

NORTH NEWS

November 1, 2019

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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Mornings at Milda's

Jeff Nelson has been making pasties for the community diner since 1979.

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Jeff Nelson brings a taste of the Iron Range to North Minneapolis.

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Village Financial team says credit union project will go on
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New leadership for West Broadway Coalition
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A new era for Northside Funders Group
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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the November edition of North News. After devoting much of last month's paper to a single topic—the opioid crisis—we've leapt to the other end of the spectrum this month—lots of shorter stories on the subjects that make up the substance of average daily life here on the Northside. The business association for our biggest commercial corridor has a new leader, who is also a former leader of a local neighborhood organization (Page 10). The group behind the Village Financial credit union project says it will persevere amidst recent internal strife (Page 6). The Capri Theater expansion project has broken ground, potentially positioning a huge chunk of West Broadway for community-based development (Page 3). Picture day had students from Elizabeth Hall International

Elementary showing up with major style and big smiles (Page 14).

Speaking of school, the year is now months underway, and our student journalists' work reflects their growing expertise. Their stories are peppered throughout this paper. Kyla Moore picked up the story on Peyton Russell's new mural at Wally's (see below). Lexi Hollmon, Destiny Hooks, and Aryy Taylor reported on their new principal Mauri Friestleben's transition into North High from her high profile position at Lucy Laney Elementary School (see Page 8). For even more stories by our North High youth (RayRay Melton, Laquita Travis, Melvina Manciel, Howard Hadley and David Snoddy Jr.) flip to Page 20.

Our journalism class at Patrick Henry High School formally begins in November, but senior Datelle Straub is already hard at work. See Page 3 for his summary of a Henry math teacher's top ten placement in the Twin Cities Marathon. We're so proud of our students!

In other news, as many of you know, North News was in the running for

a grant from ReCAST at the City of Minneapolis. Six community-based groups, including us, pitched projects that would bring oral histories collected from Northside elders to life in art projects. We envisioned a project that published these stories in a special edition of North News. In the end, the community voted and four organizations received the up to \$25K grants. We were unfortunately not one of them. That said, fantastic projects were selected, including a mural by Charles Caldwell, a media project by Al McFarlane, and a collaboration by Franklin Middle School students. The fourth project—filmmaker D.A. Bullock's "Northside Projected"—has offered the North News crew an opportunity to be involved. I'm humbled by this community's creative greatness and its spirit of collaboration.

Until next time,

Kenzie O'Keefe

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INSIDE OUR "O"



Wally's corner store on Penn Ave. N and Golden Valley Road is in the process of getting all dressed up. Northside graffiti artist Peyton Scott Russell is almost finished painting a mural on the side of the building. The mural says "Northside" in big letters with small pictures of prominent Northsiders like Houston White, Beverly Cottman, and Prince inside of the letters. Russell says he is painting the mural for free and donated all the materials. "I wanted to leave my own personal mark but then also give something back to the community that's been so important to me," he said. He first painted the building back in the 80s when it was a corner store called Sam's. A few years ago, he came up with the idea to paint it again, as the corner is being developed. He hopes to have it completely finished by spring. By **Kyla Moore** North High

Letter to the Editor

Re: A Growing Crisis, 9/27/19

Dear Editor,

NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center provides services to help with the growing opioid crisis we are facing in our North Minneapolis Community.

I want to make the community aware that we have a Syringe Exchange Program at 710 West Broadway right where most of the story focused. We moved these services in April 2019 from our campus location at 1313 Penn Ave North because we needed to be more accessible to the community members who need our services.

Since January of this year our Syringe Exchange program has:

- Exchanged 14,000 syringes
- Distributed 1,200 doses Naloxone (Narcan)
- Completed 100 rapid HIV tests and 70 rapid Hep C tests.

We provide anonymous or confidential services. Our syringe exchange, Narcan kits and training are free. All are welcome to come in and meet with our Harm Reduction Specialists.

The Syringe Exchange Program hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 2 to 6 pm - Thursday and Friday 11 to 5 pm. Call 612-543-4580 or 612-223-3682 to connect to these services.

Additionally, our community health center provides Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT), Renaissance Chemical Dependency Program and Behavioral Health Services to support people who are struggling with chemical use.

Stella Whitney-West, CEO of NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

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

Local teacher finishes top 10 in Twin Cities Marathon

Conor Wells, a math teacher at Patrick Henry High School, finished ninth place in the Twin Cities Marathon on Oct. 6 with a time of 2:21:32. Wells' long distance running journey began in middle school when he joined his school's track team. He continued his running career in high school and then at Drake University. Among his running accomplishments is placing second in the 2015 Jim Duncan Invitational 5000-meter race. After college, Wells started running full marathons and half marathons. This year, he spent three months preparing for the Twin Cities Marathon. By Datelle Straub

Harrison Neighborhood Association fights to keep its home at recreation center

Nichole Buehler, Executive Director of the Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA) sent an email out to supporters in October saying the organization is at risk of losing its home. For more than two decades, HNA has shared a space with Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board at Harrison Recreation Center after the old Harrison school building was demolished in 1993. The three organizations entered into a shared use agreement to use different parts of the buildings and now that the 20-year lease has expired, Buehler says HNA is being pushed out. According to her email, the association raised nearly a million dollars for the building's construction and expressed disappointment in the district's decision to remove them in order to accommodate the school. The letter argues that HNA's presence in the community helps student's success by advocating for housing, higher wages, the environment and mentions their work fighting against displacement. The email shared School Board Member KerryJo Felder's support for the association. By Abdi Mohamed

Construction has begun on Capri Theater expansion

Ground was broken on Oct. 17 for the nearly \$13 million Capri Theater expansion project, a transformative investment for the site of Prince's first concert and the whole West Broadway corridor. Community members, leaders, and dignitaries joined the Plymouth Christian Youth Center, which owns and operates the theater, in celebrating the beginning of construction. "This is so wonderful," said PCYC Executive Director Anne Long. "We believe North Minneapolis deserves a beautiful theater and also a historic theater." PCYC leaders say construction will be completed and the theater will reopen in fall 2020. By Kenzie O'Keefe

Bangoura releases proposed parks budget

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) released its Recommended 2020 Budget from Superintendent Al Bangoura. It focuses on four priorities adopted by the Board of Commissioners last year that include: investing in youth; being financially stable; protecting the environment; and engaging communities' power. The recommended budget reaches \$126.1 million, which is made up of a general operating fund of \$89.2 million, a special revenue fund of \$3.2 million, an enterprise operating fund of \$13.2 million and a capital project fund listed at \$20.5 million. Youth investment seemed to be a central component for Bangoura with over a million dollars dedicated to youth employment and programs to best serve more than 80,000 Minneapolis youth. Other aspects of this budget focus on sustainability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Minneapolis residents can view the proposed budget and related documents at minneapolisparcs.org/budget or call 612-230-6400 for more information. By Abdi Mohamed

Continued on Page 4



Alexis Pennie, left, and Olson Middle School seventh-graders Siah Green and Adyra Fine try to look their cutest for the audience during a Halloween costume contest before the start of the Jordan Community Council fall meeting at the Davis Center on Oct. 17. Photo by David Pierini

Have you heard about the 48.8-acre development on the Mississippi River that is up for redevelopment?

Learn more at an upcoming Learning Table, which offers the "learning water"; a place to ask critical questions and develop the "learning glue"; a place to develop relationships, create partnerships, and make commitments to explore ideas for incorporation in the UHT development. Each Learning Table theme is directly related to development topics.

- Learn together
- Create shared approach
- Coordinate efforts

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4pm-8pm**

**Northpoint Conference Center
1256 Penn Ave N, 5th Floor**

Free parking | Light meal provided

For more information or to RSVP:

- Find us on Facebook at PPPEJCC
- On Eventbrite; Upper Harbor Terminal - Community Engagement Learning Table

Contact: Devonn@pillsburyunited.org or 612.377.7000

For more information on the project: <http://publicpolicyprojectonline.com/upper-harbor-terminal/>

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North at a glance cont.

Full Proof Ministry Church arrives to the Northside with a community led approach

After retiring as a schoolteacher, Pastor JB Williams founded Full Proof Ministry Church of God with his wife Dr. Lucy Smith-Williams in 2011. 8 years later the pair moved their church from Crystal, Minnesota to settle in the Northside with a new location at 1823 Emerson Ave N. The church continues to carry out its programming aimed at supporting the community. There are weekly youth programs, a dynamic women's ministry, and shelter outreach. Full Proof Ministry also leads a community HIV and AIDS Early Intervention Services program with funding provided by the Ryan White CARE Act. By Abdi Mohamed

Free dinners are back on at Oak Park Center

After a hiatus of several months, Oak Park Community Center (1701 Oak Park Ave. N) is again offering free dinners cooked by a new chef—Demetria “DeeDee” Fuller. “She is a Northsider who is focused on providing healthy, delicious, home cookin’. Bringing a bit of a healthy spin on classic dishes,” said Ethan Neal who manages food systems for Pillsbury United Communities which runs the center and also owns North News. Dinner is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4-6pm. All are welcome. Meals are made possible by a grant from the Cargill Foundation. By Kenzie O’Keefe

Victory Neighborhood searching for a new leader

The Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA) will soon be in a need of a new executive director when Katie Fitzpatrick, who has been in the role for three years, leaves to return to a fundraising and communications position at American Indian OIC in South Minneapolis. The ViNA job description can be found at www.victoryneighborhood.org. It's a part time, salaried position. By Kenzie O’Keefe



Jasmine Domi read two books during a story hour at North Regional Library Oct. 6. Jasmine was among a group of drag performers reading kids' books about gender fluidity and self-expression at Hennepin County Library branches in October to celebrate LGBTQ+ history. Mia, 3, whispered answers to Jasmine's questions in the ear of her mother, Kate Litzenberg. **Photo by David Pierini**

catch up with our Council Members



WARD 4:
Phillipe Cunningham



Happy November, Neighbors!

Safety in our neighborhoods is a top priority for our Ward 4 office.

We take a comprehensive, public health approach to public safety, which includes violence prevention and intervention, law enforcement, and reentry after someone is returning to our community following incarceration.

Police staffing levels significantly fluctuate throughout the year, causing delays in response times and investigations. This is due to police cadet classes counting towards the total number of sworn officers (despite not being engaged in actual law enforcement) and retirements and other reasons combined with requirements in the police federation contract that can cause positions to remain unfilled for up to a year or more at a time.

According to MPD, civilian jobs have decreased in the department by over 40% since 2001. These positions are now filled by sworn officers causing a decrease of officers available for patrol and conducting investigations.

The MPD federation contract expires at the end of this year and is currently being negotiated.

Policy changes, budget considerations, and accountability measures are needed to best address community concerns about neighborhood safety and community-police relations.

Safety in our neighborhoods is no doubt the most common issue I discuss with Northsiders. Our kids deserve the freedom to play outside without fear of violence landing in our front yards. We want them to feel safe in their homes and not exposed to violence there either. When acts of violence and crime take place in our community and we need the help of police officers, we, Northsiders, deserve a timely police response to emergencies. This is why it is important for us to deeply examine police staffing and the policies

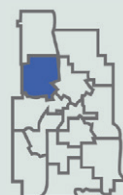
that impact it.

The conversation our community—and the city as a whole—is currently having around policing and staffing levels is necessary and insightful. I have heard many times people want an increased police presence. I have also heard many times in the same conversation from a large number of people who have concerns about the potential impacts of such an increase due to negative interactions and escalation happening more often between community and police officers.

In the Mayor's 2020 proposed budget, there has been a request for 14 additional officers—three new investigators between domestic violence and sexual assault, eight neighborhood outreach officers (also known as “beat cops”), and three to reestablish the traffic enforcement division. Generally, I think these investments make sense, but they will not reduce response times during emergencies nor will they address the fluctuation of police staffing throughout the year.

To ensure high-quality police services in our community, simply increasing the number of officers will not get us there. We have an opportunity to really dig into the barriers to achieving these high-quality services through policies, budget considerations, and the MPD federation contract negotiations. As your Councilmember, I am deeply in this work on your behalf.

You can reach us at 612-673-2204 or Ward4@minneapolismn.gov. Make sure to follow us on Facebook for more information and updates at www.facebook.com/CMCunninghamWard4/



WARD 5:
Jeremiah Ellison



Minneapolis City Council members Phillipe Cunningham (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) were inaugurated in January 2018. We have invited them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.

For many of us, the presidential elections have been raging on for so long, we've probably forgotten when the actual election is. Well, the primaries are finally closing in, we know interest in this next election is high (as all elections should be), and as Chair of the Elections & Rules Committee for the Council, I'm excited to share a few updates from the City's Elections and Voter Services division. The city of Minneapolis runs all of your elections; local, state, and federal. For every election, Minneapolis relies upon seasonal staffers to help with the planning and preparations needed to ensure a seamless, successful election. We just opened our new Early Vote Center at 980 East Hennepin, and will have more early voting locations across the city as we near election day.

As an election draws nearer, the number of seasonal staffers needed grows. Election jobs are being posted from now through the coming month. The latest posting—for an Assistance Election Judge Trainer—just went up at vote.minneapolismn.gov (note that this particular position is primarily geared to individuals with election judge experience). More elections jobs will be posted over the coming weeks, with the largest number scheduled for Nov. 11. Keep an eye on the elections webpage for opportunities as they open up.

The City of Minneapolis' Public Works Department is hiring throughout October for service worker positions and service worker trainee positions. See the required qualifications and experience at minneapolismn.gov/publicworks and click “Job Opportunities.” Public Works will also be hosting information session about these jobs across the city, which are listed on their website as well.

The information sessions offer the opportunity to go beyond the website and talk to department representatives about what skills Public Works is seeking and the application process. Computer access will be available to help candidates apply online during the sessions. All applications and related materials must be received no later than Oct. 31.

There's a lot going on at the City, and it can be hard to cover it all in these monthly columns, but I wanted to take this month to connect people with employment opportunities at the City.

A few other things to keep your eye on; Northside Artspace Lofts is breaking ground Nov. 5th (artspace.org/northside); the state AG's office is beginning its crackdown on landlords with dubious business practices, and I'll make sure to keep you updated on the Meldahl case; lastly, I, along with CP Lisa Bender gave a staff direction to study the effects a Rent Stabilization policy could have on Minneapolis residents. I will keep you updated as that work moves along.

Please sign up for our newsletter to get more regular updates from the Ward 5 office at minneapolismn.gov/ward5. And, of course, keep an out for more of these columns in North News.

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.

After controversy, community credit union team plans its rebound

By **Kenzie O'Keefe** Editor

Following months of internal turmoil, leaders at the Association for Black Economic Power say the organization is still committed to opening a black-led credit union in North Minneapolis.

On Friday night, Oct. 18, the organization held its first public meeting since news broke that two of the key leaders behind Village Financial Cooperative were ousted over allegations of organizational and financial mismanagement, which they have publicly denied.

ABEP's three current board members—Malcolm Wells, Felicia Perry, and Elaine Rasmussen—told the crowd of community attendees assembled in the basement of New Salem Baptist Church that the organization is moving forward with the intention to open a credit union. They say there are many legal and logistical details need to be worked out before specifics on new leadership, location, and an opening date can be decided. All but one ABEP staff member, Samantha Pree-Stinson, has been laid off.

The leaders said the past few months have been painful as the organization founded as a response to black financial trauma and police violence has experienced mismanagement and potential criminal behavior. "It hurts to have to do this," said Perry. But she says the project is "worth fighting for."

Meeting attendees were inquisitive and seemed largely supportive of the current ABEP team on Oct. 18. Several in attendance took the public forum as an opportunity to praise ABEP's current leadership and express their support for the project moving forward.

"I want to applaud you all for having the courage to come out into the community," said Bill English. "That tells me you're trying to be transparent. This too will pass."

HOW WE GOT HERE

In early August, two of ABEP's key leaders were removed from the organization. First, Joe Riemann, the former director of finance and innovation, was laid off. Soon after, Executive Director Me'Lea Connelly was "terminated" by the board for "organizational mismanagement, misconduct in regard to the organization's finances and credit union application process," and "potential fraudulent activity and theft," according to a statement ABEP sent stakeholders in mid-September.

At that time, Connelly told North News she "absolutely, vehemently" denies "any accusations against me around anything illegal or theft."

"I did everything I could to fulfill the mandate community made to establish a black-led credit union," she said.

Riemann responded similarly. "I have never heard any of these allegations directly from the organization either when I was employed there or after the fact. These are false accusations and completely unsubstantiated," he said.

A police report detailing potential alleged crimes committed by Connelly and Riemann was filed by Pree-Stinson on Sept. 4. At the Oct. 18 meeting, Wells said the police department has turned the investigation over to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Opening a credit union requires receiving a state charter, which ABEP achieved last year, and federal insurance, which is yet to be acquired. An application for insurance was submitted to the Department of Commerce under Connelly's leadership. That application was sent back, requiring adjustments in order to be approved.

Moving forward, ABEP must decide whether to amend the application or start over completely. When asked when that decision needed to be made, Perry said they "essentially have as much time as needed to submit."

Opening a credit union also requires naming "subscribers"—community champions of the project. "We are prioritizing identifying subscribers, completing and submitting [the] application, and the CEO search for the proposed credit union," said Perry.

Rasmussen, who has been one of the credit union's subscribers, just joined the board in October. She says there was less than \$30,000 in the bank account when she arrived. Whether or not there should have been more money in the account is part of the investigation underway.

Since joining the board, Rasmussen says she has been pursuing emergency gap funding to keep the organization operating through the end of the year. She says ABEP has engaged a "woman-owned, blacked-owned firm" to "clean up" their books and that they will continue to host public meetings. "We want to create more opportunities to make this a more transparent process," said Rasmussen.



Above: Malcolm Wells, an ABEP board member, hugs Northside resident Roxxanne O'Brien during ABEP's Oct. 18 community meeting to discuss the future of a black-led credit union in the community.

Below: ABEP's three board members, Felicia Perry (front), Malcolm Wells, and Elaine Rasmussen address the future of Village Financial Cooperative after two of the project's key leaders were ousted over allegations of financial and organizational mismanagement. **Photos by David Pierini**

To receive insurance, ABEP will need to prove that they have at least 500 people who have pledged to move their money to the credit union. Clarifying who has pledged already is "part of what we are going to be doing over the next couple of weeks," said Wells.

The project's major financial backers which include the City of Minneapolis and The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota (which also funds this publication) say they remain committed to supporting the development of a black financial institution.

World champion to lead running programs at The Trailhead

Abdi Bile hopes to inspire a new generation of Somali runners

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

Having inspired millions of his fellow Somalis with his life and career, Abdi Bile hopes to revive the spirit of his people and inspire a new generation of runners as he takes the helm of The Trailhead's new running program in Theodore Wirth Park.

Bile, a two-time 1500 meter champion won races in the World Championships in Rome ('87) and the World Cup in Barcelona ('89). He also has four Olympic appearances. Bile has represented Somalia in many competitive races around the world, making him a national hero in his native country. He now aims to galvanize Somali runners here in Minnesota.

The journey that took Bile to the world stage began when he was in secondary school in Somalia. He heard the story of Jamac Karacin, a local athlete, who received a scholarship to study in the United States for his running achievements. Inspired, Bile took up the sport and eventually received his own scholarship to George Mason University in Virginia. Shortly after graduating, he transitioned professionally into the sport and earned international recognition.

Bile's program at The Trailhead trains youth and an elite set of runners. His youth program is made up of visiting schools around the metro and spending time with dozens of students at each event. The elite program is more hands on and is currently made up of three East African runners in their 20s. On Oct. 23, Bile coached Said Aden, Mohamed Salad, and Mohammed Bati on a brisk evening in Theodore Wirth Park. Each of the runners came from different competitive backgrounds and spend several days a week training with Bile.

Aden has been in Minneapolis for only seven months and has competed in countries like Qatar, Korea, and Saudi Arabia. Aden shared his excitement to be working under Bile. "He's a world champion, having someone like that coach makes you realize these things are possible for you," Aden said. Bile hopes to

eventually launch a junior elite program that helps youth runners transition to the elite level.

Now 56, Bile hopes to motivate youth to pursue the passion that once opened many doors for him. Aside from his fellow countrymen, Bile has found himself to be an icon to individuals around the world, including Minneapolis's own Mayor Frey.

Nearly 30 years ago, while running on a track in Northern Virginia, Bile, who was then a world champion, took a moment to speak to a young Jacob Frey about his running, convincing him to stick with the sport and offering words of support. Now Mayor of Minneapolis, Frey shared the story on his Facebook page on July 2 showing the two reuniting with a run through the city. "Last week I received a text from the one and only

"They see the success, but secondly, they see that Somalia used to have pride. They see that they were a strong people."

Abdi Bile, running coach

Abdi Bile. And this morning, I had the honor to go for a run with him once again, 27 years after we first met," Frey said in his post.

Mayor Frey was instrumental in bringing Bile to The Trailhead after several meetings with its staff and Somali leaders from around the city. "I met with Mayor Frey and shared with him my inclination to move to this state after liking it so much," Bile said. Bile refers to Minneapolis as the sixth state of Somalia and felt it was important to connect to the diaspora as much as the people in the Somali homeland.

Bile has taken time outside of the program to attend many different schools in the metro in order to speak with students about his story. He speaks to them in auditoriums, cafeterias, and classrooms, playing videos of his races for them to give a sense of what can be accomplished with hard work. Bile tells students that they need qualities of discipline,



Abdi Bile was a world champion in the 1500 meter run in 1987, a first for a Somali athlete. Today, he teaches youth and elite runners through the Loppet Foundation. **Photo by David Pierini**

perseverance, and a good attitude if they want to reach their goals. He also enjoys seeing the sense of pride wash over Somali students, like those at Banaadir Academy North where he recently visited, when he shows them race footage.

"The Somali kids get really excited when they watch the race. They see the success, but secondly, they see that Somalia used to have pride. They see that they were a strong people," Bile said.

Jon Friedell, the Director of Marketing and Sales at the Loppet Foundation, says the organization is excited to engage with the Somali community. They lead programs in cross country skiing and biking which has led them to engage with a number of different communities. They aim to make that change now that Bile is on board. "I think the first night we had about a dozen Somali kids come out. Last week we had 60 Somali kids,"

Friedell said.

The swelling amount of interest has been encouraging to Bile who hopes to see more Somali youth from urban areas take advantage of The Trailhead's programs and the space at Theodore Wirth Park. "Just having kids from neighborhoods like Cedar Riverside here, taking in the nature, seeing the animals, that in itself is a big deal," Bile said.

Bile is still in the process of moving his family to Minnesota from Virginia as he transitions into his new role. He has three children, two boys and a girl. Both of his sons are runners with the eldest graduating from Georgetown University after having competed on the collegiate level. When asked about his hopes for his new home in Minnesota, Bile shared that he was a little wary of the upcoming weather. "I want to see if I can adapt to the winters here."



School board report

The latest news from the Minneapolis Public School district

By **Iyana Esters** Contributor

Achievement gaps such as reading proficiency among white students in MPS compared to their peers of color were addressed in the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Sept. 24. Chief Eric Moore and Maggie Sullivan of the Superintendent's Leadership Team presented the following issue to the Board of Education about Integration & School Choice in MPS:

Open enrollment has been a challenge in MPS resulting in consequential data. For every one student gained, MPS loses 22 students through open enrollment. The lowest enrollment is along the Northside borders. Only 40-60% of students who live in the Northside and Northeast attend MPS schools. The concern is school choice has contributed to race and economic placing among students of color. Next steps for open enrollment is make use of specialty schools in the community to prevent people of color from racial and economic flight.

Construction for the facility and upgrades for the current concession building at the North High Athletic Field will begin Oct. 15, and is expected to be completed late March 2020.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) recently released their 2019-21 (Cohort 8) recipients for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This federal funding resource supports afterschool programs. There were 37 applicants across the state; seven were from Minneapolis. To support about 2,300 students, the request from the seven applicants was about \$11 million dollars. They did not receive it, meaning the city lost approximately \$2 million dollars for afterschool programs, putting, many peoples' opinion, 740 Minneapolis youth at risk. Unawarded applicants for the Cohort 8 cycle are eligible to apply for Cohort 9 when the application is released. The city of Minneapolis is exploring a youth grant fund to send to after school programs and organizations. In the meantime, parents can talk to their city councils and representatives sharing their after school stories.

Board Director Ira Jourdain encourages families who would benefit from free and reduced lunch to apply (even if they don't think they will qualify) because this assists MPS by pulling in money to support students. Make an account and fill out the form here: www.schoolcafe.com.

The next MPS Board of Education Business Meeting is Nov. 12, beginning at 5:30pm. The next MPS Committee of the Whole is Nov. 26, beginning at 6pm (date may change due to the holiday of this week). Both will be held at the Davis Center (1250 W Broadway Ave).

New principal brings big changes to North High



North High principal Mauri Friestleben meets with teachers and Assistant Principal Steve White during a quiet morning in her office. **Photo by Lexi Hollmon**

By **Lexi Hollmon, Destiny Hooks, Aryy Taylor** North High

North High School has changed. A new principal, Mauri Friestleben, has been appointed. She left Lucy Laney Elementary School after 10 years there to take the job just before the 2019-20 school year started.

Her assistant principal, Steve M. White, who came to North two years ago, is happy Friestleben is at North. "I get to learn from Minneapolis' very best, so I feel privileged and honored to be able to work for her," he said.

In her first month on the job, Friestleben has shown that she cares about the community and the students, a lot. She stands outside the school from 8-8:30am every day, welcoming students into the building. She does morning announcements every day, something that hadn't been done previously. She visits classrooms. She stands in the lunchline. She said she tried to "make spirit week special and fun" this year.

She attends nearly all of the school's athletic events. She says she wants students to, "see that I'm cheering them on." She says "being present" is very important to her.

While she cares a lot about students, she feels strongly that rules should be enforced. She made posts on Facebook before the school year started saying that phones would not be tolerated in classrooms, and that no hoods, hats and scarves could be worn. The tone of her posts showed that she was not playing.

She wants a higher learning standards for the students. "Just because you're in a predominantly black setting doesn't mean that you should have a lower quality school experience," she said. "That's not, to me, the type of school experience that I want for my child and other people's

children."

Friestleben left the job she loved at Lucy Laney because she wanted to be the great principal she knew North High needed.

"To be honest, I didn't really want to come in the beginning," she said. "I was very happy where I was but when this position opened, I started to get some phone calls from people who said you should really think about putting your name in the hat for the principalship at North High."

"The more I thought about it, the more I felt like 'what if I'm supposed to be the one to put my name in to be the principal at North High?'" she said.

Even though it's still early in the year, North High community members seems to think the school has a bright future ahead of it with all these new changes. Already, the hallways were painted by community members to make the school more beautiful; students just elected a new student council that will advocate for students. Students seem more engaged in class without their phones.

The school is led by two leaders who seem to be fighting to make the school the best it can be. "[North High students] need the very, very best and so that's the kinda school I will forever work in, and right now I'm lucky enough to be North's assistant principal," said White.

North has a historically good reputation, but that's changed in recent years. Friestleben hopes the changes she is making will change North's reputation for the better overall. "I hope that the reputation would be changing and improving," she said.

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Under new leadership, the WBC looks to drive more opportunity to Broadway

Dave Colling was hired to be executive director of the West Broadway Coalition in October.
Photo by David Pierini

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

Entering his new role as the Executive Director of the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC), Dave Colling ushers in a new chapter for the organization as its fifth leader in four years. Colling hopes to be an advocate for the corridor by pursuing resources and opportunities for growth while maintaining a constant support system for businesses and organizations to lean on.

"One of the major things everyone wants to see is consistency here at WBC," Colling said.

Colling's diverse background positioned him well for the leadership role at WBC. For over 20 years, he worked on various political campaigns in Minnesota. His first landed him in North Minneapolis. Later, during Keith Ellison's first congressional campaign, Colling served as the campaign manager. In this role he met with many leaders on the Northside including State Senator Bobby Joe Champion who then worked to help organize the church community for the election.

Colling got into politics due to his desire to give back. Raised by a single mother in a working-class neighborhood in Detroit, he was determined to succeed and in doing so, find ways to pass it forward.

Colling eventually left politics due to the long hours and time spent away from family. He transitioned into working with

neighborhood associations where he felt as though his commitment to giving back could continue.

For two years Colling served as the director of the Harrison Neighborhood Association. He left the position in September 2017 and received his master's degree in nonprofit management from Hamline University in 2018. During his time at Harrison, Colling witnessed many outside developers coming into the neighborhood, some of which worked well with the community, while others looked towards their own future in the area.

He worries about gentrification.

Coming into his new role at WBC, Colling hopes to avoid any similar issues with developers who don't share the community's vision. "There's not a lot of affordable business corridors around. To make sure that this space doesn't get lost in the development shuffle is important to me," he said. One of Colling's initial goals at WBC is to assess the current landscape of businesses on the corridor.

Businesses have shared information with WBC in the past, but Colling hopes to learn more about their employees:

how much money they're making and how many residents are employed at these businesses. "What's being spent by businesses in North Minneapolis that's leaving and how can we change that? Using that to help recruit new businesses to North Minneapolis and to the W Broadway area," he said.

One question Colling had for WBC before joining was about their financial health. In the past he served as the interim director at Frogtown Farm, an organization based in Saint Paul and discovered some issues

with their finances that required him to transition himself out of his job. "It was nobody's fault, things had kind of gotten mislabeled.

There wasn't enough funds to keep moving forward with a full time director," Colling said.

Prior to being hired by the WBC, Colling says he took a dive into its books and shared that the organization was doing well. "It's pretty good actually. That was definitely one of the things I wanted to make sure of before I started here," he said. Although Colling is happy with where things stand, some say there's room for

improvement.

Ravie Singh manages the U.S. Bank branch on W Broadway and is a member of WBC, serving as the vice chair. He has been a part of the organization for seven years. "We're always looking to create and sustain existing and new programs," Singh said. "We're not struggling but at the same time we can definitely be in a better place with cash flow." In their search for a new director Singh expressed their desire for someone who was engaged, experienced with nonprofit work, and familiar with the Northside community. Colling met all of those qualifications.

This new change at WBC corresponds with other developments taking place in business hubs in North Minneapolis. James Terrell is the Principal Project Coordinator and Manager of Participation Loan Programs at the Community Planning & Economic Development Department (CPED) at the City of Minneapolis and spoke about some of the opportunities coming forth to help fund these projects. "The goal is inclusive community revitalization within communities that are challenged," Terrell said. He described promoting home and commercial property ownership as one way to bring this about.

Terrell describes CPED's relationship with WBC as an active one where he and others regularly meet with members of its board. Business owners and organization

"One of the major things everyone wants to see is consistency here at WBC."

Dave Colling, WBC Executive Director

leaders have expressed their needs to the department and have received the opportunity to influence budget proposals that may impact their communities. Terrell shared that community outreach that was done to gain insight on the proposed Commercial Property Development Fund (CPDF) that is a part of the Mayor's budget recommendation. "We reached out to various groups and the WBC when we were formulating the idea and said give us your comments on it," Terrell said. As a part of this fund, City officials are looking at a proposed cultural district concept that could impact the corridor.

There is currently \$2.5 million earmarked in the Mayor's proposed budget for development. \$2 million could go to cultural districts which W Broadway Ave could benefit from. The remaining \$500,000 is dedicated to general development projects. This fund could help improve properties along the corridor, making them an attraction for businesses and clients, falling in line with WBC's vision. Terrell expressed his view on the importance of tying resources to

these designations. "One of the things that we were all keenly aware of was that a designation without resources is just another pretty sign hanging on the street," he said. Terrell shared that Erik Hansen, Director of Economic Policy and Development at CPED is reviewing all the financing tools available from the City including the CPDF, to assure that they meet the needs of the community.

Terrell was recently involved with the Capri Theater development. Outside of W Broadway Ave, he sees more development taking place in North Minneapolis to help incubate businesses in store front locations with the new theater set to open. He'd like to see a formal sit-down restaurant near the theater along with a first-floor retail footprint with offices and possible housing spaces above that. Terrell shares that there's a potential for having small bay retail areas with 800-900 sq. ft. properties for small businesses to operate in.

This scaling of businesses seems to be at the heart of what Colling hopes to do at WBC. "We don't have to look very far to find people who are already running



North Minneapolis' annual Open Streets celebration has been organized and led by the West Broadway Coalition. **Photo by David Pierini**

their own business. That's what excites me, being able to work with folks on the ground, to be able to help them move to that next level," he said. The WBC

hosts monthly business lunches for area entrepreneurs. The topics vary; recent topics include social media marketing, search engine operating, women in business, and more.

Wendy Puckett attended a Oct. 17 lunch meeting where Colling introduced himself to the community. Puckett owns and manages Wendy's House of SOUL on W Broadway Ave. She would like to see more advertising for businesses in the area and the need for a local food storage location. "It would be amazing to have one of these buildings available as a place for storage. Maybe for a small fee, it could be conducive to where I'm at instead of driving far away, we could keep the money in the community," she said. Puckett also mentioned that she put in an application for a façade improvement grant with the WBC but because of the new changes, was asked to submit it again.

Colling's arrival to the WBC comes at a time of great change on the corridor but shared that he thrives in these spaces in transition. In November Colling will present the WBC's board with a draft budget for the next year based on funds that the organization has received in the past and opportunities he sees for future funding. For now, Colling is focused on getting familiar with new faces and reacquainting himself with the old as he straps in to lead an organization that has lasting impact on a major part of the Northside.

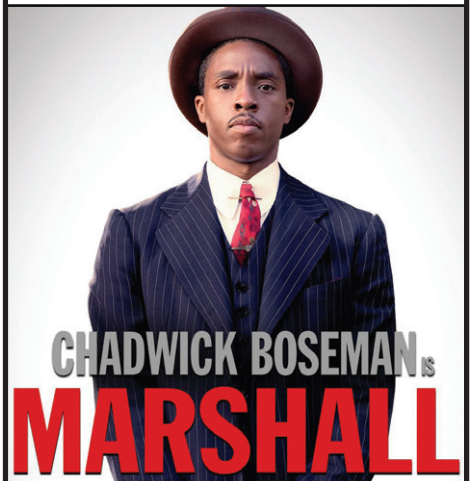
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Jeff Nelson's pasties at Milda's will save you a trip to the Iron Range

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

Jeff Nelson is elbow-deep in a Milda's Cafe classic, and the bits of dough, beef and potato stuck to the hair on his arms prove it.

Nelson works in the middle of the night and never gets to meet the foodies, restaurant bloggers or out-of-state customers who travel for his sturdy meat pie on the menu Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

When his day ends before 8am, "I go home looking like a pasty."

Nelson, 67, has made pasties off and on for Milda's since 1979.

Milda Hokkanen, the late founder of the North Minneapolis diner, made pasties at the restaurant and later hired Nelson for bona fides he acquired at a cooking school in the Iron Range, where pasties are beloved.

Hokkanen couldn't turn over the making of pasties (pronounced Pass-Tees) to just anyone. If the pasty didn't make Milda's Cafe, it certainly got her the money to start the restaurant.

Banks were hesitant when Milda Hokkanen, then a widowed mother with less than \$1,000 in the bank, came in requesting a loan to open a restaurant. She convinced one loan officer to try one of her home-made pasties. Afterwards, Hokkanen walked out of that bank with the loan.

The pasty was not only a hit with the bank, it was a popular menu item when the restaurant first opened in the Harrison neighborhood thanks to its Finnish residents, who made up a community informally known as Finn Town.

Pasties were perfect meals for Iron Range miners. Brought over by the Cornish miners who helped establish operations, it is a filling, self-contained meal with contents that stay warm for extended periods.

It was also something miners could eat with dirty hands. The crimped edge of crust on a pasty served as a handle that could be discarded.

Even as mining operations die out, the pasty remains a regular meal in those communities.

The ingredients are simple, but

to make a batch of 20 pasties takes time, patience and muscle. Nelson, one of handful of reliable pasty makers to pass through Milda's kitchen, was part of an assembly line in school, where he learned to make them. At Milda's, he is on his own.

"They're easy to make. It's getting them ready that take all the work," says Nelson who measures ingredients by sight and feel and can make 20 near-identical pasties at a time. "It takes a real commitment to make

"They're easy to make. It's getting them ready that takes all the work. It takes a real commitment to make them."

Jeff Nelson, Milda's pasty maker



them.”

Nelson mixes the dough the day before and forms them into patties that get cooled overnight. When he gets to Milda’s at around 1:30am, he takes the dough out of the refrigerator to warm. He then fills a tub with meat, finely diced potatoes and carrots, using his hands and part of his forearms to mix the filling to go inside the crust.

He rolls out each patty of crust into a thin, oval-shaped pancake, places a scoop of the mixture slightly off center. He swipes a little butter next to the mixture and folds the dough over the filling. Nelson is careful to not pat down the dough. This could flatten the pasty and crack the crust.

To close it off, he crimps the open sides into a ridge or handle.

“I have a special touch when I fold them, otherwise they will crack,” he says. “If they crack, I can repair them, I know the tricks to patch them up.”

He also knows where every knife, spatula, scoop and pan should be and is prone to a quick flash of anger when other kitchen staff take and misplace his essentials. He apologizes later but the unwritten rule is clear: Don’t touch Jeff’s stuff.

In his early days at Milda’s, he made 300 pasties a week. But that number is greatly reduced nowadays, suggesting to Nelson that the restaurant has lost pasty customers to “natural causes.”

“We served them right out of the oven as fast as we could put them on a plate,” he says. “I’m not sure why they don’t catch on with younger people. You can eat them like fast food. Just put a little ketchup on them and go.”

Orders for frozen pasties ramp up around the holidays. Customers who want frozen pasties should their orders in three days ahead. Nelson is not sure how much longer he will be able to work. He has neuropathy in his feet. Except for a break around 4:30am, he is in constant motion in the kitchen.

In addition to pasties, he makes the cinnamon and caramel rolls, two other doughy delights for which Milda’s is known.

Growing up, Nelson used to cook in a home where both parents were always working. He learned to scratch cook from his grandmother.

“I take care of people, I always have,” he says.



Jeff Nelson makes a batch of 20 pasties for each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Opposite page:

Top: Nelson takes a break before 5am on a recent shift at Milda’s. His day usually begins around 1:30am.

Bottom: Nelson makes sure each pasty gets 11 ounces of filling, which consists of ground beef and pork and diced carrots and potatoes. **Photos by David Pierini**



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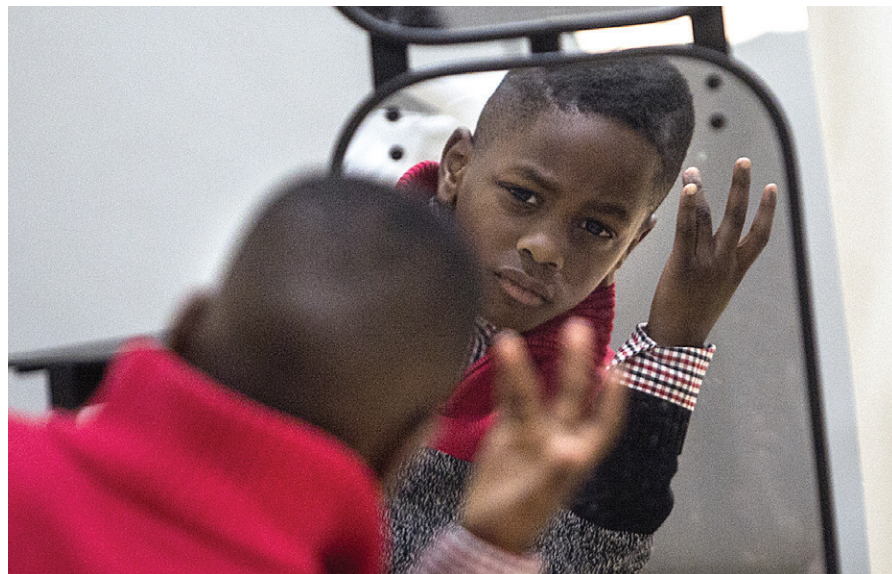
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STUDENTS STRIKE A POSE

The cameras are digital and a nearby computer lets kids see themselves. Other than the technology, Picture Day at Elizabeth Hall International Elementary School in North Minneapolis had a timeless feel. Some subjects were fidgety while others checked their hair and practiced their smiles in a mirror. All were happy to have a day off from the usual school uniform.

By David Pierini Staff Reporter



Counterclockwise from top: Milania and Deleah Little are separated by two grades, but reunited in matching outfits for a photo.

Second-grader Decorian Jackson was on deck and used his time in front of the mirror to make sure he looked his best.

Isaac Schilling, a photographer for Lifetouch, works with first-grader Ke'Mora Spivey on her footwork to get the perfect pose.

Fourth-grader Malachi Thompson got to see his photo and gave an approving high-five to the photographer.



“Mobility hubs” organize new modes of transit on the Northside

By **Abdi Mohamed** Staff Reporter

With bikes and scooters turning up on virtually every corner of Minneapolis, city officials hope to consolidate these vehicles through their newly launched mobility hub pilot program. The program works to establish hubs around the city where Nice Ride bicycles and electric scooters can be found all together in parking stations near Metro Transit locations.

The program is a collaboration between the Department of Public Works, Metro Transit, and private companies like Lime, Spin and Lyft.

The recent wave of innovative transportation options popping up on city streets has caused many locales around the country to evaluate safe and convenient ways to incorporate them into existing transit systems. “We were trying to figure out ways to combine new technology with our existing backbone transit system,” said Danielle Elkins, a consultant with the City, who is helping Minneapolis do this work.

Elkins says mobility hubs are designed to equip residents with more transportation options while meeting the City’s goal of reducing single occupancy vehicle trips. Elkins says access is also important: when transportation options like scooters were first introduced, they were concentrated in more “affluent and predominantly white” areas of Minneapolis.

The mobility hub pilot was first launched in North Minneapolis. There are four mobility hubs located on the Northside: Lowry Ave. N and Penn Ave. N, Lowry Ave. N and Fremont Ave N, Lyndale Ave. N and N 26th Ave, and W Broadway Ave. and N Emerson Ave. Several factors played into the decision of where to locate these hubs, primarily their adjacency to transit stops. Census data, car ownership, demographics, and income levels were also taken into account.

Joshua Johnson, the Advanced Mobility Manager at the Department of Public Works, says the program was started on the Northside because of both “need” and “opportunity.” With the low amount of car ownership and public transit usage, the program seemed to be a good fit to help riders close any distances in their commute. Now that they’re here, Johnson says there

are challenges that need to be addressed. Many people are unaware of the hubs and the opportunities they present to a commute. Smart phone access is another challenge (access to bikes and scooters requires the use of an app). There are also financial barriers: users must pay through the app, which requires having a bank account.

According to Elkins, all the private participants in the mobility hubs offer low income options for individuals to sign up and receive reduced rates on scooters, bikes, and transit. Nice Ride and Lyft both offer low income users to pay \$5 per month with unlimited 30-minute ride. Both Lime and Spin charge 50 cents to unlock and charge seven cents and ten cents respectively.

When asked how this impacts the bottom line for these companies, Elkins shared that it’s written in the City’s contract with each of these companies. “We do ask for it within our city contract, same with Nice Ride. For the most part they’re doing it with every city they’re working with,” Elkins said. She also shared the City’s vision for these mobility hubs to become a service by bundling the different options into a subscription package, providing more opportunities for these options to be affordable.

These devices will remain available up until the second week of December depending on weather conditions. This raises the question on what these hubs look like during the winter. Johnson stated that the Fall rollout of the pilot was intentional, giving them the opportunity to see how a change in weather affects the program and deciding from there how to continue. “Long term we don’t want this to be something that goes away every winter. We want to know how we can best position this to be year-round,” he said.

Those interested in participating in the reduced fares for scooters or Nice Ride bicycles can learn more on their respective websites. Residents can learn more about the mobility pilot program by dialing 311 or visiting minneapolismn.gov and searching “scooters” to find a visualization of these scooters in real time and plan a trip from a local mobility hub.



Rob Robertson, an employee with Lime, logs in two scooters in a dedicated parking space at the intersection of Penn and Lowry. The scooters along with Nice Ride bicycles nearby make up one of Minneapolis’ first mobility hubs that provides alternative and additional transportation near bus stops. **Photo by David Pierini**

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RESOURCES

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.

Several City of Minneapolis board and commission positions are open for appointments this fall. The city is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences representing the demographics of Minneapolis. Apply and stay up to date on vacancies, position descriptions, and timelines at minneapolismn.gov/boards/ openings. There are 132 open positions on 19 City boards and commissions with application review beginning Oct 18.

The City has kicked off its mobility hub pilot program in order to increase access to low or no carbon transportation options. These include transit, Nice Ride bicycles, and Lime, Lyft, and Spin scooters. The three month pilot will help form a long-term plan to implement a larger mobility hub network in Minneapolis. The first locations of this pilot are on Penn and Lowry avenues, Lowry and Fremont avenues, Lyndale and 26th Avenues and West Broadway and Emerson Avenues on the Northside. It’s supported by the Bloomberg Philanthropies’ American Cities Climate Challenge, a two-year program providing cities new resources to tackle carbon reduction goals.

The Census Bureau is hiring temporary employees for the 2020 Census. The jobs offer weekly pay, competitive pay rates, flexible hours, and paid training. Learn more here: <https://2020census.gov/jobs/>

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 4-7pm.

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 Bucks are accepted. Questions? Call 612-280-2434. Their delivery schedule does change. For schedule and map information, visit 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.

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 612-335-5924.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

11/7 – The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul, in partnership with the Capri Theater and the Minnesota Historical Society, presents **Marshall**, at 7pm at North Community High School, 1500 James Ave. N in Minneapolis. North High serves as the alternate location for this film series while the Capri Theater is closed for expansion and renovation. Donald M. Lewis will lead a conversation after the film has been screened. Tickets to First Thursday Films are \$5 and can be purchased in advance at mspfilm.org or at the door the night of the show.

11/1-26 – **Eight Homewood Studios Resident Artists will present their annual group show** of their work created in the past year. This year’s show will contain painting, drawing,

photography, carvings, and more. It will be the eighth annual show for Homewood Studios. It starts with the open reception on Friday, Nov. 1 from 6-9pm. There will be a Northside Writer’s Group on Friday, Nov. 15th at 6:30pm followed by a gallery talk on Nov. 19th at 7pm, a closing party on Nov. 23rd from 2-5pm and a last look taking place on Nov. 26 from 5-9pm.

11/1-2 – **North Methodist Church will be holding its Annual Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale at 44th and Fremont Ave. N.** The two day event will take place on Friday, 11/1 at 5-8pm and Saturday, 11/2 at 9-11am. The church will be hosting a bake sale and have local crafters and vendors throughout the event. There will be food and entertainment provided and guests can arrive through the parking lot door. Questions can be directed to the church or Marlys Burseth via email at marlys@burseth@comcast.net.

11/2 – **Explore Nature!** Kids can participate in a nature themed event at Webber Park Library at 10:30am to 12:30pm with live critters and learn more about the Mississippi watershed and regional ecosystem. The event is in collaboration with the North Mississippi Regional Park and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

11/3 – **Longtime rapper and producer, Intelligent Black Enterprise (I.B.E.), will perform** live music at the North Regional Library on 1315 Lowry Ave N., Minneapolis. The show will take place upstairs in the north meeting room of the library. The event is sponsored by the Friends of North Regional Library.

11/17 – **Dr. Christopher P. Lehman, a professor of ethnic studies at St. Cloud State University, will present his new book, “Slavery’s Reach” at the North Regional Library** as part of the Woodson Lectures series. The series aims to shed light on topics that relate to the experience of African Americans throughout the course of history in the United States. The event will be held at 2-3:15pm.

11/9 – **SingOUT** is hosting its monthly free event on the second Monday of each month from 1:30-3pm. The event is organized by Alive and Kickin which is a nonprofit senior services art organization that brings together an ensemble of performers ranging from 60 to almost 100 years old. The monthly events take the Cora McCorvey Health and Wellness Center on 1015 N. 4th Ave, Minneapolis, MN. Seniors will sing along to some Rock and Roll, Motown, and Gospel favorites.

11/9 – **Writing your way to YouTube stardom** takes place from 2-3:30pm at Webber Park Library and helps those who want to create a plan, write a script, and create a persona to become an internet sensation. Participants can register online on the Hennepin County Library website.

11/16 – From 2 - 3:30 pm, Webber Park Library is hosting **Gentrified Memory**, a reading and workshop led by poet Chaun Webster as he reads from Gentry!fication. The event aims to ask how remembering could become a part of a restorative practice. The reading and workshop is made possible by a Minnesota State Arts Board grant.

11/20 – **Boost Your Brain Health** will take place at 1-2:30pm at Webber Park Library and aims at learning how to take positive steps to get your brain in its best shape possible. Individuals can register online by going to the county library website and searching Webber Park Library.

Registration for the Capri Glee! Adult Community Choir, under the direction of J.D. Steele, is now open. Rehearsals will take place Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm, Oct 8 - Nov 12 at Plymouth Christian Youth Center, 2210 Oliver Ave N in **Minneapolis**. The choir’s fall performance will be held at 7pm Tuesday, Nov 19 at a location to be announced. Register online at thecapritheater.org or call 612-643-2058.

Join the Northside Singers choir! They sing in three and four part harmony and welcome singers who read music or learn by listening. Practices are Monday nights starting in the fall from 7:30-8:45pm at Patrick Henry High School and perform at residential care centers and community events. For more information, email: singenforfun@gmail.com or register at Minneapolis Community Education: <https://minneapolis.ce.eleyo.com>. Search for Northside Singers.

Wednesdays – **Kid’s Bookclub.** 2:30-4pm. Webber Park Library. No pre-reading required. A book will be shared with a discussion and activity to follow. Sponsored by Friends of the Webber Park Library. No registration required. Designed for youth in 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.

The Capri Theater is now 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

11/12 – 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.

11/26 – 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.

Elizabeth Hall Elementary needs your help!
The deadline for the coat drive is 11/21 as the school needs 260 coats with hats and gloves. There are many possible partners in the area such as Juxtaposition Arts, the Black Women’s Wealth Alliance, 89.9 KMOJ, and others. For those interested in contributing or participating, please email Bianca Rhodes at bianca_rhodes2000@yahoo.com.

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 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 or contact Volunteer Coordinator Caitlin Dougherty at caitlin.dougherty@ppl-inc.org / 612-455-5108.

Teen Tech workshop is held every other Thursday. North Regional Library, 5–7pm. 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.

HOUSING

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison filed a suit against North Minneapolis Landlord Steve Meldahl after he kept security deposits from tenants and retaliated against them for seeking health and safety inspections. Meldahl was the landlord of 25 properties in North Minneapolis where he sometimes required security deposits as high as \$2,000 or more. **Those who may have been victimized by Meldahl or his company S.J.M. Properties Inc. are encouraged to come forward and to file complaints with the Minnesota AG’s office by calling 651-296-3353 or emailing attorney.general@ag.state.mn.us.**

The Minneapolis City Council has approved an ordinance strengthening protections for renters in Minneapolis. The ordinance will cap security deposits at a maximum of one month’s rent and gives property owners two options for screening potential renters: use inclusive screening criteria outlined in the ordinance or conduct an individualized assessment. The inclusive screening criteria will limit consideration of criminal background and rental history, including eviction history, and will prohibit the use of a credit score. The ordinance goes into effect on 6/1/2020 but property owners with 15 dwelling units or fewer have an effective date of 12/1/2020.

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.

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 to schedule a visit.

A new rule has passed that allows the City to charge property owners for cleaning, repairing or replacing City pipes clogged with grease. The grease rule sets up a framework to mitigate risks and decrease the costs to rate payers. Problem spots in one-tenth of the sewer system have cost the City close to \$1 million since 2012 to keep pipes flowing. The clogs divert money and time from other critical sewer system needs as crews are inspecting pipes and cleaning out grease every two weeks. The costs of these services in a small number of locations are borne by sanitary sewer rate payers across Minneapolis. Find more information at: www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease.

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. Learn more here: <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/2132/Renter%20First%20Policy%202003.01.19.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 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.

BE AWARE

On Oct. 25, the Minneapolis City Council voted to adopt **Minneapolis 2040**, the City’s Comprehensive Plan that will "shape how the city will grow and change over the next

two decades so all residents can benefit," according to a city press release.Minneapolis 2040 includes 14 goals with an overarching theme: Minneapolis’ growth must be managed with a focus on undoing barriers created by a history of policies that have prevented equitable access to housing, jobs and investments, resulting in significant racial disparities. It features nearly 100 policies with action steps outlining ways to achieve the plan’s goals. The policies in Minneapolis 2040 have an effective date of Jan. 1, 2020. In coming years, the City will make a series of amendments to the City’s zoning code and land use maps to implement the policies of Minneapolis 2040, as required by state statute.

Fadi Fadhil has been named the City’s new Chief Information Officer after having served as the CIO for Minneapolis Public Schools. Fadhil will oversee the Information Technology Department at the City of Minneapolis to leverage technology and improve how they provide services to residents and businesses. The department operates with a full-time staff of more than 3,900. Fadhil starts his new position on Nov. 4. In past roles Fadhil worked with Saint Paul Public School and worked with the U.S. Army. He speaks four languages and holds multiple degrees in engineering, communication and is a graduate of the Masseurchuset’s Institute of Technology’s executive program.

Garbage day on the week of Nov. 18 is the last time in 2019 for the collection of leaves, brush and other yard trimmings. Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling customers can properly set their yard waste in alleys or curbs next to their garbage carts by 6am on garbage day. The yard waste must be in compostable bags or unbagged in a reusable container with sturdy handles. Yard waste is not allowed in City-provided containers. Those with questions about leaf and brush pickup can dial 612-673-2917 between 8am to 4:30pm or visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste>.

Each Spring and Fall, the City of Minneapolis sweeps through more than 1,100 miles of streets in order to keep neighborhoods clean and protect its waterways. The City’s Public Works department takes nearly four weeks to complete their sweeps and updates each Friday of the week prior to the start of the sweep. **To stay up to date on the street sweeping schedule visit: minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping.** The schedule changes to reflect the actual progress of street cleaning.

The City Council has approved the City’s vision, mission and values as part of the Strategic and Racial Equity Action planning process—a framework that will set the direction for the future of the City and ensure the implementation of racial equity goals. The Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan

is a four-year plan that will embed racial equity principles into all aspects of the City’s work, aligning work from City leadership to departments and defining goals at all planning levels that can be objectively measured and inform resource decisions. The goals were also informed by community engagement from the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Minneapolis 2040’s first goal is to eliminate disparities and a targeted number of policy areas from the plan have been identified as policy priorities for the Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan.

The City of Minneapolis has banned a hazardous chemical, Perchlorethylene known as “perc,” that is used in the dry-cleaning industry. Perchlorethylene is the main chemical solvent used in dry cleaning and may cause cancer as well as damage to internal organs. The City of Minneapolis worked in tandem with several organizations that include the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Cleaners Association to convert all known dry cleaners away from perc.

Homegrown Minneapolis invites community members to participate in any or all upcoming meetings or weigh in online to help develop a food policy action plan. City staff intend for the plan to guide the City toward a more equitable, climate resilient, just and sustainable local food system and local food economy. Access to healthy and local food is important for the health of people who eat it, for the local communities it helps support and for protecting the climate. For more information on upcoming topics, meeting dates and locations and how to stay involved, please visit their website at www.minneapolismn.gov/foodactionplan

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.

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. The last MPRB Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2007 and set a vision through 2020. Visit www.minneapolisarks.org/parksforall.

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. Treatment for CO exposure is fresh air or oxygen. Severe exposure requires medical attention. Do not return to your home or building until the source of the problem is discovered and corrected. For more information about natural gas safety, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/BeSafe or call 612-372-4727 or 1-800-245-2377

People must be at least 21 to buy tobacco products in Minneapolis as of Oct. 1, 2018. 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.

The City’s Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinance took effect Jan. 1, 2018. There will

be a tiered phase-in period for small and large businesses. Large businesses that employ more than 100 workers will be required to pay employees a minimum of \$10 an hour beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Small businesses with 100 or fewer employees will be required to pay workers at least \$10.25 beginning July 1, 2018. Large businesses have until July 1, 2022. to reach a minimum wage of \$15 an hour and small businesses have until July 1, 2024 to reach \$15 an hour.

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

The City Council received the City’s first-ever State of Data report: a document that outlines the current way data is managed by the City and provides a roadmap to improve transparency, accountability and accessibility. The report is a point-in-time summary of where the City of Minneapolis stands with respect to data governance and management, including the way data now informs policy decisions by City leaders and how accessible and understandable that data is. The report also presents a roadmap to making the City more data-driven in operations and services, and looks at how data use is evolving into the future. The 2018 State of Data Report is available on the City’s website.

Following Minneapolis fire laws will help keep our neighborhoods safe and livable; outdoor fires are permitted 9am-10pm, fires must be less than three feet in diameter and two feet high, and a fire must be completely out before being abandoned. Illegal open burning or recreational fires could result in fines that start at \$200. For more information on recreational fires or to register a complaint about a recreational fire, call 311 or email Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov, or to register a complaint about a recreational fire outside 311 hours, call 911. The Fire and Police departments are authorized to extinguish a fire immediately if it is hazardous.

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

panel of entrepreneurs on how they made their side hustles into full-time jobs. The event will be held from 11:30am to 1pm at the Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) offices located at 1007 W Broadway Ave in Minneapolis. The event is co-hosted by the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, NEON, and Hawthorne and Northside Neighborhood Councils.

The West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC) has selected a new Executive Director of their organization. Dave Colling has been approved by the board to join the organization as he plans to advocate for businesses and organizations located on the corridor. Colling has experience in nonprofit work with his two years as director of the Harrison Neighborhood Association. The organization looks forward to creating sustaining programs to ensure their continued support of businesses and capacity to host community events such as FLOW and Open Streets in the future.

Da Hive, a coworking and educational space for black women, launched in late August as an extension of the Black Women's Wealth Alliance. BWWA's founder, Kenya McKnight, operates Da Hive and aims to make it a location for black women entrepreneurs, students and employees to work towards their economic goals. Many of BWWA participants are enrolling as members of Da Hive after having taken several business related workshops. The space will help incubate a number of businesses and continue to host workshops to improve the business skills of their members. To learn more about Da Hive visit www.dahive-us.com.

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

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

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

11/21 - This month's Northside Business Lunch covers the topic of Side Hustle to Lifestyle where participants will learn from a



Students demand action on climate change

By Melvina Manciel, Laquita Jamison-Travis North High

18 students and a teacher walked out of North High School on Friday, Sept. 20 to take a stand and fight against climate change. They marched with hundreds of other students, teachers, and community members through St. Paul, ending at the state capitol where they listened to speeches, spoke to media, and explored the building.

North High world history teacher Dane McLain and 16 year old Greta Thunberg think people should know that if people don't change the way they produce energy by 2030, the world as we know it will change forever. Humans use coal for plenty of things and when we dig up coal and oil and use it, there are environmental consequences.

Students were motivated to go to the protest because they care about their future and young people are going to be the ones who are more affected. North High sophomore Khadijah Ba who attended the protest said, "It's something that's important."

"Nobody really cares," said sophomore Joy Cunningham, who is frustrated that the effects of climate change will be passed on to her generation. "People [do] not want to change the way they use energy," she said.

"I have dreams for the future and if the planet is not here then what am I gonna do?" said Ba.

People can get involved by taking a stand. If there are enough people standing up to climate change, it can be possible that the government will change or do something about it.



Top: North High students held colorful posters with messages about climate change inside the capitol building.

Students marched against climate change on Rice Street in St. Paul on Sept. 20. **Photos by Melvina Manciel**



Former Polar proves himself D1 worthy at Northern Iowa

By David Snoddy Jr, Howard Hadley North High

Brown prepares for a Polars homecoming game in 2018. **Photo from the North News archives**

Omar Brown is a North High alumnus who graduated in 2019. Brown is a Division 1 football

player at the cornerback position, playing for the University of Northern Iowa (UNI).

He's the only one to play for a D1 college out of his graduating class. Brown helped lead the Polars football team to compete for the number one spot at the state tournament in 2018. Brown made his debut in the Minnesota High School All-Star game in 2018 and won defensive MVP. His great defense is what is helping him play amazingly at the D1 level.

His freshman season at UNI is going great for him so far. As of early October, he had about 23 solo tackles and 34 overall tackles. He also had two interceptions with about 15 yards. His defense is just stunning and definitely D1 worthy. Brown is a hard worker and never gives up on defense until the whistle blows. Brown is a part of almost every tackle on the field. He is just very fast and everywhere on the field. He's very accomplished but he tries "not to worry about that because I don't want people to think I have a big ego," he told North News.

While he's doing great in his football season, he's been having a little bit of trouble in the classroom. "I've had school struggles my whole life, so just not losing track of work or what is due was tough," said Brown. He feels he wasn't really academically prepared for his college work. "The hardest part is time management and not slacking at all even if you are tired or don't feel like doing it, going hard everyday and getting better," he said.

You can watch Brown play at the University of Northern Iowa on Nov. 16 at 2pm on ESPN.

Rashad Vaughn Foundation inspires local teens

By RayRay Melton North High

The Rashad Vaughn Foundation is building leaders and positive role models within the North Minneapolis community.

Professional basketball player Rashad Vaughn and his cousin Christopher Davis started the Rashad Vaughn Foundation in 2017. Both men grew up on the Northside and started the foundation because they had always wanted to give back to the community. It was a dream of theirs since they were kids.

"I wouldn't be where I am without people of influence over my life taking the time to reach back and mentor me and give me the proper knowledge to succeed, so I feel it is my duty to do the same," said Vaughn.

Their goal is to give back to the community and to "positively impact youth in education, leadership, and athletics," according to the RVF website. The foundation does back to school drives and events; they host an annual kickball tournament; they gave meals to people in need during Thanksgiving last year, and they started a basketball team for community eighth graders at Folwell Rec Center this past summer. They also provide the Rashad Vaughn Scholarship which provides dollars to Minneapolis students who are members of Mt. Olivet Church or are students at Ascension Catholic School.

Most of the money that it takes to run the foundation comes from Vaughn himself. "He use a lot of his income and kinda support and fund the programs we offer. Right now [we are] working with different partners and donors to try and get some more funding," said Davis, who runs everything while Vaughn is playing basketball overseas. Davis and Vaughn say they try to set aside days during the week to meet and go over the things they are trying to aim for and accomplish.


Right now the men are planning a Thanksgiving event to be able to give back to families in need who might not have all the resources to provide a good meal for their families. Their "long term dream and goal is to have a teen center here in Minneapolis," said Davis. They imagine it being a "state of the art after school community center for teenage kids to come, feel safe, enjoy themselves, and have a good time, and then also provide extra resources for families, parents, [and] then the kids themselves," said Davis.

Humans of North High

Each year, our journalism students at North High School practice their interviewing and photography skills on each other for a project we call "Humans of North High School." Here are some of their submissions.

"In my free time, I do hair, I eat, go to the gym and watch a lot of Netflix. I do track in the fall and summer. I wanted to play basketball, but something came up. I [am] a manager for the boys' football [team]. My mom is important to me because she pushes me to achieve my goals. She inspires me, gets me whatever I want, and does whatever I need. She has been around my whole life, and I hope she's around for a long time because that's my mom. Life will be sad when she's not around. Something others should know about me is, I like my hair and clothes colorful." **Laquita Jamison-Travis** by Terrance Kamara


A portrait of a young Black woman with a blue headwrap and a white t-shirt, smiling at the camera.

A photograph of a young woman performing a handstand in a school hallway. She is wearing a black and white hoodie and colorful socks.

"I'm from Detroit, Michigan, and one thing I remember is when I was little running across the streets and bullets flying past me. Outside of school I like to rap, dance, braid hair, and sing. My biggest accomplishment in life so far is being booked by people that work with Jermaine Dupri to New York. I admire myself because I accomplished a lot at the age I am. My future career is a multi-talented artist. Someone that inspires me is my uncle that's in Detroit, because he is successful and he always wants me to be successful." **Melvina Manciel** by Aryy Taylor

A photograph of a young man wearing glasses and a white t-shirt, leaning against a large tree trunk outdoors.

One of the hardest things I faced was putting myself out there 'cause growing up, I used to be nonchalant. I used to be in the house all the time watching SpongeBob. I used to read a lot, a real nerd. I was always in my room, never needed to be by nobody. After we got a dog, I started playing with it more and going outside more. Now I don't mind doing new stuff, involving myself in different activities like photography, journalism, and playing for the North football [team]. ...If you don't like yourself than you can't love no one. ...Whatever you do don't make no regrets because once you got that feeling of regret, its going to be stuck with you for a while. **Tim Brown** by **Destiny Hooks**

A photograph of a young man in a white t-shirt and orange shorts standing on a sidewalk, making a hand gesture.

"My parents [have] shown me right from wrong, and they push me to become a better person every day and to do good in school and tell me that education gone take me a long ways. Playing football just showed me I have to work hard to be better than everyone else and to get noticed, because everybody else is working to get to the next level of football, and that just makes me wanna work harder." **Terrance Kamara** by **Laquita Jamison-Travis**



JUST DO THE RIGHT THING

The new leader of Northside Funders Group talks deploying resources to North Minneapolis, the threat of gentrification, and her burning desire to advance racial equity.

By **Kenzie O'Keefe** Editor | Photos by **David Pierini** Staff Reporter

The seeds of social justice were planted early for Sarah Clyne. She was raised in rural Minnesota by parents who gave back as a way of life—as foster parents and as people willing to use their bodies to buffer violence. Her upbringing instilled in her a deep motivation to “do the work” despite its tolls.

Six months ago, she became the executive director for Northside Funders Group (NFG), a “funder collaborative” that aims to support Northside prosperity via millions of dollars in philanthropic contributions each year. Clyne follows former NFG leader, Tawanna Black, who now leads the Center for Economic Inclusion, of which NFG is an integrated partner.

Prior to joining NFG, Clyne led the Domestic Abuse Project as its executive director.

This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.

How do you explain the Northside Funders Group to people who've never heard of it before? We are a network of local foundations interested in digging deeper into the issues, organizations, and community work that's happening in North Minneapolis. We have a geographic focus, which is unique in the funder collaborative world. A lot of national collaboratives are issue based and time-bound. The function of Northside Funders Group is collective impact. How can we make a difference collectively, and streamline some of those processes to make it easier for organizations to access resources?

How many members do you have? Who are they? We have about 10 members that are actively engaged in the work, at this point: Phillips Family Foundation, McKnight, the Minneapolis Foundation, Thrivent Foundation, United Way, Twin Cities LISC, Hennepin County, and the Mortenson Family Foundation.

What made you want to lead this organization? How did you end up here? The strand that connects all of my work experiences throughout my life has

been a commitment to social justice and community change. When I saw the opening for Northside Funders Group, that lens of having a strong focus on social justice and I think in the social and political climate, really honing in on racial equity, was really appealing to me.

What was your connection at the Northside before you took on this role? In my previous role, as executive director at Domestic Abuse Project, we had several satellite offices, one of them being in North Minneapolis in NorthPoint. Its proximity to the Fourth Precinct meant that it is the highest volume client walk-in location across the city.

You've flipped from leading a nonprofit that serves the community to funding the organizations that do. What do you think the North Minneapolis community needs from the philanthropic communities that serve it? I firmly believe that if you look through the lens of an asset base, community has the answers and the ability to respond from within. Philanthropy can play a key role in leveraging financial resources to unleash into the community. I think we have a role to play in really listening to the community, taking that information, and figuring out then how we can best deploy those resources and activate them, and do that quickly. Dynamics can change at a drop of a hat. It can be something as simple as a natural disaster, which we've seen in North Minneapolis.

NFG is in the midst of strategy shift. What does that look like? Gentrification has become a really significant issue. There's peak interest by developers to come in and do something with spaces that are underutilized. Under that broad umbrella of gentrification, we've raised up housing as something we probably need to lean into, wealth creation, the credit union, and business incubation. Education. Community and public safety. All of those things play into capacity to stay in the community. That is guiding the discussions that we've had up to this point and is the direction that I see us going in.

How much money has NFG delivered into North Minneapolis this year? In 2019, it's been small. NFG deployed just under \$200,000 directly. But then, if you look at the aligned investments of the individual funders across the table, you're probably looking at several million dollars of investments.

Where did that \$200K go? We funded Minneapolis Public Schools, through the parent engagement project. We give dollars to Summit OIC for their pilot STEM Academy, and then we gave dollars to New Rules for Chris [Webley's] Infamous 50 project. That was a new venture for us, because New Rules is a B Corporation. So I think the other shift for us as a funder collaborative is getting really creative about what we fund. So kind of breaking out of that traditional 501(c)(3) structure, and looking at, okay, how can we get really creative about ensuring that we're again fueling and deploying resources into the community in ways that are needed, and sometimes it's not just solely from the confines of a nonprofit. So that's been a really interesting conversation across the collaborative.

How do you ensure community voice is present as the collective is thinking strategically, thinking about funding priorities? As the primary staff for NFG, it's my role to really be out in community and connecting with individuals: residents, business owners, and leaders within community organizations.

Really getting on-the-ground, real time information has been important for being the bridge to philanthropy.

Who are the people and events in your life, growing up, that set your feet on this path of social justice and of working in the community? I grew up in rural Minnesota, so just my own experience as a woman of color, growing up in a largely white community is a thing in and of itself that shaped and me. My parents were foster parents for a really long time. That was just the nature of how we lived. My parents would get these letters from kids that were just like, "you were the only household where I got a bed, or I got crayons, or school supplies." One of them came back and visited several times to just thank them for being stability in his life. My parents did it all from a place of: this is what you do as a person. You give back and you do the right thing. The most powerful example of that is from when my parents lived in Minneapolis in the 60s and 70s. My dad was going down Lake Street and came across



"...community has the answers and the ability to respond from within."

a situation at a gas station with a young black man that was being harassed by a group of white men. He intervened, and he actually got stabbed in the neck with a tool that this kid had, because he was fighting back. He literally saved that kid's life. My parents don't have the racial and social justice language around it, but they have the actions. We accept everybody, no matter what their background is—that has always been a part of the dialogue in our household.

How do you think that upbringing plays into your approach to work now? I think it's led to a strong moral and ethical backbone to how I make decisions. Sometimes that means pushing back on systems. I spent a short time in the public school system as a teacher and got fatigued really quickly because there was no space to be

creative. I didn't have the power to make significant changes. I became a statistic, and I left the educational space in less than five years. Part of the challenge that we have with teachers now, particularly with teachers of color, is not only recruiting them to the profession, but retaining them. It's really easy to go into that space with that lens of social justice and racial equity, and doing the right thing, and wanting to connect with kids in meaningful ways. But then the reality of what you're faced with, and the environment that you're working in, isn't conducive to allowing that authenticity of bringing in your community lens, cultural lens, to make shifts in the classroom.

How do you take care of yourself, in a world of both so much need and so much structural oppression that you are literally battling against every single day? Lots of things. I think some of it is being able to unplug from work, like creating healthy boundaries for myself. Self-care practices. I get massages regularly. I need to go to the gym because that's a great place for me to take out my anger and frustration. I've also found it really helpful in healing to have a strong network of other people in this work.

Who do you look up to in community? I tend to look at the folks that are keeping their head on the ground, or are really focused on their work. They're not necessarily the folks that get a lot of recognition in community or have name recognition. It's really the folks that are just really grounded in building relationships in community and doing the work. They're really



walking hand-in-hand with others to move the work. Those are the people that I gravitate towards, and the people that I look to for guidance, and also just aspire to be like.

NOVEMBER
17

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