Jenna Porazzo, right, extends food to a boy outside Jenny Lind Elementary School. With classrooms closed, Minneapolis Public Schools has continued free breakfast and lunches for students. Each combo bag included cereal, yogurt, fruit, broccoli, milk and other items. Photo by David Pierini

COMMUNITY RALLIES IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

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Pastor Edrin Williams puts his faith to work for the Northside Page 18
where to even begin. It feels like the whole world has changed since I wrote my last letter to the editor a month ago. A global pandemic has made us sick, closed our schools, socially distanced us from each other, and radically changed the way our businesses operate. As we work to “flatten the curve,” people have lost jobs, senses of safety and peace, and the ability to envision a reasonably predictable future.

This community is no stranger to feeling like the rug has been pulled out from under it, so it comes as no surprise that leaders and neighbors have responded in ways that are effective and meaningful.

Leaders, and athletic trainers are offering their services virtually, and people are checking in with each other. We bring you just a snapshot of the love and care people are showing on another on Page 6. If you have a story you’d like to share about COVID-19, please reach out to us.

You may have noticed that the coronavirus has caused a shift in our operations as well. We’ve printed fewer papers this month because of how many of our typical drop sites (schools, rec and community centers, and businesses) are closed. We’re no less committed to getting the word out to you though. We will be doing a stronger-than-usual digital push of the online version of this paper, and if you’d like a stack of papers to (safely, sanitarily) deliver to your neighbors, let us know.

I have some personal news to share with you all. I will be transitioning out of my role as editor and publisher of North News in the coming months.

I will remain in the community and with Pillsbury United Communities, but I am taking on an entirely new role. I have been named the organization’s new director of policy and advocacy. I’ll be working from the grassroots to the government to collaboratively envision and enact progressive policies that tackle and dismantle the racial and economic disparities that exist in our city, county, and state.

Leaving North News isn’t a decision I’ve come to quickly or lightly. I’ve been in my role here for more than four years. I know how important a consistent news source is for this and all communities. I deeply value the relationships that have come into my life through this work. But, I’m convinced that it’s time to create space for someone with new and different perspectives to lead North News and that I will be able to be most impactful in my new role. I’m working with PUC leadership to coordinate an effective succession plan, and our goal is for you to feel this transition as little as possible. I will lead the paper until its next editor is named and in place.

Additionally, Abdi Mohamed, our small business and entrepreneurship-focused staff reporter, has also transitioned out of his position at the paper. We wish him nothing but the best as he tracks towards graduation at the University of Minnesota and seeks full time employment thereafter.

This means we have TWO positions open at North News: a full time editor and a part time (20 hours per week) reporter. We’re looking for North Minneapolis community members with journalism training for both jobs. If you’re passionate about this community and want to eat, sleep and breathe its news, please apply for these jobs via the posting at pillsburyunited.org. The positions come with full benefits. As of press time, we are planning to print a May 1 edition of North News. As the coronavirus continues to spread, we will be evaluating this decision.

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

Summer Programs at JXTA
Enroll in Juxtaposition Arts’ FREE summer arts programs!

Valt:
Free, college-level visual art course for ages 12–21. Complete VALT and you’ll be eligible to interview for a paid job as an apprentice in one of our creative labs. Summer session: July 6–August 20, 2020.

Free Wall:
Free intro to aerosol art camp for ages 8–21. 3-week sessions in June, July, and August, 2020.

Session dates, applications, and more information at www.juxtapositionarts.org.

Please note: JXTA is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our community; we are monitoring the situation around COVID-19 closely. Please visit www.juxtapositionarts.org for the most up-to-date information regarding our actions and response.
Resources available for COVID-19 relief
Visit page 8 for a full list of local medical, financial, food, and other offerings during the global pandemic.

Juxtaposition Arts leader to leave for McKnight Foundation
Juxtaposition Arts CEO and cofounder DeAnna Cummings will leave the organization to assume the role of Program Director of Arts at the McKnight Foundation effective June 1, according to a press release sent by JXTA on March 20. A transition committee will assist in the ongoing process over the next several months. “We will feel her absence at Broadway and Emerson. But we are excited that the entire regional arts community will benefit from her leadership at McKnight Foundation,” said JXTA’s board of directors in the press release.

Home tour canceled
The Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour, scheduled for April 25-26, has been canceled because of COVID-19. An online tour will be available in mid to late April, according to organizer Margo Ashmore. Ashmore said the tour will not be rescheduled but will resume next year. Learn more at MSPHomeTour.com.

New food vendor at Trailhead
Mill Valley Market was named the new food vendor for the Trailhead at Theodore Wirth Park, according to Loppet Foundation director of sales and marketing Jon Friedell. The Market replaces Cajun Twist, which left the Trailhead for its own brick and mortar site last year. Given COVID-19, it’s unclear when the restaurant will open.

New name for the Urban League
The Minneapolis Urban League has legally changed its name to Urban League Twin Cities. The decision reflects its leaders’ work to expand their “outreach and service to the growing population of African descendants in the seven-county metropolitan area,” according to a press release emailed by president and CEO Steven Belton in early March. “Our name, Urban League Twin Cities, is new, but our relentless and unapologetic advocacy for equity, justice and power for African descendants remains the same,” he wrote.

Youth musicians receive prestigious scholarship
Three young men who are active in the North Minneapolis music community have received scholarships to support their musical studies: J’Kwon Anderson of Folwell School-Performing Arts Magnet, Marley Christian of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, and Dontevion Wilson of Ascension Catholic School. The scholarships from the Roderick Cox Music Initiative provide up to $2,350 to support individual instruction and group lessons for students of color who have a high musical aptitude and the motivation to pursue a music career on a standard orchestral instrument. Cox is a German-based American composer. Each of the scholarship recipients is a student of the MacPhail Center for Music.

Heavenly Cakes by Chee has closed
Chee Stacy Hang closed “Heavenly Cakes by Chee” her home bakery in North Minneapolis on Jan. 29. ’’After analyzing the time, cost and profit,’’ she said, ’’it didn’t make sense to stay open. She wasn’t making money and is in debt. She announced on social media that she will no longer be taking any more orders. Many of her customers were upset that such a fluffy sponge cake with the right amount of sweetness and density will never be available anymore. One of them is Kelly Yang, who said, ’’with her closing, I now have to find another person who does sponge cake as great as her and who is close to the suburbs like she was.’’ However, Yang understood and supported Hang throughout the entire process. Hang may have lost some money by closing her cake bakery, but she received the experience and knowledge of baking and decorating the most delicious sponge cakes instead of buying an expensive one for a relative or friend to celebrate. Now that she has ended her business, she is planning to invest some money with her family to see if the plan she currently has in mind will be successful before opening it to the public. By Mlwg Thao, Henry High
Millions in state revenue could be secured for transformative North Commons renovation

By Kenzie O'Keefe Editor

Local leaders seeking bonding dollars to transform North Commons Park found unexpected energy for the project during this year’s legislative session. Now, the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the whole session into uncertainty.

The $11.25 million ask was made a “marquee piece” of the governor’s bonding request, said Adam Arvidson, director of strategic planning for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

A senate hearing for the project in early March “went really well,” said Senator Bobby Joe Champion (D-59) who authored the bill.

“It gained momentum in a way that I did not totally expect,” said Arvidson.

This is the park board’s first attempt at securing state funding for the project. It would cover 60% of a first phase of dramatic renovations for the park, including new larger community center with a gym possibly large enough for four courts, an updated aquatic center, and parking, according to planning documents. A mix of park board dollars and private funding is anticipated to cover additional project costs.

The state investment would “breathe a breath of life” into “an important jewel in our community,” said Champion, who added that it would also create a regionally significant athletic destination.

After initial skepticism from state staff, Arvidson says a bonding tour, where house and governor’s staff members got to see the site, the synergies that could exist around it, and the great community support “changed a lot of minds.”

“The opportunities are endless,” said Brett Buckner, who lives a few blocks from North Commons and has helped push the project forward for several years. He says an overhauled North Commons could “change the trajectory of West Broadway” by bringing people to the park and creating a new need for restaurants and other amenities nearby.

Despite the enthusiasm from house, senate, and governor staff members, Champion says it is not a “foregone conclusion” that the project will be in the final bill. “Bonding is very competitive. ... Sometime it takes years for a project to get through the entire process and be in the final bonding bill,” he said.

“This would be a significant state investment in the Northside, and it’s about time,” said Arvidson.

COVID-19 interruption

As Minnesotans began testing positive for COVID-19 in early March and the state’s response efforts ramped up, legislators announced that state capital operations would become mostly remote. The legislature will recess until April 14. During that time committee meetings and floor sessions will be held on an on-call basis. Meetings with constituents will mostly be held by phone, email and text.

House Speaker Melissa Hortman (DFL-Brooklyn Park) told the Star Tribune that the legislature’s work this session will now be focused in three categories: “the state’s COVID-19 response, ‘mission critical’ measures such as a bonding bill and any legislation that has bipartisan agreement.” By law, the legislature must adjourn by May 18.

What this all means for the North Commons project is unclear. “Nobody knows what’s going to happen, even the legislators themselves. The focus of course is how we respond completely to COVID,” said Buckner on March 18.

“Everything is up in the air,” said Champion on March 23. “It’s a lot going on. We’re not certain of anything that’s going to happen with any of these projects.”

Part of a larger plan

The North Commons project is part of a larger plan adopted by park board commissioners in Feb. 2019. The North Service Area Master Plan is “essentially a 20-30 year vision” for the 34 neighborhood parks and regional facilities in North Minneapolis, according to Arvidson.

“This is really our game plan for changes to our Northside parks,” he said.

The North Commons, Bryn Mawr, Cleveland, And Creekview/Shingle Creek park projects are the largest in size and scope. “Those four big moves exist in the plan. North Commons is the biggest of the big moves,” said Arvidson.

Buckner, was a member of the NSAMP committee and convened the North Commons sub-committee for the process.

“A project like this reimagines how a community like this can create its own opportunities,” he said. “This is going to be a model for the metropolitan area.”

He added: “This is about bringing the community together, all parts, at a great destination. Especially in lieu of the reason developments, our community will need a place to come together and feel secure and supported. This facility, in between the Y and North must be a campus of development and excellence.”

Controversial dome

Area residents and local lawmakers share enthusiasm for the project, but one new amenity—a seasonal sports dome not included in the bonding request—has caused some consternation.

Mike Boe, a member of North Commons East Block Club who lives near the park, says residents are “generally in favor of most of the improvements planned for the park” but that they have significant concerns about the dome, particularly the “lack of details” around its size, access to sufficient parking, and timeframe.

Comparable domes, he says, are “set in suburban parks with hundreds of acres of buffer with significantly greater parking [and] access options.”

Boe hopes the park board will “table the dome.” He says Champion could insert a condition into his bonding bill that reflects a shared agreement not to spend state money or subsequently raised private funds on a dome.

“More study, design and stakeholder consensus would need to be reached for the dome to be placed back in scope for the park,” Boe said. “This agreement is meant to press pause on the dome feature without holding up the rest of the project.”

In part due to the controversy, the dome is not included in the bonding request. But Arvidson says the park board approved plan includes it. “We feel that this is an important trend, an important need, and this is a really good spot for it,” he said.

“Youth sports is a huge industry,” said Buckner. “The talent is here, and guess what happens: that talent is plucked out by other places.”

“They recruit better because they have better facilities,” he added.

Champion says articulating benefits for all of Minnesota are critical to securing bonding dollars. “Of course it has to be for us who are here but it has to have statewide appeal to justify state dollars.”

View the plans for North Commons in the digital version of this story at mynorthews.org.
catch up with our
Council Members

WARD 4:
Phillipe Cunningham

Happy Spring, Northsiders!
I hope everyone is as excited as I am about the coming season change!
This month, I wanted to share some updates and information with you based
on a recent presentation the Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights and
Engagement Committee received from the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) on
their Strategic Planning Update.

Your voice matters! We need to hear
from you to guide the rollout of the City of
Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention
(OVP).

Take the Office of Violence Prevention
survey at https://bit.ly/3aVZjRg by the end
of April!

Organizations and community groups,
such as neighborhood associations,
parent associations, church groups, and
more are needed to host focus groups of
7-12 people to discuss how violence is
impacting our community.

In the next few months, I will be co-
hosting a Ward 4 community meeting with
OVP staff for Northsiders to be updated on information gathered from the
survey and focus groups, as well as give
additional direction to OVP staff on the
biggest issues our community faces with
violence on which you would like them to
focus in their work.

To keep up-to-date on community
meetings and other updates related to
the Office of Violence Prevention, check
out our Facebook page: www.fb.com/
MinneapolisWard4.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY ALERT!
2020 will be the second year the
OVP will give grants through the
Violence Prevention Fund to community
organizations leading violence prevention
efforts. The City of Minneapolis Health
Department’s Office of Violence
Prevention (OVP) will be offering two
funding opportunities for community-
based violence prevention projects.

The OVP has released two separate
Requests for Applications (RFAs) for
2020 Violence Prevention Fund Projects:
a General Violence Prevention Fund RFA
and a Neighborhood/Community-Specific
Violence Prevention Fund RFA.

Both options are intended to invest in
community-led strategies that address
violence in Minneapolis. Projects can be
focused on prevention of one or more forms
of violence. Applicants are encouraged to
propose activities that reflect their own
capacity, experience, and knowledge and
that have the potential for tangible
violence prevention impact on the specific
issues identified within the intended
project areas or communities.

For questions about the OVP grant
project, or more information about the
RFA process and criteria, please send an
email to health@minneapolismn.gov, and
be sure to include “OVP Fund 2020 RFA”
in the subject line.

Applications are due for both no later
than April 2 at 11:59 PM, and must be
submitted using the City’s eSupplier
Portal, which can be accessed at www.
minneapolismn.gov/finance/procurement/
eSupplier.

For assistance with eSupplier, please
send an email to eProcurement@
minneapolismn.gov with “eSupplier help”
in the subject line, or call (612) 673-2311.

WARD 5:
Jeremiah Ellison

In the past few months, the threat of
COVID-19 coronavirus has loomed. And in
the past few weeks that threat has become
undeniable. The virus has spread across the
world, including right here in our city. The Mayor
and the City Council are doing everything we
can to ensure safety, while also planning to
support workers and businesses hardest hit by
the spread of this virus. The governor and his
team are leading the way and equipping local
governments all over the state with the best
possible information and tools available.

We do not know how long the spread of this
virus will last. From everything I’ve been told,
that will depend on our response to it. Not only
local and state governments respond, but our
response as a community. This virus can be
mild for some and extremely deadly for others.
I want us to be able to work together to keep
one another safe.

To that end, I want to give you all the best
resources and information, because things
have and will continue to change quickly when it
comes to dealing with this virus.

On March 16, I sent out a newsletter with
some initial information about COVID-19. You
can find it posted on my Facebook page, @
jeremiahellisonformpls, and you can sign up
for future newsletters at minneapolismn.gov/
ward5news/ward5-subscribe. I will continue
to be in touch via newsletter and social media
on resources, measures to take, and important
updates. I can also always be reached at
ward5@minneapolismn.gov, 612-673-2205.

The Council is continuing its official business
and the city continues to provide essential
services.

I appreciate your help in using your platform
to share key messages that will keep us all
safer and healthier. These include:

• Sharing the Minnesota Department of
  Health COVID-19 website (health.state.
mn.us/diseases/coronavirus), as well as
the City’s COVID-19 website (minneapolismn.gov/
coronavirus) – both of which contain helpful
resources and the latest information on the
impact of this virus in our community.

• Reminding folks the best way to slow
  COVID-19 is to stay home and limit in-person
  interactions.

• Encouraging community members to
  support local businesses. Restaurant and café
  operations have been limited to take-out and
delivery service, but many are still open. In
addition, buying gift cards online for eateries,
bars, and retailers can help them weather this
difficult time.

• Sharing information about Minneapolis
  Public Schools’ meal pick-ups for students,
which started at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 17.
At 20 sites citywide – including Bethune, Hall
Elementary, and the Hmong Academy – meals
will be offered to students on a pick-up basis
between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through
Friday, during school closures.

• Ensuring community members are aware
  that the Minnesota Department of Health is
operating two hotlines from 7am-7pm daily.
Folks can call 1-800-657-3903 with health
questions, and 1-800-657-3504 with school
and childcare questions.

• Spreading the word that Governor Walz has
expanded unemployment benefits to include
virtually anyone affected by the COVID-19
pandemic and its impacts on employers.
This includes workers whose workplaces are
interrupted by new restrictions on operations
like bars and restaurants) and those facing
childcare challenges during this time. Anyone
who may be eligible is encouraged to apply as
soon as possible at ui.mn.gov.

Let’s look out for each other, check-in on each
other, and work together through this difficult
time.

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

As the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps the state, the North Minneapolis community is rallying to do its part to slow the spread of the virus and take care of those who may be most at risk.

Photos by David Pierini Staff Reporter
Above: Emily’s F&M Cafe has been distributing free meals to the elderly and vulnerable since mid-March thanks in part to patrons who are donating dollars for the meals. Each one arrives with a handwritten note from the Emily’s team. “Everyone just needs to relax and stay positive. It’s all precautionary, so that it doesn’t get to where we have to decide who to save in a hospital,” said owner Anna Donato-Ghani. **Photo by Kenzie O’Keefe**

Emily Fridolfson disinfects a produce scale at North Market, which has new cleaning protocols because of the outbreak. Emily and her sister, Marbry, clean surfaces around the store at the top of each hour. It takes about 30 minutes to complete.

Above: Bus driver Steve Towle reaches for milk while brothers Durell and DeRoyal Perry, right, pick up food bags outside Jenny Lind Elementary School. With classrooms closed, Minneapolis Public Schools continued free student meals.

Right, top: Like many religious institutions, Masjid An-Nur mosque on Lyndale Ave. N is closed to the public.

Right, bottom: Oak Park Community Center switched its free community meals to a take-out-only service. Staff marked the walkway leading to the basement door to promote social distance. Meals are available 4-6pm, Tuesdays-Thursdays at 1701 Oak Park Ave. N.
**EMPLOYMENT**

If your employment has been affected by COVID-19, you can apply for unemployment benefits. On March 16, Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order to ensure workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have full access to unemployment benefits. Visit uimn.org for instructions. If you need to talk to someone, call 651-296-3644. You can be assisted in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, or any other language you prefer. Customer Service representatives are available Monday-Friday, 8am to 4:30pm.

**BUSINESS**

The US Small Business Administration is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to Minnesota small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the coronavirus. This would allow businesses to apply for loans to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills they can’t pay due to the disaster’s impact. Visit: sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19. Questions? Contact your business advisor first and then call the SBA hotline at 1-800-659-2955.

**TIPS FROM NEON:**
- Check if your business income insurance has a disaster relief program.
- Contact your bank: ask for relief from large payments NOW.
- Avoid predatory lenders: always consult with your business advisor BEFORE signing a loan.
- Practice self-care: as entrepreneurs during this scenario you may tend to simply work more and harder. You are an essential piece of your business, take care of yourself.
- Seek alternatives to layoffs: employers experiencing a slowdown in their businesses or services as a result of the pandemic may apply for the Unemployment Insurance Shared Work Program. This program allows employers to seek an alternative to layoffs – retaining their trained employees by reducing their hours and wages. These wages can then be partially offset with Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Apply at uimn.org/employers/alternative-layoff/index.jsp.

**FOOD**

Minneapolis Public Schools are offering free meals to school aged children from 10am-2pm every week day until schools reopen. Northside pickup sites are: Bethune Elementary, Cityview Elementary, Elizabeth Hall International Elementary School, Hmong International Academy, Jenny Lind Elementary School, Olson Middle School, and Patrick Henry High School. Meals will be served from school busses outside the school buildings. Children must be present to receive a meal.

**HEALTHCARE**

NorthPoint Health and Wellness offers a community food shelf at 1835 Penn Ave. N from 10am-4pm, Monday-Thursday. New intakes are taken over the phone: 612-767-9500. The food shelf has suspended choice shopping and is pre-packaging food according to family size.

The NorthPoint food shelf has an increased need for donations. Visit northpointhealth.org/faq for dropoff and pickup details.

Free takeaway dinners for all are offered at Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave. N) on Tuesdays-Thursdays from 4-6pm. One per person.

With one call, the Minnesota Food Helpline assesses the caller’s situation and provides solutions to food needs. 1-888-711-1151. Visit: hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline.

The Hunger Solutions website has an extensive list of food shelves, senior resources, free meals, discount groceries, and farmers' markets across the state of Minnesota: hungersolutions.org/find-help.

**Virtual fitness by Val**

Fitness instructor Val Turner is used to packing the community room at North Market for Zumba, cardio boxing and strength training classes. But with schools closed and orders by health officials to self-isolate, Turner has made a quick pivot with the help of technology to keep kids active while at home.

Turner is holding virtual classes for kids ages 4-11 Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30-1 pm starting March 23 and running through Wednesday, April 29.

“I thought it was really important because we can’t see each other or hug each other as usual,” Turner said. “I just need to get my community moving for our mental health and for us to be able to see each other.”

Turner will run the class via Zoom, a video conferencing app. She is asking for a minimum donation of $2, which can be transferred with the Cash App.

The workouts will include a variety of activities, like a Zumba dance party, cardio kickboxing and strength training. Interested parents should get their kids signed up by 11 a.m. on each class day.

For more information, reach out to Turner via her Facebook page. She can be found by searching the name Val “I am Zumba” Turner. By David Pierini, Staff Reporter
INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY

The City of Minneapolis is providing free wifi via the USI Wireless network. Access it at minneapolismn.gov/wireless/index.htm. This website also offers a link to the “Get Connected Guide,” a list of organizations that provide free or low price options for computers and connectivity.

Comcast is offering free Internet while schools are closed to anyone who is eligible for FRPL, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), or SSL. No contract, no credit check, no installation fee, 25 Mbps speed. Visit internetessentials.com.

Minnesota After School Advance is offering up to 75% off Chromebooks to eligible families with school age children (K-12) to help with distance learning. Visit mnafterschool.org/chromebooks. For questions, call 763-202-9012.

OTHER SERVICES

Free JPAY from Peace of Hope, Inc. is being offered during the COVID-19 crisis while no prison social visits are permitted. Direct message your name, their name/OID# and state location to the organization’s founder Sharon Brooks Green (@SB Green) on Facebook. Include up to a three sentence message you’d like to convey.

Victory neighborhood residents in need of grocery shopping, medication pick ups, transportation, food support, and household supplies can contact their neighborhood association for support at victoryneighborhood.org or 612-529-9558.

Folwell Neighborhood Association is collecting items for home bound residents. Donate items to the FNA Drop off location. Text 612-227-0410 to set up a time. Items include: non perishable food, over the counter medicine, bottled water, laundry and dish supplies, toilet paper, etc. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver donated goods. If you would like to help contribute financially, you can donate through Paypal using donate@folwell.org.

If you are a Folwell resident who needs assistance, please fill out the request form at folwell.org.

Starting March 16, 2020, Minnesota courts have changed how they handle some types of cases because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The courts are open. But DO NOT come to court in person unless you have to. The courts split case types up into different groups. A “High Priority” group of cases will continue as normal. The rest of cases are suspended for 14 days. Examples of high priority cases are: orders for protection, restraining orders, and mental health commitments. For more information, visit: mncourts.gov/Find-Courts.aspx or lawhelpmn.org.

Xcel Energy will not disconnect service for failure to pay. The energy company’s CEO promised not to disconnect service to any residential customers until further notice in an email statement on March 16. If you are having difficulty paying your bills, contact Xcel and they will arrange a payment plan that works for you.

While the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s recreation centers and programming buildings are closed, there’s still plenty to do outdoors. Parks and trails are open for hiking, walking, biking, or just sitting and breathing fresh air during these stressful times. Be mindful of social distancing and maintain a safe, appropriate distance.

The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority says it will not (and cannot, because housing courts are shut down) file any unlawful detainers or move forward with any eviction hearings until further notice.
Coronavirus forces census organizers to rethink outreach efforts

By Abdi Mohamed Staff Reporter

Marsai Richardson grew up in a home full of advocates. Her mother and father were raised in Mississippi during the 1920s and raised her during the Civil Rights era in Minnesota. At a young age, her mother instilled in her the importance of engaging in politics. She served as a block leader and her older sister was an election judge. “You have a voice and you should be heard,” Richardson’s mother would tell her.

Richardson has dedicated her time to ensuring others take advantage of their right to vote and to include themselves in this year’s census count. For the past few years, Richardson has been working locally with the Anika Foundation to advocate for several civic causes including this year’s census.

Anika Robbins is the executive director and founder of the Anika Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on civic engagement and is partnering with government officials to collect data and educate people about the census. Robbins and Richardson are among a chorus of community organizers and city officials speaking out about the census.

Alberder Gillespie is the 2020 census operations and outreach manager for the City of Minneapolis. For over 20 years, Gillespie has been working in political campaigns and government offices engaging with the citizens on policy matters. Gillespie was appointed by the City Council and Mayor Jacob Frey to head the City’s census efforts.

Local officials like Gillespie work closely with advocates such as Elizer Darris, an organizer and founder of the Darris Consulting Group. Darris works at the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota as an organizer for their criminal justice efforts. He individually contracts with county officials to help inform residents in the state about the impact the census has on their lives.

Households are expected to have received a mailer by the end of March detailing how they can take the census online. The census will be observed on April 1 nationwide. Respondents will be asked to list where they reside as of that day. Census takers will circle back May through July to revisit households that have yet to respond to the 2020 census. Richardson has helped train volunteers for canvassing. She has also worked to correct misinformation about housing and immigration status that may have kept people from completing the census. “I think that’s the biggest barrier,” she said.

An accurate census count is important to census organizers because the count determines future allocations of public funding and proportional governmental representation. In the past, organizers say the Northside has been undercounted, so for the past year and a half, they’ve sought to increase awareness about the census and why it is important.

Already facing an uphill battle, the global COVID-19 pandemic has forced organizers to completely rethink their plans. A news cycle dominated by coronavirus updates doesn’t leave much room for stories about the census, and restrictions on events will make on the ground awareness building and support difficult.

A huge Northside door knocking effort was canceled on March 21, and organizers have taken to the internet to fill the gap. Social media has been a critical tool, and fortunately, this is the first year in census history that the survey can be completed online at 2020census.gov or over the phone with an operator.

Gillespie says that the online and phone options for the census are even more crucial now. Without census data, federal agencies who respond to these crises are unable to adequately assist the populations impacted by an issue like the virus. Her team has leaned into the digital approach to get the word out and even made a TikTok video.

Despite beginning census organizing early, “people still don’t really know what the census is, and we knew that they had to hear the message more than one time,” said Robbins. Since late last year, Robbins and her team have distributed over 20,000 pieces of literature in several languages including Somali, Spanish and Oromo. The foundation also launched their website BeCountedMN.com, a site dedicated to listing census locations and answering questions. The foundation partnered with organizations like Pillsbury United Communities, the owner of this publication, Minneapolis Parks, and the Urban League Twin Cities to assist residents.

Despite the educational efforts, Robbins says some in the North Minneapolis community are still hesitant to cooperate out of fear of discrimination.

“...now, more than ever, your voice needs to be heard.”

Elizer Darris

Some of the fear stems from President Donald Trump’s Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross’ 2019 proposal that a citizenship question should be included in the census. The suggestion received widespread condemnation and pushback from politicians and activists alike who pointed to the undocumented and marginalized individuals in the United States who could face persecution if their status were to be revealed. Eventually the Trump administration walked the idea back, but the fear remained, said Robbins.

“Our main concern has been showing how the census matters to them and their families and that the U.S. Census Bureau has said that the census is safe and secure,” Robbins said.

At the city level, Gillespie is searching for systemic ways to ensure an accurate count, especially in “undercounted communities” like North Minneapolis.

“Federal money comes into our state and is allocated based on census derived data,” she said. Due to some undercounting in the last census, Gillespie believes the Northside has lost out on many resources. An accurate count on the Northside could provide more funding for Head Start programs, small business loans and care services for the elderly. Additionally, Gillespie says the state of Minnesota was able to keep a congressional seat by just over 8,000 people during the last census count. This large demographic shift with merely thousands of people bring some to question how the incarcerated may impact the census count. Those with felony convictions may not be able to vote but are counted towards district mapping and federal funding.

Having served time behind bars for the last two census counts, Darris shared his view that the incarcerated are used to gain resources. He says Minnesota needs to rethink the way the incarcerated are counted. “The problem isn’t whether or not they’ll be counted. The problem is whether or not their being counted will go to the municipalities where they’re being incarcerated,” Darris said. Those serving time are counted as residents of the municipality where their prisons are located, not their last known addresses in the free world.

“It artificially increases the size of their population,” he said of the often mostly white, rural areas where prisons have been constructed. That happens at the expense of the more racially diverse metro areas where the imprisoned are often from.

Many census advocates point to the local political impact of the last census. Darris believes that an accurate count of the Northside would have given residents a third city council representative rather than two seats that represent a large area. “That could be the difference between having another city council member and not having one,” Darris said. “Now you have two council members representing a much wider territory.” The census data directly impacts the democratic landscape for voters based on the size of the population. It also has a direct impact on some of those who have lost their right to vote.

Darris’s approach to organizing has already shifted due to the coronavirus. He had to cancel a concert that was planned for the end of March designed to promote the importance of the census. He says his team plans to do more literature drops than door knocks and may have a digital townhall take place in the coming weeks.

Richardson says she remains undeterred in her advocacy despite the COVID-19-related roadblocks. “I would hope that in the fact that we’re facing a pandemic that more people would like to participate. Because now more than ever your voice needs to be heard,” she said.
**Polar's shot at another state championship win snatched by coronavirus**

By David Snoddy North High

All was going according to plan for the decorated North High Polars basketball team until the coronavirus hit. They finished their last game of their 2019-2020 season against Minnehaha Academy on Feb. 17 with an overall record of 19-8. They were undefeated in their conference, exceeding one of their early season goals of just reaching the conference championship. They were ranked fifth in the Class 2A standings.

Just as they were gearing up for another state championship run, the tournament was canceled because of the pandemic. “I was kind of mad at first because I really didn’t know how bad the virus was. I didn’t get to win a state championship for the seniors on the team,” said Jacob Butler. Butler said that at first the team tried to “stay in the gym” in case anything changed. “Now we can’t even do that because they are closing the schools down,” he said.

Coach Larry McKenzie had high hopes for the postseason. “Our team has really grown up this season. ... If we play the way we are capable of we should have a good chance of being state champions,” he said before the tournament was canceled. He described breaking the news to the team as “heartbreaking.”

Now, reality has set in, but Butler says his team will be back next year. “We have unfinished business,” he said.

The 2019-20 North High Polars hoped to bring home another state championship win for the community. Photo courtesy of Larry McKenzie

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**The unfair effects of COVID-19**

By Maliah Burns North High

“My birthday is ruined,” says Trayvionne Mitchell. As just about everything closes down, so does his birthday spirit. Trayvionne says he was waiting for his 17th birthday and now he’s stuck at home on his big day. Mitchell said he had plans with friends, but since there’s a virus roaming the world he truly cannot do anything. Restaurants are closed, and so are movie theaters, and even shopping malls. Being a teenager at a time like this sucks.

There is more than one type of coronavirus. They live in animals. Recently, they’ve somehow spread into humans and infected the world. Since the large spread of the current coronavirus, COVID-19, many cities, states and countries have asked their populations to quarantine. Government officials in the United States suggest that unless it’s an emergency, people should stay in their homes until further notice.

The symptoms of COVID-19 can take up to about 14 days to appear. Symptoms vary from fevers, coughs, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing. Recently there have been victims reporting that they could feel their respiratory system being attacked. There have also been many deaths caused by this worldwide virus. In order to reduce the chance of catching such a virus, safety tips have been posted by the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control. These tips state that one should wash their hands frequently, avoid physical contact with others, cover nose and mouth with tissue when coughing, and if sick stay home away from others.

Students have been largely affected by this pandemic. Minnesota Schools closed on March 17. Since schools have been shut down so close to the end of the school year, many may not have a graduation or even a prom. "Since schools have been shut down so close to the end of the school year, many may not have a graduation or even a prom." There have been volunteers over social media giving free photo shoots to the suffering class of 2020. "I feel bad for them” says Mitchell, but “I’m glad it isn’t me,” he proceeded to say. As the world waits for updates, the class of 2020 won’t let this one go.

Soon to graduate high school senior, Eu’Nique Wren says “I already have my prom dress, it can’t go to waste.” Young adults have waited 12 years for prom and graduation. To be told that there may not be either event is heartbreaking. Being a teenager at the time of such a panic is unfair. Hopefully all teens suffering will find some form of redemption. As the coronavirus continues to sicken and take the lives of many, day by day rumors spread.

On social media platforms there have been hundreds worried about martial law being put into place. Some have even confirmed themselves with no evidence that the law will be put into place. Ignorance has sent the world into a panic just as much as the virus has. Children have received anonymous text messages saying that they absolutely under no circumstances have to stay in their homes for 14 days. The national shutdown text messages are rumors scaring many. Although rumors are being called out, people are still panicking.

Mothers of babies and children have gone viral on multiple social media platforms crying out for help. Baby formula is being bought out in bulk. So are Pampers and wipes. Those with educated minds and kind hearts have offered to send these mothers money and whatever they need, but the mothers refused. They simply asked that people be more thoughtful before going out and buying an entire shelf of goods. In other areas of stores there have more commonly been no toilet paper. Someone on CNN news said “Stop buying toilet paper, start thinking about what really matters.” The rapid purchasing of toilet paper has sent the United States into a great controversy. Some believe that buying toilet paper by the bulk is smart and others think, well, otherwise.

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**Are you a North Minneapolis resident whose life has changed because of coronavirus? We want to publish your story.**

Contact North News at 651-245-2647 or kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
Controversial, close-to-final plan for neighborhood funding is open for public comment

By Kenzie O'Keefe Editor

On paper, it looks like funding for some North Minneapolis neighborhood organizations will drop dramatically and others will increase marginally by 2023.

The city’s new Neighborhoods 2020 plan puts forth four new paths for neighborhood organizations to receive city money at funding levels set by a previous source, the Community Participation Program. The CPP will wind down this year.

Beginning in 2021, the plan proposes reducing base funding for the independent nonprofits from $25K to $10K by 2023. The pool of base funding is being called the “Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund.”

Less base funding is necessary in order to enhance racial equity in the city without increasing the $4.1 million overall budget for neighborhood organizations, according to city officials and the U of M’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), which has been contracted to assist with the process.

Last year, the city council directed their neighborhood and community relations department (NCR) and CURA to come up with a new structure for neighborhood engagement and funding for neighborhood organizations that prioritizes equity and an unchanged budget. The council also required 25% of Neighborhoods 2020 funding to be earmarked for partnerships with community-based organizations “to broaden the participation and improve outcomes for BIPOC and renters in the city in the context of neighborhood level work,” said CURA’s C. Terrence Anderson.

Many of the city’s 70 neighborhood organizations see the funding drop as a threat to their survival.

Victoria Balko has been the executive director of Victory Neighborhood since November 2019. Victory, along with Cleveland and Shingle Creek, stand to see the largest reductions in funding on the Northside. “It’s a drastic shift, what they’re talking about. Our board is trying to take in what this all means,” she said. “I’m worried for the future of the organization.”

The Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association (SCNA) will see a drop from $48,166 in funding to $12,830 by 2023.

“The amount allocated to the overall program was decided
by the city council and the city council are the only folks that can change that,” said Anderson.

In addition to base funding, the Neighborhoods 2020 plan outlines three additional funding sources neighborhoods will be able to access. The “Equitable Engagement Fund” will support the engagement of “historically underrepresented or under-engaged residents meaningfully and effectively in decision making at the local level.” Those residents include black, indigenous, and other people of color along with renters, low income people, the elderly, folks with disabilities, and others the city says it hopes to collaboratively identify with neighborhoods.

Anderson says that for neighborhoods already doing this work: “it’s not going to be a big change for them.” For those who are not, “this is the carrot for them” to begin doing it.

The “Partnership Engagement Fund” incentivizes neighborhood organizations to collaborate with community-based organizations by offering competitive grant funds, up to $150,000 per project, to neighborhood organization and CBO groups who submit project ideas together. Arthur Himmelman, who attended a public informational meeting about the draft plan at UROC on March 9, is skeptical of this piece. “You’ve created a competitive grant program for neighborhoods to work together,” he said. Lastly, the “Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund” encourages neighborhood organizations to consolidate and share resources by offering three years of funding at $15K for two neighborhoods who want to join forces and $20K for three to do so.

As of March 24, NCR staff said that the Neighborhoods 2020 project timeline had not changed due to the coronavirus. A public meeting about the plan will be held via Skype in April 2. The city will send out notifications through its gov delivery, email, social media, and will have information posted at minneapolismn.gov/hcr.

The city will accept public comments on the proposal until midnight on April 17.

### Funding for Northside neighborhood organizations:

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Funds after 2020 do not include dollars that could be earned through the partnership engagement fund and the collaboration and shared resources fund.

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

upperharbormpls.com
Remembering the Young brothers' barbershops and that feeling of home

Sylvester Young, nicknamed Chubby, stands outside his North Minneapolis barbershop in an undated photo. Young, one of six brothers who were all barbers, operated shops in four locations in North Minneapolis from the 1950s through the 1990s. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

This is the first story in an occasional series that reflects on the history of North Minneapolis and the people and events that make it special today.

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

Bad haircuts are memorable. Houston White’s worst haircut as a kid in the 1980s may have also been one of his best because of what the barber eventually taught him about the craft.

White wanted a logo shaved in the side of his head. He instantly knew he was in the wrong place when he stepped inside Young Brother’s barber shop on Plymouth Ave. N. Inside were two older men, brothers, in pressed white smocks. Light caught particles of talc suspended in the air as one barber brushed away cut hairs that had landed on the neck of his customer. The other had a way of removing the cape with a little snap as men with fresh shaves and cuts exited the chair.

“When I saw these old guys, I wondered how this was going to go,” said White during a break inside his own barbershop on 44th Ave. N. “It felt like a museum, like time stood still. I’ll never forget it. For black kids, a haircut is everything and that was one of the worst experiences of my life.”

White knew there was something special about the shop, even though the design in his hair didn’t look like what he had hoped.

The Young brothers were barbering royalty from the early 1950s to the 1990s who treated their customers like kings. There were six Young brothers across three barbershops: two brothers in North Minneapolis, two at another shop on the south side of the city, and two in St. Paul’s Rondo neighborhood.

Older Northsiders likely remember Fred and Sylvester, the oldest brother affectionately nicknamed Chubby. He graduated from barber school in 1947 and his brothers soon followed.

The North Minneapolis shop was called Young Brothers but at various times had different names, like Chubby’s or Charlie Brown’s. The shop moved around North a few times, displaced by development projects in the name of urban renewal. Under the name Young Brothers, Sylvester Young moved his shop to its final location Plymouth Ave. N. across from Plymouth Avenue Townhomes in the 1970s.

The building was home to two businesses, the barbershop and a woman’s salon called Satin Doll, run by their wives, who were sisters.

In a 1997 interview with the Minnesota Historical Society, Pauline Young, Sylvester’s wife, set the record straight on shop tittle-tattle.

“I think the men’s shop was a lot more [gossipy] than the women,” she said. “I could sit back in the office and hear what was going on. The women just didn’t do like the men do. The men would be over there and you could just hear everything they were saying. They say men don’t gossip, but they are the biggest gossipers in the barbershop.”

In the days before social media, barbershops and salons were places where people talked politics, sports, about neighbors and share news from family events.

The shops were busy on Thursdays and Fridays so that people could have fresh cuts and styles for the weekend.

“I remember waiting in line,” White said. “They didn’t take appointments so it would be packed wall to wall. A lot of working guys would be there talking, reading the paper or moms bringing in their kids. It was communal, it was all about the conversation about whatever the hell was going on. I hate a lot of barbershops today because everybody is just sitting there on their phones, nobody is interacting.”

The barbershop “is so much deeper than cutting hair,” he said. “It’s like coming home. Guys can be themselves in ways maybe they can’t in environments run by white folks. When you go to the barbershop, it’s like a club, a space where you can just be masculine for an hour.”

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As spring gets in full swing, seniors look to life after high school

By Thidathip Crockett, Jorja Brown-Skinner North High

As the end of the school year is approaching and the spring season is near, seniors are preparing themselves for life after high school. Whether that’s college or other plans, seniors are using this time to figure out what their futures will look like.

According to North High School counselor Arnise Robinson, sixteen seniors have filled out and completed their FAFSA forms and thirty-five of sixty-five seniors have applied to one or more post-secondary options. Many students have already gone on college tours to expand their options for school and others are going in the next few months. This time is stressful as it is exciting. Students feel the pressure to take the proper steps to take control of their future careers and adult lives.

Robinson knows firsthand how stressful the process can be. “I assist students in doing college searches, completing applications, sending transcripts, mailing fee waivers, scheduling college representatives to visit the school,” she said.

Freshawn Collins is a senior at North High who has big dreams and goals that he wants to achieve. “College is something that’s been on my mind ever since I could remember. I could be the first person in my family to graduate.” he said. “Right now it’s all about making my people proud and being the first person in my family to do something.”

Collins wants to major in business and says that he wants to be a leader wherever he goes, Collins would like to attend an HBCU and go to college for all four years. “I see myself owning my own business when I leave college and being a wise man and leading people in a good way.”

Jasmine Jackson is a senior at North High who has set the bar high for other students. “I started thinking about college during my eighth grade year, I knew it was an experience I’ve always wanted,” she said. Jackson plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science, while majoring in criminal justice and minoring in social work.

“I feel like the two go hand in hand with each other, many children go through the system due to criminal activity their parents are involved in.” Jackson wants to go to college out of state just to escape from everyday life at home. “I see myself graduating college and either being a probation officer or a social worker for children,” she said.

Quientrail Travis is a senior at North High who plays a large role at North High especially in the sports department. “I’m just trying to go to college, get a good education, and go to the pros,” he said. “This year helped me prep for college the most because Mrs. Friestleben has helped prepare us way more this year education wise, sports wise, etc.” Travis is going to college on a football scholarship but isn’t ready to say where yet. He says to “just stay tuned” for his signing. “I don’t need part time education; I need full time education,” he said.

Learning about Hmong culture

By Kyla Moore North High

I didn’t know much about Hmong culture, so I interviewed six Hmong students from Patrick Henry High School. I spoke with them about the Hmong New Year, about dating, and their cultural traditions. This experience was very interesting to me because I am an African American female and their culture is really different than mine. Here are five things I took away from the conversation:

1. Many Hmong people are very family oriented. “When you are in a Hmong family, you are not left behind. They have to make sure you eat before they eat too. They take care of you before they take care of themselves,” said Jonathan Herr.

2. Hmong clothing is extremely intricate and requires training to make. “It’s kind of like one of a kind, like limited edition and it can only be created by those who know how to do it,” said Ter Yang.

3. Many Hmong people are farmers. “It doesn’t matter which house you’re at, there’s always going to be a farm or a garden. They always have pepper no question,” said Kou Xiong.

4. Hmong young people are raised to be more passive and respectful of their elders than some white and African American young people. The American culture Hmong young people are also raised in sometimes creates conflict with that. Sometimes Hmong teens feel like their peers from other cultures have more power than they do because they are used to being more aggressive and fighting for what they want.

5. Dowries are customary in traditional Hmong marriages. Men’s families are supposed to “buy” a daughter for their sons. Some Hmong people carry on this tradition. Others do not.

Driver’s education offered at North High

By RayRay Melton North High

North High students have an opportunity to take driver’s education at the high school.

Richard Stallings, the driver’s education teacher, says students can sign up through the community education department. Students learn the rules of the road, safe driving tips, pass the permit test and take six hours with an instructor to demonstrate and learn skills necessary to drive a car, according to Stallings.

It costs $125 to take the class. Another $250 is required to do the “behind the wheel” sessions with an instructor. The classroom portion is taken at North after school from 4-6:45pm and lasts for two weeks.

Sophomore Chester Watley took the driver’s education class this year. Watley said the class was cool: “It was two weeks; it was boring but if you want your license, you have to do it.”

He said there is “nothing hard” about the class but advises taking the practice test “so you can learn to study for your test to pass the test.” He said he learned some new things: you have to yield to most buses and you should wait for oncoming traffic on a certain side of the road.

North hopes to bring golf to its spring sports lineup

By Taiyana Richmond North High

This year North High is bringing in a new spring sport for girls: golf.

Lindsey Masika, the Lady Polars JV basketball coach and special education assistant at the high school, will lead the team. She has prior coaching experience at Hill Murray High School in Maple Grove.

Athletic Director Kale Severson said Masika reached out to him interested in starting a team at North High. “It was a natural fit,” he said. “I believe in getting our kids outside. Enjoying the outdoors is a part of my job as athletic director and fellow Northsider.”

Sophomore Joy Cunningham plans to join the team. “I wanted to try to play golf,” she said. She’s choosing it because it’s something “different.” She’s optimistic that the team will be good in its first season.

The school’s home course will be Theodore Wirth Golf Course nearby the school.
The City of Minneapolis has installed syringe drop boxes in public spaces to provide places for anyone to safely dispose of used syringes. For more information visit minneapolis.gov/opioidresponse.

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 minnesotasmn.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/tcmnp/Pages/default.aspx.

Do you live in Near North or Willard/Hay? Then your block could be eligible for a mini block club grant through the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council. Funds are available for a project or event you want to create. For more information call 612-335-5924 or email contactus@nrrc.org.

The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council is partnering with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid to connect residents of Near North and Willard Hay with free attorneys. If you are having legal troubles that relate to your home or business and live in the Near North or Willard Hay neighborhood visit their clinic at the NRRRC office Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am-3pm or set up an appointment by calling 612-335-5924.

The program will be held at 2210 Oliver Ave. N. Registration is required in advance. Call DeShawn Woods, Bright Futures Program Coordinator, 612-643-2026. Enrollment is limited. More information: Jaleezia Smith Breedlove, Bright Futures Program Director, 612-643-2096, or psyc-mlps.org.

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.

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

The City of Minneapolis is giving away 200 radon test kits starting now to increase awareness 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.

**RESOURCES**

- **SCHOLARSHIPS**
  - Dow Jones News Fund - $1000
  - Ayo Olagbaju

- **DEAN’S LIST**
  - Washington University, St. Louis
  - Peter Fadlovich
  - Jada Gardner
  - Bemidji State University
  - Kristani Sheely

- **Mankato State University**
  - Quinlan Brodgon
  - Maxwell Gruendl
  - Makiya Harvey
  - Mariana Jordan
  - Miranda Mier
  - Znia Richmond
  - Raeann Rosso

- **University of Wisconsin Oshkosh**
  - Morgan McGarry

- **University of Wisconsin La Crosse**
  - Jenna Vang
  - Chong Xiong

- **University of Wisconsin Madison**
  - Lynnea Adams
  - Matthew Walczak

- **Bethel University**
  - Morgan McGarry

- **University of Wisconsin Madison**
  - Lynnea Adams
  - Matthew Walczak

- **EDUCATION**

  Juxtaposition Arts offers free summer art programs. Free Wall is an introductory 3-week summer camp in which students learn the history and techniques of aerosol writing with local masters of the medium. Students practice letter composition and present a final piece at the end of the session. Open to youth ages 8-21. All supplies and materials provided; no previous experience necessary. VALT provides FREE, rigorous, hands-on arts education for youth and young adults ages 12-21. Taught by practicing artists and educators, this intensive course introduces students to foundational design concepts and drawing techniques. Learn more at juxtapositionarts.org/programs.

  Free summer program offered by Plymouth Christian Youth Center. The PCYC Bright Futures: K-5 Academic Enrichment Program will run 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday, June 29-August 14. Breakfast and lunch served daily. Free transportation for North Minneapolis addresses.

  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 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.

  The 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 Climate Action Plan. 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 $2,000 or more. Those who may have been victimized by Meldahl or his company S.J.M. Properties Inc. are encouraged to come forward and to file complaints with the Minnesota AG’s office by calling 651-296-3353 or emailing attorney.general@ag.state.mn.us.

  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.
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/Download/File/2132/ Renter%20First%20Policy%2003.01.19.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 realtor of their choice, complete Habitat’s homeownership education and buy a home in their preferred neighborhood or city. The new program reaches a broader income range, including those who may think their income is too high to qualify. Households earning $40,000–80,000 have successfully bought a home in Habitat’s redesigned homeownerhip 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

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 lims.minneapolismn.gov/2018-00134.

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 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 captioning is 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.

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.

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 wageTheft@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, building an addition to the visitor center and re-envisioning the front entrance. To participate in this project, visit surveymonkey.com/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 on hour beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Small businesses with 100 or fewer employees will be required to pay workers at least $10.25 beginning July 1, 2018. Large businesses have until July 1, 2022, to reach a minimum wage of $15 an hour and small businesses have until July 1, 2024 to reach $15 an hour.

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

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. BWWA’s founder, Kenya McKnight, operates Da Hive and aims to make it a location for black women entrepreneurs, students and employees to work towards their economic goals. 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 (re)develop 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. Call 612-594-7146 or email domonique@clclt.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.
Senior Pastor Edrin Williams has traded Southern charm for a life of Minnesota nice. For a decade, he has followed his faith wherever it took him. Originally from South Carolina, Pastor Williams moved to Minnesota in 2005. He attended and served one other church before finding a home at Sanctuary Covenant Church on West Broadway Ave. in North Minneapolis in 2011. In 2019, he was named senior pastor.

In an interview in early March, Williams reflected on Sanctuary’s unique ties to its community and connecting religious teachings to tangible community engagement. From issues of poverty, crime, and drug use, Williams and his community at Sanctuary have been hard at work seeking solutions to some of the community’s most pressing challenges and setting up a community-oriented place that others can turn to in times of need.
NEIGHBORS

This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.

Where are you originally from before you came to Minnesota? I was born and raised in South Carolina in a small town called Bowman, not far from Charleston. I grew up in a Christian home so church was a pretty big part of my life, but I never really saw myself as a pastor. I had such a high respect for pastors. In the church that I grew up in, the pastor was one of the core leaders of the community. It was somewhat intimidating. I knew faith would be an important part of my life.

When did you make the decision to become a pastor? My freshman year in college is where I felt a call to ministry. It became really clear to me that this was what God was calling me to. I was 17 at the time. I’m 39 now. So, the last 20 years of my life I’ve been committed to continuing to grow and know who God is. Once I finished my degree at the University of South Carolina, we moved to Minnesota.

What made you come to Minnesota? My wife took an internship and then a job with a company whose corporate office is here. I ended up going to Bethel Seminary here in the cities and started working at another church here in North Minneapolis, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. I worked there for six years. As I was finishing up seminary I came here as the youth pastor. In many ways I had my childhood in South Carolina, but I’ve grown as a man here. I’ve been here almost 15 years as a pastor, so I’ve seen a lot of things come and go.

Would you describe your congregation at Sanctuary as diverse? If so, how do you bridge the differences? We wanted to create a church that was different. It’s a non-traditional church in a lot of ways. Sanctuary is multiethnic. It’s majority black and white, with a meaningful number of Asian, Indigenous, Latino, and immigrant congregants. That ethnic diversity is the first part. There’s also economic diversity from presidents and CEOs of corporations here in the Twin Cities to folks who don’t know where they’re sleeping tonight. We have that sort of social diversity as well. I think what draws us together is first a love of Jesus and a desire to do good in the world. We really are about finding the different ways that God has drawn us together. I think the other thing that draws us together is family. You’ll see a ton of young families here. Our children’s ministry is the largest ministry in our church with a couple hundred kids every week.

Has Sanctuary Church always been on West Broadway? We were meeting in schools for the first 14 years. We met at Patrick Henry for a little while and then outgrew it. We went down to Anwatin Middle School, and met there for a number of years. That was when the church was at its largest. We’ve had a strong partnership with North High School over the years and the former principal invited us to meet there. So, we met there from 2014 until we built the West Broadway building in 2017. We’ve always been rooted in the community. Even as the church grew and started to get big, we were committed to staying in North Minneapolis. We always wanted to build a church.

There are many challenging aspects of life here on the Northside. How do you approach those in need of support? I think the thing that sets the church apart from other organizations is this idea that your spiritual health and your physical wellbeing is actually very closely related to your physical health and physical wellbeing. We strive to build dignified relationships and we meet real needs. We also go on and ask people the questions: How is your soul? What is your connection to God? Those could be overlooked questions for a lot of people when they're in the midst of poverty and worried about violence. I believe that those questions become more important in challenging times and as a church we want to not only meet people where they are and ask the question, we want to walk with them as they wrestle with the answers.

What's an example of the church coming to the community's side? We don’t get to hide from the challenges of the community. Last year we had a young man who was shot right outside the building and died. Our response at that time was not to run away from the community but to pull towards it. We hosted a community BBQ as his friends and family came every day to mourn. We hosted the funeral here, even though some warned us that it could be problematic. Hundreds of young men came to that funeral that day. We were able to speak some words of encouragement to them in that moment.

What role does the church play in the community? I have this desire, this vision for our church to be seen as a meaningful part of this community. When people think of Northside Achievement Zone, they think of NorthPoint Health and Wellness. I want them to think of Sanctuary the same way because we're committed to seeing this community flourish, to seeing the violence go down, to seeing people finding jobs where they can provide for their family. We're committed to seeing the schools getting better.

We are living in an unprecedented global pandemic. What precautions are you taking to ensure your congregants are safe during COVID-19? Our hope is always to keep the well-being of others in mind, be it our congregation, our immediate neighbors here on the Northside, or others that cross our path. We had established some very detailed plans for how we might gather safely. Earlier this week, though, we began to consider whether or not to suspend services. On March 12, we had made the decision to hit pause on our large worship gatherings for a few weeks. We made that hard decision because we didn't want to put vulnerable people at risk like the elderly or those with compromised immune systems. At the same time, we're hoping that by limiting our in-person gathering, we can help curb the spread of the virus here. In lieu of meeting in-person, we'll broadcast a scaled-down version of our worship service via our livestream. We're also taking a number of other measures to ensure that we stay connected with all of our members during this time and that our ministry presence in the community does not wane. We want to be faithful and wise at this historic moment.
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