our journalism students at North High completed their first stories (see Page 10). Both Cirien Saadeh, our small business and education reporter, and I worked on three different pieces that required all the staple activities of investigative reporting: data requests, late nights reviewing piles of documents, and stakeouts to catch hard-to-reach sources. We found out why Wirth Co-Op is still closed (Page 4). We explored rumors of wrongdoing at the Webber Camden Neighborhood Organization (Page 5). We looked at crime data to figure out whether or not community concerns about FreedomWorks, a nonprofit that serves folks leaving prison, are supported by the stats (Page 8).

Two of our veteran youth reporters took on new leadership roles in the community this month. As I write this letter, Pillsbury United Communities (which owns North News) is preparing for its annual fundraiser, which will have been held by the time this newspaper prints on Oct. 23. Renowned community journalist and activist Shaun King is the keynote speaker at the event, and he’ll have been introduced by North News intern Daija Triplett, who wrote this month’s “Neighbors” piece on Page 22.

Daija is the type of intern every organization dreams of: bright, devoted, and curious. She began working for the paper in Summer 2016. She came to us through Step-Up and has stuck around ever since, building her skills. In her short tenure with the newspaper, she has interviewed a slew of influential city leaders, including Minneapolis Public Schools’ Superintendent Ed Graff and family members of Jamar Clark and Thurman Blevins. Her work has been published not only in North News, but also in Pollen Midwest’s Unbound series as well as the Northeaster newspaper. She’s a freshman at MCTC, studying communications. She has always worked at least 1-2 other jobs besides North News, where she currently works ten hours a week.

“You don’t have to be a journalist to be engaged in this program but it surely turned me into one because I got to see firsthand what journalists get to do all day and how they can connect to their communities through the type of work they do. I fell in love with becoming that journalist [through North News],” Triplett plans to tell the crowd on Oct. 23.

The day this paper prints, Myesha Powell, another one of our veteran youth reporters (and Trauma Troopers) has a photography show opening at the Kennedy Building in Northeast Minneapolis (there’s a North @ a glance blurb about this on Page 3). Our Trauma Troopers (who produced last month’s cover story) will be at the opening night party to discuss their work with anyone who is interested. Lately, the North News and PUC teams have been asking community members “what would media look like in your wildest dreams?” in preparation for the fundraiser, 2019, and beyond. In my wildest dreams, the future of media looks like Daija and Myesha.

Thank you for supporting our work,

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Irene Fernando for County Commissioner! Irene’s background along with her authentic and accessible approach sets her apart from the other candidates. I have been impressed with Irene since we met over ten years ago. Irene was co-leading Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow, an organization that she helped to launch. She was not only leading in a significant way at a young age; she was creating opportunities for young people to be seen, to be engaged, and to be informed. Irene has the experience, and she has demonstrated her commitment to creating inclusive spaces for all people to be seen and heard.

I trust that Irene will study the issues and do the work that is required. I know that she has the courage to address barriers and behaviors that need to be challenged, and I am certain that she will listen to our community and bring our voices into decisions.

We are at a critical time, and we need leaders with integrity and those who lead for and with our community. That is why I am casting my vote for Irene Fernando on November 6th!

Chanda Smith Baker, Homewood Resident

Dear Editor,

I met Blong when he ran for Minneapolis City Council. From the very beginning, I was impressed by his work ethic and his sincere desire and commitment to serve everyone in the community. Blong supported North High School in those early years and often fed the student athletes.

Blong is analytical and very direct which is something I appreciated in the Army but find rare in politicians. His honesty and candor are refreshing.

Blong showed great integrity by making the hard right decisions over the easy wrong decisions while serving his community.

I support Blong for Hennepin County Commissioner because of his work ethic, his honesty and his integrity. Blong is hard working and committed 24/7 public servant who will make the hard, right decisions over the easy wrong decision for our district. I encourage you to vote for Blong Yang for Hennepin County Commissioner in District 2 on November 6th.

Lisa Neal Delgado, Near North Resident

North News welcomes letters to the editor. Please send to kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org or to North News, 125 W Broadway Suite 130, Minneapolis, MN 55411. They must be signed, under 300 words, and relevant to life in North Minneapolis.
North Minneapolis at a glance

Awesome Foundation has hit 20K in community grants

The Awesome Foundation has been giving out $1000 grants since 2016 to community members who create projects that helps make North Minneapolis better. They have now given out $20,000 in grants, funding 20 different community projects. Usually around 20 Northsiders come up with resources to give away these monthly grants, but they are looking for more members. If you would like to get involved contact Ariah Fine or visit their website northsideawesome.org.

Litin’s Party Value moves North

Litin’s Party Value has moved from 434 Lakeside Ave., Minneapolis to the Northside. Their new party supply warehouse and store is at 913 Plymouth Ave N. Litin’s has been around since the 1960s. Aside from party goods, you can find items for bulk catering, as well as shipping and printing. Litin’s Party Value is owned by Ned Litin. It was owned by his father before him. The store is open Mondays-Fridays from 8am-7pm, Saturdays from 9am-4pm, and Sundays 10am-4pm. They also offer online ordering. For more information, visit www.partyvalue.com.

Great Northern Greenway planned

A Great Northern Greenway River Link is being planned for Fall 2019. The project is the result of a partnership between the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation. The river link is located at the end of the east end of the 26th Ave N bike and pedestrian trail. According to the project website the project will open up the Mississippi River to Northsiders and rivergoers. MPRB voted on a design team, which will be led by TEN x TEN Landscape Architecture with 4RM + ULA Architecture, during its Oct. 3 meeting.

MPRB extends interim superintendent contract

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) has extended its contract with interim Superintendent Mary Merrill through the end of 2018. The announcement was made during MPRB’s Oct. 3 meeting. MPRB’s superintendent search is ongoing. According to MPRB, over 20 community engagement sessions have already occurred, as well as a nationwide search. A list of finalists from that search will be shared soon.

Students see Hamilton

High school students from North High and several other Twin Cities schools saw the musical Hamilton on October 4, at the Orpheum Theatre downtown Minneapolis. Aspiring actor and North High senior Eddie Beamon was impressed with the performers lung-power and endurance during the three hour show. Seeing Hamilton made him think about fighting—“knowing when to back out of a fight but at the same time you should stand for what you believe in because nobody else will. … It’s like a teeter totter.” The opportunity was made possible by “EduHam,” an initiative that uses the musical “to teach academic skills,” according to MPR. Locally, it was in part organized by nonprofit Project Success. “I knew [Hamilton] was going to be great, but I didn’t know it was going to be that great,” said Beamon.

Read more student news on Page 14.

Our Truth Through Our Eyes

Two youth photo journalists, Myesha Powell and Yash Mangalick, present “Our Truth Through Our Eyes,” a photo-voice exhibition in collaboration with the City of Minneapolis and North Minneapolis-based nonprofit Art Is My Weapon. The show explores real stories of trauma through photography. It runs October 23-29 at The Kennedy Artist Lofts, 2303 Kennedy St. NE, Suite 410.

Minnesota Art Car Rally parades through North

A parade of art cars making the rounds in the Twin Cities on Saturday, Oct. 6 did a pass down Victory Drive in North Minneapolis and broke for lunch at North Market. A small gathering of the curious ready to marvel at the rolling creations were in the North Market parking lot when the cars arrived. Here, The Lipstick Car, driven by Samantha Rose, had a passenger, Majentah Aquarious, that preferred to ride the bumper. See more photos from the rally by David Pierini on Page 8.

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Wirth Co-op is still closed; its future is unclear

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

If you stop by Wirth Co-op, chips and salsa, baking ingredients, and soda still line the shelves. The doors and shelves are covered in a thick layer of dust, but a sign in the window still says that all are welcome. The hours on the door are still listed. But the doors are locked and they have been for the past six months.

In April, Wirth Co-op abruptly announced that it would be temporarily closed due to Penn Ave construction and as an opportunity to provide advanced training for staff members. But, on the back end, decisions were being made about the future of the grocery store, which opened Oct. 2017 after a decade of community organizing and planning.

In the ten years of planning and dreaming, the Twin Cities grocery business underwent massive changes, as did the Northside. And at the same time as all of that was happening, there were internal challenges that forced the co-op to temporarily shut its doors: the co-op was having trouble finding its way, finances were a mess, it was draining money due to poor management, sales projections were way off, and some members were feeling lost in the shuffle and not spending their dollars at the co-op.

Wirth Co-op could not be reached for comment for this story. The phone line has been disconnected and emails were sent back as “undeliverable.” Efforts to reach the most board members, and co-op staff, were also unsuccessful.

Kristel Porter, Executive Director of the Cleveland Neighborhood Association (CNA), is a longtime member of the co-op. She served on its board and as a member of two different hiring committees, including the committee which interviewed former General Manager Winston Bell. She worked for the co-op part-time doing marketing, until they could not pay her anymore in early 2018.

Though Porter has no longer held an official role with the co-op, the co-op’s board chair asked her to come back to the organization and consult on accounting, filing, and financing, as Porter had experience doing so through her role with the CNA. According to Porter, the Board wanted her to step in and ensure that the co-op’s accounting was happening correctly. Porter, alongside Snow Aukema, the co-op’s Assistant Manager at that time, were horrified by what they found. Eventually Bell was let go and Aukema was made General Manager in order to try and get the business back on track.

“When me and Snow got done looking over everything, we were completely appalled over everything that was happening, so we brought it to the board immediately. We said that Bell had basically almost drained the bank account, and we recommended that he be let go,” said Porter. “What hurts me is this was going on for six months, and it should have been caught. I don’t know who was responsible for this. Co-ops should have checks and balances. Is everyone responsible? Maybe. We ended up almost losing something that could have been amazing.”

According to Porter, the co-op’s finances were a mess. Filing was not occurring or was not occurring correctly. The accountant was not getting the full picture. Bell was double purchasing products accidentally and intentionally. Bell could not be reached for comment.

“Our Finance Committee Chair John Flory was working with Winston around management issues. The whole board was demanding reports and information,” said Porter. Still, these were only some of the only problems facing the co-op. According to Porter and Devean George, landlord for the co-op’s building, Wirth Co-op’s Board of Directors were also paying back bank loans at a rate that the store’s sales could not meet. According to Porter, the store’s sales projections were $100,000 a month, while the store’s actual sales rarely topped $30,000 a month.

“What hurts me is that this was going on for six months, and it should have been caught.”

Kristel Porter

According to Caprini, members were not doing a decent job of supporting the co-op and, at the same time, the co-op was not serving the communities Caprini and others hoped it would serve.

“We needed the members to show up, and they weren’t,” said Caprini.

Aukema left Wirth Co-op in May when the co-op’s hiatus extended past the few weeks originally projected. Aukema currently works for another grocery business and has sixteen years experience in the field.

“The entire grocery climate is changing. By the time Wirth Co-op had opened, it was facing challenges that the entire field is facing. It’s an impossible feat,” said Aukema, “We all tried everything we could to make it work.”

Despite the challenges, it may not be the end for Wirth Co-op. When the co-op announced its temporary hiatus, they committed to working with the Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON), a Northside economic development agency and small business incubator. Attempts to reach NEON were largely unsuccessful, but NEON Business Advisor D’Wayne Morris did note that NEON has made recommendations to the co-op’s board, which he believes have been taken to the co-op’s financial investors. According to Caprini, NEON has also done research into other grocery store models that Wirth Co-op can model it-

Continued on Page 9
WCNO heads for annual meeting amidst major dysfunction

A slew of Webber Camden Neighborhood Organization board members have resigned in recent months. A vocal group of community members say the organization lacks transparency, inclusivity, and effectiveness.

Kenzie O'Keefe | Editor

The future of Webber Camden Neighborhood Organization (WCNO) is uncertain.

Following WCNO’s August board meeting, where police were called to deal with disruption, several board members resigned. In the following weeks, more departures brought the total number of board members down to four—a violation of the organization’s bylaws, putting it out of compliance with the City of Minneapolis’ Community Participation Program (CPP) and making it too small to be recognized as an official neighborhood organization.

Though the situation was resolved relatively quickly (with a board vote on Oct. 4 to bring in new members), it caused the City to initiate a financial and structural review of the organization.

In Minneapolis, neighborhood organizations are independent nonprofits, supported by the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department. “We’ve been watching this. We’ve been concerned with a lot of how this has been playing out,” said NCR Director David Rubedor.

The drama led WCNO Executive Director Roberta Englund to announce her resignation after more than 20 years on the job. She says she’ll leave her position at the end of 2018. “I’ve had enough. I’m tired of it,” she told North News in September.

The final years of her tenure have been tumultuous. For years she led both the Folwell Neighborhood Association (FNA) and WCNO out of the same office at 1206 37th Ave. N. Last year, she and several longtime board members resigned from their positions at FNA following acrimonious accusations from community members that Englund abused her power and that the board was acting out of compliance with its bylaws.

WCNO’s August board meeting marked the beginning of a similar process in Webber Camden. Concerned community members began showing up to board meetings to voice their issues with the organization: its treasurer was pleading guilty to a charge of malicious punishment of a child; its community engagement efforts felt out of touch and un-inclusive to many in the neighborhood, and the environment Englund created inside the office and at meetings was seen by some to be hostile, demeaning, and lacking in transparency.

“WCNO is predictably imploding,” said Folwell resident Carolyn Bastick who has followed both the FNA and WCNO situations closely.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

When board chair Linda Koelman resigned in late August, then-Vice Chair Kevin Aldwaik says he became the new board chair by default. The rest of the current WCNO board and Englund contest his claims of leadership, saying the organization currently has no board chair. Rubedor says the city recognizes him as the board chair.

Aldwaik, who doesn’t live in North Minneapolis but owns Webber Mart convenience store on 44th Ave N, says his new role has enabled him to put pressure on the organization to better serve the neighborhood. On September 10, he emailed a list of requests to WCNO board members and Englund, asking for full access to WCNO’s online accounts and social media pages, staff member job descriptions, a fully updated set of bylaws, disclosure of assets and liabilities, contact information for block club leaders, and access to online banking records.

He says he had previously requested that information and been repeatedly brushed off and ignored by Englund. “Neighborhood organizations are very important. Ours sadly hasn’t been functioning for a very long time,” he said.

Aldwaik says he is particularly concerned with the organization’s financial activities. “We’re one of the wealthiest organizations around and the least effective. We don’t spend our money on anything but payroll and the office,” he said. “I hope to god we don’t have embezzlement, and I don’t think we do, but we have mismanagement big time.” He points to WCNO bank statements that show transfers to Englund’s personal account as evidence of misconduct. Englund says these are payroll transfers (of roughly $1400 twice per month) and reimbursements for modest organizational expenses. She says the board has never asked her to handle things differently.

Board member Houston White says there isn’t malicious financial wrongdoing happening at WCNO. He points to a recent audit of the FNA under Englund’s leadership as evidence. “There was probably some bad accounting, some bad bookkeeping, but nothing malicious, criminal, or mischievous was discovered in any of that,” he said.

Englund says that while the upcoming city-led audit of WCNO will likely reveal some sloppy errors, like unreimbursed expenses, there will be no “findings of a criminal nature.”

“If I had my way I would obliterate the existence of Facebook. I abhor it. It does an enormous amount of damage. Because it is unfettered, there is no reasonable discussion.”

Roberta Englund

ENGLUND’S PRESENCE

For years community members have complained about Englund’s temperament. “She has a very strong personality and thinks she can do whatever she wants,” Aldwaik said.

“All of us get abuse from her.”

“Roberta needs to go now … [the board doesn’t] have to accept the ED’s stated last day of employment. She is the problem. If they don’t remove her as ED, they can’t do anything,” said Bastick.

Englund defends her leadership style, saying it comes from a place of fierce devotion and protectiveness for the neighborhood. “If you are working with me and you don’t come with good intentions, for the benefit of the organization or the community, I generally identify that,” she said. She says those who view her role as a “position of power” misunderstand the situation. She characterizes her job as “one of service,” saying, “They don’t understand…how much work it is.”

White agrees that “there have to be some tonal changes,” but he doesn’t see Englund’s exit as the solution. “Our problems are not going to be solved if Roberta is not around. We have an example: FNA. That is not the answer,” he said.

Rubedor says that concerns of “management override” were identified in the recently-completed FNA audit. “Management override” were identified in the recently-completed FNA audit. “Management...
Stories Foundation looks to buy Emily's F&M Cafe

Cirien Saddeh • Staff Reporter

A viral Facebook video made the rounds around North Minneapolis recently. The subject: the sale of Emily’s F & M Cafe.

According to Emily Benincasa, who purchased the cafe in the 1980s, a purchasing agreement has been signed with the Stories Foundation, but the sale has not been finalized yet. The building’s selling price is $400,000, negotiated down from $500,000.

“I don’t want to speak on this until the deal is finalized,” said Benincasa, “I do need this to happen. I’m too old. I’m 78. My husband (Elliott Sr.) is 81. We work seven days a week.”

The Stories Foundation is a non-profit which seeks to bring awareness and educate people around the problem of human trafficking in Minnesota and beyond. According to Executive Director Stephanie Page, their goal is to turn Emily’s F & M into Stories Cafe. The Stories Foundation already has one food venture, the Freedom Truck, a food truck that the foundation calls a “cause on wheels.”

The video announcing the potential purchase of Emily’s F & M appeared live on Facebook early afternoon on Oct. 8. It was quickly shared around through community groups launching a conversation around the future of Emily’s, as community members shared both their memories of the space and their thoughts on its future. As part of the video, Page also launched a fundraising campaign meant to raise funds for the down payment and additional building costs.

Page hopes to raise $50,000 through community fundraising: $800/day throughout October, $20,000 through a Nov. 1 fundraising event, and $10,000 from Nov. 2-Nov. 15. Page’s goal is to raise the down payment needed to secure the loan and as much more as possible to decrease the monthly mortgage.

“When you have a family that has run this place like it has, this is so positive, such a wonderful thing to do,” said Anna Donato-Ghani, the Benincasa’s niece, “People need to calm down and understand that this will get our youth off the street and onto a better path in life. Still, you can’t take away 36 years of Emily, 9 years of Gus, and 25 years of Florence and Millie; we want the Stories Foundation to understand that and marry that to their work.”

The Stories Cafe has been a longtime goal of the foundation, long before the sale of Emily’s came into the picture. According to their website, the cafe is meant to be a community gathering place. As part of this, the foundation is partnering with The Link with the goal of hiring 3-4 young interns to staff the cafe, who either experienced sex trafficking or are considered vulnerable to human trafficking. The potential sale has also gotten the attention of the local neighboring association.

If the purchase goes through, the restaurant would be closed temporarily for some construction, though Page hopes to have it reopened by mid-January 2019. Page is not yet sure whether the cafe would remain a sit-down cafe or become a more casual restaurant. She does hope to partition off the back in order to create a community meeting room and she does have plans to sell fair trade and locally sourced food and merchandise.

On Nov. 1, the Stories Foundation will be holding a fundraiser and information night at the GracePoint Church in New Brighton, MN. The event, which includes dinner, programming, and merchandise sales, will be held from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Tickets are $20. Page hopes to raise $20,000 for the down payment through the event. While the organization does partner with faith-based communities, the foundation is not itself a faith-based organization.

Human trafficking is $150 billion global industry, which include sex trafficking and labor trafficking. According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota is one of 13 US Cities with particularly high incidences of child prostitution and in 2015 had the third highest number of human trafficking cases.

Emily’s is open 7 days a week from 7am-2pm. And if you’re wondering what the F & M stand for, it’s for “Florence and Millie,” who were sisters and the original cafe owners when it opened (under a different name) in the late 1940s.

“I’ve eaten at Emily’s multiple times. What a legacy she has. She’s been such an anchor in the community. Our whole thing at the foundation is stories, so we know that her legacy and story will be part of the story at The Stories Cafe. It’s going to be a transition and there will be grieving, but we’ll still have good food and we’ll still be a welcoming space,” said Page.

As for what Emily plans to do if the sale goes through, “I have no idea yet. But I’m going to enjoy my family, my children and my grandchildren,” she said.

Catch up with our Council Member

WARD 4: Phillipe Cunningham

Mayor Jacob Frey has presented his recommended 2019 City budget to City leaders – a budget that includes a significant increase in funding for affordable housing programs. The City Council will review the recommended $1.55 billion budget, hold a series of budget presentations in September and October, and vote on adopting a budget Dec. 5. The Board of Estimate and Taxation held a public hearing to set the maximum property tax levy on September 12th. The recommended budget includes a 5.63 percent tax levy increase. The City’s revenues come from a variety of sources with property taxes accounting for about 23 percent of the budget. The City’s tax base has increased by more than 10 percent between 2018 and 2019 and the proposed levy increase is less than 6 percent, resulting in the overall tax rate going down.

A few highlights of the mayor’s proposed budget include:

$40 million in City funding for affordable housing programs, including $21.6 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

A $660,000 investment in the Group Violence Intervention program led by the Health Department, which brings law enforcement and social service providers together with youths to help find a positive path away from gun violence.

$350,000 toward ensuring an accurate count for the 2020 Census.

$500,000 for Village Trust, the state’s only black-owned cooperative and community development institution in Minnesota.

$4.4 million to repair defective or hazardous sidewalks.

Visit the City’s budget website to review the 2019 recommended budget, learn about key dates in the approval process and to watch a video about how you can provide feedback on the proposed budget. Starting next week, I will also be sending out weekly updates by email and social media via Facebook with how the budget supports the strategic goals that we as a community set together for the 4th Ward back in early Spring.
Educator Spotlight: Sherrill Lindsey, Principal at Elizabeth Hall IB International School

By Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

Principal Sherrill Lindsey joined the Elizabeth Hall community just a few months ago on July 31, but she comes well recommended by peers who praise her commitment to equity and a diversity of school voices. Lindsey has been an educator for 27 years, but this is her first time teaching in the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) district and her first as a school principal. Prior to joining MPS, Lindsey had a number of positions in Brooklyn Center (where she served as an Assistant Principal for three years), Robbinsdale, Osseo, and Bloomington.

Why teach and what do you teach? I wanted to do something every day that would make me feel like I made a difference. My dad is an engineer and he had the same position his whole life and I would think “how boring,” but it was what certain generations did. For me, I wanted to explore different parts of teaching. I started out as a classroom teacher, but in Bloomington where I worked as a Youth and Family Coordinator, I really fell in love with communities where there is a need, doing home visits, doing things in community. I’ve also served as a community education coordinator, as a special education trainer, and intervention specialist. It’s been a weird trajectory of wanting to try different things that sort of meet up with my passion. I think, maybe over a decade ago, it crystallized for me. For me, it’s about making a difference and helping people navigate difference. That’s why I like being in roles outside of the classroom. We’re in a state where the racial achievement gap is greater than almost any other place in the country. I’ve wanted to engage folks in those discussions and those practices of dismantling those inequities.

What do you love about Hall? Kids and parents, no doubt. But also the staff. When I interviewed for this position, I was able to ask them what they loved most about Hall. Every single person spoke up and wanted to answer. Every person wanted to be here and loves being here. Each person loves the challenge, the complexity, and the beautiful brilliance of these children. It’s just an amazing community, a very small school in comparison to what I’m used to.

What is your teaching philosophy? Whether its teaching children that show up differently or parents that show up differently, in a way that is unfamiliar with staff, I want to help us understand how do we leverage difference as a form of prosperity rather than as a form of adversity. All students are whole beings and that is how they need to be approached.

North News launched this 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, email North News at ciriens@pillsburyunited.org. Please provide contact information for the person you recommend.

School is well underway which means that October has been a packed month for the Minneapolis Public Schools. MPS has released their 2018-2019 Budget Book. The book can be found on the district’s website and includes letters from senior administrators, a nearly 50-page executive summary on the state of the district, a 65-page organizational breakdown, a 100-page financial breakdown, and a nearly 160-page informational section. The Budget Book is the district’s attempt to make their complex budget “accessible and understandable.”

Patrice Howard, Director of Community Schools and Family Engagement for the Brooklyn Center Public Schools, will be joining MPS as the Executive Director of Community Education in Nov. 2018, though an announcement has not yet been officially made.

Superintendent Ed Graff recently underwent a job review for his second year with MPS. Board members discussed Graff’s review during the Oct. 9 meeting and congratulated him for meeting expectations on his top five priorities: literacy, equity, socio-emotional learning, accountability, and support services for students. Graff’s current contract expires next year. Outside of those areas the Board has urged more action around transportation and the district’s finances.

The district is continuing to organize around two referendum questions for the 2018 General Election: one would increase the amount of tax revenue MPS receives Minneapolis residents and the other would fund a technological levy for MPS. Read more on Page 12.

The MPS Board business meeting is scheduled for Nov. 13 from 5:30pm-8pm at the Davis Center (1250 West Broadway Ave). Committee of the Whole will be held on Nov. 27 from 6pm-8pm at the Davis Center. There will not be any school for MPS students on Nov. 1-2 or Nov. 21-23.
Nonprofit supporting ex-offenders meets community backlash

Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

FreedomWorks Reentry and Aftercare, a faith-based nonprofit which offers housing, mentorship, and job training to formerly incarcerated men, is moving from their current location at 3559 Penn Ave N to the St. Olaf Campus at 2900 Emerson Ave N. They have plans for a small expansion, though that decision has not been well received by some who worry that the nonprofit will bring increased levels of crime to the community.

Community members discussed the move, and their fears, on social media. Some asked “why North Minneapolis?” Others wanted to see the former nursing home converted to a senior living center or homeless shelter and many were frustrated that the community did not seem to have a say in the nonprofit’s move. Many also wondered why North Minneapolis was serving as a “dumping ground,” though no explanation is provided for that term. Others worried that the new location is close to Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School.

One Northsider said on a post announcing an open house hosted by the nonprofit on Oct. 18, “It seems we are stuck with them, might as well see what’s going on. I know I’d rather see and hear for myself what kind of program they got going and what kind of convicts can we expect to be living in our community.”

Community feedback has pushed the Minneapolis Planning Commission to postpone granting FreedomWorks the conditional use permit the nonprofit needs to move, even as the they continues to gut and renovate their new property.

According to FreedomWorks Executive Director George Lang, community fears do not reflect reality.

“When I look at the value FreedomWorks brings, we run a tight ship. We’re not committing crimes here in North Minneapolis. That has to have some value,” said Lang. FreedomWorks accepts formerly incarcerated Christian men of all backgrounds. They do not accept registered sex offenders, another community concern.

FreedomWorks moved to North Minneapolis from Wayzata in 2003. North News requested data from the Minneapolis Police Department related to any calls made to or about the property for the past five years. 16 calls have been made, in total, over that time, most of them by the property. This is echoed by Roberta Englund, Executive Director of the Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization (WCNO), who commented on social media discussions that the 3995 property has never been a concern. The former property is located in Hawthorne and not Webber-Camden.

“The facility at 36th and Penn has not been a problem. The few incidents related to Freedom House that were specific to their residents were dealt with promptly, and there have been very few,” said Englund.

FreedomWorks provides a four-step process for formerly incarcerated men leaving prison. The first step is the credibility phase. During this phase residents need to complete 40 action steps in 40 days. These are meant to be measurable to-do’s that help the individual settle into post-prison life. The second step is the core of the program as the men are provided with mentors, attend Bible Study, and continue to establish themselves. The third phase is goal-setting for whatever their next steps may be. The fourth phase is graduation and life after the structured FreedomWorks opportunity.

“Post-prison my directional compass was all screwed up. This place required me to be true to myself. It allowed me to be able to grow into a truthful frame of mind, find a job, get steady. I was able to reconcile with my kids. It made me look at myself and my worth. It made me recognize my worth,” said Melvin Brooks, Resident Manager at FreedomWorks and program graduate, “For those who really want to change, here it’s possible.”

While a CUP with the City of Minneapolis does list a possible expansion to a maximum of 200 formerly incarcerated men, Lang insists that they are only considering an expansion from 15-30 over the next five years and do not have the capacity to consider expanding that much. According to Lang, the CUP was filed in such a way that if they expand again they will not need to file for a new one. The organization will also be offering affordable housing in certain campus buildings to veterans and other community members most in need of the resource, as well as graduates of their program.

FreedomWorks staff and volunteers are in the process of moving from their former residence to the new campus. They are currently gutting the St. Olaf Residence as they prepare them for new inhabitants.
override is a serious concern and may demonstrate that the board has lost control of the organization. The audit also showed there were concerns about other internal controls,” he said.

He says NCR is currently supporting the WCNO board while initiating an audit and assessing the organization for compliance with city reporting requirements. “I can’t say for sure whether or not they are in compliance right now,” he said.

DESTRUCTIVE CONVERSATION
Much of the conversation about the situation at WCNO has played out over Facebook. “If I had my way I would obliterate the existence of Facebook. I abhor it. It does an enormous amount of damage. Because it is unfettered, there is no reasonable discussion,” said Englund.

Rubedor sees harm in it too: “There’s been a lot of chatter going back and forth that can be really destructive.”

White wishes dialogue could stay respectful. “There are people who have taken an issue with Roberta and the direction of the board, and I get that. But where I’m from, when you don’t agree, you remain respectful. We have channels set up to get things accomplished without going to social media to besmirch people’s character,” he said.

WHAT’S NEXT
WCNO’s annual meeting will be held Nov. 8; eight (of 11 total) board positions will be up for election. According to an early September press release from the organization, Oct. 18 was the deadline to submit an application. White says nominations for board members can also be made from the floor. Englund says she hopes that a full board of “members that are committed to working together for the wellbeing of the WCNO and foremost for a vitality in the community” is elected on Nov. 8. She says her plan is to retire at the end of the year, unless the board asks her to stay on up to 60 days longer to assist with their transition.

Rubedor says the City will step in and provide board training after the elections: “Our goal is to have the board understand their roles and responsibilities with financial and staff management and working with all members of the community,” he said.

Aldwaik says he does not plan to seek reelection on Nov. 8. White, whose term is not up, plans to stay. “I’m committed to seeing through peaceful, positive transition, reestablishing some sanity and order, a more neighborly and less hostile tone,” he said.

Wirth continued from Page 4
self after, including The People’s Community Market.

Caprini would also like to see the co-op refocus its efforts on its immediate neighbors: the surrounding 25-block radius and residents in the apartment complex which houses the co-op.

“It should have been more like a grocery store, like the People’s Community Market in Oakland, that people will utilize and then we can grow from there,” said Caprini. The People’s Community Market is now known as the Community Food Store. The venture is a community-focused grocery store which sells shareholder credits to community members in an effort to build community health and wealth.

According to George, the co-op is an important community resource, and he doesn’t want to see it leave his building. George has worked with the co-op to set deadlines for it to get caught up on rent and to finish organizing its finances.

Porter says board elections need to take place soon. “An election has to happen. Members need to pressure the board to hold elections since one has not been held yet this year,” said Porter.

Caprini, who is running for an at large seat on the Minneapolis Public School board, will be stepping down from the Wirth board during the upcoming Wirth Co-op board elections, because of her busy schedule and other community commitments. A date will be chosen for the board meeting and announced soon. It will likely be held in November.
The City’s only “Latin influenced” brewery has officially opened

La Doña Cervecería brings soccer, salsa, and a 10,000 sq ft taproom to Harrison neighborhood.

Kenzie O’Keefe | Editor

Filled with colorful calavera murals and Spanish-speaking staff members, La Doña Cervecería stands out from the crowd of Twin Cities breweries.

For one thing, the brand new brewery is open seven days a week and late on weekends (1am). It also hosts dance nights and is home to both an art gallery and an boxed-turf outdoor soccer field.

“The first night we had a DJ here. There were people I’ve never seen in breweries before–Latin people, African American people, hipster bikers. You never see all those people in the same place,” said owner Sergio Manancero.

Manancero, whose family is Uruguayan, began envisioning his beer brand turned brewery after he returned from the Marine Corps in 2013. He started with one Mexican-style lager (Doña Chela) while he was a full-time college student at the University of Minnesota. Business quickly boomed. “We had 60 accounts in eight weeks,” he said.

Manancero attributes much of his success to filling a void. “The craft brewery scene is blowing up in Latin America and there was no representation of that here,” he said. “I wanted to infuse the craft beer culture with Latin identity.”

After looking all over the Twin Cities for possible brewery locations, the La Doña team landed at 241 Fremont Ave. N. “We had a total blank canvas that we could do whatever we wanted in,” said Manancero.

Manancero says their landlord has talked about opening a food hall next door. He hopes La Doña will attract other restaurants and bars to the area, which he describes as a “kind of a dead zone” for those types of businesses currently.

More than anything, Manancero wants La Doña to be a community gathering place. “I’m happy to put a spotlight on this part of the community and be a place where the community can come hang out,” he said. Though it officially opened on Oct. 20, the brewery has been quietly open for weeks, serving beers at the bar and hosting events. Irene Fernando, a Harrison neighborhood resident and Hennepin County Commissioner candidate for District 2, plans to host her election night watch party there.

“I want this to be a neighborhood bar for people who live in the neighborhood,” said Manancero, who invites his patrons to bring their own dinner to the taproom while they enjoy their beers.

Making their patrons feel at home is core to the cervecería’s brand. Its namesake, La Doña, is a nod to Hispanic feminine hospitality. “It gave it this matriarchy, the person who invites you into their home, gives you a cold beer; it’s comforting,” he said.

A statue of La Doña by artist Kordula Coleman sits on an altar in the center of the brewery. “You can bring pictures of your family members that are deceased. People can leave little trinkets behind,” said Manancero. “We like that interaction point.”

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Traditional Payday Loans

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Example of repayment plan options

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*data from the Payday Lending Health Impact Assessment Fact Sheet

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Above: The taproom at La Dôna Cervecería was bustling just a few weeks after a soft opening of the North Minneapolis brewery. Right: Sergio Manancero, right, started the brewery and made his first important hire in head brewer, Dickie Lopez, who has brewing experience with three Twin Cities craft breweries.
Election day is Tuesday, November 6

The 2018 General Election will be held on Nov. 6, 2018 and there is still time to register and get engaged. While online and mail-in voter registration have closed, Minnesota offers you the opportunity to register on Election Day. Just bring a photo ID with your current name and address to your polling place. If you don’t have a current ID, bring a photo ID and a current document (such as an approved bill, expired ID, or a passport) to your polling place. If you don’t have those documents, you can bring a neighbor from your precinct who can vouch for you. To find your polling place and more information on your ballot, visit: sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting. This year Minnesota is considered a battleground state with elections up and down the ballot. Candidates are running for both US Senate seats, several Congressional seats, the State House, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, at-large Minneapolis Public School Board seat, and Attorney General amongst others.

Ballot questions offer a chance to increase school funding
Cirien Saadeh | Staff Reporter

There will be two questions on the City of Minneapolis’ 2018 general election ballot. Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) is asking voters to say yes to both. The first asks voters to increase the district’s general operating fund levy and the second would establish a capital funds and technology levy. Under state law, school districts can ask for a certain amount of funding per student. If voters would vote yes on the first question the district would be able to raise the property tax levy to the maximum amount possible, which would mean that the district could not ask for further funding. The creation of the tech levy would help the district pay off technology-related debt and shift other revenue back into the general fund.

“This would give us the opportunity to hire social workers and nurses, just those really important support staff that we need so desperately. Support for special education and English Language Learner students,” said Kim Caprini, a Northside parent running for an at-large seat on the MPS School Board. Caprini also serves on two site councils and three district advisory boards.

For more information on the referendum questions, visit: mpls.k12.mn.us/referendum.

Who will represent us in Hennepin County District 2?
Timya Carlisle | North High

The seven Hennepin County Commissioners are responsible for everything that goes down in the county, including managing its budget of $2.4 billion. North Minneapolis’ (District 2) commissioner, Linda Higgins, is retiring at the end of her current term. On Nov. 6, voters will elect a new District 2 commissioner that they feel is best for the county. Nonprofit leader Irene Fernando and former Ward 5 Minneapolis City Council Member Blong Yang are running for the seat.

They are both passionate about education and they are both from immigrant families. They are also both passionate about the power of county services.

Irene Fernando

QUICK FACTS

She is the daughter of Filipino immigrants; she grew up in Los Angeles and moved to Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota.

She lives in North Minneapolis with her partner and her dog.

She co-founded Students Today Leaders Forever, a nonprofit that influenced U of M students to become leaders through service.

She was a Bush Foundation Fellow in 2015.

She currently works at Thrivent Financial, leading organizational design, culture, and talent.

Yang was a Minneapolis City Council member for four years: 2013-2017. He was defeated by current Councilmember, Jeremiah Ellison.

He cares deeply about caring for people at every stage of life, delivering value for your tax dollars, transportation that serves everyone, and preparing for the future.

Blong Yang

QUICK FACTS

He is the oldest son of Hmong refugees. He was born at a refugee camp in Thailand. He came to the United States in 1980.

He went to the University of California, Los Angeles. He got his law degree at the University of Minnesota.

He lives in North Minneapolis with his wife and two children.

He ran for Hennepin County Board and lost the first time in 2012. A year later he ran for City Council in Minneapolis and won.

Yang was a Minneapolis City Council member for four years: 2013-2017. He was defeated by current Councilmember, Jeremiah Ellison.

He cares deeply about caring for people at every stage of life, delivering value for your tax dollars, transportation that serves everyone, and preparing for the future.
Hennepin County Attorney candidates bring very different experiences to the table

Timya Carlisle | North High

Mike Freeman and Mark Haase are running against each other to be the next Hennepin County Attorney. On October 9, they faced off in a debate at the Minneapolis Urban League.

Freeman has served as Hennepin County Attorney for almost 20 years. He describes his job as “challenging” and is well known in the community for his decision not to press charges against the officers who fatally shot Jamar Clark on Plymouth Ave. in 2015.

Haase has had many experiences with working with all types of people in the Coast Guard, as a lawyer, and as a community leader. He believes restorative justice and diversion programs must be expanded.

Haase and Freeman both say they want the same thing: justice and freedom for the people. How they see that happening is slightly different:

Jamar Clark: They agreed that a grand jury shouldn’t have been used (and wasn’t). Freeman said he agonized over his eventual decision not to prosecute the officers who fatally shot Jamar Clark. Haase was asked to comment on what he would have done in the position, and he declined to speculate. Freeman said all of the information he used to make his decision is transparently posted online; he invited Haase to look at it and say what he would have done.

Race: They agree that racial disparities in sentencing are a problem. Freeman said his office was working on a data dashboard. Haase said he supported that but also said it is inexcusable that Freeman hasn’t been looking at this data before now. He should have had a “proactive understanding of what’s going on.”

Sexual assault, rape, and trafficking: Both want to see traffickers held accountable, “some quite severely,” said Haase.

Marijuana: Haase said he was pro-decriminalization and legalization. Freeman said “marijuana sentencing needs to be dialed back.”

ICE: Both said they want immigrants to feel safe in the justice system. “I would do everything I can to end cooperation with ICE at the county. We have ICE coming into our courts,” said Haase. “The county attorney’s office has no business doing business with ICE,” said Freeman.

Private prisons: Neither of them support the use of private prisons.

Mental illness: “I don’t want to send anybody to prison that’s sick,” said Freeman.

Policing: Both say the attorney’s office has a training role to play with police officers. Both say officers need to be held accountable for criminal acts. Haase says he would like to create a police charging advisory panel. Freeman says his office has charged nine police officers for crimes this year.

Cash bail: “It’s a wealth based system. We have to make it a priority to move toward ending it,” said Haase. Freeman says cash bail should be used to “protect public safety” and make sure people show up.
**Student stories**

North News has a journalism class partnership with North High School. 14-18 year old students in our class produce stories about their communities each month. Here’s what they came up with in October.

**North High drumline members (from left) Greg Marshall, Ryan Cole, and homecoming king Eddie Beamon were ready to roll for the school’s homecoming pep-fest in September. The school’s drumline is brand new this year and completely student-run. Marshall says he helped start the drumline because it’s a “passion.” He hopes to play at an HBCU next year. “HBCUs are where all the drumline really get down, so I’m ready for it,” he said. If you know any events that the drumline could take part in, contact Marshall at gmar1901@mpsedu.org.**

**By Eddie Beamon | Photo by Ta’Jaunia Favors**

**The best rapper is...**

**Elijah O’Neal | North High**

It’s hard to really determine who is the best rapper, but students at North High really love to argue about it; sometimes they spend whole class periods debating it. They bring up evidence like net worth, album sales, and flows. Most of the time, both sides have good points on why one rapper is better than another. The two rappers that are the hot topic are NBA YoungBoy and G herbo. At North, lots of people say G herbo is the best rapper. “He states true facts and he keeps it real with his lyrics and how he made it out where he came from,” said junior Freshawn Collins. Lots of people say his word play and flow is really strong and powerful. But even though G herbo is often the favorite, NBA YoungBoy has a lot of supporters and fans in the school. “He tells his stories behind his music, and I can relate to some of those stories. He got some real heat/fire,” said freshman Anthony Figures.

Students at North take music very seriously because it’s part of their lives. Many scholars connect with rap artists because they say true stuff that happened to them, and students can relate. Music helps us get focused, calms us down, and get us through bad times. It’s important to hear what the young people have to say about their taste in music and what they have to say about how the music makes them feel and how it helps them.

**Melvina Manicel: the next up and coming music artist**

**Andrianna Bynum | North High**

Melvina Manicel is a freshman at North High School trying to become a top singing and rapping artist.

Manicel started singing and rapping when she was about 12 years old. These days, she performs at a lot of different places over North Minneapolis and beyond. For example: Open Streets West Broadway, downtown, Loring Park, a few community centers, here at North High School, and North Commons Park. Manicel has written a few songs. Her favorite song she has written is about her mom. It’s called “Know Me.” Her dad inspires her to use her talents.

Alex McNeill is good friends with Manicel. McNeill has known Manicel since seventh grade at Franklin Middle School. McNeill supports Manicel’s talent because most people aren’t doing really nothing with their lives, and you have to be successful in life to make it out. McNeill feels like that Manicel has a lot of talent and potential; she does her own thing and doesn’t care what people say about her or to her. If Manicel was to ask McNeill to do a song with her McNeill would say “Yes,” because she want to help her friend be successful in life and become who she wants to be.

Manicel’s mother Cheria had her at the age of 18. Cheria is happy that she had Manicel. “Melvina changed my whole life; it was not about me anymore. It [is] all about her and showing her the right path to take in life. I knew everything I did from the day I had her, she would be watching mommy’s every move, so I had to show her all the right things to do.” Cheria wants her to reach that shining star that’s calling her name “Lil Mel.o.” You can catch Manicel’s newest music video on Facebook.

North High senior Ijahlee Waller listens to music on her phone. Photo by Elijah O’Neal
The real story of a teen mom's life

Dontayeh Hill | North High

I’m a student at North High School, and I am also a teen mother. I found out I was pregnant in tenth grade and immediately knew my life was about to change. I’m an honors student and getting pregnant soon wasn’t in my plans, but I made the decision to keep my love as soon as I found out.

I have a huge support system and I knew they would support me by any means necessary. I got connected with my mentor Carrie Hachter and talked about my future plans, and we got connected with Kristen Johnson, the daycare coordinator downstairs here at North High right away.

“My job is to help young parents be successful as parents and scholars. I help students like you along with all the other support you get to graduate. Also my goal is to help you get your baby into high quality childcare so that they are ready for kindergarten,” Johnson told me.

Here at North High we have a lot of help from staff members. “Yes they support a lot when you need it. Like if you don’t have diapers, they will give you diapers, or sometimes they give you a paper with addresses where you can go get diapers for free,” said Dayanna Arpi Pintado, another teen mother here at North.

Having a great support team and having motivation is all you need to be a successful mother. I know that many teen moms deal with a lot of stressful emotions and biased opinions. These moms are being told they will not graduate and that they messed up their lives by close friends and family members. Lack of support can cause a person to give up.

According to Americanpregnancy.org, being a teen mother “takes a lot of communication between you, your parents, your schools leadership, your teachers and your doctor.” If teen mothers get a lack of support from these people, it can cause them not to be motivated. Many teen mothers that drop out of school are African American and low income. These mothers lack support and then, often, motivation, which can cause them to get frustrated and give up on school. As claimed by Dosomething.org, 3 in 10 teen Americans get pregnant before the age of 20. 50% of them never graduate and the United States has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy.

The journey to senior year

Ta’Jaunia Favors | North High

My years in high school started off as a struggle. I began at Robbinsdale Armstrong, and it wasn’t the best for me. I barely went to class, and when I did, I wasn’t getting the help I needed to succeed. The classes were much bigger, at least 30 to 40 students in each class, so teachers couldn’t assist students one on one. I left Armstrong and went to North High School during the middle of my freshman year. At first, I struggled at North too, not educationally, but socially. My peers influenced me a lot, I found myself constantly getting in trouble, so I had to go back to Armstrong for my sophomore year.

I returned to North High for my junior year because the place I was staying didn’t have transportation to Armstrong. My mom wanted to send me to Brooklyn Center High School but they didn’t offer College Possible; the best decision was to come back to North. My struggles sophomore year taught me that high school isn’t a joke. What I do now will affect me in the future. I’ve changed for the better. I go to class, and I’m actually engaged. Teachers have helped me educationally and personally. I am a more open person and more communicative. I like who I’ve become.

I interviewed some of my classmates, members of the class of 2019, this year’s seniors, and asked them to reflect on the ways they’ve grown within their last three years of high school. The struggles I had were very common; I wasn’t the only person who went through a change.

Tayven Smith is a North High senior who transferred from Patrick Henry after his freshman year. “[During] my freshman year at Henry, I was running the hallways, fighting, getting kicked out of school all of the time, and now this year I haven’t been into one fight this year or last year. [North High] has helped me as a whole.”

For North High senior Amyah Walker, senior year has brought new struggles. “My senior year has been a rough start already, because we have all new teachers. I don’t really know them or how to communicate with them.” She says she’s changed a lot in high school. “My spiritual growth has been real. Emotionally I’ve been through a lot in the past three years; that’s taught me a lot of lessons, the battle of different relationships, just learning different lessons. The small atmosphere of North has helped me feel more willing to ask for help, which in the long run will help me achieve more. What you do now does matter, it may impact the people who are around you, it may not change your life but it does mean something to the people your around,” she said.

Omar Brown, a North High senior who transferred from Hopkins his sophomore year says that having many new teachers has made senior year difficult. “My senior year has been going good so far; football has been going well. My transition from Hopkins to North has made a difference because I’m closer to home. Teachers at North last year helped me, like Ms. Hiatt, and Ms. Bell. This year I haven’t gotten as much because of the new teachers. Who I am now will affect me in the future,” he said.

North High senior Takyra Fortney transferred from Robbinsdale Armstrong. “My three years have been meaningful. Transitioning to North was smaller and everybody knows everybody; that’s what makes it better. I’ve changed positively because I’m not fighting anymore. Teachers like Ms. Hiatt and Ms. Prososki have helped.”

North High may be small, but its impact on seniors like myself has been big. We’re like a family; everyone helps each other as much as they can. North is a comfortable place to be; teachers are more than teachers; they are second parents. I’ve had a lot of support, especially from Ms. Hiatt, who we all miss very much.

Northside prodigy: hard work has made Tyler Johnson a standout wide receiver at the U of M

Frank Blount | North High

Tyler Johnson is a great athlete that came out of North High school. Now Johnson plays for the University of Minnesota with his great skills on the football field. He has been both a quarterback and a wide receiver; he has been good at both positions.

Johnson has always been hard-working, both on the football field and in the classroom. His high school football coach Officer Charles Adams III said, “He was a leader on the field.” Another one of his high school coaches and teachers, Tom Lachermeier, says he was a solid student: “[Tyler was] a good writer as well he had gift [of] being able to say a lot in a very short amount of writing.” Lachermeier and Adams coached Johnson for three years. “He was a leader on the field; you will consider him as a coach and had great community with his teammates he had real command in the team huddle on the field,” said Adams.

His former coaches agree: he likes to be pushed harder in order to be better. At times, Officer Adams says he “felt like I was not pushing Tyler Johnson hard enough.”

He also has a reputation for being a respectful person, to his teammates and his teachers. Lachermeier says he didn’t have many challenges with Johnson: “[He was] always very respectful to other students.”

His former coaches believe he has the potential to go far in his football career. He is already playing for a D1 college team. “I still talk to him pretty rarely and talk about some of thing that he did in the game, and I see in the near future probably playing in the NFL,” said Adams.

Johnson is a junior in college. He will have one more season to go before we see where he ends up.
Student stories continued: why gender stereotyping is an issue

Xavius Tran | North High

Growing up, my parents didn’t talk to me about gender stereotypes at all, which was and is great. I was able to be myself. I was able to be free without any restrictions and people telling me “you can’t do that.” Literally in elementary school, I colored my nails in black Sharpie marker. I thought it was cute, but something about me felt that my mom wouldn’t feel the same for some reason. I felt that my mom wouldn’t accept the fact that I wanted to paint my nails. I paint my nails to this day.

North High graduate and current MCTC student Amber Piepho was exposed to gender stereotyping at a young age. “Girls were supposed to play with dolls and boys played sports,” she said. Piepho says gender stereotypes affected her school life too. “At school there was always a difference between boys and girls during Phy Ed. Girls were expected to get lower scores while the boys, including teachers, treated girls delicately. I honestly believed we were more delicate,” she said.

Despite stereotyping, Piepho says she has still been able to be herself, only because she didn’t and doesn’t care too much about what people think about her. She also says gender stereotypes have, at times, benefitted her. She says she has been treated nicer and has gotten away with a lot of things, like hitting a boy for him being annoying, or not wanting to participate in sports. She feels that gender stereotypes are: “never completely bad or completely good.”

North High student Tavion Melton first became aware of stereotyping at age six, when he witnessed boys getting teased for crossing their legs; it was seen as too effeminate. Melton thinks gender stereotypes have affected him negatively. Whenever he would do something feminine like “act like a girl” or play with girls, he would get teased for it. “If people actually believe that boys are above women or feel they are superior [and] dominant, and they look up to popular people at their school with similar beliefs, then they will actually believe that and won’t be more open minded. Especially with social media and how quickly things get around,” he said.

Brett is a librarian at North Regional Library. Despite knowing and hearing about gender-specific stereotypes, he has stayed true to himself. Although, he knows that it was and is different for everyone, Brett feels that stereotypes will always change and they won’t always stay negative. “When I was a teen, there were people that had colored hair. You would assume that they were punk rock. Now if you get to know them, they aren’t. Now, Tims aren’t seen as working class boots; now they’re a whole thing of a class symbol, and they’re some expensive shoe, hip-hop connection.” If Brett could change the way people think about gender stereotypes, he would encourage people to see similarities with each other, rather than seeing rules that govern who we are.

Brett, Piepho, and Melton haven’t let other people’s limited ideas about gender govern who they are. In the past, there were expectations of what they should do, and it still happens today. Some parents still teach their children the expectations of what girls or boys should do and who they should be, and that doesn’t give much room to show who they really are. It can be quite the opposite.
David M. Feehan | Contributor

This is the story of a North Minneapolis neighborhood, Humboldt Heights, that has a rich and unique history. Located on the northern edge of the city, the neighborhood consists mainly of three streets: Humboldt, Irving and James from 49th St to 53rd St. It is nestled in the Shingle Creek community. It was pioneered by African Americans.

This is a neighborhood where black and white residents overcame many barriers of race and bigotry. While racial feelings were rubbed raw by the struggle for civil rights in much of the country, in this neighborhood, residents, especially younger residents, played sports together, socialized together, and even occasionally fell in love with one another. It wasn’t perfect, but in many ways, it was the way America was supposed to be.

I lived in this neighborhood during the 1960s. While racial conflict roiled throughout the nation, life in Humboldt Heights was a different story. African Americans who lived here certainly experienced the prejudice and persecution that was taking place throughout America, and in the Twin Cities at this time. However, residents of this neighborhood, unlike other parts of Minneapolis and St. Paul, did not encounter restrictive covenants and other forms of redlining. They could buy a house. They could own property. Nevertheless, my friends often told me about prejudice they encountered on their jobs, at school, and in social situations. What made their experience different in Humboldt Heights was a sense of tolerance, a feeling that friendships did not depend on racial identity.

I came of age in this neighborhood with a slew of young people who went on to make their mark in Minneapolis and beyond. For example, Steven Lasley, who played shortstop on his championship Shingle Creek Little League team, then went on to star on Patrick Henry’s basketball, baseball and football teams, and later, after a college career as an athlete and broadcaster, became a teacher and athletic director at North High.

Lasley recalls playing Little League baseball with two neighborhood white kids who became lifelong friends. “One of these guys was such a good friend that he named his son after me,” he said.

Thornton Jones, known to many as TJ or Pharaoh Black, became a well-known media personality as a DJ on one of the early “soul” radio stations, after a brief career as an actor with the Guthrie Theater and Dudley Riggs Brave New Workshop.

Judy Baker, who is director of parent and community relations at Parents in Community Action, Inc., the federally-funded Head Start agency that serves 2500 youngsters each day said that “My grandparents, Henry and Lilian Schofield, were early settlers able to buy two homes, one of which became the Jackson’s home. Few African American families could even buy one house in Minneapolis at that time.”

The story of this unique neighborhood and the people who lived in it is partly documented in an important study completed in 1999 for Hennepin County Works. Carole Zellie, a principal with Landscape Research, interviewed residents and former residents of Humboldt Heights to document the history of this historic African American community, often referred to informally as “the sticks” (a term that described a rural, farming area.)

The neighborhood’s original settlers were largely, though not exclusively, African American. They chose this area because land was available, it was close to the city and thus to jobs and schools, but did not have the restrictions that were prevalent elsewhere in the city. Plus, it was rural enough that a person could grow crops and own farm animals. What evolved over the ensuing decades was an attractive neighborhood of modest homes, a neighborhood that reversed the common process of racial integration. In Humboldt Heights, whites moved in and integrated a historically African American neighborhood.

African American settlers began arriving in Humboldt Heights as World War I was igniting in Europe. Between 1910 and 1920, African Americans began buying land, building homes, and creating a neighborhood. By 1920, the census showed 83 African Americans living in Ward 10, mostly in Humboldt Heights. Settlers often built their own houses, and yards were big enough to accommodate gardens and livestock. Residents raised chickens, hogs and goats. Some of the homes were very modest, one being described as a “tar paper shack.” Others were more substantial. Arthur and Ida Crawford owned what was described as a “well-finished one-and-a-half story Craftsman house.”

Churches were built and congregations organized soon after the neighborhood became populated. According to Zellie, “By 1930, two African American churches were located within two blocks of 50th and Humboldt: the Allen African American Methodist Episcopal (church) at 5024 Irving Avenue North, and the Humboldt Baptist Mission (church) at 5100 James Avenue North.” These churches have been demolished; but the remaining black church in Humboldt Heights, the Pilgrim’s Rest Baptist Church on 51st and James, still serves a local congregation.

Residents of Humboldt Heights came to Minnesota from Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. Some came directly from these states, while others settled for a short time in what was commonly known as “the projects,” the Sumner Field public housing development built in 1938. Some lived for a time on the Southside.

Jones, who lived on the Southside and attended schools there, said that “Northside residents sometimes referred to Southside black residents as the ‘porters and waiters society,’ because jobs on the railroad and in restaurants were good jobs and educated black people often had to settle for these jobs. The Northside was associated with the projects and welfare. But Humboldt Heights was just the sticks.”

It took courage and resourcefulness to uproot your family and move to a nearly all-white state where winters were bitterly cold, where discrimination in housing and employment were a fact of life, and where you might not know another soul, so meeting others could prove a challenge.

Judy Baker said that one place to meet people was at church. “Pilgrim’s Rest Baptist was a “basement” church where we went, sang in the choir, and attended as kids; we couldn’t afford to build a real church; then a white church, Hope Lutheran, donated their building to Pilgrim’s Rest when Hope Lutheran built a new church. It was a good place to meet people.”

According to David Vassar Taylor, author of African Americans in Minnesota, “The advent of World War I stemmed the flow of European immigrants and created an acute labor shortage in the United States. To meet the demands of a wartime economy, recruiters scoured the South for black people willing to move to northern industrial centers in return for promises of free transportation, higher wages, and a better standard of living.” However, when African Americans arrived in the Twin Cities, they found that restrictive covenants prohibited them from purchasing homes in certain neighborhoods, many downtown hotels were off limits, and discrimination in employment was widespread.

Because Humboldt Heights was already a neighborhood available to black people, the population of this community continued to grow, right through the World War II era.

The civil rights movement was well underway by 1954 when the Supreme Court decided the landmark Brown versus Topeka Board of Education school desegregation case. But local elementary schools serving Humboldt Heights were already educating black and white children together in the 1950s. So, as the 1960s approached and the outside world began to change rapidly, Humboldt Heights reflected those changes. Nevertheless, looking through the pages of Patrick Henry’s yearbook, the Orator, the only black students were Humboldt Heights residents — and there were only a few.

Part II of this story will run in the 11/29 edition of North News.
GRADUATION
Mount Marty College
Olivia Wray

RESOURCES
Project for Pride in Living (PPL) seeks volunteers interested in mentoring and tutoring youth in grades K-5th grade who are living in supportive housing in Camden. Volunteers are matched 1:1 with a youth to build a strong relationship, tutor in literacy concepts, and engage in enrichment activities like arts & crafts, games, creative play, etc. To apply, visit www.ppl-inc.org/volunteer or contact Volunteer Coordinator Caitlin Dougherty at caitlin.dougherty@ppl-inc.org / 612-455-5108.

Neighborhood HealthSource hosts free and reduced cost mammograms for eligible women each month at one of their three Northside clinics. Call 612-287-2433 or visit neighborhood-healthsource.org for more info.

Northside Boxing Club (1704 33rd Ave N) offers free lessons to kids ages 9-21. Training includes boxing drills, technique work, running and strength conditioning. Each session ends with a healthy meal. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 4pm-5:30pm and 6pm-7pm. On Fridays, youth open boxing is offered from 4pm-7pm.

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.

Tuesdays – The Twin Cities Mobile Market delivers affordable and healthy food weekly to locations across North Minneapolis and the Twin Cities. 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 Baskets are accepted! Questions? Call 612-280-2434. Their delivery schedule does change. For schedule and map information, check out: https://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/tcm/Pages/default.aspx.

Do you live in Near North or Willard/Hay? Then your block could be eligible for a mini block club grant through the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council. 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 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.

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

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

The City of Minneapolis offers free energy efficiency home visits and 0% financing on recommended energy-saving upgrades while funding lasts to qualified households with a family income less than $94,300. Homeowners and renters can call 651-328-5091 or visit mnenergy.org/hes-mpls to schedule a visit.

Pillsbury United Communities’ Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave N) hosts free community dinners on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm-7pm.

Donations and volunteers are needed for PCYC’s Annual Holiday Gift Sale on 12/8. For more information contact Catrice O’Neal, 612-643-2016 or giftsale@pcyc-mpls.org.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT
10/1 - 11/26 – Mondays, 3:30pm-5pm at the Sumner Library (611 Van White Memorial Blvd).

Game On! Gaming Club Come relax with friends and play board games, card games, or video games. Play the featured game of the week or pick a game from our collection.

10/28 – Party animals welcome to the animal costume party! Come dressed as your favorite animal to enjoy an afternoon of games, dancing and fun. It may not be so spooky, but you can disguise your identity in natural style by making a leaf mask to complete your costume. 1pm-3:30pm. North Mississippi Regional Park (5116 34th Ave S).

North Commons Park, 612-370-4921. Register and get more information at eventsatnorthcommons.org.

11/10 – Gethsemane Lutheran Church (4656 Colfax Ave N) is celebrating its 125th Anniversary, Service of Celebration followed by free Thanksgiving dinner. Begins at 10am, followed by dinner at 12pm. All are welcome.

11/11 – 100th Anniversary of World War I remembrance at the flagpole at Victory Memorial Drive and 45th, 10am.

11/11 – Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents Tulio Rondón (viola da gamba) and Tami Morse (harpischord) celebrate their recent recording of the J. S. Bach gamba sonatas with a Minnesota tour! Hear the complete J. S. Bach sonatas for viola da gamba and obbligato harpsichord, their own arrangement for harpsichord and gamba of the d minor organ trio sonata, and selections from the French Suite No. 5 in G Major for solo harpsichord. Tami will perform on a 2018 Klinkhamer harpsichord, modeled after the Colmar Ruckers harpsichord from 1624. It is the only instrument voiced in bird quill that can be heard publically in the state of Minnesota. 4pm at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (3045 Chicago Ave S.). A reception in the church’s Chapel Lounge follows. This event is free and open to the public; a free-will offering may be received to support the Music and Fine Arts program.

11/11 – The People’s University, 2-30pm-4pm. Webber Park Library, The People’s University uses open-access syllabi as tools to help us learn together through reading, multi-media viewing, and discussion about the historic contexts for the world we find ourselves in today. In this series, the University of Minnesota Immigration Syllabus will help us better understand U.S. immigration history, xenophobia, deportation policy, and border policing. Guest lecturers: Staff from the Immigration Law Center of Minnesota will join us to discuss the work they do to support immigrant and refugee families. They also will share a lecture on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

11/10 – The Capri Theater will be presenting “Stand by Me,” a tribute to the music of Leiber and Stoller, a special edition of Legends @ the Capri. On 11/10, the show will be at 7pm and 3pm on 11/11. Tickets are $25 each or $20 for groups of ten or more. Tickets can be purchased at thecapritheater.org or by calling 612-343-3930.

9/29-11/10 – Juxtaposition Arts is excited to present the work of South African artist Kealeboga Tlailang in his first U.S. solo exhibition. Working in mixed media collage, Tlailang creates beautiful textural portraits that link puzzle and play to synthesize his love for mathematics, science, and art. Kealeboga Tlailang will be on view at the JXTA Emerson Gallery from 9/24-11/10.

Hockey for girls and boys ages 6-14 offered at North Commons Park and Northeast Arena during the months of November through February. All equipment is provided and the cost is minimal. Register and get more information at North Commons Park, 612-370-4921. Register early to get the most for your money.

11/3/19 – Coffee & Conversation. Get to know neighbors Community Webber Parkway, 6pm-8pm. Free. All ages.

11/11 – Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents Tulo Rondón (viola da gamba) and Tami Morse (harpischord) celebrate their recent recording of the J. S. Bach gamba sonatas with a Minnesota tour! Hear the complete J. S. Bach sonatas for viola da gamba and obbligato harpsichord, their own arrangement for harpsichord and gamba of the d minor organ trio sonata, and selections from the French Suite No. 5 in G Major for solo harpsichord. Tami will perform on a 2018 Klinkhamer harpsichord, modeled after the Colmar Ruckers harpsichord from 1624. It is the only instrument voiced in bird quill that can be heard publically in the state of Minnesota. 4pm at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (3045 Chicago Ave S.). A reception in the church’s Chapel Lounge follows. This event is free and open to the public; a free-will offering may be received to support the Music and Fine Arts program.
11/14 – Senior Surf Day. 10am-12pm. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line. Registration required. Register online or at 612-543-KNOW.

11/14 – Health Care Directives. 1pm-2pm. Webber Park Library. What is health care directive? How do you choose your health care agent? How do you fill out a health care directive? A representative from Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid will provide information about health care directives and answer questions. Collaborators: Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, Minneapolis Community Education.

11/16 – 1pm. An extraordinary writing project called CenterSTAGE is highlighting the work of older adults, including those with dementia, in our community. Last spring, Pillsbury House Theatre was selected as one of only 15 nonprofits throughout the state of Minnesota to receive a grant from Arora Philanthropies through its new statewide initiative, “Seeding Vitality Arts MN.” Pillsbury House Theatre will host a culminating reading and reception celebrating the work of the older adults involved in the program. Vitality Arts programs inspire and enable older adults to learn, make and share the arts in ways that are novel, complex and socially engaging. The work is driven by teaching artists whose creative process and understanding of older adults bring joy, connection, improved health and well-being, and a renewed sense of purpose to older adults in community and residential settings. A number of participants are dealing with dementia, and the project is allowing them to transcend stereotypes of the condition as they showcase their work. For more information about the event call Jenna at 612-238-8552.


11/17 – The Minnesota Historical Society presents “Resilience During Tough Times” as part of its Economic Justice Series. Join a multigenerational conversation about lessons from resiliency during tough times. Examine a video, community photos, and artifacts that reflect experiences of facing injustice during the 1960s and today. This program is made possible by the Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. 12:30pm - 3pm at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center (270 North Kent St., St. Paul). Free. To register, visit: http://www.mnhs.org/event/6256. Registration is recommended.

11/17 – Nature Art: Cornucopias. 1:30-2:30pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Craft your own “horn of plenty” this year using natural materials found in the park. All ages. Free.

11/20 – 10am-8pm. The exhibit “States of Incarceration” will be opening at the Minnesota History Center (345 W. Kellogg Blvd). States of Incarceration is a national traveling exhibit that explores the roots of mass incarceration in our own communities to open a national dialogue on what should happen next. The exhibit was created by over 500 students and others deeply affected by incarceration in 20 cities, including University of Minnesota students who examined settler colonialism and the high rates of incarceration for Native Americans in Minnesota. States of Incarceration is a project of the Humanities Action Lab, a coalition of universities led by Rutgers University-Newark working with issue organizations and public spaces to create traveling public projects on the past, present, and future of pressing social issues. Free. For more information check out: http://www.mnhs.org/event/6482

11/23 – Nature’s Black Friday Fun. 11am-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Ditch the mall crawl and opt outside this year! We’ll have naturalist programs including a traveling workshop on the Somalis + Minnesota exhibit, signs of our local animals by examining their fur, and tai chi class. Saturdays – Homewood Studios (2400 Plymouth Ave) offers a tai chi class from 9am-10:30am.

12/1 – Early Birding: Winter Birds. 9am-10:30am. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Join us for a morning of bird watching! Binoculars provided. All ages. Free.

12/8 – Nature Art: Ginger-Bird Houses. 1:30pm-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Invite birds into your backyard by crafting an edible snack house for them. $10, all supplies included. Kids under 13 are free. All Ages.

12/16 – Family Funday: Sleep, Flee, Freeze. 1:30pm-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). When the cold winds of winter start to blow, where do the animals go? Learn about hibernation, migration and other ways animals survive our winters. All ages. Free.

12/21 – Winter Solstice Celebration. 5:30pm-7:30pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Rejoice the coming of longer days with an evening of celestial fun. Make a luminaria and enjoy the warm glow of a bonfire while sipping hot cider! All Ages. $5. Kids under 13 are free.

12/22 – Outdoors: Fur, Tracks and Scat. 1pm-2:30pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Learn how to spot signs of our local animals by examining their fur, tracks, and scat. Create your own tracks and try passing our identification challenges. Ages 6 & up. Free.

12/22 & 12/29 – Free Snowshoe Rentals. 11am-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Get into the spirit of the season by dropping in to check out a pair of snowshoes to explore the park. All Ages.

UROC presents “Joy in Translation” in the UROC Gallery. Fine art photographer Anna Min spent the last year seeking out joy and wonderment in the modern world and answering the question, “Where does joy go when it’s not around here?” The resulting exhibit, “Joy in Translation,” is a collection of images designed to delight the eye, inspire joy, and give the heart hope for another day. The gallery showing has opened and will remain open through Jan. 31.

EDUCATION

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

MN Comeback and Great MN Schools launched Minnesota School Finder. This resource guide for parents provide objective, relevant information on schools across Minneapolis so parents can find schools that are the best fit for their kids.

BE AWARE

The City of Minneapolis today released the final draft of its 2040 Comprehensive Plan, a holistic document that will guide the city’s development over the next 20 years. The Planning Commission and City Council will review the draft and seek additional community input this fall, with final adoption expected in December 2018. The Comprehensive Plan is based on 14 goals adopted by the City Council, including reducing disparities, providing access to affordable housing and living-wage jobs, creating a sustainable community, and remaining a healthy and diverse economic center. The final draft of the plan is the product of a two-year engagement process and integrates more than 10,000 public comments collected during a robust, four-month community engagement period. The City made significant changes to the plan in response to public input, which are shown in the marked-up version of the plan available at minneapolis2040.com. Public comments can be submitted to the city through October 25.
Planning Commission and City Council online at minneapolis2040.com. The interactive website provides opportunities to view either a marked-up or clean version of the plan segmented by topics. A clean version of the plan is available for download as a PDF document. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Oct. 29 and the City Council will also hold a public hearing the week of 11/12. The City Council is expected to vote on the Comprehensive Plan in December before submitting the plan to the Metropolitan Council.

People must be at least 21 to buy tobacco products in Minneapolis as of 10/1. Minneapolis raised the age from 18 to help protect younger generations from lifelong nicotine addiction, tobacco-related illnesses, and the tobacco-related health disparities between white populations and people of color. Research shows raising the age to buy tobacco will keep an estimated 30,000 young people from starting to smoke over a 15-year period in Minnesota. Almost all adult smokers – 95 percent – started smoking before age 21, and nicotine is addictive. If people don’t start smoking by age 21, there’s a good chance they won’t start at all. This ordinance came about with advocacy from the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota, the Minneapolis Youth Congress, and Northpoint Health and Wellness Center.

The City is seeking public comment on proposed changes to its Unified Housing Policy. Comments are due by November 5, 2018. The City is proposing changes to its Housing Policy in conjunction with a proposed Inclusionary Zoning ordinance. Additionally, the policy has been reorganized and includes updates or revisions to other sections based on the proposed Minneapolis 2040 Plan. The new sections are indicated as such in the draft policy. Please submit all comments to Katie Topinka at katie.topinka@minneapolismn.gov. Review the Unified Housing Policy online: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cedp/housing/cedp_affordable_housing_resolution

CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about certain rights and their responsibilities as it relates to the Cold Weather Rule (CWR). The CWR protects residential customers who are experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for non-payment, it does provide customers with extra protection as defined in the CWR. However, the CWR will not prevent customers from being disconnected for non-payment, it does provide customers with extra protection as defined in the CWR. However, the City of Minneapolis Health Department has completed an evaluation of the temporary greenway installed on Irving Avenue North from June 2016-May 2017 to find out how a greenway could work in that location. The report summarizes the evaluation findings but does not make recommendations for what could happen in the future. Read the report and find more about the north Minneapolis greenway project at www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/north-minneapolisgreenway.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Council Members Jeremiah Ellison and Phillippe Cunningham are urging the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to step up enforcement of pollution standards in the area surrounding Northern Metals Recycling in North Minneapolis. The letter from the lawmakers follows reports that the levels of air pollution – including the dangerous particulates (PM10) – near the shredder are again exceeding the federal standard. If particulate levels continue to exceed the federal standard, MPCA is allowed to take additional enforcement action prior to the company’s 2019 relocation.

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

The City of Minneapolis has 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/smoke-free.

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 City government. The Division of Race and Equity will include staff of the City’s equity team who will engage with the City, its businesses, residents, and visitors on equity, racial inequities, and expectations around race equity, assist in accelerating the City’s efforts and progress around racial equity goals and create accountability.

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

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.

Minneapolis has a new on-line portal, available at business.minneapolismn.gov, features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business. The online portal, available at business.minneapolismn.gov, features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business. The online portal, available at business.minneapolismn.gov, features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business. The online portal, available at business.minneapolismn.gov, features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business.

Northern 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 ($50/month with private office). For more information visit https://www.neon-mn.org/spaces.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has banned all tobacco products on Minneapolis park properties and owned and/or operated facilities.

The Minneapolis City Council has passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination against Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher holders. Under the ordinance, landlords will only be obligated to consider renting to voucher holders that means a landlord cannot refuse to rent, impose unique standards, or otherwise treat HCV holders differently from tenants without vouchers. Landlords retain their ability to screen the voucher holders like other tenants using legal criteria.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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 needed to help both new and existing businesses.

Kindred Kitchen, an initiative of Appetite for Change, hosts a new member weekly kitchen tour every Tuesday until 12/18 at 10am. Tours are hosted at Kindred Kitchen at 1206 W. Broadway Ave. Tours are your time to learn more about becoming a commercial kitchen member and our Northside Food Business Incubator, ask food business related questions, and jump into the kitchen. For more information visit https://www.facebook.com/events/1493935500702137/
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Estes Funeral Chapel has been in the North Minneapolis community for over 50 years. Though its founder, Richard Estes, passed away in 2013, its long and well-respected legacy continues through his wife, and now owner, April Estes and his nephew, Tracy Wesley, the business’ CEO, mortician, and funeral director. Estes is the only black-owned funeral home in the city.

“The Northside is such a tight knit community. A lot of times people still have this air of mystery about funeral homes, what they entail, and what they do. This building is big and grand, but we’re still small, family owned and operated,” said Wesley.

This month, Estes and Wesley spoke to North News about moving their business across Plymouth Avenue on the Penn Ave. corner, and their plans to continue supporting the community through its losses and grief.

By Daija Triplett | Photos by David Pierini
Funeral director Tracy Wesley and his aunt, April Estes, stand inside the new Estes Funeral Home, its third chapel since being founded in 1962 by Richard Estes, April’s late husband whose face adorns the pillow.

**What made you want to make a whole new building for your business?** April: When my husband passed and I inherited Estes Funeral Chapel, I was trying to decide what to do. I did a little praying for God to lead me which way to go. A lot of our friends, they would say, “are we going to keep our funeral chapel?” They would say “that’s all we got.” That’s true. That’s really true. In the meantime, God answered my prayers. NorthPoint wanted to build over to Plymouth. They didn’t have enough room. I decided that yes, we were going to build a new chapel.

**Jamil Ford was the architect for this building. Why did you choose him?** Tracy: [Mrs. Estes] ran into Jamil at a funeral service. She said she hoped someday we would be able to build this. He said “I’m an architect.” She said “when it happens, I’d like for you to be the one that does it.” Jamil was all in from the beginning. He had ideas of how to set it apart from any other chapel that anyone had ever seen. In the midst of this, he lost his sister. We serviced her and helped his family through that. He was really dedicated to leaving his architectural blueprint but also to making this something that is talked about nationwide. I really think he captured that with what he did.

**What is it like having your own business?** April: I haven’t had it that long. Five years. The first four years were terrible because I didn’t know what I was doing. I’ve never had a business. I had only been in the building a few times [when my husband was alive]. I had mixed feelings. I knew a lady that used to teach my daughter over at Harvest Prep, Camille Boone-Harrison. She had been my friend for years; I asked her to please come help me. She helped me through this, and now she is the director of operations for Estes.

Tracy: It’s time consuming. It gives me even more respect for the things my uncle did and endured while running this. My uncle was a funeral director and mortician. That’s simple. That’s what I love to do. Now that I’m CEO, it’s a lot. The finances. it’s a constant, every day. It’s time consuming and challenging, but I’m enjoying it for the most part.

**What does this new building mean to you?** April: I’m excited about it. It means a lot to me. It’s my husband’s legacy. He worked really hard; he had a lot of disappointments trying to get his first funeral chapel open. Through all of these disappointments and heartaches and heartburns, he made it happen. He came from a family of funeral directors. He worked hard. It means the world to me to keep his legacy going.

Tracy: It is a continuation of my uncle’s legacy. It is something that he wanted to see. He was in the building across the street for 25-26 of its now 31 years. He had the vision to expand the business someday. It’s going to be such a benefit to the community to be able to broadcast services to people who can’t be here. We’ll have a nice computerized system of our old records. People sometimes forget where their loved ones are buried.

**Tell us about Mr. Estes:** April: He was a jolly person who was easy to get along with. Until you made him angry. He had a lot of empathy and sympathy for people. He would do anything for people. People would knock on our door all the time for things. He would never curse but he would say “dad gummet.” He wouldn’t let someone’s child or parent not be buried with dignity. He was a very, very good man up until the last minute. People here loved him. He loved North Minneapolis. They didn’t always treat him right but they respected him very much. We were in that building for [many] years. There was never a mark on that building or a window broken. [Losing him] was the worst thing that had ever happened to me.

**What have you learned about death during your decades of running this business? How do you deal with being surrounded by so much sadness?** Tracy: Not all death and not all services are alike. Each and every service is unique in its own way. None of them are the same. They all have their individual idiosyncrasies. The work is easy because I feel like I was chosen by God to do what I do. It’s never been a burden for me. I always knew since I was a kid that this is what I was supposed to do. This is something I was ordained to do.

**What’s the best part of your job?** April: Being able to help my friends to grieve. I know a lot of people, most people in North Minneapolis. I like to try and help them grieve. I’m a person to cry along with them. Being able to listen to them when they want to talk. Just being able to say “we’re here to help you and that’s what it’s all about.

Tracy: I enjoy working with families, lessening their burden of going through the grief process. It’s difficult. I always knew this was what I was supposed to do. It comes naturally. But now, having lost my parents and my uncle, it gives me a different mindset, having gone through it myself.

April and Richard Estes stand together in an undated black and white photo that greets people walking into the lobby of the new Estes Funeral Home location.
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