

# NORTH NEWS



July 25, 2019

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## Letter from the Editor

It's difficult to live in the Twin Cities without having a relationship with the Mississippi River.

For the first 18 years of my life and the past five, I've lived less than a mile from its banks. As a teenager, I hung out with my friends on the rocks under the monument in St. Paul. I've run hundreds of miles around it, training for several marathons. Alec Soth's photo project "Sleeping by the Mississippi" is one of my favorite works of art. Despite my near constant proximity to the river and having a partner who sometimes commutes to work by canoe, my relationship with the river has been a passive one. Its glinting surface has been a peaceful backdrop for my busy life. I haven't thought much about the national park in my backyard.

Neither, it turned out, had much of our team. So we began the month of July with the intention to think more deeply about the role

the river plays in all of our lives, individually and collectively. We have explored the community's connections to it, and we have observed it from many perspectives. Thanks to Mississippi Park Connection, our staff went out on the water in kayaks, led by guides from Paddle Bridge and the National Park Service. We took a tour of the Minneapolis Water Treatment Plant (thank you George Kraynick!) and saw how river water is turned into our tap water. We put our comfortable shoes on and walked as much of the riverfront as we could access.

We felt how different the North Minneapolis riverfront is from the riverfront in other parts of the city. It has notable access points far North in North Mississippi Regional Park and on the southern end between Plymouth Ave. and the Lowry Train Bridge, but the huge swath of riverfront in the middle of the community is mostly inaccessible, blocked by active industry, overgrowth, and other unwelcoming environments. The Upper Harbor Terminal project, the RiverFirst Initiative, and other development plans are poised to transform the Northside's access in the coming years.

The more our team learns about the development coming to the riverfront, the



Our team traveled up and down the riverfront this month for this Mississippi-focused edition of the paper. At Mississippi Mushrooms, a mushroom farm leasing space from the city at the Upper Harbor Terminal, founder Ian Silver-Ramp showed us how his crop is grown and harvested. **Photo by David Pierini**

more urgency we feel in our need to bring you, our readers, these stories. These projects need community voice. We hope the stories in this paper motivate you to examine your own connection to the river and the ways you want to be involved in shaping its future.

Until next time,

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

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Website: www.mynorthnews.org

#### Kenzie O'Keefe

Editor/Publisher/Advertising

**Abdi Mohamed**  
Staff Reporter

**David Pierini**  
Freelance Photographer

**Emily Ronning**  
Graphic Designer

**Anya Johanna DeNiro**  
Copy Editor

**Lyle James**  
Delivery

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Story ideas and letters to the editor under 300 words are always welcome. Unsigned letters will not be run.

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## INSIDE OUR "O"



Having grown up in the Northside, artist Joshua Nelson has returned to share his work in a gallery of his own, Funny Looking Horse, at 3855 Thomas Ave N. His art ranges from photography to painting and even sculptures made from printing paper and shredded dollar bills. Nelson attended Patrick Henry High School and after finishing college at St. Thomas University, pursued a graduate degree at the Miami Ad School. After studying in countries like Germany and Brazil, Nelson made his way back to the Northside area to search for a place to open his gallery. After a two-year search, he purchased the building and spent three years renovating the property. Nelson's affinity for the Northside and its community made the venue decision easier. "I grew up on 36th and Penn and I've always had love for the Northside. I mean there's so much potential and so much greatness. There's such a sense of community and support that it's overwhelming," he said. The gallery had its grand opening last month and is set to host more artists in themed events in the Fall. **By Abdi Mohamed**

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was recently homeless, staying at a shelter. I saw an ad on Craigslist for a room to rent above Cliff & Norms Bar at 2024 Washington Ave N in Minneapolis. Not only are the rooms new but very very clean, and the owner Donald Stoering is a great guy. He makes the living there very comfortable, and I feel he deserves recognition.

**Vic Shocinski**

North News welcomes letters to the editor. Please send to [kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org](mailto: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

## FLOW is July 25-27

The three-day North Minneapolis art crawl is back for its 14th year. Find more information about this year's celebration of "collective joy" at [www.flownorthside.org](http://www.flownorthside.org).

## Turning Point launches culturally based resource center on Broadway

In their quest to serve the Northside community, Turning Point Inc. has launched a resource center on West Broadway to tackle issues ranging from drug abuse to mental illness. The new center, located on 827 W. Broadway Ave, opened last month to the public and seeks to provide culturally based services to the African American community. Founder and President Dr. Peter Hayden, spoke to North News about the new location and why West Broadway was an essential place to be located. "We are not afraid to be where the need is," he said. Hayden founded Turning Point in 1976 and has provided chemical addiction treatment, mental health counseling, HIV treatment and homelessness services through the organization during its 43-year history. Turning Point works to treat these interconnected issues holistically. Hayden cited mental health as a "taboo" topic in the African American community but hopes a culturally based approach will alleviate those stigmas for people to seek assistance.

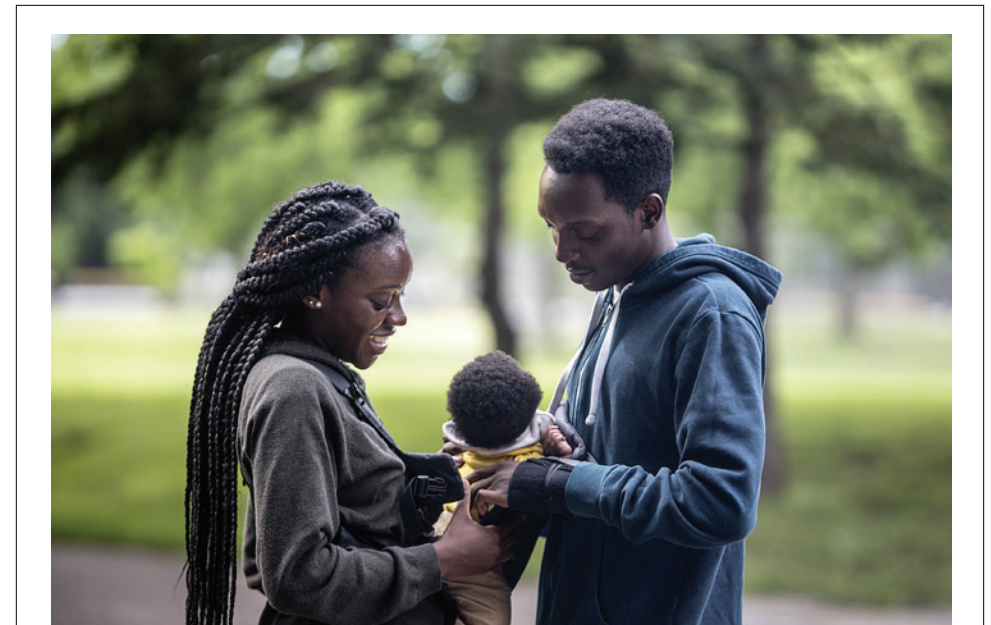
## Shipping carrier location opens shop in the Northside

After learning that Northside residents

had a need for more shipping centers, Kester Wubben gathered his resources and established Mailbox Solutions Plus to address that demand. Operating near the intersection of 44th Ave. and Penn Ave. Wubben hopes to benefit from the traffic that the location brings. Wubben is entrepreneurial by nature; he operated a carwash in the mid-1990s and has worked in several industries which include developing real estate. His newest venture with Mailbox Solutions Plus is to bring shipping carrier services to the Northside along with copying, printing and business services. With the long lines at the Lowry Post Office and the nearest commercial carrier being miles away, Wubben took it upon himself to find a solution. "I want to put something in place in the neighborhood that we don't have that we need and that everybody can have access to," he said. The serial entrepreneur also shared that he has a good relationship with the City of Minneapolis, noting that he particularly appreciates Councilmember Phillipe Cunningham's accessibility. Wubben was also the recipient of an improvement grant from the city which went towards his awning.

## Legally Blonde Jr. to be performed in community

Lundstrom Performing Arts Center (1617 N 2nd St.) will put on three performances of *Legally Blonde Jr.* the musical on Aug. 2, 3 and 4. Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased at [www.lundstrom.org](http://www.lundstrom.org). The show is recommended for people 5+ and runs for one hour. It's directed by Kathleen Bloom.



Miyanna Shaheer, left, hands off DeShawn Williams Jr., age 6 months, to his proud father and her brother, DeShawn Sr. They were two of four generations to attend the annual Peace in the Park event on July 20, sponsored by Brothers EMpowered Minneapolis. **Photo by David Pierini**

## FIRST AVENUE PRESENTS:



### YAMANEIKA SAUNDERS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 02  
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER



### KAMASI WASHINGTON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11  
FIRST AVENUE



GO 95.3 PRESENTS  
**DENZEL CURRY**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15  
FIRST AVENUE



### FLYING LOTUS IN 3D

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20  
FIRST AVENUE



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2944 Emerson Ave N (in the back)  
All are welcome.



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# HIGHER HEIGHTS

Variety Show



7pm Thursday, August 8  
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2nd Show Added! 7pm, Wednesday, August 7

2210 Oliver Ave. N., Minneapolis  
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## New Somali restaurant shows entrepreneurial spirit of the immigrant community

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

North Minneapolis has seen steady growth in its immigrant population over the years, namely from the Somali community, however there have been few Somali businesses in the area.

Sahra Hasan and her family have been living on the Northside for 15 years but operated her food business in South Minneapolis for over a decade. Now, she's brought her business closer to home. Hasan operates and manages Mama Sahra's Kitchen, a restaurant newly located on 1825 Glenwood Ave. which specializes in Somali cuisine. The restaurant serves an array of dishes that include rice, spaghetti and an

assortment of meats such as chicken, goat and beef. Hasan's specialty has been her sambusas that rest fresh on the counter each day.

After a three year search for a place to open her business, Hasan found her current location on the corner of Glenwood and Morgan. She has been in business there for nearly seven months.

Although there is a growing Somali population in the Northside, many travel outside of the area for their cultural needs. Hasan's daughter, Raniya Shiekh, shared her family's reasoning for opening their business in North Minneapolis. "We see people traveling

**Continued on Page 23**

## Broadway Pizza owner considers "repurposing" the property

Yearlong planning process may lead to the restaurant's closure, business owners say.

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

Future changes may be coming to the Broadway Station Pizza restaurant located on West River Road in North Minneapolis if development plans go well, say its owners. On July 11, the restaurant's owner, James Kruiženga, told North News he is in the process of investigating ways to "repurpose" his business.

Kruiženga indicated he is working with a development company (who he was not willing to name) to help him assess his building and could possibly make a decision in the next year as to what he would like to see in the space if he were to sell it. He shared that he would like to see something beneficial go

into that property for the North Minneapolis community, potentially affordable housing.

When asked why he is exploring new options for the site, Kruiženga pointed to the age of the building, which has been in place for over forty years. "We're definitely in a situation where the building is getting old, but it's a great piece of property," he said on July 11. "Quite frankly, what we're really looking at right now, is the company's looking at some affordable housing on that unit which would be a wonderful site for North Minneapolis to have right there on the river."

Kruiženga has served as the CEO of Broadway Bar & Pizza since 1991 after purchasing it from the original owner, Eddie Peck, who founded his business on the Northside. Kruiženga owns the Northside restaurant along with a few other locations of the franchised business. According to Kruiženga, the location on the

**Continued on Page 22**



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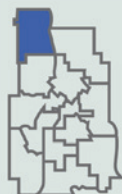
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catch up with our  
**Council Members**



WARD 4:  
**Phillipe  
 Cunningham**



Happy August, Neighbors! I wanted to take this month to talk about North Washington Avenue, a major transit artery of our ward, and the entire Northside. It is currently home to a multitude of businesses, offices, and a handful of residential properties. For the past several years, there has been a sharp increase in the amount of semi-trucks, food trucks, RV campers, and commercial vehicles parking on this stretch of road for days and sometimes even weeks. My office has received many, many calls from constituents who have expressed their concerns of driving safety along this stretch of road, often sharing accidents or near misses they observed. I often drive this stretch of road on my way to or from City Hall, I have seen those same things. I also share in the frustration of seeing garbage and waste left in the wake of these vehicles. In meeting with several business and property owners along this corridor earlier this year they shared the difficulty their customers face finding parking or locating their businesses, the damage to their business vehicles, and more.

Recently, several of my colleagues and I started exploring ways to address this issue, as this problem has grown now to other areas in the city. However, it is not just as simple as

just eliminating all semi-truck parking in Minneapolis. As a pro-worker and pro-small business Council Member, I also take into consideration most of these commercial vehicles belong to independent contractors and small business owners. A further challenge is many of those living in the RVs and campers would otherwise be without a place to live. It is critical we find a solution to get to the root of the challenges and change behaviors or else it will only encourage finding work-arounds to any changes.

As my colleagues and I work towards a solution for these challenges, I want to hear from you about what to consider moving forward! Please call my office at (612) 673-2204 or send an email to us at ward4@minneapolismn.gov with your thoughts, solutions, and proposals! I am looking forward to working towards a solution together, and again, and always, am continually humbled that I have the honor of representing Ward 4!



WARD 5:  
**Jeremiah  
 Ellison**



Last month I wrote about the importance of Juneteenth—its meaning to black people in the U.S., and its significance in the broader context of American history—but to help you get caught up if you missed last month's column, Juneteenth celebrates a pivotal moment in black people's transition out of chattel slavery. Predictably, newly free black people quickly began building towns and institutions and businesses that reflected the world they wanted and needed—a world they were denied for 250 years.

I don't have enough space in this column to discuss the creation of vibrant townships like Rosewood, Florida or Freedman's Village, Virginia or Greenwood, Oklahoma (the famed Black Wall Street) but if you've never heard of them, please do yourself the favor of researching them. Many of these black economic epicenters met tragic ends, but their lifespans produced far more brilliance and innovation than they did tragedy.

Today, in Minneapolis, we're doing our small part to participate in that legacy. A long list of black-owned businesses from across the city will be highlighted in our first ever, city-hosted Black Business Week.

As black people, our reputations in the kitchen have reached legendary heights, and to that end, you'll see that a lot of the events held during Black Business Week will be held at the many black-owned restaurants, or highlight black chefs and black-owned catering businesses. But we won't just be highlighting food; black-owned construction companies, law firms, art + design firms, event planners, strategy + consulting firms, publishers, and finance agencies are all a part of our local economy here in Minneapolis. Black-owned gyms and health + wellness facilities, as well as fashion designers and beauty product makers will get you looking

right for the rest of the summer (which is flying by too fast).

And the beautiful thing is, black-owned businesses aren't just for black people. The same way Hmong Village or the businesses on East Lake attract people from all over the metro, I'm hoping Minneapolis will see the value of Black Business Week. So, I hope to see you out and about this week. Check out MinneapolisBlackBusinessWeek.com for a list of events and participating businesses.

But just as business and the pursuit of economic freedom has produced great benefit in the black community, business and the pursuit of profit has also caused great damage.

I'm glad to say Northern Metals will shut down its shredding operation on August 1st—a mere few days from now. Northern Metals lied about the pollution they were causing—for years they pumped lead, chromium, cobalt, and nickel into the air. The news is bitter sweet, because even though they paid a fine and the shredder will be shut down, I can't help but think of the generations it'll take for Northsiders to recover from the increased risk to heart attacks, bronchitis, and asthma that breathing in these particulates caused. We should take time to celebrate the closing of the shredder, but I'm still well aware that the work of cleaning up the air and soil over north is far from over.

Thank you, and as always, I look forward to seeing you out in the community! Call my office at 612-673-2205 or email me at ward5@minneapolismn.gov.

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# Roller derby team questions why Victory arena is not accessible to public

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

Members of a local roller derby team are wondering why the unused Victory Memorial Ice Arena (VMIA) is unavailable to them after requesting access to it.

Rebekah Dunnette, board member and Vice President of the Minnesota Junior Roller Derby (MJRD), has been in talks with Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) who own and operate the facility. Dunnette, whose derby name is ToohotinWA, moved to Minnesota 12 years ago and has been a part of the roller derby community for roughly six of those years.

Although she lives in Northeast Minneapolis, Dunnette has worked at North Memorial Hospital and has many friends in the North Minneapolis area. For years her group has rented space from to practice at the National Guard Armory in Northeast. A state law limiting the hours of rental time forced Dunnette and her group to search for a new home. Having frequented the Northside area, she discovered VMIA which seemed promising.

"It reminds me of a horror movie," Dunnette said while describing the empty building when she first viewed it. She reached out to the district to find a compromise to utilize the space. "They're only using it for storage of lawn equipment. When we initially asked the school board about it they were like, 'no, no we did a study and it would cost millions of dollars to try to use it again.'"

Dunnette and members of her group met with officials from the school district work out an agreement. According to Dunnette the district gave her a five month lease offer in which they could rent the facility for \$13,000 a month. The group made a counter offer \$6,000 a month for a year lease but was rejected by the district.

Dunnette's husband, Brian (Lazy Mofo), serves as the Secretary of the MJRD and provided documents of their correspondence with the school district to North News. The emails confirm the offer made by the district with an additional \$20,000 for capital renewal expenses for occupancy and another \$1,345 for clean-up for occupancy. Other emails show the district did have an assessment done on the space last summer which was provided by Kyle Thompson of Faithful+Gould, Inc.

The assessment concluded that the rink needed concrete repair on the sidewalk and parking lot of the property, a new air handling unit for heating and cooling, handicap accessibility work and an assessment for asbestos considering the building was constructed in 1974. The documents also provide a "rough order magnitude of cost" to make the rink fit for occupation. Estimates for renovations "will be in the region of \$840,204 for conversion to an indoor turf arena, \$1,040,204 for conversion to a hardwood sport court arena, and \$1,080,924 for return to service as a

municipal ice rink."

In a statement provided to North News, MPS Chief Operating Officer Karen DeVet said: "The future of the ice arena is still under discussion and may factor into an upcoming multi-year capital plan, along with other capital investment needs across the district." DeVet acknowledged her conversations with Dennutte about renting the facility but affirmed that the district currently has no plans to lease the rink as it needs "significant repair" if it were to reopen. "We proposed pricing last November to a group representing adult and youth roller derby leagues to allow a short term lease. After several meetings with the group, it seemed they didn't have the funding to enter into a lease at a cost that kept the district whole, including nominal expense to get the facility ready, as is, for the lease," she said.

MJRD does youth-focused work and believes that the facility could do a lot to help the local community if it were to be reopened. Part of the MJRD's draw for youth members has been its LGBTQ inclusivity where members are addressed by their preferred pronouns or roller derby names. "We would just like to be able to utilize an empty facility. To promote roller derby and promote the area. There's this wonderful facility that could help the youth in the area," Dunnette said.

DeVet says the VMIA may factor into the districts multi-year capital plan, along with other capital building improvements needs in the district. This plan would help shape the district's capital planning for the next several years and how the ice arena factors into the overall athletic facility plan.

For now, the ice rink remains used primarily for storage.

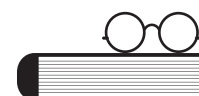
Youth participants of NERDY (now MNJRD) take part in an intramural scrimmage ahead of a Minnesota Rollergirls bout in March 2016. Photos courtesy of Brian Dunnette, MNJRD



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North News summer interns paddled from North Mississippi Regional Park to Boom Island Park on the Mississippi River on June 26.

# RECLAIMING

## *the river*

The narrative about the Northside's relationship to its national park border often focuses on disconnection.

The construction of highway 94 in the 60s created a formidable barrier between residents and the Mississippi River. Industry and undeveloped land continues to make accessing the waterfront a difficult and sometimes impossible experience.

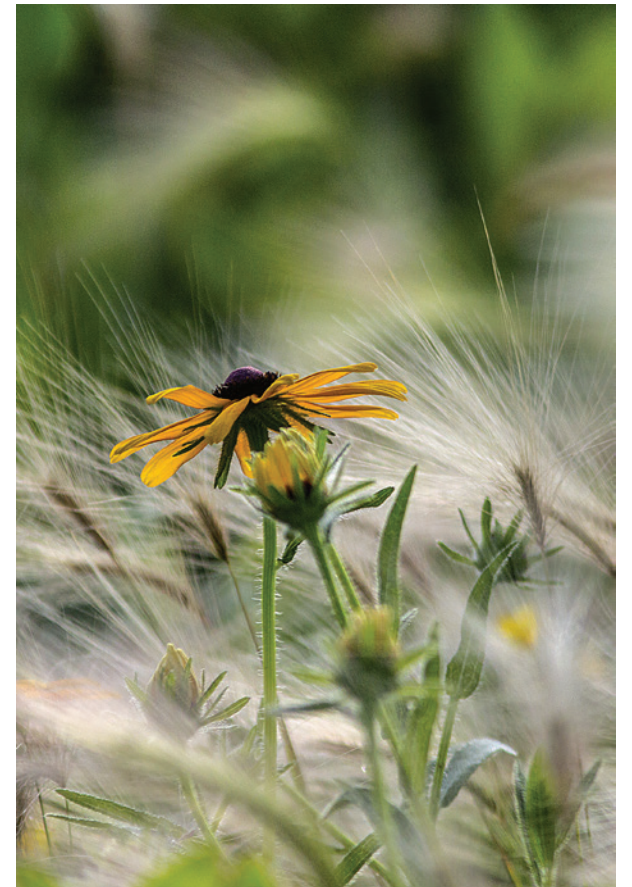
But behind these stories of systemic disconnection are stories of quiet but vital relationship. Northsiders old, young, black, brown, white, poor and powerful have found ways to live in harmony with their waterfront.

They catch fish from its shores. They ride its waves in their kayaks. They grow mushrooms in the industrial wreckage on its riverbanks. They are literally kept alive by it—the city's drinking water comes from the Mississippi.

They feel protective of its future, and excited about the possibilities. This month, the *North News* team spoke with community members and leaders about their relationships to the water. Here are their stories.

*Stories by* Alissa Simmons, Myesha Powell, Kailen Branson Interns, Kenzie O'Keefe Editor, Abdi Mohamed Staff Reporter

*Photos by* David Pierini



## Growing up by *the Mississippi*

Janet\*, 45, grew up on the Northside with her family.

As a young person on the Northside, Janet never had a connection to the river, for multiple reasons. "...The river was kind of a place, or a divider between North Minneapolis and Northeast Minneapolis, and as black people we were taught 'you don't go into Northeast Minneapolis because they were racist,'" she said.

She says the river never offered anything to her and her family. It seemed divisive in nature; it was like a wall that the black community refused to approach. "So we never really ventured to the river because that kind of was as far as you went. I think people were afraid of the river." She says she and her sisters don't even like driving over the river today.

Janet says that even beyond North Minneapolis, many black people don't like water, which may be the result of slave traders not allowing black people to swim, creating a generational distrust and lack of interest towards water. "A lot of blacks don't like water. A lot of us don't

know how to swim. I don't know how to swim, my sisters don't know how to swim. That's just a thing that happens in the black communities, unfortunately, that originated from slavery no doubt. Black people were not taught to swim, because it could be used to gain freedom from slavery," she said.

Janet mentioned one more reason why some black people might not enjoy water. "We don't like to get our hair wet. ...Our hair is extremely important to us as a culture. Our hair is our glory. And if you get wet, all that time that you spent getting your hair done is completely erased," she said.

Despite the rather negative experiences and feelings toward the river, Janet says that she did have at least one good experience with the river: on the Fourth of July. She and her friends, would go watch fireworks on the river. She really enjoyed that.

\*Janet asked that we use a pseudonym for this story.



Clockwise: A carp suns itself in Shingle Creek, which feeds into the Mississippi River.

A view of the Lowry Street bridge from Marshall Terrace Park in Northeast Minneapolis.

North Mississippi Regional Park has walking and bike trails lined by prairie plants and flowers, like black-eye Susans.





"We in the Northside deserve to participate in everything the river stands for: progress, economic development, accessibility, sustainability, and connectedness."

**Fue Lee, State Representative for District 59A**



"When I was younger, the thing we'd do is just get on our bikes and go wherever. A big

place to go was 42nd because that's where the river was. I never had a problem getting to the river when I wanted to. ...we'd watch the fishermen [catching carp], ...we canoed on the river."

**Rhys Lewis, 41, Northside resident who has worked along the river since 1999**



"Sometimes I go to the Mississippi River to walk along the trail to blow steam off. A couple times

I went fishing with my cousins and my grandpa when he [came] from Indiana because he really likes to go fishing. I have also been on the water canoeing. ...The water is calming and it brings peace to me."

**Sierra Brandon, 21, Northside resident**

By **Myesha Powell** Intern Reporter

## Did you know?



*The Mississippi* is the second longest river in the USA. It's a designated national park.



There are four miles of *Mississippi* riverfront in North Minneapolis. The City is currently leading an effort to redevelop 48 acres along it: the Upper Harbor Terminal.



Half a million people depend on *the river* for their drinking water in the Twin Cities.



Amanda Johnson leans into Sam Akinogbe as they sit and talk looking out at the Mississippi River. "It was my day off and I begged him to take here," Johnson said. "I had to get away from the concrete."

# What's along *the water?*

1

2

3

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**1. NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK**

North Mississippi Regional Park is hidden behind the freeway walls of I-94. A good place to start your visit is the Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 N Mississippi Drive). It has various offerings like bird watching stations, hands-on activities for kids, free parking, and more. The park spans 67.2 acres, some of the neighboring neighborhoods are Camden, Camden Industrial, Lind-Bohanon, and Webber. The regional park is filled with biking and walking paths, a fishing pier, boat docks, and picnic and playground areas. They even have opportunities to rent kayaks, bikes, and event space. Kayaks are available for rent through the “Paddleshare” program. You must be 18+ and have some kayaking experience. If there is a person that is younger or does not have experience then they have to be in a two person kayak with someone that has experience. Single-person and tandem kayaks for rent cost \$20-\$40. Paddleshare has six different routes people can take that vary in time and distance. The shortest route they provide is 1.7 miles and the longest is about 6.3 miles down the river. Visit paddleshare.org for more information.

**2. WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The Minneapolis Public Works Water Treatment & Distribution Center is located right off the river on 4300 Marshall St NE. They treat water and distribute water from the Mississippi River to about a half a million consumers

Kuo Zhao, an intern with the North Mississippi Regional Park, keeps a camp fire going for a weekly Neighborhood Nights, when families can eat a snack, play a game and learn about nature along the river. Sitting by the fire is Karimah Abdullah, right, and her son, Ahmad, 9.

in Minneapolis, Golden Valley, New Hope, Crystal, Columbia Heights, and parts of Bloomington. On average the site can treat about 19 billion gallons per year and about 50-65 million gallons per day. That means about 750 gallons per second are being treated. After collecting the water from the river, scientists start the treatment process by adding lime to soften it, which removes calcium and magnesium in it. The second step is to remove the “tea” color from the water by adding Alum. The final step is to rid the water of its nasty taste and smell by adding “Powdered Activated Carbon” to the water. All of the chemicals listed above are removed in the settling process, and the water is then put through filtering to ensure no bacteria or viruses are still in it.

**3. THE UPPER HARBOR TERMINAL**

The Upper Harbor Terminal is 48 acres of land that is set along the Mississippi River. The narrow strip between the Lowry and Camden bridges is owned by the City of Minneapolis. There is currently a concept plan in place to redevelop this industrial area in partnership with the Minneapolis Park Board and United Properties into amenities that



will hopefully benefit the surrounding communities. This harbor once served as a barge shipping terminal for bulk goods. A concept plan for the site was approved by the City Council on March 1. A 17-person community team is now working in partnership with the city and the developer to envision the details and possibilities for the site. The concept plan includes housing, park space, retail businesses, a utility hub, and an outdoor

performance venue. This area right now is home to old industrial buildings being used for storage and local businesses like Mississippi Mushrooms.

**Continued on Page 12**



Jason Lund and Daniel Le-Tran pick troops of oyster mushrooms growing at Mississippi Mushrooms.

#### 4. MISSISSIPPI MUSHROOMS

Mississippi Mushrooms is a local mushroom farm that produces mushrooms and compost year-round. They use local waste materials like sawdust and grain and recycle the materials for their farming process. They are located right off the river in the Upper Harbor Terminal (3800 1st St N). You can try some of their products at different co-ops and restaurants around the Twin Cities, or head over to their warehouse on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am-2pm to purchase directly from the farm.

#### 5. THE HERON ROOKERY

A 2011 tornado destroyed a Great Blue Heron rookery near North Mississippi Regional Park, forcing the surviving birds to find the place they call home today: an island near Marshall Terrace Park. Great Blue Herons are typically 4 ft tall and have a wingspan of 6ft. These herons can usually be found near the river stalking prey like fish and frogs in shallow water. If you get a chance to pass the rookery by boat, pass by the loud birds very quietly and keep your distance; the birds can get frightened and abandon their nests.

#### 6. THE GREAT NORTHERN GREENWAY OVERLOOK

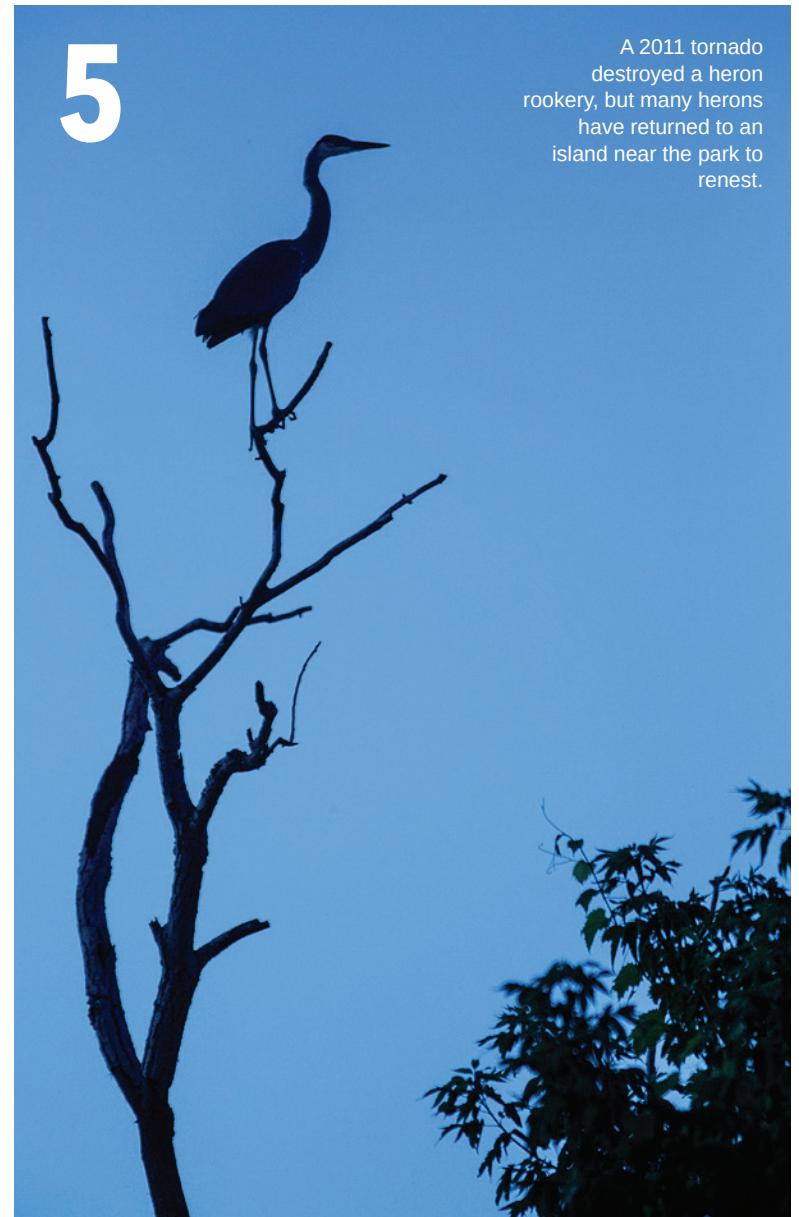
The Great Northern Greenway River Overlook is a new project from The Minneapolis Parks Foundation, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and the RiverFirst Initiative that is set to break ground in Fall 2019 where

26th Ave. N dead ends at the Mississippi River. Currently the area is unused and overgrown with plants. The design of the overlook will be an oval shaped trail that will sit above the river bank and extend over the river's shore with a 50ft tall beacon in the center. It will also include art and other interactive entertainment and provide outdoor furniture and lighting. The hope with this project is to not only give this abandoned space a new look, but also give people in the community a new and fun place to explore, fishing, enjoying art, or even just to hang out and enjoy the views of the Mississippi River.

#### 7. MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MWMO is an organization that works to clean and protect water of an urban watershed that goes directly into the Mississippi River. They have teamed up with different communities to invest in more environmentally friendly infrastructures that will help clean and reuse stormwater. Some of these communities are Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop, Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, St. Anthony Village, and St. Paul. The organization even offers and promotes environmental education to the public.

By **Alissa Simmons** Intern Reporter



A 2011 tornado destroyed a heron rookery, but many herons have returned to an island near the park to renest.



A Phase 1 development plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal is drafted in the City, Park Board, and United Properties' collaborative concept plan for site. The Hub (6) is envisioned to be a marketplace for economically driven initiatives. **Rendering courtesy of upperharbormpls.com**

## UHT development plan includes space for businesses and marketplace

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

Part of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) redevelopment plan includes a facility known as “the Hub,” a building that is set to house office spaces for green businesses, a marketplace and other economically driven initiatives. In the 37-page UHT concept plan approved by the City Council in March of this year, the Hub is described as a “community-focused development.”

The idea for the Hub with born out of a dialogue between residents and city officials. Northside residents were asked what they would like to see in the space and their response continuously pointed to the need for an entrepreneurial site for the community. The concept plan serves as a draft of a blueprint for the development project with the details yet to be worked out. However, based on some preliminary discussions with community members, the Hub is an integral space to serve as a facility to draw in entrepreneurs and stakeholders into the space.

The City of Minneapolis' Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) department is leading the charge in creating the plans for redevelopment of the UHT in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and United Properties. Erik Hansen, the director of Economic Policy and Development at CPED, describes the process as a collaborative effort between his agency and other entities. “We’re making decisions in a very deliberate way, with the community, this collaborative planning committee, the development team and the city together,” he said.

One significant part of the Hub is the inclusion of an integrated utility hub which is described as a “closed loop system” in the UHT’s concept plan. This utility hub would be created with sustainability in mind and would find environmentally safe

solutions for waste and water management. The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is working closely with CPED on this portion of the Hub’s development and hopes to find solutions as to find ways to lower the environmental impact of the Hub. Both the Department of Public Works and the Metropolitan Council who work in municipal and regional waste treatment are also included in these development plans.

Final decisions as to what to include in the Hub are yet to be made. Hansen described the planning process as being open to the public and receptive to community suggestions. Each month, a 17-member city-appointed “Collaborative Planning Commission” meets with a theme in mind in relation to the UHT redevelopment. In the month of September, the group of community members and leaders plan to address community ownership models to find ways of including the community in the development.

The concept plan mentions the inclusion of a “community-based partner” who would operate the ground floor of the Hub. This partner could come in the form of a cooperative, an investment trust or a community development corporation and would work to raise the capital for the construction of the Hub. CPED has a few organizations in mind, but has yet to make a decision. Hansen shared the importance of thinking long term when it comes to community ownership. “When I think of community ownership, I’m not thinking about the first year. I’m thinking about the fifth year on, because if we don’t have that first phase thought through, what happens is that it’s not community owned for long,” he said.

CPED is assessing the costs of construction for the Hub and is set to give the city council an update on Aug. 13 as to their recommendation of restoring some of the structures currently in the UHT or creating new buildings. Ian Silver-Ramp, owner

of Mississippi Mushrooms, works out of one of the warehouses located on the UHT and says the idea of constructing a new building would not be cost effective for future business owners operating in the Hub. “If you want to create a business incubator, it needs to be affordable for businesses to start up,” he said. “After tearing this thing down, it’s probably on par with the cost of rebuilding it.”

Hansen of CPED says that isn’t necessarily the case. “It’s not up to current code and would cost a lot of money to bring it up to leasable standards. It’s not going to be at a level we would have in a new building where we’re looking for more environmentally sustainable practices,” he said. Residents of the Northside who engaged in dialogue with CPED put a lot of value on having access to the Mississippi and the Hub would serve as a “focal point” for their connection to the river.

Gayle Smaller is a member of the Collaborative Planning Commission. Smaller described the planning towards the Hub as having a “formula” when deciding what it could contain. Businesses would be a mix of artistic, Northside focused, or equity based. He also described the importance of the Hub servicing the North Minneapolis community and not just being located here. “If it’s an illusionary definition of what community is, and just creating the Hub to bring other people to our community to take advantage of the resources, then I don’t think it’s a good idea,” Smaller said.

The Hub and its future are currently in flux, but just as this idea for a marketplace and economic development was born out of community engagement, members of the Northside community have the opportunity to share their thoughts on what they would like to see from this space.



Along the Mississippi River in North Minneapolis, a former barge shipping terminal sits covered in graffiti and weeds.

## CONCRETE CANVAS

*The Northside's guerilla art park*

By **Kailen Branson** Intern Reporter  
and **Kenzie O'Keefe** Editor

If you walk through the Upper Harbor Terminal today, you'll witness an urban art gallery with an almost post-apocalyptic aesthetic to it. Graffiti, from big murals to scrawled tags, is scattered across the 50 year old industrial complex. Nature has also reclaimed the place; weeds now sprout up from cracks in the concrete and walls.

Almost half a decade ago, a group of artists saw the potential of the abandoned site and came together with an artistic vision. They called it "the space station" and dreamed of creating an artistic landscape so powerful that the city would never tear it down.

North News visited the UHT site with three of the artists who started the painting community there. They have been given anonymity.

*This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.*

**What has the Upper Harbor Terminal meant to you?** Artist: it's been a place where you can practice your art and paint. It's got all these weird, cool surfaces and it's kind of like an art park without even meaning to be. It was like a sculpture garden. I always kind of saw it as one curated work of art and it kind of became that on its own.

**How did you discover it?** Artist: I lived close by. I would see it all the time. One day I noticed that the lights were all off. I didn't think much about it. Then I heard they had shut down the lock and dam and that there weren't going to be any barges going up the Mississippi anymore. I knew they weren't using it anymore and thought: [this] might be a good place to go paint.

**What was your experience like painting here?** Artist 2: this is a weird, cut off, light industrial enclave. You got the river on one side and the highway on the other and two residential buildings over there and a bunch of salvage businesses. Artist: We tried to keep all the painting in a zone that wasn't used. Artist 3: At first we didn't want painting anywhere it could be seen from the road. If you were driving by, you

wouldn't necessarily know there was graffiti back here. Artist: I painted here a lot, mostly because I just liked being here. It's a really beautiful place. It was a sanctuary. It was also a place to experiment with different ideas and trying new bigger stuff ...It was like a gallery space, like a studio. We really wanted it to be seen as one cohesive art piece.

**What was your vision for that piece?** Artist: The vision was placing text in high up spots, so from a certain view it would read as a poem, and to do a mural of the Mississippi. The vision at the time was not very thought out. It was all very sporadic. Getting paint was hard, getting the time, being able to come down here. None of this happened smoothly over a set period of time. It was all piece by piece, whenever it was possible. The idea was to tell a story.

**What was the story?** Artist: With the first wall, the idea was to tell the story of the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities. There is a sketched outline of Fort Snelling, Pig's Eye. This whole side was going to be a Native American scene on the river. It was like moving up to the sawmills—that whole chapter. Up here are the grain elevators and the flour milling and all that. There's a barge there. The final one was the



The idea was to tell a story of the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities. ...The idea was to create something that people wouldn't want to tear down.

*UHT graffiti artist*

"Sheva" and "Flora" are the artists behind this piece in the center of the UHT, which has been the backdrop for many music videos filmed at the site. Sheva says they painted the mural hoping that "no matter how ignorant to graffiti culture the onlooker was, they would not be able to ignore that behind this spray painted wall was another person pouring their heart out." Sheva says she will "mourn it deeply" when it's gone. "The time that was put into the walls is a beautiful thing that people underestimate," she said.

future, the unknown. What's going to be next? It was kind of an ambitious project. We didn't think this place would be here for this long.

**Did thinking that it would be short lived impact what you were painting or how you related to it?** Artist: We thought it would be short lived, but we thought that if we made it into an art landmark that they would save it. We wanted it to be this thing that people would see and be like "That's really cool. It's culturally significant. We should hold on to that." A lot of the content of the art was inspired by being here and seeing the river and seeing all this industrial [stuff]. The idea was to create something that people wouldn't want to tear down.

**What do you think of this place now? Do you still want to see it preserved as an art landmark?** Artist: It's cool to hear that they're going to do something with it. It would be sweet if they preserved it as an art landmark—you know how they did the Mill City Ruins and it's a beautiful park, all lit up. I would be sad if it got bulldozed. I've looked at the plans of what they're trying to do and it looks like they're trying to save parts of it, which would be cool. I think it would be cool if people could go up in the tower and see the city from there. I think it would be cool to get the opportunity to finish some of this stuff and create the murals we were originally trying to create. It's just a cool place for people to be able to come and take photos and shoot music videos and explore. That was the coolest part about being down here—constantly running into people. This place was just buzzing with people all the time. People from all walks of life would come back here and think it was cool. It would be sweet if they made it into a public space of some kind.

**When you look around here, do you know most of the**

**people who did the work that's here?** Artist: For a while it was just us and people we knew. Then it became a destination, so people from out of town would come here. If you were a visiting graffiti artist, you would come here. There's a lot of out of town people. There's probably at least 30-40 different artists here. Artist 3: When I first came here, I would see stencils of the Instagram logo and it would be crossed out because you weren't supposed to post any pictures of this place.

**Was that your doing, Artist?** Artist: Yeah, we were very protective of the place for a while. We didn't want people to see things until they were "finished." I would paint over shit that was outside the designated zones and clean up trash. We wanted to keep it out of the way and not spilling over into the rest of the [neighborhood].

**A lot of people don't understand the difference between graffiti art and people just messing around with a can of spray paint. How do you explain that? And how did you enforce the distinction down here?** Artist 2: The distinction is not clear. Over time it's impossible. Artist: It was hard. It takes more energy than anybody has to do that. Eventually chaos, and the aesthetics of chaos, take over.

**How do you explain your art to a world that sees graffiti as a chaos aesthetic?** Artist: that was very much the big question of this place. What can you make that will make people see it as something besides graffiti? What could you possibly paint that would make it seem like something that should be here as opposed to something that's just some kids messing around. With graffiti you have people who do it as art. You have people who do it as a fun hobby and then there are people who just scribble on stuff. The distinction is tough to make, especially when it's all unsanctioned.

**Knowing that development is soon to come to this place, do you feel like what you've done down here has been successful or served its purpose?** Artist: I think so. I can't [count] how many videos and photoshoots have been shot down here and how many different people have gotten to experience the magic of this place. Artist 2: All the music videos and creative projects—people came down here because, to some degree, that vision you were trying to create was successful. Artist: The vision was to carve out space for art and creativity in a city that is rapidly trying to commercialize and crack down on any of that. There are no other places [like this]. There are abandoned buildings, but they last for a couple of months and then there's some new [stuff].

**Is there anything else you want to say about what this place has meant to you?** Artist: It was a really cool community spot, an unofficial recreation center that all sorts of people [would come to], [including] families with kids. One time I saw a bunch of army guys up in the tower taking group pictures. It was a place where all sorts of people have come to enjoy. This is a very unique version of river accessibility. It's an inspiring place. Artist 2: It was a de facto public space because no one obviously owned it. Artist: There's more art here than in the sculpture garden at the Walker. It's beautiful and more beautiful because it wasn't supposed to be. Watching nature reclaim it has been part of that. Artist 2: The decorations are courtesy of public volunteers.

# Youth react to plans to redevelop the Upper Harbor Terminal

Earlier this year, the city council approved a high-level conceptual plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal, a 48-acre city-owned site along the North Minneapolis riverfront. Our student journalists have paged through the plan, interviewed some of the project's power-holders, and have come to some conclusions of their own.



By **Myesha Powell**  
Intern Reporter

The City Of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park And Recreation Board, and United Properties have all teamed up to redevelop the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) site on the river. Before this project, the UHT was used as a barge shipping terminal. The city hopes to benefit the local community by developing the riverfront. The city has developed a concept plan for the UHT—a document that is a rough draft full of ideas. It is not a final plan. The site is 48 acres total, and according to the concept plan, 19.5 acres will become park space. 4.5 acres will become an outside performance venue; 7.2 acres will be used for vehicular and pedestrian right-of-way (roads), and 16.9 acres will be mixed use: housing, hospitality, and office and commercial space.

All of that sounds good, but when I imagine something new coming to my neighborhood, I start to think about my peers. In North Minneapolis, there are not a lot of places that youth can hang out without having to spend money. Community centers mostly offer indoor activities, close at a certain times, and are not open on certain days. Youth need more outdoor spaces where they can be there as long as they want. They also need places to participate in outdoor activities such as picnics with family and friends. The UHT would be a perfect place for youth to hang out because of the location. They could enjoy the water or maybe even go there just to get peace of mind.

When I took a visit to the site, I thought that it was cool with all the graffiti art and the big domes. The place was really nice and my first thought was “wow youth could really hang out here.”

This site will hopefully give the community access to the river, a park, some really cool art, and a performing venue. I interviewed Gayle Smaller, one of the 17 members of the Collaborative Planning Committee, about the venue and he said, “If First Avenue does it right, there will be an opportunity for up and coming artists to do shows there as well. For the amount of investment that’s taking place, there’s going to be a lot of already famous artists that will be performing at this stage.”

If this performing venue is for the community, I think our community artists should be able to perform on the community stage. Instead of trying to fit them into the space, the space should be specifically for them. Our Minneapolis artists don’t get enough support from our own community, and this performing venue could be a perfect opportunity for them.

I would like to see the UHT development being more focused on the real community than money. I’m worried it’s going to be gentrification because of what I see in the plan: us not performing on the stage and “market rate” and “affordable” housing on the river.



Text and visuals  
by **Kailen Branson**  
Intern Reporter

I believe the Upper Harbor Terminal should be turned into a public location for people to come and admire the graffiti there. It would be comparable to the sculpture garden at the Walker, and hopefully attract young artists who are looking for inspiration and a fun place to hang out.



By **Alissa Dummer Simmons**  
Intern Reporter

Listed as one of the six values of the project is “environmental justice and sustainability.” The UHT site is also in a city-designated “Green Zone” as of 2017. A Green Zone is a place where the city has recognized the effects of environmental pollution, and social, political, and economic vulnerability. The Northern Green Zone committee was brought into help with attempts to improve these things by using environmentally conscious efforts.

The concept plan includes a section especially for “Sustainability Goals” for the environment on the UHT site.

It says that “environmental testing of the site to date has not found any significant pollution, but any remediation that is needed will be completed during site redevelopment; Except in the section of historic river wall, the river edge will be restored.”

I think this is where it can be confusing for the community. Using words like ‘except’ make me assume that wildlife and other environmental elements will be affected by this part of the project. Personally I would like to know more about this section of the project because based off our reporting there seems to be a lot of historic river wall to redevelop and restore. I would also like to know what wildlife and animals have been recorded around this historic river wall, so the community gets more of an idea of what this project could potentially disrupt. Under this it is said that they have plans to add habitats in the park and in other parts of the redevelopment to hopefully restore some wildlife that could be affected by working on the river’s edge. The redevelopment is also working on making the area easily accessible by non-motorized vehicles, bikes, and walking trails. All businesses that are supposed to be brought into this project are going to be clean and non-polluting.



# Upper Harbor



Learn more about the current phase of the project and opportunities to give your feedback.

[upperharbormpls.com](http://upperharbormpls.com)



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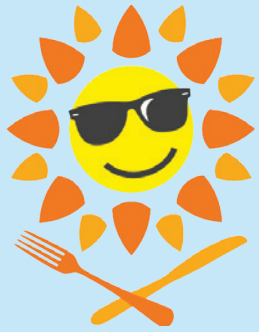
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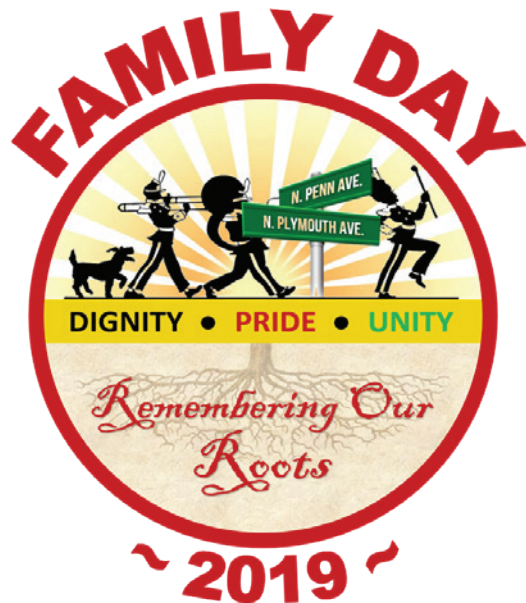
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## GRADUATION

Edgewood College  
Ed Taylor

Normandale Community College  
Elder Elizabeth Bailey  
Chelsea Mianina Gonzalez  
LaWanda Cassandra Akins  
Samale A Barkhadle  
Alfredo Barrera Martinez  
Jeremy John Garrigan  
Lavonda Lorese Green  
Queen Isis  
Christianne J Johnson  
Chien B Phan-Nguyen

Mount Mercy University  
Cassidy Courey

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
Felicia Ikebude  
Naomi Nyambati

Univeristy of Wisconsin - River Falls  
Ceeiab Vang

## DEAN'S LIST

Miami University  
Jillian Christie

SUNY Purchase College  
Mona Sewell

Bethel University  
Rebekah Hamley  
Sidney Meader  
Nolan Metz

Normandale Community College  
Sami Hammond  
Luke Tuzinski  
Mohamed Ali  
Jeff McClay  
Christine Somers  
Jordan Stephan  
Rosemary Tuckner  
Ashton Valentines

## RESOURCES

The Census Bureau is hiring temporary employees for the 2020 Census. The jobs offer weekly pay, competitive pay rates, flexible hours, and paid training. By joining the 2020 Census team, you can support your community while getting paid to do it. Learn more here: <https://2020census.gov/jobs/>

Neighborhood HealthSource hosts free and reduced cost mammograms for eligible

women every month at one of their three Northside clinics. Call 612-287-2433 or visit [neighborhoodhealthsource.org](http://neighborhoodhealthsource.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](mailto: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](http://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 Bucks 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/tcmm/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](mailto: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 NRRRC office Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am-3pm or set up an appointment by calling 612-335-5925.

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 651-328-6220 or visit [mncee.org/hes-mpls](http://mncee.org/hes-mpls) to schedule.

**If you live in Hennepin County and have a desire to improve the child protection system, consider volunteering for the Citizen Review Panel.** The panel meets the second Monday of each month at the Health Services Building (525 Portland Ave). Panel members serve for a two-year term. Email [Mary.Doyle@state.mn.us](mailto:Mary.Doyle@state.mn.us) for an application packet and more information.

## EVENTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

**Wednesdays – Kid's Bookclub.** 2:30pm-4pm. Webber Park Library. No pre-reading required, we will share a book, discuss, and do a fun activity! Sponsored by Friends of the Webber Park Library. No registration required. Kids entering grades 1-6.

**Fridays – Family Storytime.** 10-11am. Webber Park Library. For children of all ages and their parent or

caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

**Saturdays – Read Together.** 10am-1pm. Webber Park Library. Sign up for a weekly 30-minute session to practice reading with a teen mentor. Come by or call the Webber Park Library to register. 612-543-6751. Kids entering K-3.

**Tuesdays – Boot Camp at The Trailhead:** Tammie's most popular class - Boot Camp is a multifaceted and high-energy class that combines elements of strength and cardio to create the perfect morning workout. As you work your way through the various stations, you'll find this session challenging you in varied ways as each targets a different muscle group. Boot Camp is a great way to get in a well-balanced and challenging workout before you start your day. Theodore Wirth Parkway Trailhead, 6:15am-7:15am.

**Mondays – Sign up for a weekly 30-minute session to practice reading and do literacy activities with a teen mentor.** 2pm - 5pm. Visit or call the Webber Park Library to register. 612-543-6751. Sponsored by the Webber Park Friends. For kids K-3.

8/6 - Minneapolis is having its **37th annual National Night Out** and there are important deadlines for registering with the City to have events or block off areas for the night. Deadlines to apply for street or alley closure are July 24 - July 29 and will cost \$100. For more information about National Night Out, visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/hno](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/hno).

8/10 – **The North High class of 1969 is having its 50th class reunion.** Go to [www.northpolars-1969.com](http://www.northpolars-1969.com) for details; register by June 10.

**The Capri Theater has temporarily closed.** The old theater seats are being removed, and every nook and cranny of the building is being emptied in anticipation of a June construction start on the theater's renovation and expansion. While the theater is closed, Capri programming will continue at alternate Northside locations. See website for details.

## EDUCATION

8/13 – The next **Minneapolis Public School Board Business Meeting** will be held on Aug. 13, beginning at 5:30pm at the Davis Center, 1250 W Broadway Ave.

8/27 – The next **Minneapolis Public School Board Committee of the Whole meeting** will be held on Aug. 27, beginning at 6pm at the Davis Center at 1250 W Broadway Ave.

**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>

**North Minneapolis Schools need 38 literacy math tutors for the 2019-2020 school year according to Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps.** Anyone interested is encouraged to apply now at [readingandmath.net](http://readingandmath.net) or by calling 866-859-2825. Tutors will begin in Aug. 2019.

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](http://www.ppl-inc.org/volunteer) or contact Volunteer Coordinator Caitlin Dougherty at [caitlin.dougherty@ppl-inc.org](mailto:caitlin.dougherty@ppl-inc.org) / 612-455-5108.

**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.

**The City of Minneapolis has named Nina Robertson the new director of the Step Up Youth Employment Program.** Robertson has served as a Step Up program manager since February of 2016. Robertson replaces former Step Up Director Anna Peterson, who now is the Chief of Staff in the Commissioner's office at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

## HOUSING

The City Council approved a **Renter-First Housing Policy** — a framework that affirms the City's

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commitment to advancing renter protections and developing new tools to support affordability and stability in rental housing. The implementation of the Renter-First Housing Policy will include both early intervention and safety-net strategies. Highlights include strengthening enforcement measures to ensure repair issues are addressed quickly while minimizing negative impacts on the renter; targeting inspections efforts toward properties in disrepair or with a high volume of renter complaints; and creating financial opportunities for property owners to maintain housing conditions and affordable housing without increasing rents. Learn more here: <https://hims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/2132/Renter%20First%20Policy%2003.01.19.pdf>

**The City of Minneapolis is now accepting applications for the Minneapolis 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program**, which helps property owners obtain property tax reductions for agreeing to keep a portion of rental units affordable for 10 years. For more information check out: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/WCMSP-214366>

**Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has developed a new program to help first-time homebuyers who have faced barriers to buying a home through traditional mortgage lenders.** Under the program, homebuyers can buy on the open market using Habitat's affordable, fixed-rate mortgage. They can even work with the Realtor of their choice, complete Habitat's homeownership education and buy a home in their preferred neighborhood or city. The new program reaches a broader income range, including those who may think their income is too high to qualify. Households earning \$40,000-\$80,000 have successfully bought a home in Habitat's redesigned homeownership program. The program revolves around an "unbeatable mortgage," a 30-year fixed-rate with monthly payments set to no more than 30 percent of income. Down payment assistance may be available. Interested residents can find more information on the mortgage program at: [www.BuyWithHabitat.org](http://www.BuyWithHabitat.org) or by calling 612-540-5660.

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

**Renters will be able to learn energy information about a Minneapolis home or apartment before they sign on the dotted line.** In February, the Minneapolis City Council approved three policies that combined touch all housing types in the city: residential energy Benchmarking, time of rent energy

disclosure, and time of sale energy disclosure. The goals of these policies are to reduce overall housing costs, ensure homeowners and renters have reliable information about their energy costs when deciding where to live, and reduce carbon emissions. These policies are recommended in Minneapolis' Climate Action Plan and will help the City make progress toward its community-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals. Minneapolis joins nearly 20 other cities in adopting residential energy benchmarking for large buildings.

**The City Council passed a measure on Nov. 2 reforming the way the City works with landlords and renters when complaints are made about disruptive criminal and nuisance conduct to provide more protections for tenants and resources for landlords to resolve problems.** Highlights of the amendments to the City's Conduct on Licensed Premises ordinance include: 1) A violation of the ordinance cannot stem from 911 calls reporting domestic violence, domestic abuse, a health-related emergency or any other similar tenant assistance response. 2) When a Minneapolis Police Department crime prevention specialist determines that an incident at a rental property requires City intervention after reviewing a police report, a letter is sent to both the landlord and the tenant about what needs to be done to resolve the problem issues. 3) A new interdisciplinary panel convened by the City's Regulatory Services Department will review the issues and help determine a community-centered approach that encourages landlords and tenants to resolve problems with a goal of discouraging unnecessary tenant displacement.

**The City Council approved a Renter-First Housing Policy**, a framework that affirms the City's commitment to advancing renter protections and developing new tools to support affordability and stability in rental housing. The implementation of the Renter-First Housing Policy will include both early intervention and safety-net strategies. Highlights include strengthening enforcement measures to ensure repair issues are addressed quickly while minimizing negative impacts on the renter; targeting inspections efforts toward properties in disrepair or with a high volume of renter complaints; and creating financial opportunities for property owners to maintain housing conditions and affordable housing without increasing rents.

## BE AWARE

**The Folwell Neighborhood Association Board will meet Aug. 6 at 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Folwell Park.**

**The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board would like to hear from area residents as they embark on improving the facilities at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.** The constructed is slated for 2020 and 2021 and will include an all-gendered, family-friendly, accessible bathroom, building an addition to the visitor center and re-envisioning the front entrance. To participate in this project, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EloiseButler> and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board website.

**For planting season, the City urges all Minneapolis gardeners, landscapers and farmers to protect pollinators.** Pollinator populations are in sharp decline because of an ongoing loss of plants that feed and shelter them combined with a large-scale expansion of pesticide use by homeowners, landscapers, property managers and farmers. One-third of the food and drink produced in the U.S. depends on bees, butterflies and other pollinators. We need healthy pollinators for healthy communities in Minneapolis, a healthy ecosystem and a healthy food supply. Find more resources and information about how to protect pollinators here: [www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees).

**Following fire laws will help keep Minneapolis neighborhoods safe and livable.** Outdoor recreational fires are permitted 9am-10pm. Keep fire small: less than three feet in diameter and two feet high. Postpone a fire when Minneapolis is under an air pollution advisory. Fires release fine particles that contribute to air pollution and are implicated in health problems including strokes, heart attacks and asthma. Sign up for air quality alerts at <http://mn.enviroflash.info>. Burn only untreated, unpainted, dry wood. Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris, because the smoke can be toxic. Fire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible material and in a fire ring or pit with edges more than six inches high. Have a hose or fire extinguisher present. Postpone the fire when the wind exceeds 10 mph. Fire must be constantly attended by someone 18+ and completely out before being abandoned. Illegal open burning or recreational fires could result in fines that start at \$200.

**The Upper Harbor Terminal Concept Plan** (approved March 1, 2019) will serve as the starting point for the next phase of planning: creating the more detailed Coordinated Plan. Get the latest news and updates on the Upper Harbor Terminal site by following the City of Minneapolis on Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor or by signing up for the UHT email subscription list.

**The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is excited to announce "Parks for All," a new comprehensive planning process that will set its priorities and policy direction for the next decade.** Parks for All will engage Minneapolis residents and park users, along with MPRB staff and commissioners, over the next two years to shape the future direction of Minneapolis' park and recreation system. Visit <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parksforall> for more information.

**Carbon monoxide (CO) exposure incidents increase during the winter months** and CO is often called the silent killer. It is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that when inhaled, enters the blood stream preventing proper absorption of oxygen, leading to illness and even death. For more information about natural gas safety, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/BeSafe](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/BeSafe) or call 612-372-

4727 or 1-800-245-2377.

**A new rule has passed that allows the City to charge property owners for cleaning, repairing or replacing City pipes clogged with grease.** Find more information at [www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease)

**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.

**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. 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.

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

## BUSINESS DEVELOPEMENT

**The West Broadway Business and Area Coalition meets for lunch** on the third Thursday of the month from 11:30am-1pm at 1101 West Broadway Ave. The next lunch will be held on August 15.

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](http://business.minneapolismn.gov), features roadmaps, checklists, tools and resources to help both new and existing businesses.

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# Summer school offers novel classes

By Avree Johnson, Rosa Weinand, and Angel Dwyer These three writers are part of the summer journalism program at Olson Middle School.

"Being bored in summer is like sitting on hot concrete: disappointing, annoying and painful," said sixth grader Dane Anderson.

Some students are escaping summer boredom through this summer's STEM academy at Olson Middle School. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is an original spin on summer school for Minneapolis middle schoolers seeking new experiences. STEM consists of GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, Science) and GISE (Guys In Science and Engineering).

Classes started June 17 and run for six weeks. As this summer session wraps up on July 25, 316 students from over 10 schools who regularly participated in daily classes and field trips at Olson Middle School, will take their new experiences and embark into next school year with a stronger set of life skills.

Elizabeth Bortke, STEM specialist for Minneapolis Public Schools, said, "I love

working with middle school students. It's a ton of fun creating this type of programming because it's hands-on, active and helps students broaden their experiences to see what careers they might want when they're older."

During their time in the program, students can choose from fourteen innovative classes such as robotics (creating and coding robots and drones), urban boat-building (designing a buoyant canoe), expedition minneapolis (exploration-based field trips to local science and nature-related parks and establishments), story sports (translating sports in texts, including Harry Potter and Hunger Games, to life) and coding (developing computer games through writing program code).

Most students naturally have favorite classes that relate to their personal goals and interests. "I love dance class because I want to be a dance teacher someday," said sixth grader, Aaliyah Coleman, who wants to inspire elementary-aged students.

"I've always been intrigued by computer engineering. With programming, you can be a game developer," said Robert Beard, a seventh grader invested in coding.

Others, such as seventh grader Diego Brenes, felt cooking class was helping him become more self-reliant. Shekinah Ross-Cunningham, eighth grader, credits her mom for inspiring her to cook. Sixth grader Jolie Dunnette transferred her desire to try new things to the journalism team where she writes and designs the student newspaper. Sixth grader Emmy Moncrieffe Ferguson values the teamwork aspect. "[My classes] are good practice for working hard at something I enjoy," she said. Additionally, students could opt in on a three-

day camping trip to Audubon Environmental Center in Sandstone, canoeing and biking day trips, tours of museums, or log rolling and outdoor cooking at Lake Nokomis, transferring classroom learning into real world adventures.

Whether students are repairing broken bicycles, learning swimming safety, programming a robot, creating with 3-D printers, determining how math skills can help them survive or venturing out on weekly field trips, boredom isn't on the agenda.

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## HIGHWAY 252/I 94 OPEN HOUSE



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- Highway 252 between Highway 610 in Brooklyn Park and I-694 in Brooklyn Center
- I-94 from I-694 in Brooklyn Center to downtown Minneapolis

Can't make it to an open house? For project information and to comment on the project, please visit:

[www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy252study/index.html](http://www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy252study/index.html)

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### How can you participate?

The same information will be provided at all three open houses, which will be held at the following locations:

- OPEN HOUSE #1**  
BROOKLYN CENTER  
Monday, August 5, 2019, 4:30–7:30pm  
Evergreen Community School  
7020 Dupont Avenue, Brooklyn Center
- OPEN HOUSE #2**  
BROOKLYN PARK  
Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 4:30–7:30pm  
Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center  
5600 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park
- OPEN HOUSE #3**  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Thursday, August 15, 2019, 4:30–7:30pm  
Folwell Recreation Center  
1615 North Dowling Avenue, Minneapolis



# Breakdancing at Webber Park Library

Joseph "Minnesota Joe" Tran showed kids how to top rock, kick out and freeze, three elements of breaking, during a free lesson on July 11 at the Webber Park Library. **Photos and reporting by David Pierini**



Yari Scott, 10, gets pointers on the position of her hands while her legs form a figure 4.



Anu Jofati, 5, center, picked up how to finish her moves with style.

## Broadway Station Pizza may close continued from Page 4

riverbank is still "quite dynamic" and has a large volume of sales which might explain why some are surprised to hear that Kruiuzenga is considering closing it. When North News called the River Road restaurant, the manager who answered seemed to be unaware of the changes that could come to their location and deferred questions about their future to the corporate office.

The lack of awareness is likely because Kruiuzenga and the developers he's working with are in the early stages of exploring a plan to repurpose the site. He stated that it would be a year until he had clear insight as to what would go into the space if he were to shutter the business on the riverbank.

Randall Winger, the Chief Financial Officer of Broadway Pizza, confirmed this possible

change with North News on July 15. However, Winger also left open the possibility that the business could continue to operate if the development planning process failed to yield better options. "If the whole project we're looking at doesn't go through, then no. It's an established business and would continue to operate as is," said Winger. Both Kruiuzenga and Winger have been keeping their cards close as to the definitive future of the Broadway Pizza location in North Minneapolis.

Although there are a lot of moving pieces, Kruiuzenga is optimistic and hopes to see



Built in 1974, the Broadway Station Pizza restaurant located near the Mississippi has long received interest from developers due to its proximity to the river. **Photo by Abdi Mohamed**

something good come of the location if the business were to move on. "I'm kind of excited about the possibility of driving by it in a couple years and be proud of what we put there for North," he said.



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## New Somali restaurant continued from Page 4

all the way to South Minneapolis but live in North Minneapolis. We want to make it more convenient and help make the area more diverse than it already is," she said.

Hasan sees her business succeeding in the Northside to encourage other Somalis to launch their own ventures. "Now that I've opened a business, there's a chance a lot of people will follow my lead," she said.

One obstacle to the success of Somali entrepreneurs could be the language barrier many like Hasan face. Ann Fix leads the Northside Economic Opportunity Network's (NEON) food business incubator program and has worked on fostering a communication with Somali entrepreneurs despite these barriers. "We want our space to be inclusive of the entire community," she said.

Last year, NEON took their Food Business 101 class to the Heritage Park Apartments in order to serve the Somali

community directly. Fix says that she has been working with other organizations in order to gain support for interpreter services to the Somali community and other immigrant communities living in the Northside. "One thing I've been leaning on now is the Minneapolis small business team," she said. NEON also conducted a cottage food certification training and received Spanish interpreting services through the Farmers Market Association to address the need for the Hispanic community.

The effort to uplift the immigrant community in the Northside will rely heavily on the success of their businesses. As NEON and other organizations seek to assist these communities despite the language and cultural barriers, it will take a collective effort for an economic impact to be felt.



Raniya Sheikh, left, and her mother, Sahra Hassan at the counter of Mama Sahra's Kitchen on Glenwood Avenue. **Photo by David Pierini**

AUGUST 2019

X NORTHSIDE

ON VIEW AT THE JXTA GALLERY:

AUGUST 1-31, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION:

AUGUST 1, 6PM

*August 2019 X NORTHSIDE* is an expansion of Nancy Musinguzi's project *NORTHSIDE: An Oral History Publication and Installation* in collaboration with Juxtaposition Arts apprentices. Youth artists in JXTALabs worked with material from candid conversations and portraits of North Minneapolis youth to create this multi-faceted exhibition.



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