CAN THE CITY LEAD FAIR DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH MINNEAPOLIS?

Upper Harbor is the test. Page 11

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Miss Hmong MN reflects on culturally enriching pageant experience Page 22
In early February, I traveled to Washington DC as part of my Humphrey Policy fellowship at the University of Minnesota. We toured the Supreme Court, the Capitol, and the Pentagon. We dialogued with elected officials, lobbyists, foreign affairs experts, and journalists. We were offered a window into our country’s houses of power. I felt proud and reverent in some moments and deeply disturbed in others. The cis, male whiteness was overwhelming. Perceptions of brilliance were clearly reserved for a homogenous few.

A presentation from Mark Hugo Lopez of Pew Research on the importance of the “Hispanic voter” in the 2020 election offered a rare moment of reprieve from the feeling that America is far from valuing its diversity. Hugo explained how influential the Hispanic voting bloc is going to be in 2020 and how Democrats will pay a price for underestimating their power. But while he noted how rhetorically useful it can be to discuss “the” Hispanic voter, he admitted to not really believing that there is “a” Hispanic voter. Hispanic voters are as diverse as white voters in their decision making. Every population has its conflicting interests, exceptions to trends, subsets and special interest groups.

Monolithing is a form of marginalization, I wrote in my notes from the hour we spent with Lopez. It’s a reminder I’ve returned to back home as I worked on our cover story about the Upper Harbor Terminal.

A couple months ago, I got an email from independent radio producer Melissa Townsend, asking if I was interested in teaming up for some in-depth reporting on the redevelopment of the UHT, funded and supported by Minnesota Public Radio.

I leapt at the opportunity. To historically contextualize how we got to this moment of redevelopment and to include a representative smattering of the many perspectives on the project was going to require more time and support than we typically have access to. Suddenly, said resources had arrived.

The city council will vote on a coordinated plan for the site this summer. That will spur land sales and transfers and eventually construction. Not everyone is on board with the process.

While the city and its chosen developers are technically at the helm of the project, they have repeatedly stated their desire to prioritize Northsiders wants and needs in the process.

But what does THE Northside want? Who even is THE Northside? Is asking for a singular Northside perspective even possible? Is asking that question and thinking it is answerable evidence that white supremacy is at play?

One of the conclusions Melissa and I came to in our reporting is that part of what makes this situation complicated is that Northsiders want many things and they conflict with each other. There is some agreement: no one wants to see longtime Northsiders displaced. Divergence happens in the details. See Page 12 for all that we heard.

I’m grateful to all those who spoke with us informally and made our presence at public meetings possible and comfortable.

Thank you to Kate Moos, Laura Yuen and Paul Tosto at MPR for being supportive, knowledgeable, and mentally flexible as Melissa and I processed all that we heard. Lastly, and mostly, thank you to the Northsiders, particularly African American folks, who trusted us to tell this story even though media has taught you that we rarely get it right.

Until next time,

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Olson student wins district spelling bee, advances to regionals

Olson Middle School seventh-grader Mina Duden won the MPS Spelling Bee at Folwell School in South Minneapolis on Feb. 6. Duden "survived nine rounds and some really challenging words. She stayed calm, was supportive of the other spellers, and overall did a great job of representing Olson," said Dominique Gilmer, an MPS staff member. The MPS District Spelling Bee is "more of a fun way to honor the students who won their school spelling bees, but it's unrelated to the overall process of advancing to the Scripps National Spelling Bee," said Olson teacher Laura Henry. On Monday, Feb. 24, Duden found out she is one of 48 Twin Cities students who have advanced to a regional competition. The winner of that will advance to nationals in Washington, DC. By Kenzie O'Keefe, Editor

Riverfront mushroom farm on Upper Harbor site has closed

In late January, a mushroom farm that has operated since 2015 inside a city-owned warehouse at the Upper Harbor Terminal abruptly announced that it was shutting down effective Feb. 11 due to fire code and zoning issues. "On January 13th we were informed by the City of Minneapolis that Mississippi Mushrooms has until February 14th to shut down the farm (because they won't extend our lease). This short notice will result in substantial crop losses and leaves us with no choice but to shut down the business due to insufficient time to plan a transition," wrote company owner Ian Silver-Ramp on his business' website, mississippimushrooms.com. In a Feb. 25 Facebook post, the city council member for the area, Phillippe Cunningham, said the city uncovered "possible building and fire code issues" last year during a council-directed cost-benefit analysis conducted to determine whether or not the building would be kept or demolished during the UHT redevelopment process. He said city staff "have attempted to help MM find a new location for their business and develop a transition plan." By Kenzie O'Keefe, Editor

North Regional Library to close for renovation in March

North Regional Library on Lowry and Fremont Ave. N will temporarily close in mid-March for remodeling that will last about a year. An alternate site will open at 1200 Plymouth Ave. N during the closure. By Kenzie O'Keefe, Editor

Local food businesses to pop up regularly at North Market

North Market is launching a new initiative as it partners with local food business owners and gives them a space to operate. The Northside Economic Opportunity Network has worked closely with North Market in helping establish the pop-up format for these businesses. The current schedule lists MinneBun on Saturdays from 11am-8pm and WholeSoul on Sundays from 11am-8pm. For questions on this program and to learn about more opportunities, please reach out to Ann Fix of NEON at ann@neon-mm.org or Vanan Murugesan of North Market at vananm@pillsburyunited.org. By Abdi Mohamed, Staff Reporter

Spring play at Patrick Henry

Patrick Henry High School is putting on its spring play, Anonymous, on March 19 and 20 at 7pm. Henry High teacher Christopher Michael Solorio is directing. The play is "based off of Homer's The Odyssey, but it is set in a more modern setting," he said. Junior Lucion Patterson plays the role of Stryagal in the play. "It talks about human trafficking. So it brings up a really deep message that needs to be heard," he said. Sophomore Emerson Hanson performs songs written especially for the sendoff. An artist stood near the front of the church, painting a canvas symbolizing how the church helped the community blossom.

"If there is one word that describes Pastor Kelly, it's prophet," said Mark Hanson, an ECLA bishop emeritus. "He is not the kind of prophet that sees the future. He is the kind of prophet who speaks his mind and truth in cultures of deception and lies. You are a prophet with enormous heart that breaks open again and again with compassion and mercy."

Hanson was just one of a line of speakers who paid tribute to Chatman during a two-hour service in late Feburary. Ministers paid tribute to a humble servant, whose only lapse in humility is when he makes chili (he thinks his is the best).

Musicians perform songs written especially for the sendoff. An artist stood near the front of the church, painting a canvas symbolizing how the church helped the community blossom.

Chatman had the day off from speaking; he needed all the strength he could muster to dole out hugs. In a video tribute, Kelly expressed gratitude in his characteristic understated manner.

In 2012, he was among a group of religious leaders who stood against a proposed marriage amendment in Minnesota. "I want people to strive to make this world on this day a better world for the next day," he said. "I love god and I love people."
Breaking Bread will be back with a twist this spring

By Abdi Mohamed Staff Reporter

After seven months of temporary closure, leaders of Breaking Bread Cafe say it will reopen on April 6. According to Appetite for Change (AFC), the cafe’s parent nonprofit, some big changes will enable Breaking Bread to operate more sustainably.

Michelle Horowitz, the co-founder and executive director of AFC, says there will be no more table service. A “casual counter service model” where customers order at the counter and take a number back to their table will be the new norm.

Horowitz says fundraising has been essential to reopening efforts. “I’ve been involved in the fundraising efforts to make sure that the model is well positioned to have a good base,” Horowitz said. She pointed to “long-standing partners” having helped increase their capacity to open the restaurant. These partners include the Jay and Rose Phillips Foundation of Minnesota, a funder of this publication, the Cargill Foundation, and the Pohlad Family Foundation.

Although the favorites on the menu will stay, there will be more distinction made in the kind of food served at Breaking Bread. “The new menu is going to really pay homage to black Americans and black American cooking in the United States,” Horowitz said. She raised the issue of distinguishing between southern food and soul, between Caribbean and barbecue which have more regional and cultural histories.

Darryl Lindsey, the chief programming officer at AFC, points to the adult training program as one of the major reasons Breaking Bread had to be closed. It cost too much. He says the organization decided to cut back on that program and invest resources elsewhere. “That was one of the things that cost us quite a bit of money by putting that training on,” Lindsey said.

The restaurant space has also been known for hosting several popup events for entrepreneurs to utilize the space and draw in customers. Lindsey says that goal is still a part of AFC’s mission. “We really want to continue lifting up the up and coming chefs and other food vendors in our area,” he said.

As they prepare to reopen Breaking Bread, AFC has opened a new venture, Station 81, inside the Union Depot in Saint Paul. Many former employees of Breaking Bread will find new work there.
Hello Neighbors!

Spring is right around the corner, which means it is almost time for the 2020 Census! Again, the 2020 Census will be the first that offers the opportunity to fill out the entire form online, but you also have the option of filling it out in person and mailing it in, as done in previous years, or by phone. If you would like more information on the ways to respond, there is a page dedicated to this information here: 2020Census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html.

As I’ve previously shared, it is incredibly important for Northsiders to be counted. Organizations, community centers and religious spaces throughout our communities have committed to opening their doors through the City’s “Trusted Spaces” program to allow community members to receive census assistance in a safe and trusted location. These locations are equipped with the proper technology that allows community members to complete the census in a space that is familiar and welcoming.

By the middle of this month (March), households across the nation will start receiving mail from the United States Census Bureau with all the information and details on how to respond to the 2020 Census. By April 1st, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

Folks may have questions on who to count, as there are special circumstances such as homelessness, moving, or various other factors that may make it unclear. There are answers to a variety of special circumstances and how to make sure everyone can be counted here: 2020Census.gov/en/who-to-count.html.

Again, there is no obligation to take the Census, but by providing multiple ways to submit, and the data privacy measures taken to ensure security, the hope is to remove as many barriers to people participating as possible. In addition, the Census does not require the respondents to be US Citizens, and as the census responses are protected by federal law, residents that are not citizens can participate and ensure that Minneapolis gets a complete count.

If you still have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to the City of Minneapolis’ Census Complete Count Coordinator, Alberder Gillespie. Detailed information on Census Resources can still be found on the City’s website at: minneapolismn.gov/census/index.htm

As always, reach out to my office with any questions or concerns: (612) 673-2204 or ward4@minneapolismn.gov

As a reminder, seasonal flu is circulating in Minnesota. It’s never too late to get your flu shot, which will help protect you and those who are too young to get the shot. To learn more about the coronavirus, check the Minnesota Department of Health website: health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus.

Lastly, as you may have seen in the news recently, the Trump administration appears to be ramping up talks with the Lao government to deport Hmong and Lao Americans to Laos. I vehemently oppose this move from the Trump administration and stand behind our Hmong and Lao American neighbors. The city’s Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs has been monitoring the situation and we are exploring what type of meaningful support services we can provide our Hmong and Laotian community residents.

Please sign up for our newsletter to get more regular updates from the Ward 5 office at minneapolismn.gov/ward5. And keep an eye 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.
By Abdi Mohamed Staff Reporter

A bustling cultural hub with entertainment, food, and professional development may find its way to North Minneapolis in the next year as architect and Northside Jamil Ford puts the final touches on his design. After finding financial assistance from public funds, Ford then turned to community input for guidance on the site at 42nd and Fremont Ave. N. He says a groundbreaking will take place this spring. Ford has been tasked with designing the layout of Baldwin Square, a commercial development located on the Northside that would breathe life into the community through its amenities and shared values.

It’s been three years since the City of Minneapolis released its request for proposals for the commercial properties. Since that time, the City has awarded and renewed its exclusive development rights to Ideal Development Group (IDG), a company led by Ford, the President and founder of Mobilize Design and Architecture (MDA). The properties were acquired by the city through tax forfeiture in 2015. They include two commercial storefronts with four apartment units on the second floor of one building. Ford grew up in North Minneapolis, not too far away from where the soon-to-be Baldwin Square will be located. His interest in architecture stemmed from his enrollment in an architectural class during his time at North Community High School. Noticing his passion, Ford’s guidance counselor connected him to HGA, an architecture firm in which Ford would intern with his junior year.

Many years later he initiated his own venture with MDA which he founded in 2010. MDA designed both the Hennepin County Human Services Hub and Estes Funeral Home on Plymouth Ave. N.

In their proposal, Ford and his team suggested turning the commercial spaces at 4140-46 Fremont Ave. N into a major gathering place for the community. This space would consist of a restaurant for 125 people, a small bookstore and café, an art gallery, an event center and an office headquarters for IDG. The entire property needs significant rehab. The project overview on the city’s website lists several issues that need attention, including the lack of a sprinkler system. It’s also out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The City was not interested in any proposal that suggested demolishing the building possibly due to its historical significance in the neighborhood.

Ford dubbed the location Baldwin Square, in honor of James Baldwin the African American writer and activist from the Civil Rights era in the United States. His proposal beat out three other developers after going through an open house process in 2016 where residents and community members met with developers and discussed their desires for the space. “A lot of the time most developers come into our community and tell us what we get versus what would you like to see,” Ford said.

In his design process, Ford hopes to keep the community central to his planning. “I look at this development as a development that really supports individuals for who they are,” he said. Ford recalls his childhood growing up in North Minneapolis and seeing the disparities of need for residents in his community when it came to a space like this. “This is very near and dear to my heart because there was nothing like this growing up in my community.”

Ford says Baldwin Square will bring more entry level and professional jobs to the community. Ford credits his exposure to the professional architecture world as an inspiration for him to do the work that he does now. For youth on the Northside to have this kind of space to interact with professionals could give them that same motivation according to Ford. One key element to this project has been the financing of Baldwin Square and how these funds are allocated help determine the timeline of the project. “The City of Minneapolis is in the process of allocating their portion of the gap and they’re also working with other partners such as Hennepin County and the Transit Oriented Development fund,” Ford said. The Baldwin Square project sits alongside the proposed D-line Chicago-Fremont bus rapid transit line which opens it up to more funding opportunities. The original commercial district near the intersection also had a streetcar line operating nearby during the 1920s.

In a statement, Erik Hansen, the city planning department’s director of economic policy and development, said the city is supporting the project financially. “[Ford] has made progress advancing the plans for the project and is at a key stage of finalizing the financing. The City supports his attempt to revitalize this building and provide vitality and commerce to the community,” he statement read.

He’s currently exploring community ownership models that involve the potential business owners having a stake in the commercial property when it comes online.

Felicia Perry to head West Broadway Business and Area Coalition

By Abdi Mohamed Staff Reporter

Felicia Perry has been announced as the new leader of the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition after its previous executive director, Dave Colling, left after just a few months on the job. According to WBC leaders, Colling left due to accepting another opportunity. Perry is the organization’s sixth head in less than five years.

The change was announced in a newsletter sent out by the organization in January. Perry is currently the only staff member at the WBC. She first came into the organization as a FLOW artist liaison and coordinator of Open Streets West Broadway just under three years ago.

This change has now brought in members of the board to the table to help Perry in her transition into the director’s role. The board is made up of local business owners and community leaders. Dr. Tara Watson is the WBC Board Chair and owner of Watson Chiropractic. Watson shared an encouraging message about Perry in the newsletter announcing the leadership change. “Felicia’s tenacity, community involvement, and work has well prepared for the task ahead of her,” she said.

Perry says this new role will give her the opportunity to expand some of the previous programming she’s done with WBC, which focused on connecting Northside entrepreneurs to crucial economic resources at the state and local levels.

“I was super anxious at first, but it’s actually been really exciting,” Perry said of her promotion.

Other board members like Ravié Singh of US Bank emphasized the need for more board involvement with this change. “The initiative we’re taking right now is all hands-on deck with the board,” Singh said. He sees the board dividing up responsibilities among themselves as they continue in an advising role to Perry. “We have a divide and conquer strategy going forward to make this work more successfully with the executive director,” Singh described the board’s approval of Perry as a unanimous decision although she was under consideration last year.

She points to the relationships WBC has built over the years as an asset for the future of the organization. “Because those relationships had been built, I’ve just been getting a flood of overwhelming support from all of our partners.”

In her work with the WBC, Perry has focused on building relationships with local business owners on the corridor. Whether it’s through business luncheons, the inaugural Black Business Week Minneapolis this past summer or some of the established events like FLOW, Open Streets, and Black Friday on Broadway, Perry has worked to give business owners exposure to new opportunities.

In stepping up their role the board plans to communicate more effectively and hold their biweekly meetings with Perry. They also plan to form board committees tasked with different initiatives relevant to WBC’s strategic goals on the corridor such as crime and safety and grant acquisitioning.

Although Perry is new in this role, she’s seen what has worked and not worked for past executive directors. Her unique perspective and time spent with the organization may lend her the ability to take WBC farther than any other director has.
Out of money, Mastery School scrambles to see another school year

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

Parents for a North Minneapolis charter school say they were caught off guard when they found out the school was out of money and its board was prepared to vote on its closure.

Anxious and outraged, parents and faculty managed to press the Mastery School’s governing board at a Feb. 13 meeting to postpone the vote until April in hopes the school of 216 students can find a way to keep its doors open for the next school year.

“I think parents and staff need information before you talk about closing the school,” Imogene Kohler told the board. “It seems like no one communicated with the parents or staff and then all of a sudden you call a meeting to talk about closing the school? Some heads need to roll because of this.”

Mastery School was part of the Harvest Network of Schools, a charter group, until 2018 when HNS dissolved. The restructuring merged two Harvest schools and recast Mastery as an independent charter with its own board of directors.

Almost immediately, there were red flags with the school’s solvency. Mastery was saddled with a ballooning lease on its building at 4021 Thomas Ave. N that had been negotiated by HNS. The lease was based on a projected enrollment HNS believed would eventually exceed 400 students, said Emily Peterson, Mastery’s interim executive director.

Rent, according to the lease, is on a schedule to increase by $200,000 annually over the next two years.

Peterson offered some hope. She said the school is in talks with the building’s landlord to stop the scheduled increase in rent for one year. She also offered various scenarios that would be contingent on a continued line of credit and some staff cuts. Parents and board members also seemed eager to intensify efforts to recruit more students.

But those in attendance at the board meeting remained baffled by late-hour notice of the financial troubles.

Pillsbury United Communities, the school’s authorizer, sent several letters to the school pointing out the need to address the looming cash problem and other strategic challenges, said Antonio Cardona, director of PUC’s Office of Public Charter Schools. PUC also owns and independently operates North News.

“We’ve been raising flags for more than a year and there hasn’t been a sense of urgency,” Cardona said when called on by a parent to explain PUC’s knowledge of the problem. “We sent letters to the board looking for significant action. There is also a level of responsibility at the feet of HNS.”

Board members appeared stunned by the anger in the room. Nearly half the board is new and Peterson, the interim executive director, started at Mastery in July.

“The outlook for the school financially is not that great,” Terrence Price, the interim board chair, told the parents and faculty. “Nobody on this board, I can assure you, wants to see the school close.”

It was little comfort to angry parents, who said they wanted to be part of the solution. Dr. Ora Hokes, whose background includes helping to start a charter school, said parents invest their children and hearts in the school and would be willing partners in finding ways to keep the school open.

“This is a slap in the face,” she said. “We’ve supported you and you support us by not communicating? To hear it like this, you are going to have to rebuild the faith we had in you.

“I’m discouraged. Tell us what to do,” she added.

A vote to not close the school failed because some members abstained after hearing a proposal from board member Lesa Clarkson to table a vote until April. The motion to postpone passed unanimously.

Clarkson wanted to give Peterson more time to negotiate with the landlord and pull together members of the community to drum up ideas for the school to remain open.

On one occasion, attendees had to separate a parent and staff member during a heated argument. Clarkson said no one in the room should be “thrown under the bus,” to which one parent yelled, “Don’t portray yourself as some sort of victim here.”

“We’re here to work through a difficult situation,” Clarkson said. “Nobody has run away. We’re all here to solve the problem. The question is how do we do it?”
Parents express fear as proposed Comprehensive District Design takes aim at achievement gap.

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

Saleemah Shabazz could see an end to her fight. Public school administrators passionately explained a set of proposals they believe could end decades-long racial disparities in school resources. The plans pitched by Minneapolis Public Schools could provide long-neglected North Minneapolis with three magnet schools and a tech center for career training.

Shabazz sat forward in her chair. She nodded often. “My children have switched schools so often, it’s a heartbreak, it’s a fight,” Shabazz said following a community meeting she attended in early February with her daughter. “Why does it have to be a fight to get her a quality education? To be able to know she doesn’t have to go all the way [south] because everything’s right here? That’s magnificent.”

But angry and anxious parents in other parts of the district are pressing the school board at its monthly meetings to delay an upcoming vote on what is called the Comprehensive District Design. They fear the proposals put forward in the plan would upend schools, mostly in South Minneapolis, already meeting goals for performance and integration.

Many critics agree with the district – that MPS has largely failed students of color – but want to see additional proposals that would leave their children’s schools untouched.

Almost as palpable as the opposition rising from South Minneapolis is the silence from the Northside. The stakes are high for North Minneapolis, yet a perspective from families there are absent from the public comment sessions at school board meetings. Those missing viewpoints have played out on social media. While North Minneapolis, on paper, seems to benefit the most, there is fear and doubt in the CDD. Most of the proposed models would integrate some distinct student populations and some worry the district won’t have the support programs in place to help with potential cultural clashes.

Administrators have been holding listening sessions around the district to receive feedback on possible plans. They are expected to recommend one of the models to the board in March. The board will likely vote on a way forward in April.

“We should not be OK with the academic outcomes that we’re seeing right now,” Superintendent Ed Graff told a packed cafeteria at Bethune School in early February. “When I have to look at 34,000 students, two-thirds of our population are families of color. And we’re not giving them the experiences, the opportunities, and the access.”

“So this is a call to action,” he said.

Graff is trying to address disparities in a district long considered to have one of the widest achievement gaps in the country. He is also working against a looming budget deficit for 2021-22 projected to top $19 million.

The first of five CDD models would leave the current structure in place but force the district to close under-enrolled schools. The other four proposals would reconfigure grade levels, change school boundaries and place magnet programs in schools closer to the center of the city.

Elizabeth Hall Elementary would be classified as a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) magnet school and Bethune School would be an arts magnet. Franklin Middle School would add arts to a STEM magnet curriculum.

The tech center at North High would offer career pathways in computer science, engineering, robotics and digital communication.

Currently, most of the district’s magnet schools are in South Minneapolis. Many of those schools would remain community schools but would lose their magnet programming. Centralizing magnet programs would cut transportation costs, slow the exodus of students seeking a school outside of the district and bolster enrollment in smaller schools, officials say.

Like Shabazz, several families have been opting out of MPS for a charter school or a public school in another district. Last year, more than 1,500 students

“Lack of trust in MPS makes restructuring plan a hard sell”

Parents express fear as proposed Comprehensive District Design takes aim at achievement gap.

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Now is the time to apply for seasonal employment! Work this summer for a nationally top rated park system. Currently accepting applications for seasonal positions in Park Maintenance, Aquatics, Gardeners, Equipment Operators, Environmental Educators, Aquatic Invasive Species Inspectors, Golf, Recreation and more.

See all job opportunities at www.minneapolisparks.org/jobs

MPS Superintendent Ed Graff, left, board treasurer Kimberly Caprini and student representative Nathaniel Genene listen during the public comment meeting of the February school board meeting. Photo by David Pierini

Administators stress current magnet schools that are re-designated as community schools will continue to set a high academic bar. Critics thus far seem unconvinced, even in North Minneapolis. A Facebook group tied to Patrick Henry High School called Patriots Push Back have voiced opposition to the CDD because the school would lose valued faculty members, career training programs and equipment from its award-winning robotics program to the North High Tech center.

What the new school environments would look like specifically is unclear, said Kenneth Eban, senior organizer for Students For Educational Reform Minnesota, which sees the restructuring as a good first step. In a report issued by SFER last year, students said a lack of teacher diversity, lack of access to advanced courses and poor school facilities as barriers to a quality education.

“I think there’s a lot of frustration that the comprehensive design at this point, doesn’t address the day-to-day experience in the halls and the classrooms,” Eban said. “What it does create is the opportunity to redistribute resources across the district so that we can start using those resources to invest in better programming, better opportunities.

“We have perpetually failed students of color and we need to do something different.”

Eric Moore, MPS’s chief of accountability, research and equity, echoed the sentiments of Eban.

Moore said the district for too long as “tinkered around the edges” and teachers and administrators are “significantly” frustrated in failed efforts to address the status quo.

“There’s a predictability in our district based on skin color and zip code as to what your academic experience will be,” Moore said. “We have an achievement gap of roughly 55 points between our white students and students of color,” Moore said. “That’s a gap that hasn’t moved in over a decade so we need to do some systemic work.”

TIMELINE:

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 pm
MPS administrator will present to the Board of Education one of five scenarios in the CDD they feel will best achieve equity.

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 pm
The MPS Board of Education will vote whether to implement the CDD model advocated by administrators.

For more information, visit https://mpls.k12.mn.us/cdd

Minneapolis Public Schools administrators say its current structure systematically marginalizes a significant number of students, especially students of color and ones that live in low income neighborhoods.

The Comprehensive District Design outlines various models of how the district could restructure to achieve greater resource equity across all schools and increase achievement.

The district wants make changes beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

Know what's in the CDD

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For more information, visit https://mpls.k12.mn.us/cdd

Minneapolis Public Schools administrators say its current structure systematically marginalizes a significant number of students, especially students of color and ones that live in low income neighborhoods.

The Comprehensive District Design outlines various models of how the district could restructure to achieve greater resource equity across all schools and increase achievement.

The district wants make changes beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

TIMELINE:

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 pm
MPS administrator will present to the Board of Education one of five scenarios in the CDD they feel will best achieve equity.

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 pm
The MPS Board of Education will vote whether to implement the CDD model advocated by administrators.
The restaurant's owner has come to an agreement to sell the property to Schafer Richardson. The developer has initiated a community dialogue as to what they should do with the space.

By Abdi Mohamed Staff Reporter

Last summer North News reported that the owner of Broadway Station Pizza, James Kruizenga, was considering repurposing his business. Kruizenga has since shared that he has reached a deal with Schafer Richardson, a property development group that specializes in multi-family units, to sell his property for an undisclosed amount.

They have proposed to construct a 160 unit apartment complex where the restaurant currently stands, overlooking the river. Kruizenga and Schafer Richardson came to their agreement last fall, but kept it private until recently. In February, Schafer Richardson submitted their plan to the city’s planning commission for review.

Construction won’t begin on the property until Spring of 2021, according to Schafer Richardson. In the meantime, members of the development team are attending committee meetings and scheduling community engagement sessions to receive feedback as they work out their financing.

Randall Winger, the chief financial officer of Broadway Pizza, says nothing is yet final. “We’re just getting more into the planning stages. Until approvals are done it’s not a done deal,” Winger said.

Previous plans of the repurposing involved Broadway Pizza being a part of the new development, but Winger waved off those notions. The plan as he sees it is for apartments and not including a commercial space for the restaurant. “That’s not to say we won’t be around in a different location in the area,” Winger said.

Katie Anthony serves as the senior project manager at Schafer Richardson. Anthony has been involved with the negotiations between her company and Broadway Pizza and has also led the community engagement effort in advancing this development. In her time spent with members of the community, Anthony has spoken to many who see the property as highly coveted due to its proximity to the river. "We know that connectivity to the river is important to the neighborhood down Broadway,” Anthony said.

On Monday Feb 17, Anthony led a presentation to the Hawthorne Neighborhood Association at Farview Park. Residents posed questions about the property and the scope of the development. Some residents like Susan Vikse, who is part of the Above the Falls Community Advisory Committee, pressed the need for a restaurant in the space if Broadway Pizza were to leave. “It’s all fast food,” Vikse said of the other options along W Broadway Ave. As Vikse proposed this, Anthony answered plainly that the structure of financing makes it difficult. “A traditional non-affordable housing project is easier to execute,” she said.

Other questions raised by residents dealt with the material of the building, which pointed to a focus on sustainability. Anthony said the complex will have a masonry build with composite panels. One concern residents pointed to was the issue of affordability. Anthony says that 100% of the units will be affordable to households at or below 60% of the area median income. Due to the history of disenfranchisement on the Northside, many in the community are wary that new apartments could price them out of the community. Anthony describes the road ahead as full of hard work and more conversations like the one on Monday night. She sees the needs expressed by the community but wishes to convey the “scarce resources” used for developing affordable homes on this scale. “There are limits on how much can be allocated every year,” Anthony said speaking of subsidies and tax credits on housing projects.

Although the project won’t break ground until next year, Anthony and her colleagues at Schafer Richardson say they hope to collect more input through the spring until they come to a final agreement as to the use and design of this property sitting alongside the river.

Schafer Richardson released a potential design of their development project set to be located along W Broadway Ave. and W River Road. Photo courtesy of Schafer Richardson
ECONOMIC
CATALYST OR
CATASTROPHE?

A "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to redevelop 48 acres of riverfront land in North Minneapolis has become a pivotal moment for the city and its private development partners to prove they can put people over profits in one of Minneapolis’ most diverse and marginalized communities.

Some, jaded by generations of inequity, no longer believe it’s possible. Others say business is being done differently this time.

This story was reported and produced in partnership with Minnesota Public Radio and freelance journalist Melissa Townsend.

By Kenzie O’Keefe Editor

Markella Smith, 34, "lives and breathes" the Northside. She grew up here, built two small businesses and is active in the neighborhoods. She is rooted in the area’s past and present.

So, it surprised her last year when she first heard that plans were in motion for a massive $200 million Mississippi riverfront development on her neighborhood’s doorstep.

The city and its chosen developers were preparing to transform the old Upper Harbor Terminal—48 acres of prime riverfront land owned by the city—into a mix of parkland and private development: housing, storefronts, a music venue and possibly a hotel.

While Upper Harbor promises jobs and income, Smith and others fear it could drive up rents and taxes and drive out longtime residents, particularly people of color. Equally bad, it could end up a playground for mostly upper-income outsiders with the locals relegated to service jobs.

Continued on Page 12
"We are not just the help," Smith said recently, recalling a comment she heard at a community meeting about the Upper Harbor. "We don’t want to just be the minimum-wage workers at that place. We want to feel included."

Over the past year, local leaders have pushed to give the Northside more control over the project. But as the City Council moves toward a June vote with some construction expected to start next year, it’s still not clear how the neighbors will shape the project so it works for them. Signs of neighborhood gentrification not tied to Upper Harbor are already beginning to show.

For many Northsiders, who for decades have heard economic promises made and broken, the question now is: Will this time be different? Can something be built that centers current residents culturally and creates wealth for them?

“I think that it could be a very good opportunity for North Minneapolis if it’s done the right way,” Smith said. “But there are things and ways that it came about where I get the skepticism. I get the mistrust.”

‘Seat at the table’
Northside riverfront development has been talked up for decades, but it took Asian carp to help force the issue to the surface.

Fears of the invasive carp pushing farther north up the Mississippi River led to the closure of the Upper St. Anthony Lock in 2015. That effectively ended barge traffic at Upper Harbor, above the lock, and widened the prospects for development.

In January 2017, the city awarded exclusive development rights to a team comprised of United Properties, First Avenue and Minneapolis-based Thor Companies, which was one of the nation’s largest black-owned construction firms at the time.

But as it pushed ahead, many residents remained in the dark about Upper Harbor.

City Council member Phillipe Cunningham estimated the Upper Harbor planning process he inherited after his election in late 2017 was already about 60 percent along.

“I was completely overwhelmed by the project because it was so far down the tracks,” said Cunningham, whose ward includes the land.

Cunningham, who was elected on a progressive, racial equity platform, pushed to get the neighborhoods a greater voice in the project. In May 2019, the City Council established the Collaborative Planning Committee, a 17-member advisory panel that includes Markella Smith and other north and northeast stakeholders.

In meetings, it’s gathered input with the intention of putting forward ideas driven by community members.

“There are possibilities that are tangible. This is an opportunity to do something different,” said DeVon Nolen, who since last year has been leading a separate, monthly Upper Harbor community discussion funded by the McKnight Foundation and led by Pillsbury United Communities and the Public Policy Project.

The “phase 1” concept plan for Upper Harbor won support from some neighborhood residents and scorn from others when it came for a City Council vote in March 2019. While some applauded the design plan and wanted it to proceed, others pushed back.

Sebastian Rivera, a community organizer who lives just blocks from the Upper Harbor, protested the plan. He doesn’t believe any of the land should be owned by private developers.

“I want the land to be owned by Native American people, and I want the physical structures to be owned by black North Minneapolis folks. That can be done,” he said. “I want the community to actually come out and create that for themselves.”

Catherine Fleming, a Northside resident who also protested at City Hall, raised concerns about the music venue. She said she was dismissed as “obstructionist.”

“We always wanted to have something built at the Upper Harbor Terminal, just not necessarily a music venue first,” she said, noting that she wanted to see housing and urban farming prioritized at the time.

Smith said that while the CPC’s ultimate influence beyond “informed advice” isn’t yet known, she is an optimistic person who is choosing to trust that the city will do right by Northsiders in this process.

“If we don’t try, we’ll never know,” she said. “This is kind of like the first time I’ve had a seat at the table,” she said. “If this is an opportunity to change how things are handled in the future, I’m all for it.”

Trendy bars and tension
There’s no doubt North Minneapolis could benefit from the economic boost of a developed Upper Harbor Terminal.

Segregated by redlining practices and racially restrictive covenants, North Minneapolis is home to the city’s largest African American population. Many lost their homes in the
foreclosure crisis of the early aughts. Just a few years later, a 2011 tornado further ravaged the area’s infrastructure. Many people haven’t been able to catch a break.

Replacing industry with parks and housing could also boost an area that suffers from the effects of local pollution and has the highest asthma hospitalization rate in the state.

At the same time, residents know the project could ultimately push them out.

Home values—and property taxes—have been rising on the Northside, thanks to the city’s already tight housing market, and the signs of gentrification and displacement are there, said resident C. Terrence Anderson, director of community based research at the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

Some signs are clear. New breweries and a distillery have popped up along Glenwood Avenue, the north side’s southern border.

A swanky natural wine bar, an upscale classic cocktail bar, and a shop filled with potted cacti many of which cost over $100 apiece have recently moved into its eastern edge.

Meanwhile, developers hope to turn Broadway Pizza, a beloved community institution on the riverfront, into “affordable” housing.

Residents want more restaurants and entertainment amenities but they’d prefer them to be homegrown.

“It’s just so unfortunate that the only way that we can get invested in is if white people move here and if they decide that they want to capitalize off of something over here,” said Roxxanne O’Brien, a longtime Northside resident, mother and organizer.

At the outset of the project, some were soothed by Thor’s presence on the development team. They would ensure the community was protected—and profited.

But Thor, the only partner based on the Northside, shut down amidst financial problems just after the concept plan vote.

In November, CPC members Paul Bauknight and Tessa Anttila resigned after concluding the “project can not achieve its lofty goals of equity and inclusivity with a mostly top down structure that does not share power and is unwilling to consider alternate strategies or timelines to get the work done.”

Bauknight, a Northside resident since 1989, said in an interview that he wants to see the process slowed down and for the community to “own the vision.”

“If you want equity, you’re going to have to work differently,” he said. “You would have had to say from day one: The market will not be the driver for how we do our work.”

Jake Virden, an organizer who grew up in northeast Minneapolis, agrees. He protested the concept plan last year and has since created a podcast critical of the development process.

“The city should stop the project,” said Virden. “There is no justification for city-owned land to be transferred into the hands of wealthy white people from outside of North Minneapolis.”

“I don’t think you have to start from zero or scrap everything involved in the project, but the exclusive rights agreement and the legal terms with the developers, I think now should be null and void,” he said.

Despite the tension, Cunningham said the CPC and development team are on track to collaboratively produce a draft of a coordinated plan for public review by the end of March.

The City Council must approve a coordinated plan by early July to be on schedule to spend the $15 million in state bonding money allocated in 2018 for public infrastructure development at the Upper Harbor.

Cunningham and Erik Hansen, who is leading the project for the city’s planning department, say getting an extension on the $15 million is not feasible. The city has to have a full funding agreement in place and start spending the money by Jan. 1, 2022.

The city is seeking another $20 million in bonding money this year for the Upper Harbor music venue. State Rep. Fue Lee, a DFLer who represents the Upper Harbor district, plans to write the bill seeking it.

Who owns it?

DeVon Nolen says the community’s desire is clear at this point: “We want to be the direct financial benefactor.”

But figuring out community ownership is the most challenging component of the project right now, said Cunningham. “We don’t really have a lot of good examples in this country.”

In recent months, the idea of creating a community development corporation has surfaced. Led and run by Northsiders, it could have the technical capacity to own land and enter in community benefits agreements with the developers.

Continued on Page 14
History of the Upper Harbor site

The 48-acre parcel of land known as the Upper Harbor Terminal site is currently owned by the city of Minneapolis. The site, located on the Mississippi River in north Minneapolis, was originally on Dakota land until the United States government took it and other land through the treaties at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in 1851. There have been many uses of the land since, including lumber yards, mills, a commercial garden and a barge terminal. Here’s a look at the history of the site and its development through the years.

### 1968–2014

The Upper Harbor Terminal site is developed as an intermodal barge shipping terminal. It closes in 2014 when bargeing ceased due to the planned closure of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock in 2015.

### 2015

Upper Harbor Terminal redevelopment community engagement begins.

### 2016

In August, the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board issue a Request for Qualifications seeking a development team to work with those agencies and the community on the first phase of redevelopment.

### 2017

In January, the council and the park board select United Properties to redevelop the site.

### 2018

In May, the city secures $15 million in state bonding for infrastructure improvements to the site.

Beginning in September, residents organize the Eco-Harbor Co-creation team to envision an alternative plan for the site.

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**Continued from Page 13**

Brandon Champeau from United Properties says his team is supportive of community ownership, and they’ve hired Othello Meadows, the leader of a similar project in Omaha, Neb., to advise them.

“Transferring public land into private ownership has never been a requirement for United Properties for Upper Harbor,” he said, adding that he is “willing to work with a financeable ground lease structure” if the community prefers it.

In north Omaha, Meadows’ community-development organization, 75 North Revitalization Project, bought more than 40 acres of land with the backing of a local foundation. The site is now home to a mixed-income neighborhood filled with sleek, modern apartments and townhouses, a food hall, an event venue with a huge lawn and other amenities.

Meadows said buying all the land gave the community more control over the development.

He said if transforming big projects like these are left solely to the developer and the city, even if they have the best of intentions, “there’s just going to be so much they don’t know about those communities.”

Since being elected in 2017, City Council member Phillipe Cunningham has fought for his constituents’ voices to be centered in the Upper Harbor redevelopment process. Photo by David Pierini

First Avenue owner Dayna Frank has said she is open to a more community-centric ownership model for her business’s stake in the site. The 7,000 to 10,000 capacity music venue city leaders say will help drive the entire project.

She has pitched a model where a community entity, like a community development corporation, could own some or all of land and then lease it back to the city so it is eligible for bonding dollars. The city would then sublease it to an operating entity, First Avenue.

“We don’t want to own this,” she told the crowd at a January meeting on community ownership.

Frank has publicly discussed a plan to funnel a percentage of ticket sales into a fund for North Minneapolis. A CDC could end up being the recipient of those funds. Creating a workforce development program for young people at the venue is also part of the mix.

Frank’s willingness to get tactical about community benefits has built trust among many Northsiders.

Markella Smith said she believes Frank has a “genuine interest” in making sure that community wants are “actually implemented.” Roxanne O’Brien believes the plan has the “political” momentum it needs to progress.

She says she has “some hope” that the current community will be served well. But she is still skeptical of larger forces.

“The system is not my ally,” she said. “The situation makes my stomach uneasy.”

Those invested in the city process don’t want to see it started over, even as some remain skeptical.

“I think shutting it down is a big mistake,” said Smith. “We have empty space. We have unused space. We don’t have access to the river like we should. ...if we keep it going, we have the opportunity to seriously benefit from this.”

“It is easy to believe a narrative that the process is broken rather than staying in a process and making it right,” said Cunningham.

“This is how development works,” said Nolen. “Developers do development to make money. What I do know is that the developers who are part of this project continue to show up and that does not happen very often.”

It’s a misconception that the Northside community has no power here, she added.

“It’s difficult to imagine that this can actually be different because there’s a long history of divestment and disinvestment that has happened,” said, adding, “We can do this. We’re doing it.”
2019

In February, city councilmembers are scheduled to vote on the concept plan, but the vote is pushed back.

Beginning March 1, the City Council approves an amended concept plan. It includes a direction to create a first-of-its-kind community advisory committee to guide the project.

In April, Thor Companies shuts down due to financial trouble.

On May 17, the city council establishes a 17-member Upper Harbor Terminal Collaborative Planning Committee to work with the project team on community engagement, refinement of the Phase 1 development plan and visions for future development phases. Members are north and northeast Minneapolis community members.

In June, the Collaborative Planning Committee begins meeting.

In July, the advisory committee for the portion of the nearly 20-acre park of Upper Harbor Terminal begins meeting monthly.

“Learning tables” about the UHT begin being hosted monthly, during which community members explore aspects of the project development and talk about what they want from development.

Next steps in 2020

This February, the Collaborative Planning Committee will create three possible plans for development in partnership with the development team. The development team will then conduct a feasibility analysis of the three plans. One plan will be put forth for public comment in March.

In March, the city of Minneapolis anticipates making a request for $20 million in state bonding from the Minnesota Legislature to build a proposed music venue on the site.

In April/May, public input is scheduled on the possible coordinated plan for the site.

In June/early July, City Council is expected to vote on the coordinated plan.

December 2021 is the deadline to begin spending the $15 million in state funding awarded to the city in 2018. If the city has not started to spend the money, legislators will need to approve an extension.

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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

March 18, 2020
4pm-8pm
"Community Benefits Operationalized"
Glover Sudduth Center
2100 Plymouth Ave. N

Contact: Devonn@pillsburyunited.org or 612.377.7000
For more information on the project: http://publicpolicyprojectonline.com/upper-harbor-terminal/
Prom preparations have begun

Prom is a celebration for high school seniors and juniors to come together and enjoy a huge party before the high school chapter of their lives is over and a new one begins. North High’s 2020 prom will happen at the Columbia Manor Reception Hall on Central Avenue in Northeast Minneapolis on May 15. Prom organizer and math teacher Malcolm Lee says the prom planning committee has “big plans” for this year’s event.

“Prom is one of those high school milestones to just up and be with friends and be with the classmates you know for going on four years. It’s a beautiful night to make memories, put yourself out there be yourself. It’s a memory you’ll always look back at,” said Jane Steiner, the other prom organizer.

This year, students will have free parking at the venue. Last year’s prom was downtown and there was no parking. Kids had to pay for it. Many arrive at prom in luxury vehicles and want to take pictures with them. Parking will make that easier.

Even though prom is months away, students are already preparing. They are getting cars, picking up outfits, and planning what to do on that special day. Senior David Snoddy says he’ll start looking in details for his special night next month. “I’ll start getting all my outfits prepared and who I'm going with and hotel room, [and a] car,” he said.

Senior Freshawn Collins is even more prepared already. He made his prom-posa to his now prom date Dynasty Anderson on Friday, Feb. 15. He did it publicly in the cafeteria during lunchtime at school. He included his friends and said his goal was to make Anderson feel “joy and love and appreciated.” When Anderson said yes, the whole cafeteria screamed with happiness.

That's what makes prom so special. It brings everyone together and creates an atmosphere full of positive people with positive vibes.

Lady Polars softball, glows up

Shareena Neal is an eleventh grader that has played softball for two years now. Softball is her favorite sport and she takes it very seriously. Neal is a person that takes anything that grabs her interest seriously. She doesn’t like the feeling of failing. As a catcher she has to connect and build a relationship with everyone on the field, especially the pitcher because they are involved in every play.

Communication is really important for softball players. When you are on the field, teammates need to communicate with each other to make the play. You might have to call for the ball in the air, and the pitcher has to communicate with the catcher to call the play if the umpire is sure. The relationship you have with your coach is also very important, especially for the pitcher because if you are not focused on getting strikes you can’t win the game.

For students interested in trying softball, you should know that a good headspace is very important, having a schedule set for your homework and games to stay on top of your grades. The team has a lot of fun doing team dinners and going on field trips to indoor softball stadiums.

Head Coach Tom Lachermeier is the eleventh grade AP US history and regular US history teacher at the school. He says he loves coaching. When he started, Lachermeier didn’t really know anything about softball but he wanted to give it a try anyways because of his passion for coaching.

“My goal for every practice and every game is number one to have fun, number two learn to encourage each other, number three work hard and number four get better. If we do those four things we will be successful. Last year was the first year playing softball for many of our players. We will be much more experienced this year and I am very excited for the season,” he said.
Parks are a place to grow up

By Devion Safford North High

There are many parks in North Minneapolis like Farview, North Commons, and Folwell. Anwar Ahmed, 16, says his favorite is Farview because he “grew up playing basketball there.” He plays on the North High basketball team, and says that before this year’s season started, he used to go Farview every day.

Kale Severson, the park board commissioner for North Minneapolis and a former parks employee, also describes coming of age in the city’s parks. “I grew up at Farview Park so that always holds a special place in my heart,” he said. He is deeply connected to many other parks too. “I also really enjoy our Northside Wirth golf course. Theodore Wirth offers so many opportunities to our community from the beach, golf, archery, the beautiful Chalet and Pavilion, and all the beautiful nature surrounding our park. I also enjoy Folwell Park because that was the place of my first job and it is a beautiful place to relax and enjoy nature,” he said.

Severson says the parks offer many other benefits too. Youth can learn “how to swim,” earn “their first job,” and learn “social norms and engage in healthy physical activity.” “I believe our park system provides endless benefits to our youth,” he said.

Underrated artists

By Jacob Butler, RayRay Melton North High

There are many artists out here that don’t get enough attention who are “goated.” Some people never get fame because they don’t have the look. Or they just don’t have the resources around them. For them to get the look they need they might need somebody big to blow up.

One underrated artist is 147 Calboy. Calboy is from Chicago, Illinois. He is signed with RCA records and Polo Ground music. His most popular song is called “Envy Me.” Sophomore Meiko Anderson said, “He got a lot of hits but not everybody knows him. Everybody’s going to catch on, people already know some songs. He got an album dropping soon.”

One female artist students at North High believe that is underrated is Miss Mulatto. Another underrated female artist is Jessie Reyez. Jessie Reyez is a Canadian singer and songwriter. She is known for being the inaugural winner of the Lifetime reality series The Rap Game.

Sadiah Marshall from eleventh grade said Miss Mulatto used to be like a kid figure now she don’t rap about kid stuff anymore and she thinks Miss Mulatto can blow up by releasing more music by herself. These are all the artist that students believe who are underrated who should be rated that just need that glow.

New year brings new opportunities for North High students

By Thidathip Crockett North High

Many people perceive North High’s 436 students to be bad and irresponsible due to biased opinions about people of color and the Northside. Truth be told, North is an amazing school with vast amounts of potential and greatness within it, evidenced by the 81% graduation rate and the schools highly ranked athletic teams.

Senior Jasmine Jackson says the ability to find “a good teacher that you have a connection with” is part of what makes North High special.

For her, that teacher was Mrs. Mohammed, an English teacher who left the school last year. Mrs. Mohammed isn’t just concerned with her students’ academics but also their mental health and making sure they are in a good headspace,” she said.

This year has been a transition for students like Jackson. North High has a new principal, Maui Friestleben. Many feel she is turning the school in a positive direction by enforcing district rules and having a student-driven leadership style. She holds students to high standards and believes they can reach them. Principal Friestleben plans to double North’s enrollment in three to five years from now, improve programming, and allow students to have more options for classes. “North is going to be great-regardless of their individual choices. Choosing North is like choosing a train that’s heading in the right direction,” said Friestleben.

Another addition this school year are the lunch cards. Students who have good grades are allowed to leave the school during lunch, the result of action by the recently reinvigorated student council.

Math teacher Mr. Goldstein has a similar mindset to Friestleben when it comes to North’s school culture. He describes North as one big family with ups and downs. Mr. Goldstein aids his students by building relationships with them and challenging them to do better and allow them to do it on their own. “North has a family atmosphere. It can be felt better than it can be explained,” said Friestleben.

Do you want to make your dreams come true?

By Ramiyah Jackson North High

Many people have big dreams in their life, and they want to pursue them. Every dream takes dedication and patience. People need a little faith to do what they love. It takes time to accomplish your goals.

Malcolm Gladwell, a best selling author says that the key to being successful at something is “reaching the 10,000 Hour Rule.” By practicing something for 10,000 hours, someone can become an expert. Dreams take time and sometimes people don’t want to wait for their dreams to come true, but it is very possible. You just have to put work into it.

Malachai Muhammad is a junior at North High who is following his dream of becoming an international businessman in a group called Legacy Arts. He also acts and does spoken word and poetry. He says the hardest part of following his dreams is getting the right opportunity. Like someone helping to support you or get an internship. It’s a person that has experience to guide you through pursuing your dream. It’s getting the support to pursue your dreams.

His advice is: “Don’t tell a lot of people what your dreams are because people like to tell you how you can do something, so if you have a dream just pursue it in silence.”

Khadija Ba is a sophomore at North High. who is trying to become a lawyer. She is also a model, and she makes lip gloss and jewelry. She says the hardest part of following her dreams is “Society and the support” “It’s kinda hard to defy what society wants and it’s kinda hard to really pursue what you want and not think about what other people think of you, and even tho you say, ‘yeah I don’t care what people think,’ at the end of the day it’s still going to affect you in some way shape or form and everybody needs a little support in there corner,” she said.

Ba’s advice is “there’s a difference between being scared and going for it and being scared and staying in your place. I think if you’re too comfortable you won’t be able to reach your dream and you need to put a hundred and ten in what you do.”

Dreams need to come from your heart and you need to believe in it. You’ve got to block people off that are trying to tell you how to build your own dream just have faith in what you do.
Grammy Family takes off in 2020
By Melvina Manciel North High

Grammy Family is a music organization with no locked doors. The group has been around since 2016. They are located on the Northside at Jerry Gambles Boys and Girls Club. “This group was created to give young teens a chance to pursue their dreams,” said Damien Marcom, who created the group. He wants the younger generation to have a better way of living.

He says one of his biggest challenges is teaching teens self esteem and getting them “away from the peer pressure of the streets.” The Grammy family is a part of “No Locked Doors,” a larger organization run by Marcom. In ten years he hopes the organization will have its own location, teaching music business and entrepreneurship and hopefully teach coding to try to add something tech to the group.

Marcom says one of his “biggest accomplishments” was taking his youth to New York City to perform. “We performed at Social Butterfly in Brooklyn [and] SOBs in Manhattan,” he said.

No Locked Doors gives young people the opportunity to perform in different places and get noticed by bigger artists. The group gives teens the opportunity to be successful in life and pursue my dreams in music and other arts.

Lady Polars basketball wraps up season
By Raelynn Walker North High

The Lady Polars basketball team is coming towards the end of their season. This year the team came a long way and they never gave up, even when the girls got in a fight. The team was able to come as a whole again after everyone who was involved got done with their punishment. The lesson was learned and the rest of the season the team has been strong.

“The struggles during this season I would say downfall in number of girls leaving the team but the positive side the girl all coming together and playing the season out,” said JV Coach Britney Adams.

The final game of the season was Feb. 19. The team has a 14-11 record and is currently seated fifth in their playoff section.

The Lady’s Polars are led by sophomore guard Alex McNeill who scores around 20 points per game and has almost reached the 1000 point mark for her career.

Head Coach Mike Friestleben says he has never coached a team that has had to survive so many events in one season, including losing their top player and senior captain, Jasmine Jackson, to injury. Friestleben said the “most beautiful moment of the season” was at a practice in mid-February when the team said “we care.”

“It was at that moment they became a united team of one,” he said. Playoffs began Feb. 27.

Princess Haley does big things in big ways
By Princess Ann Nelson North High

Princess Haley is the co-founder of two local businesses; Standard Edition Women and Appetite For Change. She has always been passionate about helping others and promoting a space for healing in the community. She has many accomplishments and successes, but her true passion is making space for people to think about their role and standards they set within the fields of education, nutrition, and healing.

Haley is a teacher, storyteller and community healer. She considers herself a refugee from Chicago, “continuing the migration that my ancestors started, going North to seek opportunities.” In Chicago, she was going through some hard times and did not have as many resources growing up as she needed.

She found opportunities in Minneapolis. “Early on, my years in Minneapolis were full of opportunities to grow food with Hmong farmers in the Olson TownHomes, spend time in the Eloise Butler Flower Garden, and enjoy green space safely, which was something I was not able to do in Chicago.”

She has been in Minneapolis for 25 years. One of the first people Haley met when she moved to Minneapolis was Shekina Washington, who became her business partner at Standard Edition Women.

“Princess is an excellent speaker. She has a way of captivating an audience. She has the ability to be VERY creative and diverse in her approach,” said Washington.

Haley, Washington, and Haley’s son Anthony Titus, “started conversations in 2010 about values and standards. We thought it was a great place to start to see if the community understood how they subscribe to the Standards that are not aligned with their desired result. We thought that it would be a great opportunity to build a curriculum that would be engaging, getting people to think about their thinking and spend some time being intentional as opposed to habitual,” said Haley.

In May 2010 Haley graduated from Metropolitan State University with a degree in Urban Teaching. She was working with men who had been convicted of murder at The Network For Better Futures. The team was in the process of piloting SEW, and it was ready to launch. Her personal liberation plan was on the way, being able to build a business while working a job, to create a legacy for her children.

Then Titus was shot and killed on July 4, 2010. This tragedy helped Haley put things in perspective. Before Anthony Titus died, he was a lot of things to a lot of people. He was a businessman, brother and an excellent scholar, taking trigonometry math as a freshman. He used to watch all the kids in the neighborhood, including me, his little sister who loved spending time with him. I often wonder what his work would be like if he was still here. Would Haley, my mom, and me be as close, would Appetite For Change or Standard Edition Women be the same? How would Anthony Titus make things bigger and better? I guess we’ll never know.

Princess Haley is known for putting others first. Her three kids, including me, have realized and acknowledged all that she has given up and the sacrifices she has made to create opportunities for us to better ourselves.

“She helped me become the man I am today,” said her son Jessie McDaniel.
Kobe Bryant: another legend taken too soon
By Howard Hadley Jr., North High

Kobe Bryant was more than a basketball player. The five time NBA champion, who died on Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash, was a father, mentor, an inspiration and among many other things, he was a legend. He didn’t only affect people on the court but off as well, with the Make a Wish Foundation and other giving. Bryant was and still is beloved over here on the Northside and we wish his family and friends the best.

North High Polars basketball player Jacob Butler said Kobe’s death hurt him badly because Kobe was his favorite player. He cried when he first heard the news. Butler feels as if the passing of Bryant will affect him on and off the court.

“It’s crazy because he’s such a legend in the basketball community. I didn’t think he would go so soon,” said Butler.

Polars player Quientrail Jamison-Travis also felt deeply affected. “He was the GOAT. It was very unexpected. I feel bad for his family. I remember when we used to play trash basketball and used to say ‘KOBE.’ It’s a crazy world we live in.”

Weeks later, people continue to grieve for Kobe, his daughter Gianna, and the others who passed in the crash.

Butler says Bryant’s passing pushed him harder. He now has a spot in the starting line up on the Polars team.

DEAN’S LIST
Tufts University
Grace McEnery
Elizabeth Shaheel
Abbie Nelson

Purchase College
Mona Sewell

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Princess Davis

GRADUATION
St. Cloud State University
Elvina Amouzou
Amanda Ferry

University of Minnesota - Crookston
Bryan Kors
Benjamin Muhs
Randi Eriksen

Drake University
Sara Feldman

North Dakota State University
Ali B. Abdi
Allison Fleming
Jacob Kervin
Rozlynn Lund
Margaret Nelson
Andrew Olson
Ali Niaghi
Nicholas Tapson
Grace Thill

RESOURCES
The City of Minneapolis is providing 2,000 property owners 3-8 foot trees this spring to plant in their yards. The trees will cost $25 as opposed to $125 from a nursery. Owners in the Minneapolis Green Zones can order from March 16-22 while those in any part can order a tree from April 16 to May. The City Trees program has provided nearly 15,000 trees for planting on private property for the past 13 years. In order to participate in the program, property owners can purchase trees on mpls-tree-sale.myshopify.com.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation to anyone of any age at Pillsbury United Communities Oak Park Community Center, 1701 Oak Park Ave, beginning on 2/3 and continues on Mondays and Tuesdays through 4/14. 10am-1pm. Call 612-377-7000 for an appointment. Walk ins are accepted if counselors are available. Due to the temporary closing of North Hennepin County Library, tax preparation is available at these new locations: Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 3355 N 4th Street, Wednesday from 9am-1pm beginning 2/5 and continuing through 4/15. Sumner Library, 611 Van White Blvd. Saturdays from 3am -1pm beginning 2/1 and continues through 4/11. First come, first served.

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 at 2020census.gov/jobs/

The City of Minneapolis is giving away 200 radon test kits starting now to increase awareness of the cancer risks of radon and to encourage people to test their homes. Radon is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soil and can enter homes primarily through cracks and openings in basement or foundation floors and walls. For more information on radon testing and mitigation visit health.state.mn.us/radon or call the Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601 or 1-800-798-9050.

The City of Minneapolis is installing syringe drop boxes in public spaces to provide places for anyone to safely dispose of used syringes. The installation of the boxes began on Nov. 1 and was completed by Nov. 18. Overdose calls to the Minneapolis Police Department have jumped from 286 in 2015 to 954 in 2018. For more information visit minneapolis.gov/opioidresponse.

Northside Boxing Club (1704 33rd Ave N) offers free lessons to kids ages 9-11. 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 minneapolis.mn.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 wilder.org/Programs-Services/tmm/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@nrcc.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
2/28 – Unifying Uniqueness: An all-ages movement workshop with Kyle Abraham’s A.I.M. Part conversation and part movement workshop, Unifying Uniqueness investigates the ideologies surrounding uniqueness and likeness in each participant. Begins at 3:30pm. The event will take place at the Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center located on 2001 Plymouth Ave N in Minneapolis. Sponsored by the University of Minnesota’s Northrop and UROC.

2/29 – Join local officials and community leaders on a discussion of how communities can access state funds. This panel discussion focuses on the 2020 legislative bonding session and how marginalized communities can access capital from the Minnesota State Legislature. The panel is moderated by Leslie Redmond of the NAACP. The event will be held from 9:30am-12pm at Oak Park Community Center on 1701 Oak Park Ave N. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

3/5 – First Thursday Films at North Community High will be showcasing the film “We Are The Radical Monarchs.” North High will host First Thursdays in 2019-2020 while the Capri theater is closed for expansion and renovation. The screening begins at 7pm and costs $5 at the door. Enter door 18. North High is located at 1500 James Ave N in Minneapolis. After the showcase, there will be a conversation with Robin Hickman, the CEO and Executive Producer of SoulTouch Productions, a television and film production, youth mentorship and media consulting company, with a mission to make meaningful media and produce powerful social impact experiences.

3/5 – Healing Circles with the Zen Bin.

Happiness Self Care Workshop. 6-7:30pm. Webber Park Library. These sessions are led by a mental health practitioner from the Zen Bin. These are safe spaces for adults to come together for discussion, support, and resources.

3/5 – Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty: An LGBTQ+ Musical About Mental Health. Created by a collaboration of LGBTQ+ teens and professional musical theatre artists, this 40-minute musical features great music and gentle humor that is fun for the whole family. From 6:30-7:30pm. Sumner Library 611 Van White Memorial Blvd.

2/10 – Read with an Animal. Cuddle up with a certified therapy animal and practice reading aloud. Panda the dog loves to be read to! Drop-ins welcome. From 3-4:30pm. Sumner Library 611 Van White Memorial Blvd.

3/13 – Melty, Mucky Mud Art. Drop in and learn about early emergers, how soil changes and make colorful and textured painting. Materials provided. From 3-4:30pm. Sumner Library 611 Van White Memorial Blvd.

3/19 – The Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) and the West Broadway
Business and Area Coalition (WBC) are hosting a business luncheon around “Compliance issues in highly regulated industries.” The event is from 11:30am-1pm at the Gathering Space next to Sammy’s Eatery NEON and the WBC will host their series of business advisory lunches for the Northside community. For those interested in sponsoring the lunch please contact felicia@westbroadway.org.

3/21 – The Victory Neighborhood is hosting, “Partner with Pollinators, Your Yard can Bee the Change.” Learn how your yard can help protect our pollinators and about the ‘Lawns to Legumes’ grant process for your own yard. Free and open to all, refreshments, prizes drawings and garden-related display tables. Presentation 10-11:00 a.m., Webber Park Community Center, 4400 Dupont Ave. N., Minneapolis.

3/21 – Volunteers needed for census doorknocking. Census data are critical to the future of North Minneapolis. An accurate Census count determines funding and political representation for our neighborhood. Because of an undercount in 2010, North Minneapolis lost $109 Million for our community; our schools, public transportation, housing, healthcare and more. Help Get Out the Count by volunteering to door-knock on March 21. Morning and Afternoon shifts available. Bring a friend! Training and refreshments provided. To sign up, find the 2020 Census Door Knock on Facebook, or email pashee@aaopmn.org.

3/27 – Native American Bead Art. Grades 7-12. Julie Boada of the Fond du Lac nation will introduce the art of beading. Learn how patterns and colors can reflect tribal and family affiliations, and create your own beaded work of art. Materials provided. Held from 3-5pm, Sumner Library 611 Van White Memorial Blvd in Minneapolis. Register online at www.hclib.org/events.

Tuesdays - Homework Help. Webber Park Library will be providing homework help for students between 4:30-7:30pm.

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

Sat/urs - North Market Weekend Pop-ups. Join NEON clients MinneBun and Wholesoul at their pop-ups each week at North Market (4414 Humboldt Ave N) from 11am-8pm. MinneBun will be there on Saturdays dishing out delicious Thai Food. Wholesoul will be there Sundays serving up healthy soul food.

Sat/urs - Explore Nature! 10:30am-12:30pm, Webber Park Library. Enjoy nature themed activities, meet a live critter and learn about the Mississippi watershed and our regional ecosystem. This program is collaborated with the North Mississippi River Regional Park and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

Sat/urs - The Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery at 1256 Penn Ave North, 4th Floor, has a free Children’s Reading Circle from 10-11:30am. Children can earn a free book. Storytellers weave and read books to all children that come. Volunteer storytellers are welcome. Contact them to volunteer at info@maahmg.org.

EDUCATION

3/9 – The Black Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) will be holding a meeting from 5:30-8pm at the Davis Center at 1210 W Broadway Ave. A light snack will be provided along with transportation and childcare if needed. For more information contact Charisma Smith at 612-668-2096 or email Smith at charisma.smith@mpls.k12.mn.us.

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 whatsup612.com

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 / 612-495-5108.

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 hclibregby/about/location/south-central.

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

HOUSING

To address these challenges and identify solutions, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) and the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (the Alliance) will issue Housing Stability Grants to support BIPOC communities, people with disabilities, and low-wealth communities working to build power and advance systems and policy changes at the local level. Full proposals are due March 8 with review committee meetings taking place on the week of March 30. Grant notifications will be sent out on April 13. If you have any questions, please contact higrants@umn.edu.

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.

On 12/3 the Economic Development and Regulatory Services Committee of the Minneapolis City Council approved the Tenant Relocation Fees Ordinance. Ordinance author Council Member Phillips Cunningham began work on this ordinance a year ago, with the mission to address the gap in a safety net for renters whose landlords are held accountable for negligent and harmful practices and have their rental licenses revoked, denied, or canceled. This work is part of several actions the Minneapolis City Council has begun taking to address the unique needs of the City’s growing population of renters.

Minneapolis homes for sale will now get an efficiency score as part of Truth in sale of Housing initiative. Prospective homebuyers will now be made more aware of the home’s energy score and disclosed in an energy disclosure report. The City of Minneapolis passed this requirement as part of the City’s Green Ban. Homeowners and real estate agents can contact an energy advisor for free at 651-328-6225 or email at energyadvisor@mncee.org.

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 a $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 615-296-3353 or emailing attorney.general@ag.state.mn.us.

Hennepin County funding assistance for lead paint: homeowners and landlords may be eligible for a free home test and $1,000 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/ches-rmpls 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. Learn more 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 at: lims.minneapolismn.gov/DownloadFile/2132/ Renter%20First%20Policy%202020.01.19.pdf

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 work with the reactor 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% of income. Down payment assistance may be available. Interested residents can find more information on the mortgage program at 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

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and members of the City Council announced a series of public safety amendments for the City’s budget plan. The changes would increase investments in violence prevention while preserving the Mayor’s commitment to investing in the Minneapolis Police. The amendment adds a recruitment class and with a strong emphasis on training which is part of the $2.3 million to accelerate these efforts. Part of these funds are being reallocated to the Intimate Partner Violence initiative, the Group Violence Intervention fund, to support the 9-1-1 workgroup and conduct an MPD staffing efficiency study.

The City of Minneapolis seeks applications for the Spring 2020 Brownfield grant round. In the spring and fall of each year, applications for environmental investigation and/or remediation (cleanup) grants are accepted by local brownfield grantors. In the upcoming spring 2020 brownfield grant round, funding will be offered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Metropolitan Council’s Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA). Both grantors will have the same application deadline:
May 1, 2020. The City’s pre-application deadline is March 11, 2020. For questions or more information, please contact Kevin Carroll at 612-673-5181.

Early Vote Center is now open for presidential primary. Minneapolis voters are among the first in the nation to cast their ballots in the 2020 presidential race. The Early Vote Center is located on 980 E. Hennepin Ave in Minneapolis. Voters can now cast their ballots before the March 3 primary. The Early Vote Center hours are 8am-4:30pm Monday through Friday but closed on Presidents Day on Feb 17. The center is open the last two Saturdays before the primary. Voters can also cast an early vote at the Hennepin County Government Center on 300 S. Sixth St. For more information on early voting options visit vote.minneapolismn.gov/votersubscribe.

The City Council has approved an ordinance that prohibits “conversion therapy” in Minneapolis. The practice of conversion therapy refers to the treatment of LGBTQ individuals as having a mental disorder that can be cured or corrected. Medical, mental health and child welfare experts have denounced the practice as ineffective, unreliable and unsafe. The City will enforce the ban through potential administrative citations and civil fines. Bans on conversion therapy exist in 18 states and about 53 cities.

Closed captions now available for City of Minneapolis TV broadcasts. The automated captioning system from Link Electronics is a closed caption system from the city. The service allows for deaf and hard-of-hearing residents and residents learning English to watch the City’s decision-making process live, which supports City goals of transparency, equity and participation. Television broadcasts are at SD channel 14 and HD channels 799 and 859 on Comcast, and SD channel 8001 and HD channel 8501 on CenturyLink.

Northside Eco-Harbor will be hosting regular meetings every Monday from 5-7pm. There will be regular roundtable discussions held about equitable and sustainable planning and design concepts critical to the economic, environmental and social health of Northside neighborhoods. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meetings will be held at 2015 Lowry Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411.

Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling is changing how it collects batteries from homes. No batteries may go with recycling. Alkaline batteries such as AA or AAA may be disposed of in Solid Waste and Recycling black garbage bags. Rechargeable batteries, lithium batteries and items containing batteries such as cell phones and electronic cigarettes are prohibited from all City of Minneapolis garbage and recycling carts. Hennepin County will accept batteries at its permanent drop off locations in 1400 W 96th Street Bloomington, MN and 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park.

Retail establishments are now required to charge a fee of at least 5 cents for carryout bags due to an ordinance passed by the City Council of Minneapolis. The requirement will go into effect Jan. 1 and the retail establishments will keep the fees that they charge. The aim of this ordinance is to encourage shoppers to bring their own bags, reduce litter, and keep plastic bags from clogging the gears in recycling facilities which workers spend four to six hours a day removing. For more information on the ordinance visit lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00134.

City of Minneapolis has drafted documents on frequently asked questions (FAQs) and rules to help provide guidance to employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities under the City’s wage theft prevention ordinance. The ordinance takes effect on Jan. 1, 2020 and adopted parts of the state’s new wage theft law. Employers must adhere to a regularly scheduled payday, provide pre-hire notices of certain employment terms and conditions, and provide statements at the end of each pay period. To learn more visit the City’s website, email wage-theft@minneapolis.gov or call 311.

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, an addition to the visitor center and re-envisioning the front entrance. To participate in this project, visit surveymonkey.com/r/EloiseButler and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board website.

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 call the Department of Justice at 612-664-5600. As always, in case of immediate physical violence, property damage, or threats, people should call 911.

Following Minneapolis fire laws will help keep our neighborhoods safe and livable: outdoor fires are permitted 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 Minneapolis 311@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.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Da Hive, a coworking and educational space for black women, launched in late August 2019 as an extension of the Black Women’s Wealth Alliance. BW WA’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. Learn more about Da Hive at www.dahive-us.com.

The City of Lakes Community Land Trust has launched an initiative to build community ownership over commercial spaces. The Commercial Land Trust Initiative (CLTI) aims to redevelop and preserve long-term affordable commercial spaces through community driven ownership of land. The approach will take on two forms. One in which a rental model is available for business owners to lease a subsidized owned by the land trust or the ownership model where a business owner business the location but leases the land. The CLTI is looking for community members to join their board and for more resources to purchase two commercial properties by the years end. All questions can be forwarded on to its program director at 612-594-7146 or at domonique@clct.org.

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.
As a senior in high school, Maleda Xiong has had a lot to juggle in her life this past year. She’s the third youngest of 12 kids which means she’s very much involved with family-oriented activities. Xiong takes college classes through the Post-secondary Education Option in her final year of high school.

For a student this busy, it may come as a surprise to hear that Xiong found the time to not only compete in the Miss Hmong Minnesota competition this Hmong New Year, but to win it.

Hmong New Year is held in the fall to honor the ancestors and give thanks for the cultivation of this year’s harvest. Over the course of three days, the global Hmong community welcomes the new year with food and rituals in order to assure good tidings for the new year. Here in the Twin Cities, one of the largest festivities takes place at the RiverCentre in Saint Paul. The Miss Hmong Minnesota Pageant is part of this three-day celebration. This competition serves as a way of celebrating Hmong history and heritage as well as highlighting the diversity of culture between each of the clans in the community.

2019 was Xiong’s first time participating in the pageant, but having come from a “pageant family” she was well prepared. With three out of her six older sisters having competed, Xiong had the best trainers up for the job. She rehearsed each stage of the competition with her sisters, taking criticism and advice into consideration. This feedback helped her move through the ranks to eventually be crowned 2019’s Miss Hmong Minnesota.
What was your talent for the talent round? Can you set
the scene? My talent was acting and mostly singing. My
performance was about the New Year and the Hmong
people get ready and dressed up to go have fun.

What did you say about your platform in that fourth
round and what was the response? I talked about
domestic violence in the Hmong community. I talked about
what domestic violence was and gave statistics. I talked
about how I would decrease that issue. One thing I want
to do is create a women’s empowerment event and invite
those who are victims and advocates of domestic violence
or abuse to share their stories and speak upon it.

What was your reaction to being crowned Miss
Hmong Minnesota? What was that process like? All the
contestants go on stage during the crowning ceremony
and wave one last time. Before they announce the winner,
they give awards like Miss Congeniality and who had
the best talent or the most photogenic. So, they give out
awards and then after that they announce the top three
winners and then announce it from there. I could not
believe it was happening. The other two runner ups were
great on stage. I felt happy at the same time.

How active has your mom been in the process of this
competition? What role did she play? Yes definitely. She
helped all of us prepare and getting our clothes ready.
We couldn’t have done it without her. She helps a lot with
the outfits and putting the clothes together. We did the
designs ourselves and had it professionally sown.

What has this experience done for you in your
future? Have you grown more confident? I think that
through this experience I can give back to my
community more. Especially by volunteering and giving
my time. I kind of had stage fright but I guess my
confidence increased and my skills in public speaking
boosted up.

What can people outside of the Hmong community
learn more about the culture through the
pageants and Hmong New Year events? Our Hmong
New Year is not only for Hmong people. Other
outside races are welcome to join us. If you guys were
to join us, you’d learn a lot about our traditional
clothing, the food we eat, and the entertainment we have.
WE ADVENTURE
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FIRST AVENUE PRESENTS:

MAR 01
LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO
FITZGERALD THEATER

MAR 04
KAMASI WASHINGTON
W/ ASTRALBLAK
FITZGERALD THEATER

MAR 07
BRAZILFEST MN PRESENTS
CARNÁVAL BRASILEIRO
FT. BRAZILIAN MARTIAL ARTS GROUP
CAPOEIRA FLORAÇÃO, W/ ROBERT EVEREST & BEIRA MAR BRASIL, DANDARA ODARA, & MORE
FINE LINE

MAR 17
LESLIE ODOM JR.
STRONGER MAGIC TOUR
FINE LINE

MAR 27
THE CURRENT PRESENTS
NUR-D AND GULLY BOYS
W/ JOHN CHUCK AND THE CLASS
FINE LINE

MAR 29
GREGORY PORTER
FITZGERALD THEATER

INFO LINE: 651-332-1775
GET TICKETS AT WWW.FIRST-AVENUE.COM

Community Cooks
Bringing people together to cook, eat & learn.

weekly cooking workshops
starting March 4
at Breaking Bread Cafe

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